What Firms Do

Gender Inequality in Linked Employer-Employee Data

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Mobility

Conclusion

Introduction

• The gender pay gap has decreased remarkably: the median was 13.9% in 2016 against a value above 30% in 1975 in OECD countries.

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- Traditional explanations for its presence (Altonji and Blank, 1999):
 - Demand-side: taste or statistical discrimination;
 - **Supply-side**: productivity differences due to human capital accumulation and work effort.

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- Traditional explanations for its presence (Altonji and Blank, 1999):
 - Demand-side: taste or statistical discrimination;
 - **Supply-side**: productivity differences due to human capital accumulation and work effort.
- Role of traditional factors decreased in importance (Goldin et al., 2006).
- Alternative explanation: differences in psychological traits or social norms (Bertrand, 2011, and Azmat and Petrongolo, 2014).

- Gender wage gap depends not only on individual characteristics and behaviour, but also on those of firms.
- With frictions: firms offer/bargain different wage "premia".

Conclusion

- Gender wage gap depends not only on individual characteristics and behaviour, but also on those of firms.
- With frictions: firms offer/bargain different wage "premia".
- Two channels of firm-related gender wage inequality:
 - between firms \rightarrow sorting of women into low-pay firms (Groshen, 1991; Ludsteck, 2014; Cardoso et al., 2016);
 - within firms → bargaining power of women relative to men (Babcock et al., 2006; Bowles et al., 2007; Rozada and Yeyati, 2018).

Gender Quotas

Conclusion



• Focus on the role of firms' pay policy.

This paper

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- Contribution to the gender pay gap, decomposing:
 - sorting
 - differences in bargaining power
- Methodology of Card et al. (2016).

Conclusion

This paper

- Focus on the role of firms' pay policy.
- Contribution to the gender pay gap, decomposing:
 - sorting
 - differences in bargaining power
- Methodology of Card et al. (2016).
- Mechanisms:
 - gender gap in mobility;
 - bargaining and gender quotas.

Gender Quotas

Conclusion

Contribution

1. Role of firms, sorting and bargaining:

- (at the mean);
- along the distribution of earnings;
- over time.

Gender Quotas

Conclusion

Contribution

- 1. Role of firms, sorting and bargaining:
 - (at the mean);
 - along the distribution of earnings;
 - over time.
- 2. Gender differences in mobility across firms based on:
 - origin/destination firm characteristics;
 - worker characteristics.
- 3. Importance of gender representation in corporate boards for bargaining power.

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- 2. Sorting determined by gender differences in mobility:
 - both between and within provinces;
 - role of risk aversion or cost of effort.
- 3. Exogenous increase in gender balance at the top raises female bargaining power and skill composition.



- INPS data on workers and firms: universe of workers in the Italian private sector.
- Period covered: 1995-2015.



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- Period covered: 1995-2015.
- Information on:
 - $\bullet~$ Workers \rightarrow employment and (some) personal characteristics.
 - $\bullet~\mbox{Firms} \rightarrow$ location, industry, date of opening and closure.
- Match balance sheet data from AIDA Bureau-Van Dijk.



	(1)	(2)
	Men	Women
Age	39.59	38.17
Tenure	5.17	5.00
Experience	19.35	17.33
Adjusted weeks	43.62	37.42
Weekly earnings	561.34	439.29
N. workers per firm	8.33	5.34
% blue-collar	63.54	44.31
% white-collar	28.33	50.43
% executive	1.72	0.36
% middle manager	3.91	1.94
% apprentice	2.50	2.95
% part-time	6.14	31.18
Observations	129,048,272	79,620,898
Number of workers	13,330,473	9,060,341
Number of firms	1,618,072	1,618,072



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Descriptive evidence



Figure: Gender pay gap over the period 1995-2015.

Notes. Controls include cubic polynomials in age, experience and tenure, a dummy for full-time contract, the number of weeks worked, occupation and province of work fixed effects.

Descriptive evidence



Figure: Gender pay gap across the earnings distribution (2015).

Gender Quotas

Conclusion



• Two-way fixed effects model *a* la Abowd et al. (1999):

$$w_{ijt} = \theta_i + \psi_j^g + X_{it}' \beta^g + \varepsilon_{ijt}$$
⁽¹⁾

Gender Quotas

Conclusion



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$$w_{ijt} = \theta_i + \psi_j^g + X_{it}' \beta^g + \varepsilon_{ijt}$$
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• Assumption:

$$\psi_j^g = \gamma^g \bar{S}_j \tag{2}$$

where:

- \bar{S}_j = average surplus at firm *j*.
- γ^g = gender-specific share. Figure

Gender Quotas

Conclusion



Largest connected sets and normalisation

• Estimate by OLS equation (1) for largest connected sets of female and male workers under assumption of conditional random mobility.

