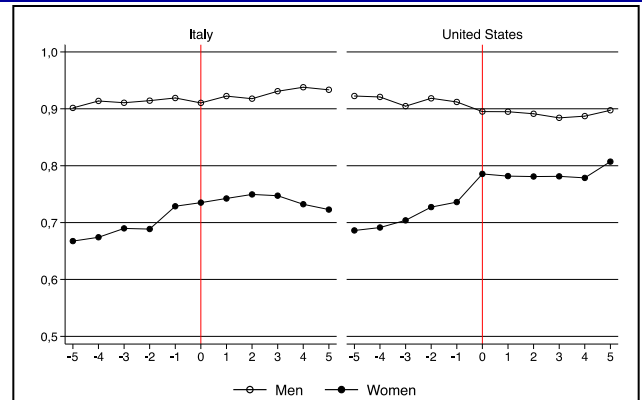# Consequences of union dissolutions on employment career
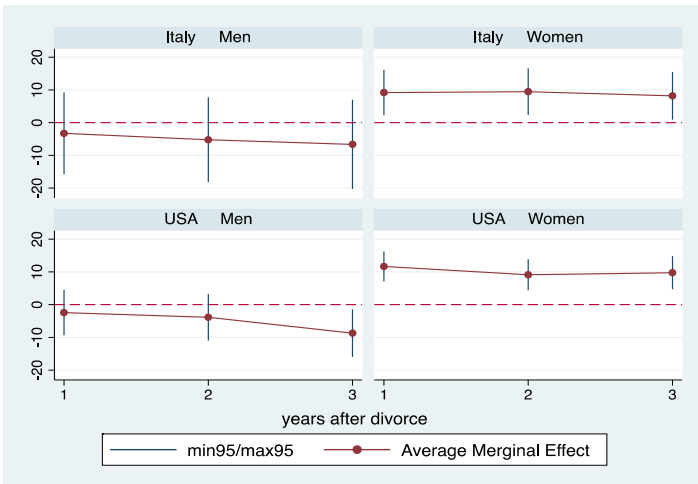## A comparison between Italy and the United States
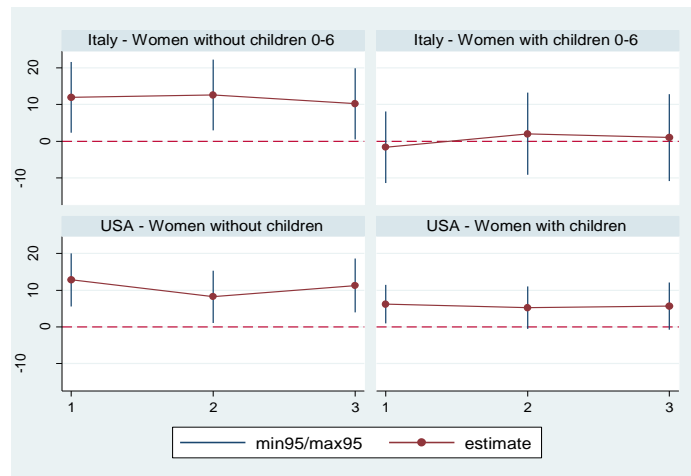
Michele Lugo & Paolo Barbieri

Over the last years, the literature on economic consequences of divorce has given particular attention to the effects of marital dissolutions on partner's available income. Surprisingly, very few studies have focused specifically on the consequences of divorce on men and women's work careers. However there is a consensus that women increase their labor supply substantially after divorce in almost all countries, while men's labor supply seems not to vary after divorce. We contribute to this literature analyzing labor consequences of union dissolution in Italy and in the United States.

Male and Female employment rate by years respect to divorce in Italy and in the United States

Average marginal effects of divorce on the probability to work one, two and three years after divorce, by sex and country.

Average marginal effects of divorce on the women's probability to work one, two and three years after divorce, by country and the presence of preschool-aged (0-6) children.

Results show a positive effect of divorce on female labor supply both in Italy and in United States. However, the consequences of divorce vary significantly between Italian and American women according to the presence of young children in the household. In Italy, mothers with children aged 0-6 do not increase their work commitment after divorce, whereas in the United States women strengthen labor supply regardless the presence of young children.
As far as men's careers are concerned, results point out negative occupational consequences after divorce in terms of employment and occupational instability, mainly for American men.

The empirical analysis are based on Panel Study of Income Dynamics data for the United States and on Multi-purpose Survey of Italian Households for Italy, covering *31 years* from 1979 to 2009. We use fixed effect panel models.

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