

## **A Case Study of Italy's Gender, Work, & Family Annotated Bibliography**

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April 20, 2009

Andreotti, Alberta. 2006. "Coping Strategies in a Wealthy City of Northern Italy."  
*International Journal of Urban & Regional Research*. 30:328-345.

This article focuses on the city of Milan and the social exclusion that can be seen in this part of Italy. Social exclusion is described as a widely encompassing term having to do with poverty and limited access to all elements of society, whether they be material or not. This exclusion brings up feelings of uselessness in those who face it. Though the article focuses on different excluded groups, the subset of single mothers is very pertinent to my research. By interviewing a group of single mothers, Andreotti shows how they cope with their day to day challenges by seeking assistance, creating support networks and by entering the job market. Though public services are limited in Milan, single mothers have the best luck with them, as they are able to enroll children in after-school care and often find public housing. However, the job market provides only very low paying jobs to these women. Without the accessibility of public schooling, mothers would be very hard pressed, as social and family networks provide very little support without pay, showing a "monetization of social networks." Though this article only focuses on one city in Italy, it provides a valuable look at the lived experience of mothers in Milan.

Appelbaum, Eileen, Thomas Bailey, Peter Berg and Arne L. Kalleberg. 2002. "Shared Work -- Valued Care: New Norms for Organizing Market Work and Unpaid Care Work." *Economic and Industrial Democracy* 23(1):125-131.

The authors wanted to explore how other countries organize work and care responsibilities in order to better meet the needs of US families. They visited Japan, Australia, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy in 2000. They met with government officials, academics, union representatives, and employers' associations and conducted interviews with managers and focus groups with employees. The reduced work week of Italian workers was particularly salient. In the mid 1980s the work week for workers in the public sector was reduced to 36 hours. Workers can alternate between 32 and 40 hours a week, with a paid day off every other week. In addition, recent legislation in Italy has introduced parental leave and companies are encouraged to create part time jobs.

Baldock, John and Jan Hadlow. 2004. "Managing the Family: Productivity, Scheduling and the Male Veto." *Social Policy & Administration* 38(6):706-720.

This study uses a qualitative framework to understand the conflict between work and family in terms of operations management and scheduling theory. The authors interviewed couples and then analyzed how the couples explained their work and care schedules. The division of labor in the household was strongly gendered and largely determined by negotiations and settlement made within the household. Male choice played a pivotal role in the how labor is divided in the

household. They found that time pressure and coordination were two areas of constraint that were consistently mentioned. Current policy is aimed at flexibility, but the interviews demonstrate that the problem is a lack of time not a lack of flexibility. More flexible options require more complex scheduling, further complicated by male veto power. In addition to difficulty finding enough of their own time, mothers often encounter fathers' unwillingness or inability to contribute to the care and work schedule. The authors demonstrate that it shouldn't be assumed that current policy aimed at flexibility will ease pressure on families, pointing to the gap between policy makers' understandings of work-life problems and families' experiences of work-life problems.

Bardasi, Elena and Janet C. Gornick. 2008. "Working for less? Women's part-time wage penalties across countries." *Feminist Economics* 14(1):37-72.

The authors examine the pay differentials between part and full time work in Europe based on the Luxembourg Income Survey in the mid-1990s. They found part time work in every nation except Sweden had a wage penalty. The authors examine the part time opportunities and differences in pay while controlling for possible differences in age, labor market, and education level. They found the largest unadjusted pay gap between part and full time women were largest in Italy. Fifty three percent of Italian part time women were involved significantly more in blue-collar segments, which were the lowest paid jobs in the study nations. Italy also had high occupational segregation rates, meaning that Italian part time employees were not compensated as equally as full time employees for similar work. All other nations had part time employees in all segments of employment, not necessarily the lowest paying bracket. Overall, the most important factor of wage differences was occupation. In Italy the available part time work was all in lower-paying segments which penalizes part time employees.

Begall, Katia, Letizia Mencarini, Melinda Mills, and Maria Tetizia Tanturri. 2008. "Gender equity and fertility intentions in Italy and the Netherlands." *Demographic Research*. 18:1-25.