Gender Quotas

Conclusion



Largest connected sets and normalisation

- Estimate by OLS equation (1) for largest connected sets of female and male workers under assumption of conditional random mobility.
- Build a double connected set, i.e. intersection of largest connected male and female sets.
 Descriptives

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Largest connected sets and normalisation

- Estimate by OLS equation (1) for largest connected sets of female and male workers under assumption of conditional random mobility.
- Build a double connected set, i.e. intersection of largest connected male and female sets.
 Descriptives
- Normalise firm effects with respect to average ψ_j^g in food and accommodation sector. \triangleleft Low surplus

Gender Quotas

Conclusion

Methodology

Oaxaca-Blinder Decomposition

$$\underbrace{E\left[\psi_{j}^{M}\mid g=M\right]-E\left[\psi_{j}^{F}\mid g=F\right]}_{=}=$$

firm contribution

Methodology

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firm contribution

$$=\underbrace{E\left[\psi_{j}^{M}-\psi_{j}^{F}\mid g=M\right]}_{H}+\underbrace{E\left[\psi_{j}^{F}\mid g=M\right]-E\left[\psi_{j}^{F}\mid g=F\right]}_{H}$$

bargaining effect

sorting effect

Methodology

Oaxaca-Blinder Decomposition

$$\underbrace{E\left[\psi_{j}^{M} \mid g=M\right] - E\left[\psi_{j}^{F} \mid g=F\right]}_{=} =$$

firm contribution

$$= \underbrace{E\left[\psi_{j}^{M} - \psi_{j}^{F} \mid g = M\right]}_{\text{bargaining effect}} + \underbrace{E\left[\psi_{j}^{F} \mid g = M\right] - E\left[\psi_{j}^{F} \mid g = F\right]}_{\text{sorting effect}}$$
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Conclusion

Results

	(1)	
	Total	
Gender pay gap	0.213	
Firm effects gap	0.065	
% of gender pay gap	30.4%	
Decomposition		
Sorting		
Using female coefficients	0.044	
% of gender pay gap	20.6%	
Bargaining		
Using male distribution	0.021	
% of gender pay gap	9.8%	



Results

	(1)	(2)	(3)	
	Total	Blue collar	White collar	
Gender pay gap	0.213	0.227	0.271	
Firm effects gap	0.065	0.089	0.070	
% of gender pay gap	30.4%	39.4%	25.9%	
Decomposition				
Sorting				
Using female coefficients	0.044	0.070	0.049	
% of gender pay gap	20.6%	30.7%	18.2%	
Bargaining				
Using male distribution	0.021	0.020	0.021	
% of gender pay gap	9.8%	8.7%	7.7%	

Results

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Total	Blue collar	White collar	Middle man.	Exec.
Gender pay gap	0.213	0.227	0.271	0.123	0.234
Firm effects gap	0.065	0.089	0.070	0.024	0.058
% of gender pay gap	30.4%	39.4%	25.9%	19.5%	24.6%
Decomposition					
Sorting					
Using female coefficients	0.044	0.070	0.049	-0.009	0.026
% of gender pay gap	20.6%	30.7%	18.2%	-7.2%	11.2%
Bargaining					
Using male distribution	0.021	0.020	0.021	0.033	0.031
% of gender pay gap	9.8%	8.7%	7.7%	26.7%	13.5%

Alternative
 Sectors
 Age and cohort

Results

Across the distribution of earnings (2015)



Results

Evolution over time



- Increased role of decentralised wage setting;
- Increased female labour force participation;
- Minor role for age/cohort composition effects.

Mobility

Gender Quotas

Conclusion

Gender mobility gap

• Mechanism behind sorting.
Gender Quotas

Conclusion

Gender mobility gap

- Mechanism behind sorting.
- Women tend to move less often than men and have lower wage growth (Del Bono and Vuri, 2011; Loprest, 1992)

Conclusion

Gender mobility gap

- Mechanism behind sorting.
- Women tend to move less often than men and have lower wage growth (Del Bono and Vuri, 2011; Loprest, 1992)
- Are women less likely to move to "better" firms (higher quartile of ψ_i^g)?

