

# **The Individual Propensity to Marital Instability in Italy**

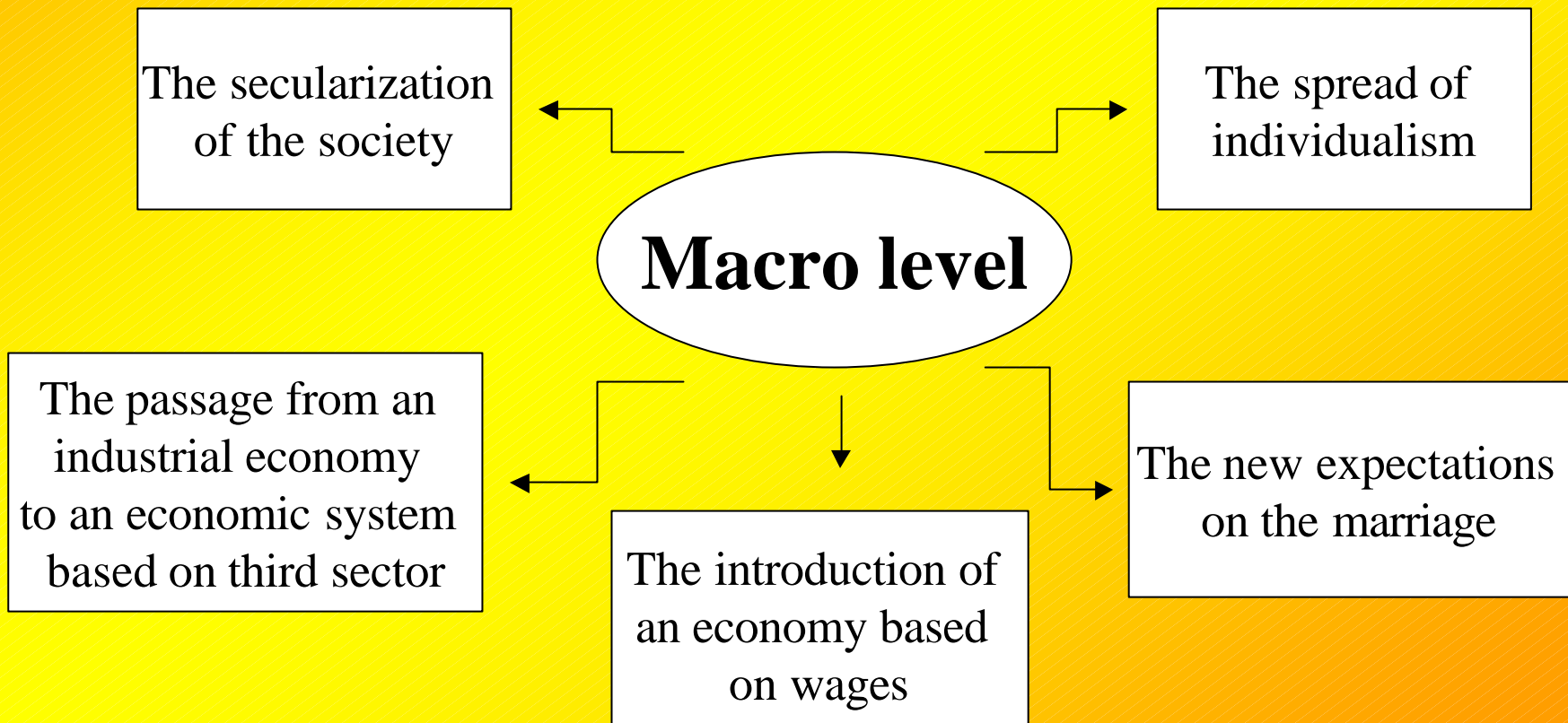
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- Work in Progress -

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# THE LITERATURE (1)