This comparative study of Italy and the Netherlands seeks to explain the large fall in fertility rates in both countries, and specifically whether this has to do with the large gender work inequalities now that more women are entering the work force. This situation can clearly be seen in Italy, since genders are extremely unequal, women have low rates of entry into the work force, and extremely low fertility. By looking at data, the researchers were able to determine that unequal household work only changes women's desire to have children when they already have a great deal of work. Since Italy follows a very traditional family model that is engrained into their policies, women rarely combine work and raising children, allowing this inequality of gender work to perpetuate itself. This article provides a new and important explanation of why Italian women are focusing more on either their work or raising a family and why policies need to be revised if these patterns are expected to change.

Bellotto, Massimo and Alberto Zatti. 1999. "Working Values and the Italian Family." *Innovation: the European Journal of Social Sciences*. 12:583-596.

The purpose of this study is to determine if the family remains responsible for socializing children in terms of work values. Despite a heavy emphasis on permanent full time employment, Italy has one of the highest youth unemployment rates and the majority of young adults live at home. To understand this phenomenon, Bellotto used the Work Importance Survey to create a profile of the value judgments of Italian families. Working adults, high school students, and university students from North, Centre, and South Italy were compared to determine values associated with work. They found that adults and young adults are similar in their ideals, but are different in their expectations. In terms of their values, the high school students, university students, and adult workers are similar except for working conditions, economic security, and autonomy. In addition, more important values for young adults are less important for working adults. The study confirmed that families continue to socialize individuals in regard to work and Italians continue to define work in terms of continuity and security.

Bernardi, Fabrizio. 1999. "Does the Husband Matter/ Married Women and Employment in Italy." *European Sociological Review* 15(3):285-300.

Bernardi uses data from the Second National Survey on Fertility Control and Expectation to conduct a longitudinal examination of the impact a husband's career has on his wife's participation and success in the labor market. The purpose of this study is to identify the process by which half of young Italian women become housewives, despite increases in education and educational achievement. According to New Home Economics, husbands and wives decide how to allocate their time between paid employment and unpaid domestic work based on comparative advantage. Social capital theory argues that the husband's resources can increase his wife's chances in the labor market and facilitate her occupational attainment. Bernardi found that the husband's resources have a negative impact on the wife's participation in the labor market, but have a positive effect on her occupational attainment. The higher the husband's occupation status, the more likely it is that his wife will leave the labor market. In couples where both partners have the same educational level and similar occupational status at the time of marriage, the wife is more likely to have a higher occupational status as well. He found that the economic theory accounts for the decision of whether or not to participate in the labor market and the sociological theory explains likely outcomes in the labor market.

Bono, Emilia Del, Massimiliano Bratti, and Daniela Vuri. 2005. "New Mothers' Labour Force Participation in Italy: The Role of Job Characteristics." *LABOUR: Review of Labour Economics & Industrial Relations*. 19:79-121.

After childbearing, Italian mothers tend to vary greatly in whether they return to the work force based on what type of job they held before they had the child. While those who worked in less involved jobs without contract are very unlikely to return, those who worked in the public sector or who held positions in larger private businesses return at higher rates. As the public sector and larger businesses tend to provide more job security, women who hold these jobs can return with greater ease while being able to provide care for their child. However, those with less stable jobs face many challenges in returning to work, as their jobs may be given away and childcare prices are high and hard to afford. Though it is possible for some women to return to the work force, still only 42% of working age women are employed. Combined with the fact

that Italy has such a low birth rate, below that of replacement, this shows that most women are being forced to make a choice between raising a family or having a career.

Buddelmeyer, Hielke Gilles Mourre, and Melanie Ward-Warmedinger. 2005. "Part-Time Work in EU Countries: Labour Market Mobility, Entry and Exit." *European Central Bank Working Paper No. 460*.