Conclusion

Gender mobility gap

Probit:

$$\Pr\left\{1\left[Q_{f_1}^g > Q_{f_0}^g\right]\right\} = \Phi(\alpha + \gamma F_i + \delta Z_{it} + \lambda_t + \delta_s)$$

• Dependent variable is 1 if the destination firm *f*₁ belongs to a higher quartile than the origin firm *f*₀.

Conclusior

Gender mobility gap

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- Dependent variable is 1 if the destination firm *f*₁ belongs to a higher quartile than the origin firm *f*₀.
- Shown to be consistent with AKM's conditional random mobility.

Gender Quotas

Conclusion

Gender mobility gap Results

(1) All Woman -0.030*** (0.005)-0.002*** Age (0.000)0.018*** Change province (0.004) 0.027*** Change occupation (0.004)Change to full-time 0.043*** (0.007)**Baseline Probability** 0.286 Sector and year FE Yes Observations 5,216,076

Conclusion

Gender mobility gap Results

	(1)	(2)
	All	Firm
Woman	-0.030***	-0.044***
	(0.005)	(0.007)
Age	-0.002***	-0.000*
-	(0.000)	(0.000)
Change province	0.018***	0.015**
	(0.004)	(0.006)
Change occupation	0.027***	0.024***
	(0.004)	(0.005)
Change to full-time	0.043***	0.016***
	(0.007)	(0.005)
Baseline Probability	0.286	0.268
Sector and year FE	Yes	Yes
Observations	5,216,076	2,259,559

Conclusion

Gender mobility gap Results

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	All	Firm	Individual
Woman	-0.030***	-0.044***	-0.016***
	(0.005)	(0.007)	(0.005)
Age	-0.002***	-0.000*	-0.003***
	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)
Change province	0.018***	0.015**	0.011***
	(0.004)	(0.006)	(0.004)
Change occupation	0.027***	0.024***	0.017***
	(0.004)	(0.005)	(0.004)
Change to full-time	0.043***	0.016***	0.042***
	(0.007)	(0.005)	(0.008)
Baseline Probability	0.286	0.268	0.298
Sector and year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	5,216,076	2,259,559	2,956,517

Conclusion

Gender mobility gap

By individual characteristics



Gender Quotas

Conclusion

Gender mobility gap

Why are women less likely to move to a better firm?

Conclusion

Gender mobility gap

Why are women less likely to move to a better firm?

- Preference heterogeneity:
 - risk aversion;
 - attitude to compete
 - (non-monetary benefits.)
- Higher cost of effort.
- Higher cost of mobility.
- (Lower arrival probability of job offers.)
- (Worse outside options.)
- (Higher search costs/Lower search effort.)

Gender mobility gap

Role of earnings dispersion







Definition of high/low dispersion

Introduction

Decomposition Results

Mobility

Gender Quotas

Conclusion

Gender mobility gap

Within province mobility



The map displays with different colours provinces according to the sign and significance of the female coefficient in a within-province probit regression of mobility.

Gender Quotas

Conclusion

Bargaining and Gender Balance at the Top

• Does the firm environment influence bargaining power?

Gender Quotas

Conclusion

Bargaining and Gender Balance at the Top

- Does the firm environment influence bargaining power?
- Firm environment captured by gender balance in board of directors.
- Exploit introduction of gender quotas in board of directors of listed firms (Law 120/2011) to obtain exogenous variation in firm environment.

Conclusion

Bargaining and Gender Balance at the Top Empirical strategy

- Firm-level regressions:
 - 1. Static/Canonical DiD on listed firms only:

$$w_{jt}^{g} = \kappa + \gamma^{g} D_{jt} imes \overline{S}_{j}^{pre} + \eta_{t}^{g} + \phi_{j}^{g} + \varepsilon_{jt}^{g}$$

2. Ex-ante matched DiD on listed vs non-listed companies:

$$w_{jt}^{g} = \kappa + \gamma^{g} \operatorname{\mathit{Treat}}_{j} \times \operatorname{\mathit{Post}}_{t} \times \overline{S}_{j}^{\operatorname{\mathit{pre}}} + \delta^{g} \operatorname{\mathit{Post}}_{t} \times \overline{S}_{j}^{\operatorname{\mathit{pre}}} + \eta_{t}^{g} + \phi_{j}^{g} + \varepsilon_{jt}^{g}$$

