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**HOUSEHOLD BEHAVIOUR AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY: GENDER  
DIFFERENCES IN ENVIRONMENTAL  
RELATED BEHAVIOUR**

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# OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Literature review
- Methodological concerns and data
- Gender differences in preferences and behaviour
- Conclusions and policy implications



# INTRODUCTION

- More convincing motivation of the study
  - Gender Equality Acts: more oriented towards labor market and social protection.
  - Policy implications: take care with discriminatory environmental policies by gender

# LITERATURE REVIEW

- Other studies: Zelezny et al. (2000) cover the years 1988 and 1998 (13 studies); Hunter et al. (2004), Torgler et al. (2007),...
- Other environmental behaviours:
  - “Bad”: littering/illegal dumping
  - “Good”: participation in environmental organizations



# METHODOLOGICAL CONCERNS AND DATA

- Do you give some information about environmental topics/problems in the survey?
- Number of observations of each subsample
- OLS = Ordered Probit results? Organic food 6 categories
- Sample is not representative at all:
  - I miss comparison with population for all the figures (if possible), as in Figure 7.
  - Bias towards higher education:
    - Only in Mexico and Korea?



# METHODOLOGICAL CONCERNS AND DATA

- Would it be possible a separated estimation by country or by group of countries?
  - If possible, we can extrapolate findings to other countries with similar characteristics.
  - If not possible: Including macro variables and using *Multilevel Models*: combination of macro and micro variables (Snijders and Bosker, 1999):
    - “Macro” variables:
      - Different governments with competences in environmental sectors:
        - Local governments: waste and water services, transportation
        - National or regional governments: transportation, energy
      - Some “macro” variables: income, education level, size of the town or city (recycling, water, transport); weight of economic sectors (transport, energy); sources of energy (nuclear, ...), climatic variables (water,...)...



# GENDER DIFFERENCES IN PREFERENCES AND BEHAVIOUR (I)

- Dependent variables: sometimes, they do not show the “intensity” of the environmental behaviour:
  - Use of cars: diesel, gasoline, electric energy?
  - Do all water /energy saving measures have the same impact?
- Some specific issues:
  - Car use:
    - What about the whole travelling costs? Time + fuel + parking + ...
    - Sometimes, women are afraid of taking the car!
  - Organic food: “*Have primary or shared responsibility for food shopping?*”... Is that relevant in the case of one-adult households?



# CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Women show more positive attitudes....but sometimes that fact is not showing in behaviour. Can we conclude that women give more socially desirable responses in surveys????
- Results show rolls in sharing domestic tasks.
- Explaining pro-environmental behaviour, other socioeconomic issues matter even more: household composition, age, etc...
- No significant gender differences, except in transportation: so, no discrimination applying environmental policies...but, if you had obtained strong differences???