This Central Bank report aims to compare the availability of part time work across European nations. They examine how family composition, past employment, and nationality influence men and women's decisions to work part time. The authors found that part time work is used more by people entering the workforce the first time than those leaving the workforce. In 2002 women were 34% of the part time work force in the EU, while men were only 6.2%. Contrary to beliefs, the authors found that 84% of part time employees did not change industries or transition to full time or non employment, suggesting a labor immobility in Europe. Female part time workers in Europe were much more likely to be married with children and have higher household incomes. This finding suggests that European families have more opportunities to combine employment options to maximize income and family balance. About 11% of total jobs available in Italy were part time, which is significantly lower than other European nations. Almost 39% of Italian women were "inactive", meaning that women did not have labor market mobility to change jobs or move to full time employment.

Chambaz, Christine. 2001. "Lone-Parent Families in Europe: A Variety of Economic and Social Circumstances." *Social Policy and Administration* 35(6):658-671.

Twelve percent of European families in 1996 were "lone parent" families, yet the category is not as homogeneous as past researchers suggest. The authors use the European Community Household Panel Survey (ECHP) to compare European nations in five categories. Lone parent family units can include single parents living independently or "included" in another household, such as living with children's grandparents, never married, separated, divorced or widowed parents. Italy has higher rates of lone father families and "included" lone parent units, suggesting that more single parents move back in with their parents. The authors found that 59% of lone parents are employed and 10% are not employed. Most employed lone parents do full time work, but live below the average income level in their country, and significantly more lone parents live below the poverty line. Eight out of ten lone parent families benefit from social transfers. In the Southern nations, which includes Italy, have less lone parents and most lone families are included in extended family living arrangements, family incomes are relatively high and Southern lone families receive less social transfers and economic support.

*The Clearinghouse on International Developments in Child, Youth and Family Policies*. 2008. Columbia University, Retrieved February, 2009. (<http://www.childpolicyintl.org/>).

The Clearinghouse website is a part of Columbia University and offers data and statistics on numerous countries' policies including parental leave, lone parents, work and family life, and family benefits. In the country-specific section, the Clearinghouse states that Italy has traditional

gender views, lower labor force participation rates, and low fertility rates. Italy has new laws focusing primarily on parental leave, low-income families, and emerging women's issues more in line with neighboring European nations. The site claims the biggest policy problems in Italy are family poverty and young people's dependence on extended family. The site also has numerous graphic representations of comparative data among European nations such as women's workforce participation rates, social expenditures, part-time work rates, and family leave expenditures around the years 2000-2003.

Del Boca, Daniela, Marilena Locatelli and Silvia Pasqua. 2000. "Employment Decisions of Married Women: Evidence and Explanations." *Labour* 14(1):35-52.

The authors note an increase in women's workforce participation and a slight decline in men's participation in Italy and throughout the EU, and use the Bank of Italy Survey to determine if there is a relationship between spousal education and employment status. Since the 1960s, men's unemployment rates has grown while women's voluntary entry into the labor market has grown by 11.4%, signifying the growth of dual earning households and female breadwinners. The authors seek to find out if women continue to work or begin working relative to men's decreasing employment or unemployment. Most women have multiple factors that might determine propensity for employment such as spousal employment, family background and education tend. The authors find evidence of "assertive mating" or the tendency for both genders to seek spouses with comparable levels of education and employment status. Women's attitudes toward work can be shaped by husband's family background, specifically if his mother worked at that age. Also, they find that a woman's response to husband's unemployment depends on both spouses' attitudes toward work and views on dual earning.

"Europe: Italy." *Nationmaster.com*. Retrieved February 18, 2009.  
(<http://www.nationmaster.com/country/it-italy>).

By compiling a large number of databases, this website provides up to date information regarding Italy. The statistics show the current status of the population of Italy and can show how it has changed throughout recent history. It also provides a brief historical background, which allows for a context within which policies and social change can be set.

"Fertility and Family Surveys." 2008. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Retrieved 2/15, 2009. (<http://www.unece.org/pau/ffs/ffs.htm>).

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe conducted fertility and family surveys in the 1990's in selected member states- including Italy. The results of the surveys have been used by researchers throughout Europe to shed light on family and fertility issues in Italy.