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- γ^{g} is the rent-sharing coefficient, which measures gender-specific bargaining power
- \overline{S}_{j}^{pre} is log average value added per worker in 2008-2011

Balance table

Bargaining and Gender Balance at the Top

Results

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Stati	c/Canonical	DiD	Ν	latched Di	D
	Total	Joiner	Stayer	Total	Joiner	Stayer
γ^M	-0.003	-0.004	-0.002	0.005	-0.006	0.005
	(0.007)	(0.011)	(0.007)	(0.003)	(0.006)	(0.004)
Obs.	1665	1461	1660	3933	3256	3911
N. firms	167	166	167	394	390	394
γ^F	-0.008	0.020***	-0.006	0.000	-0.007	0.002
	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.005)	(0.003)	(0.004)	(0.002)
Obs.	1654	1320	1645	3902	2919	3874
N. firms	167	161	167	394	384	393

Treatment intensity - RS

Gender Quotas

Conclusion

Bargaining and Gender Balance at the Top

Role of Skill Composition

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Stati	c/Canonic	al DiD	Matched DiD		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
ζg	0.024* (0.015)	0.017 (0.019)	0.030*** (0.011)	0.008 (0.012)	0.006 (0.015)	0.019 (0.012)
Obs. N. firms	2120 212	2106 212	2091 212	4490 449	4488 449	4477 449

Treatment intensity - SC

Conclusion

Conclusion

• Contribution of firms' premia to the gender pay gap in Italy:

- at the mean: 30%, 2/3 due to sorting and 1/3 to differences in bargaining;
- along the distribution: bargaining higher at the top;
- over time: bargaining more important in recent years.
- Sorting in part determined by gender gap in mobility across firms:
 - Some evidence on the role of differences in preferences or cost of effort.
- Firm environment influences female bargaining power:
 - impact on new hires;
 - mediation of skill composition.

Conclusion

- We contribute to understanding role of firms in influencing the gender wage gap.
- Differences in firm pay policy have increased over time as a share of the gender earnings gap:
 - Behaviour of firms critical to any attempt of tackling the gender pay gap.
- Differences in bargaining are important at the top, where women advancement has been more limited.
- Policy should take into account reasons behind gender differences in upward mobility and gender balance in corporate structure as important factors behind sorting and bargaining.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
	A		Dual connected		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Age	39.59	38.17	39.79	38.34	
Tenure	5.17	5.00	5.25	5.02	
Experience	19.35	17.33	19.53	17.50	
Adjusted weeks	43.62	37.42	44.14	37.85	
Weekly earnings	561.34	439.29	583.68	448.12	
N. workers per firm	8.33	5.34	10.39	6.67	
% blue-collar	63.54	44.31	61.19	44.52	
% white-collar	28.33	50.43	30.30	50.46	
% executive	1.72	0.36	1.92	0.40	
% middle manager	3.91	1.94	4.43	2.14	
% apprentice	2.50	2.95	2.16	2.48	
% part-time	6.14	31.18	5.69	29.95	
Observations	129,048,272	79,620,898	112,721,072	70,341,016	
Number of workers	13,330,473	9,060,341	12,248,104	8,315,143	
Number of firms	1,618,072	1,618,072	1,205,878	1,205,878	

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Total	Blue collar	White collar	Middle man.	Exec.
Gender pay gap	0.213	0.227	0.271	0.123	0.234
Firm effects gap	0.065	0.089	0.070	0.024	0.058
% of gender pay gap	30.4%	39.4%	25.9%	19.5%	24.6%
	Decom	position			
Sorting					
Using male coefficients	0.049	0.071	0.057	-0.004	0.047
% of gender pay gap	22.8%	31.1%	20.9%	-3.1%	20.3%
Bargaining					
Using female distribution	0.016	0.019	0.013	0.028	0.010
% of gender pay gap	7.6%	8.3%	5.0%	22.6%	4.3%

Conditional Random Mobility

Figure: Mean wages of movers across firm effects quartiles (Female left panel)



Conditional Random Mobility

Figure: Adjusted wage change of symmetric job moves across firm effects quartiles (Female left panel)



Conditional Random Mobility

Figure: Mean AKM residuals across deciles of person and firm effects (Female left panel)



Firm effects and value added

Figure: Firm effects against log value added per worker.



Low surplus firms

Figure: Log value added per worker by sector



Definition of high/low earnings dispersion firms

Standard deviation of average residual earnings by firm:

- estimate log earnings regressions at the firm level controlling for sectors, occupational structure and share part-time;
- compute residuals and the standard deviation of residuals for each firm over time;
- high-dispersion firms are those with standard deviation higher than the 75th percentile of the distribution of standard deviations.

