



Nazio, T. (2016)

*Family structures and the organization of care for children in Italy. Sequences of time use by caregivers and activity*

in G. Ritschard & M. Studer (eds), Proceedings of the International Conference on Sequence Analysis and Related Methods, Lausanne, June 8-10, 2016, p. 439.



# Family structures and the organization of care for children in Italy

## Sequences of time use by caregivers and activity

Tiziana Nazio

**Abstract** Using time diary data from Italy (pooled time use surveys 2002-03 and 2008-09), on a sample of around 10.000 households with children younger than 14 years of age, this paper assesses the amount of differences (in any) in the time mothers and fathers devote to unpaid childcare in differently shaped family structures (marital or cohabiting union, single parent and blended family), and how in turn family structure reflects in children's time use (addressing several activities from children's time diaries, as well as the overall amount of time children spend in presence of their parents or other caregivers). Time-use data obtained from daily diaries allow examining both the overall amounts spent on activities by day and, through sequence analysis, the patterns through which parents and children in different family structures engage in specific activities. Results show that family structure matters, in Italy, on how children time is organized around activities. Whereas children in cohabiting families seem to have, if at all, an advantage over children from married parents in Italy, those from single parents and blended families, with a larger recourse to more structuring of their time and activities outside the family (more formal provision of education and courses) and stronger demands on their parents' time, organizational and economic resources, would largely benefit from the provision of high quality services. Parental education (i.e. a tertiary degree) plays a substantial role also in the provision of childcare, especially for the 'engaged' type and in the case of mothers' tertiary education.

---

Tiziana Nazio

Collegio Carlo Alberto & Dept. of Culture, Politics and Society, University of Turin  
e-mail: tiziana.nazio@unito.it