Furstenberg, Frank F, Anne H. Gauthier, and Liana Sayer. 2004. "Educational differences in parents' time with children: Cross-national variations." *Journal of Marriage and Family*. 66:1152-1169.

While much of the research done on Italy hints that mothers who are more educated spend more time focusing on their career than their family, this article shows that educated women in Italy who do decide to have children spend more time with them than their less educated counterparts. Furstenberg et. al suggest that by spending more time with their children, mothers are demonstrating a greater dedication to their child's development. Fathers, however, show little variety in time spent with children based on education, and much of the time they do spend with the children involves casual play. They discuss how Italy provides very limited assistance to families, and are only available to the very poor since the government sees family welfare as the responsibility of the family rather than the government. Therefore, if educated women are more likely to spend time with their children, it is most likely due to the fact that they already have enough resources to provide for their family without having to work. Married Italian mothers also spend significantly more time providing childcare than married fathers, allowing the father to spend more time in the workplace.

Goldscheider, Frances, Dennis Hogan, and Pierra Turcotte. 2006. "The Other Partner: The Changing Role of Good Provider for Men's Union Formation in Industrialized Countries." *Canadian Studies in Population*. 33:25-48.

By placing a focus on men's role in relationships, this article shows the values and roles that Italian men see as important when entering into cohabitation. Since cohabitation is becoming more and more prevalent in Italy, the norms in these relationships are based on more modern gender roles. Men in Italy with higher levels of education are actually more likely to cohabitate and men with lower levels of education and no employment are more likely to marry. This shows the shift from men entering marriage as the sole breadwinner of the family. Italian men who were raised in a single parent family are also more likely to cohabitate, showing the shift away from traditional expectations of marriage throughout generations. However, this article shows that Italians still demonstrate a more traditional view of marriage overall, as the cohabitation rate is still lower than in other countries.

Gonzalez, Maria-Jose, and Teresa Jurado-Guerrero. 2006. "Remaining childless in affluent economies: a comparison of France, West Germany, Italy and Spain, 1994-2001." *European Journal of Population*. 22:317-352.

As the low birth rate is a pressing issue in Italy, it is important to investigate why Italian women are choosing not to have children. It is speculated that this is partially to do with the instability of the labor market. In the traditional Italian family the woman is not a part of the work force, so if their participation is necessary they may lose sight of the traditional family plan. Also, women traditionally desire job stability and steady income before starting a family, and this is taking longer and longer to achieve. Women who are unemployed are much more likely to bear children, something that is in contrast to many other countries. Among employed Italian women, those with higher incomes typically are the ones to bear children, most likely since they have more job security. Last, as cohabitation is becoming more acceptable, more couples are entering into those types of relationships. Even though cohabitation is acceptable, it still remains uncommon for cohabitators to have children.

Hakim, Catherine. 1999. "Models of the Family, Women's Role and Social Policy." *European Societies* 1(1):33.

While converging trends exist (low fertility rates, rising divorce rates, delayed marriage, and diverse household composition), Hakim argues that there is no consensus about the ideal family form. Instead, there are three main family models that attract roughly equal support within all EU member states- egalitarian, compromise, and separate roles. Because there is not a convergent model of family, all three family models need to be taken into account when creating family policy. The contraceptive revolution and the equal rights revolution have given women more opportunities regarding employment and family. Hakim rejects the convergence theory model of a single family model of dual earner families. Instead, she acknowledges preference theory as the best way to understand the choices women make in regards to employment. She suggests that sex role preferences and values are more influential in women's employment choices than in the past when employment decisions were based primarily on economic necessity. She divides the female population that is of working age into three groups: home centered, work centered, and adaptive. Because all women do not have the same preferences, policy needs to be diversified to recognize and support all three work-lifestyle choices.

Horelli, Liisa. 2007. "Constructing a Theoretical Framework for Environmental Child-Friendliness." *Children, Youth & Environments*. 17:267-292.