Mobility rate



Notes. The mobility rate is defined as the share of workers changing employer between two *consecutive* years. The full sample (left panel) considers all moves. The restricted sample (right panel) retains only moves such that the worker stays in the destination firm for at least two years after the move.

Gender quotas and bargaining power

	Unmat	ched	Mat	Matched		
Value added per worker	0.000***	(0.000)	-0.000	(0.000)		
Sales per worker	-0.000***	(0.000)	0.000	(0.000)		
Male worker effects	0.016***	(0.004)	0.104	(0.109)		
Female worker effects	0.005*	(0.003)	-0.087	(0.122)		
Share women above 90th perc.	0.082***	(0.031)	1.833	(1.697)		
Share permanent workers	0.022***	(0.005)	0.138	(0.225)		
Share part-time workers	-0.009	(0.008)	0.096	(0.483)		
Share female part-time workers	-0.005*	(0.003)	0.086	(0.283)		
Female hiring rate	0.011***	(0.004)	0.096	(0.098)		
Share workers 35-54 years old	0.003	(0.007)	-0.187	(0.190)		
Share workers older than 55	-0.008	(0.012)	0.120	(0.395)		
Log weekly earnings	0.031***	(0.007)	0.105	(0.197)		
Log female weekly earnings	0.007	(0.006)	0.001	(0.182)		
Share executives	0.244***	(0.040)	0.620	(0.407)		
Share female executives	-0.099***	(0.035)	-0.337	(0.373)		
Log firm size	-0.044***	(0.007)	-0.039	(0.054)		
Log firm size squared	0.008***	(0.001)	0.007	(0.005)		
Observations	57,1	17	1,780			
R-squared	0.09	97	0.0)53		

Notes. The Table reports estimates from regressions where the dependent variable is a dummy for treated firms, i.e. continuously listed firms over the period 2011-2014. All regressors are average values over 2008-2011. Results for unmatched and matched samples are reported, respectively, in the first and last two columns. Robust standard errors in parentheses. Significance levels: ***p < 0.01, **p < 0.05, *p < 0.10.

Treatment Intensity - RS

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Stat	ic/Canonical	DiD	Matched DiD		
	Total	Joiner	Stayer	Total	Joiner	Stayer
			Ma	ales		
High intensity	-0.003	0.001	-0.003	0.003	-0.000	0.002
	(0.007)	(0.012)	(0.006)	(0.004)	(0.007)	(0.004)
Medium intensity	-0.000	-0.016	0.004	0.007	-0.012	0.009*
	(0.007)	(0.012)	(0.008)	(0.005)	(0.009)	(0.005)
Low intensity	0.012	-0.020	0.016	0.026	-0.010	0.021
	(0.021)	(0.017)	(0.021)	(0.021)	(0.014)	(0.016)
			Fem	ales		
High intensity	-0.004	0.023***	-0.003	0.002	-0.002	0.004
	(0.006)	(0.007)	(0.004)	(0.003)	(0.005)	(0.003)
Medium intensity	-0.010*	0.014	-0.007	-0.000	-0.014*	0.001
	(0.005)	(0.009)	(0.005)	(0.005)	(0.008)	(0.004)
Low intensity	-0.037**	-0.020**	-0.031**	-0.016**	-0.033***	-0.021*
•	(0.018)	(0.010)	(0.015)	(0.007)	(0.011)	(0.012)

Treatment Intensity - SC

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Statio	c/Canonic	al DiD	Matched DiD		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
High intensity	0.017	-0.001	0.032**	0.004	-0.012	0.025
	(0.018)	(0.023)	(0.013)	(0.015)	(0.019)	(0.015)
Medium intensity	0.032	0.045*	0.039**	0.013	0.032	0.016
	(0.020)	(0.024)	(0.020)	(0.016)	(0.020)	(0.017)
Low intensity	0.059	0.092	-0.000	0.004	0.042	-0.020
	(0.040)	(0.061)	(0.030)	(0.044)	(0.055)	(0.028)
Observations	2020	2011	1991	4180	4179	4170
Number of firms	202	202	202	418	418	418

Results

By age and cohorts



- Important cohort effects in the evolution of the GPG, in firm contribution and in sorting;
- Bargaining more stable across cohorts.

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Results By sectors