In discussing the ideals of environmental child-friendliness, Horelli discusses the ways in which Italy has helped to provide a framework. Environmental child-friendliness is a concept that deals with a network of structures put into place where the community can come together and contribute to the youth's positive childhood experiences. In order to be an environmental child-friendly society, a number of things must be provided, such as secure housing, safety, and resource provision. The framework provided provides a concrete list that Italy's provisions and policies can be compared to in order to determine the level to which Italy is an environmentally child-friendly society.

*International Review of Leave Policies and Related Research 2008*. 2008. London, UK: Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Retrieved February 2009 (<http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file47247.pdf>).

The report examines maternity, paternity, and family leave policies of nations and various employers in Europe. There was limited information on Italy specifically, but statistics fell in the middle on most categories of comparison. Companies in Italy reported the least amount of problems with work and life balance and family leave, while most nations reported problems finding replacements or temporary employees. The report found that the individual nations contributed to the most variation between employers attitudes and issues with family leave. Italian mothers get twenty weeks of eighty percent pay at the birth of a child and can take either four weeks before and sixteen weeks after or eight weeks before and twelve weeks after birth. Parental leave for either parent is three months with thirty percent compensation, and can be used any time until the child is eight years old. In Italy, part time options are not as viable as other nations, but employed couples can get up to ten months of combined leave with the birth of a

child. A lone parent may take up to ten months partly paid leave and adoptions receive the same leave options as births.

“Italy: Statistics.” *Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development*. Retrieved February 18, 2009.  
([http://www.oecd.org/statisticsdata/0,3381,en\\_33873108\\_33873516\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/statisticsdata/0,3381,en_33873108_33873516_1_1_1_1_1,00.html))

The OECD provides in depth statistics about Italy for a large variety of categories. Explanations are also given about how the measurement was calculated, providing a reliable method of analysis. The measures regarding labor forces, health, and public expenditure will be most specifically useful. Also, the database includes many other countries, providing a method of comparison.

Jones, Rachel K. and April Brayfield. 1997. "Life's greatest joy? European attitudes toward the centrality of children." *Social Forces* 75:1239-1269.

This study uses data from the 1988 International Social Science Survey to examine the effects of personal characteristics on attitudes toward the centrality of children in Austria, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, and the former West Germany. They found that women from different countries may differ in how they view children and the cost of childrearing. Italians and Austrians have the most favorable attitudes towards the centrality of children. In Italy gender has no significant effect on pro child attitudes, but older respondents view children as more central than younger respondents. Individuals with liberal attitudes towards women's work and family roles are less likely to view children as central to fulfillment. Individuals who do not identify with any religion are also less likely to view children as central. Finally, individuals who have been married and individuals with children have more favorable attitudes towards the centrality of children than individuals who have never been married or had children. The researchers concluded that Western Europeans do not share a common view of the centrality of children to fulfillment.

"LABORSTA Internet Database." 2009. ILO Bureau of Statistics, Retrieved 2/15, 2009.  
(<http://laborsta.ilo.org/>).

LABORSTA Internet is an International Labour Office database on labor statistics operated by the ILO Bureau of Statistics. The database contains statistics for employment, hours of work, wages, etc for Italy.

Larsen, Trine P. 2004. "Work and Care Strategies of European Families: Similarities or National Differences?" *Social Policy & Administration*. 38:654-677.

As in other countries, Italian families must balance the need to earn wages to provide monetary support for their family with the need to provide physical care for their family and home. Italy still adheres to the Southern-European model of low welfare services and high dependency on the family, creating different challenges for them than for much of the rest of Europe. This, coupled with the fact that Italian women have among the lowest rates of

participation in the formal work force, means Italian men are being forced to spend more time on the job to compensate and women are doing most if not all of the care of the household and children. However, among those with higher education, there is a movement towards more equal sharing of childcare tasks.

Lodovici, Manuela S. and Renata Semenza. 2008. "The Italian Case: From Employment Regulation to Welfare Reforms?" *Social Policy and Administration* 42(2):160-176.

Lodovici and Semenza begin by noting the highly segmented labor market in 2006, such as the compensation differences between genders, age differences, and the low rates of part time work. Labor force participation among women is still proportionally low compared to European neighbors, especially in Southern Italy. The authors note trends toward less stable, contractual work and higher probabilities for Italian workers to be 'trapped' in temporary or collaborative work. They found that temporary workers are more likely to cope with series of unemployment and disparate wages. Younger workers, especially families, tend to fall at the lower end of compensation scales compared to older, stable workers. Because of the increases in temporary jobs and limited social protections, there is increased fears of unemployment and job insecurity especially in Southern Italy. The authors found that the welfare and employment systems create inequalities for mothers in particular because there is no unemployment benefits for job seekers or the self-employed, and there is no incentive for companies to offer more flexible jobs or women re-entering the labor market. Overall, the Italian Mediterranean welfare model generously protects stable full time workers without enough social and economic support for temporary or flexible employees.

Marshal, Katherine. 2008. "Father's Use of Paid Parental Leave." *Statistics Canada* 75(1) (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-001-x/2008106/pdf/10639-eng.pdf>).

Marshal compares policies in Quebec, Canada with European policies on family leave to demonstrate how parental and paternal leave time can contribute to children's well-being and the economic stability of the family. She notes a trend of women entering the labor force and more policies for maternity leave without as many corresponding changes for men and paternity or family leave in Canada. While the article focuses Quebec and possible Canadian policies, there is one section on international policies on paternal leave and an 'international perspective' box comparing leave time by gender or family unit. Marshal also has a chart comparing different nations' paid paternity, allocation to either parent or both parents, earning replacement, fathers participation rate, and any special incentives for fathers. Marshal uses the European data to demonstrate how policy changes can encourage men to participate in parenting and child care, and that policy change is the first step toward altering attitudes toward gender roles in child rearing.

Ocampo, Sofia. 2007. "Pregnancy and Working: Maternity Leave in Italy." *The Florence Newspaper*, Florence News - a7.05.09.18.07, Italy & Europe. Retrieved February 2009 (<http://www.florencenewspaper.it/vediarticolo.asp?news=a7.05.09.18.07>).

Ocampo reports on current parental leave policies in Italy in comparison with other nations. The brief article lists the various maternity leave options. The standard maternity leave is a five month period with eighty percent pay for the birth of a child, or a maternity allowance or through social aid if the mother is not employed or self-employed. Fathers are allowed up to three months of partly paid leave if the mother is present and may receive full maternity benefits if the mother is dependent, ill or dies. Ocampo concludes with information on the birth rate, fertility rate, and population facts in Italy. This article will help the research by providing facts and figures as they are presented to the Italian public, demonstrating how well informed Italian families are about parental leave options.

Pinnelli, Antonella and Francesca Fiori. 2008. "The Influence of Partner Involvement in Fatherhood and Domestic Tasks on Mothers Fertility Expectations in Italy." *Fathering* 6(2):169-191.

Pinnelli and Fiori examine different factors that either encourage or discourage women to have more than one child. They examine both working and non-working mothers of one or two children and effects of paternal participation in household tasks and child rearing in particular. The authors examine Italy in particular because of the incredibly low fertility rates- the ratio of children to women is 1.32. The authors found that Italian policies and traditional male-breadwinning views limit women's ability to equitably contribute financially. Through a survey, the authors determined women's responses to questions on partner involvement and desire for children to determine if fathers' contributions to the home increased intentions for more than one child. They found that all mothers with involved husbands were more likely to desire a second child more than mothers with marginally involved husbands. Employed women were less likely to desire more than two children, regardless of partner involvement. Women expressed satisfaction with the amount of help, and husbands performed significantly less household and childcare tasks, but employed mothers reported increases in help after the birth of a child.

Ponzellini, Anna M. 2006. "Work-Life Balance and Industrial Relations in Italy." 8(2)273-290.

Ponzelli examines the work life balance system in Italy by exploring different support systems for female workers. Currently, women participate in a disproportionate amount of unpaid domestic labor and have a weak position in the Italian labor market. Despite the central role of family in the Italian economy, women receive little help from care services and parental leave provisions. The majority of women work in the service sector of the labor market. While these jobs are more flexible, they are less protected than areas of male employment. Ponzelli examines the family model and describes different provisions provided by government, employers, human resource management, and industrial relations. At the company level, she describes the policies currently in place including parental leave, flexible working hours, in company childcare, etc. While there is weak state support for working women, she argues that industrial relations could foster a better work life balance if the focus shifts from centralized wage bargaining to decentralized bargaining that addresses the specific needs of working mothers.

Pratesi, Alessandro, and Simoni, Simonetta, and Trifiletti, Rossana. 2001. WP2 Care Arrangements in Single Parent Families National Report: Italy. *SOCCARE Project Report* 2.3.

This report describes lone parent households and the policies relevant to them. The report outlines the types of lone parent households and the percentage of lone parent households that fall into these categories. The employment circumstances of lone mothers indicate the ineffectiveness of the welfare system. The report identifies 7 care arrangement of Italian Lone parents: lone mothers “in the family”, lone mothers who have come back to the family, lone mothers who are independent but use extended family resources, lone mothers who utilize and choose rich family resources, lone mothers who substitute a network of friends, “lone” lone mothers, and lone mothers or fathers caring for parents. The report also examines the trajectories of lone mothers based on maternity as a conscious choice, episode of crisis, impoverishment, and employment. The report provides a comprehensive picture of the realities of lone parenting in Italy.

Ronfani, Paola. 2001. “Children, Law and Social Policy in Italy.” *International Journal of Law, Policy, & the Family*. 15:276-289.

Based on the deficiency in family policies in Italy, it makes it difficult to enforce the rights of children. Most Italian children live with both parents, based on their traditional views of family structure. It wasn't until recently that courts decided children should be able to continue seeing both parents in the case of divorce. Programs benefiting children are often lacking, especially those that benefit children in the southern region, as the rates of poverty are much greater there. Even though there is so much need, only 3.4% of the social expenditure goes to programs benefiting families and children. There is no set child welfare system, leaving children in the middle of bureaucracy in times when government intervention is necessary. Often the lack of welfare system leaves children in unsafe situations overlooked. In governmentally sponsored therapy or intervention programs, the treatment is similarly scattered and ineffective.

Saurel-Cubizolles, Marie-Joséphé, Patrizia Romito, Vicenta Escriba-Aguir, Nathalie Lelong, Rosa Mas Pons and Pierre-Yves Ancel. 1999. "Returning to Work after Childbirth in France, Italy, and Spain." *European Sociological Review* 15(2):179-194.

The purpose of this study was to describe the length of postnatal leave and the percentage of women in France, Italy, and Spain who returned to work within the first year after childbirth. Longitudinal surveys were used to analyze the main factors related to returning to work after childbirth. The factors included occupation, type of contract and sector, part-time work, job satisfaction, birth order, age, living arrangement, employment status of baby's father, woman's wage compared to her partner's wage, wantedness of this pregnancy, infertility period before this pregnancy, and the baby's health. The women included in the survey were first or second time mothers recruited from maternity wards and interviewed a few days after the birth, at 5 months, and at 12 months. The type of work contract was the strongest determining factor and the rate of return to work was higher when the father was unemployed or when the mother made more than the father. Italy had the longest post-natal leave and approximately 80 percent of women

returned to work within the first year. In addition, the times women chose to return to work were consistent with the social policies regarding maternity and parental leave.

Sayer, Liana C., Anne H. Gauthier and Frank F. Furstenberg Jr. 2004. "Educational Differences in Parents' Time with Children: Cross-National Variations." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66(5):1152-1169.

Sayer, Gauthier, and Furstenberg studied time diary data to analyze education levels and parental involvement in Canada, Germany, Italy and Norway. They found that more educated mothers spent more time with children in time-intensive activities than less educated women and all men. They hypothesized that the level of education and state support would allow parents to spend more time with children in welfare states than nations with less child care support. In Italy, they found that mothers do three times the amount of child care as fathers and Italians do less direct child care activities than other nationalities. Some reasons might be the larger family units, Italian mothers might spend time with children doing other activities, and over 90% of children under three attend preschool. There are also fewer young children in Italy, signified by the low fertility rate. Educated Italian fathers spend more time with children than less educated fathers on average. The report found all mothers spend more time caring for children, higher education in women determines more time with children more so than fathers' education, and state support relieves time constraints and allows parents more time with children.

Scott, Jacqueline. 1999. "European attitudes towards maternal employment." *The International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* 19(9-11):151-186.

Scott compares attitudes and policies on mothers' employment during children's early years and school years in the European Union. She examined citizens of early EU member nations Great Britain, Austria, Ireland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Spain and Italy in terms of men and women's "endorsement" of mothers' employment based on education level, age cohort, and labor force participation. As in past research, Scott found that women, especially younger women in the labor force with higher levels of education, were most in favor of employed mothers. Italy in particular had traditional views of women's gender roles, yet once gender role attitudes were included Italians were the most liberal. Specifically to Italy, Scott found that some traditional values exist, Italians agreed strongly that women should contribute to household incomes, and Italians were the least likely to believe that mothers' employment negatively impacted children. Italy also has the least amount of part-time work available to mothers and some of the most generous benefits to new mothers and mothers of pre-school age children.

Simoni, Simonetta and Rossana Trifiletti. 2004. "Caregiving in Transition in Southern Europe: Neither Complete Altruists nor Free-riders." *Social Policy & Administration*. 38:678-705.

By focusing not just on children's care in Italy but also the care of the elderly, this article brings a new and important wealth of information. Italians tend to remain in the same area for their entire lifespan, meaning their parents will be nearby even after they move into their own homes. This leads to increased convenience and in turn responsibility for couples to provide and

help care for their parents as they age. It also provides a family support network for couples as they are raising children of their own. However, with the delay in fertility, Italian couples are more and more commonly being forced to care for both their children and their elderly parents at the same time. This is causing a strain in care-giving resources. The minimal policies in place by the Italian government don't give enough assistance to ease this strain, pushing families to search for new solutions, such as simply not having children.

Smith, Mark. 2005. "Dual Earning in Europe: Time and Occupational Equity." *Work, Employment and Society* 19(1):131-139.

This article uses data from the European Labor Force Survey to examine the prevalence of equal or unequal patterns of dual earning, measured by working time and occupational status. Six European countries were selected to represent the different kinds of gender, welfare, and labor markets in Europe- Germany, France, the Netherlands, the UK, Spain, and Italy. Couples included in the survey have at least one child under 15 and are both employed. Smith examines time equality in dual-earning households with children, providing a detailed breakdown of the working arrangements of couples and the ages of their children. Occupational equality in dual-earning households with children is also important because the dynamics of the household are affected by whether or not women are in equal, lower, or higher status jobs than their male partners. Smith gives a detailed description of the breakdown of households by earning types, revealing that the majority of Italian households are dual medium occupation households. Italy has a relatively high share of couples with similar working times and similar levels of occupations. In households where working time arrangements are unequal, occupational status also tends to be unequal.

Sundstrom, Eva. 1999. "Should mothers work? Age and attitudes in Germany, Italy and Sweden." *International Journal of Social Welfare* 8(3):193.

This article examines attitudes among men and women in different age groups towards family and gender relations in Germany, Italy, and Sweden. The data used was taken from the ISSP Family and changing gender roles survey done in 1994. In Italy, the family is primarily responsible for individual social and economic security and labor market policies do not encourage married women to work. In Italy, a majority of men and women believe that most women want a home and children more than anything else; however, few respondents believe that household labor is as satisfying as paid employment. In general, women are more positive than men about the possibility of combining employment and family. They found that both gender and age are important in the perception of women's employment. In Italy men and women between 18 and 29 years old are less negative than men and women in other age groups. Italian women in this group are also the most positive towards female employment. The youngest generations are less worried about working mothers, while men over 50 are the most concerned. Both age and gender influence individual's understanding of women's paid work.