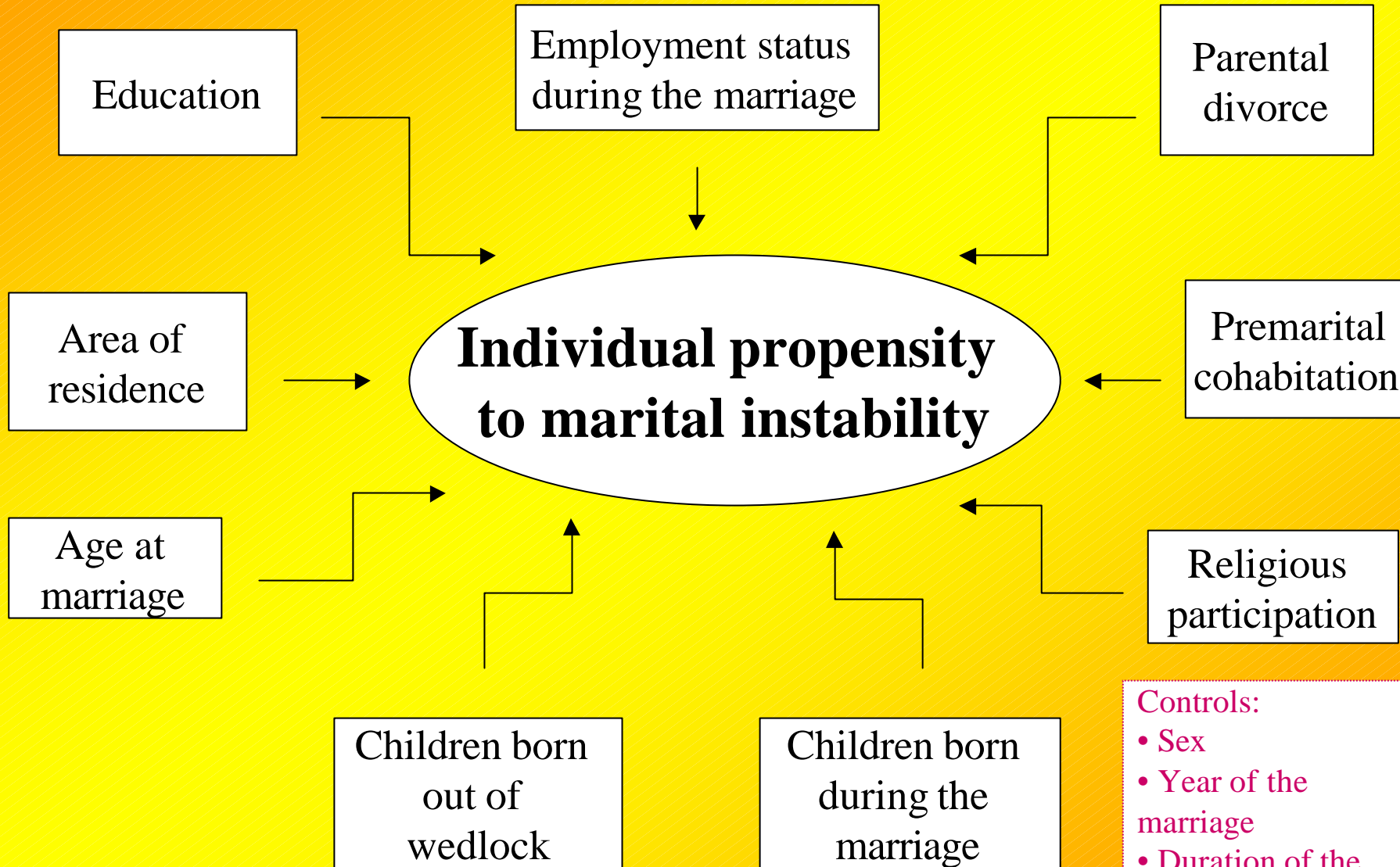
- According to the literature, the growth of marital instability can be explained at a macro and at a micro level



# THE LITERATURE (2)

- The individual factors influencing the propensity to marital dissolution (e.g. education, employment status, religious participation, etc.) are a well-studied topic in most European countries
- However, in Italy this kind of studies has been scarcely developed
- Only one research has recently analyzed this topic through a multivariate perspective (Arosio, 2004)

# THE MODEL



## Controls:

- Sex
- Year of the marriage
- Duration of the marriage

# SOURCE

- The Italian Family Survey (IFS) performed in 2003 by Istat (Italian Statistics Office)
- IFS is a cross-section survey, but some longitudinal retrospective data about the individuals' life course (marriages, marital breakdowns, children, employment status) are collected

## **Time-constant variables**

- Age at marriage
- Education
- Parental divorce
- Premarital cohabitation
- Children born out of wedlock

## **Pseudo time-constant variables**

- Area of residence
- Religious participation
- Employment status

## **Time-varying variable**

- Children born during the marriage

# THE SAMPLE

- Size: 10.749 individuals
  - 9.873 individuals at the first marriage
  - 876 individual with at least one experience of marital dissolution

# METHOD

- Binomial logistic regression model for longitudinal data (time-discrete model):

$$\Pr(y_{it} = 1 \mid x_{1it}, x_{2it}, \dots) = \frac{e^{\mathbf{a}_i + \mathbf{b}_1 x_{1it} + \dots + \mathbf{b}_k x_{kit}}}{1 + e^{\mathbf{a}_i + \mathbf{b}_1 x_{1it} + \dots + \mathbf{b}_k x_{kit}}}$$

$y_{it} = 0$  if the event that close the observation (a marital breakdown) has not occurred

$\mathbf{a}_i$  = the propensity to marital dissolution of the individual  $i$ , not explained by independent variables, than does not vary across time

# BIVARIATE ANALYSIS (1)

- Marital dissolution affects more often individuals married late (40+) and less those married before 29
- Marital dissolution affects more often individuals living in the north of the country, and less those living in the south
- Marital dissolution affects more often highly educated individuals (university degree and secondary school degree)
- Marital dissolution affects more often employed than unemployed individuals
- Marital dissolution affects more often individuals with an experience of parental divorce than those from intact families

# BIVARIATE ANALYSIS (2)

- Marital dissolution affects more often couples with an experience of cohabitation before the marriage
- Marital dissolution affects more often individuals with low levels of religious participation
- Marital dissolution affects more often couple without children born during the marriage
- Marital dissolution affects more often couples with children born out of wedlock

# MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

## HAVING EXPERIENCED A MARITAL DISSOLUTION (VS BEING MARRIED FOR THE FIRST TIME)

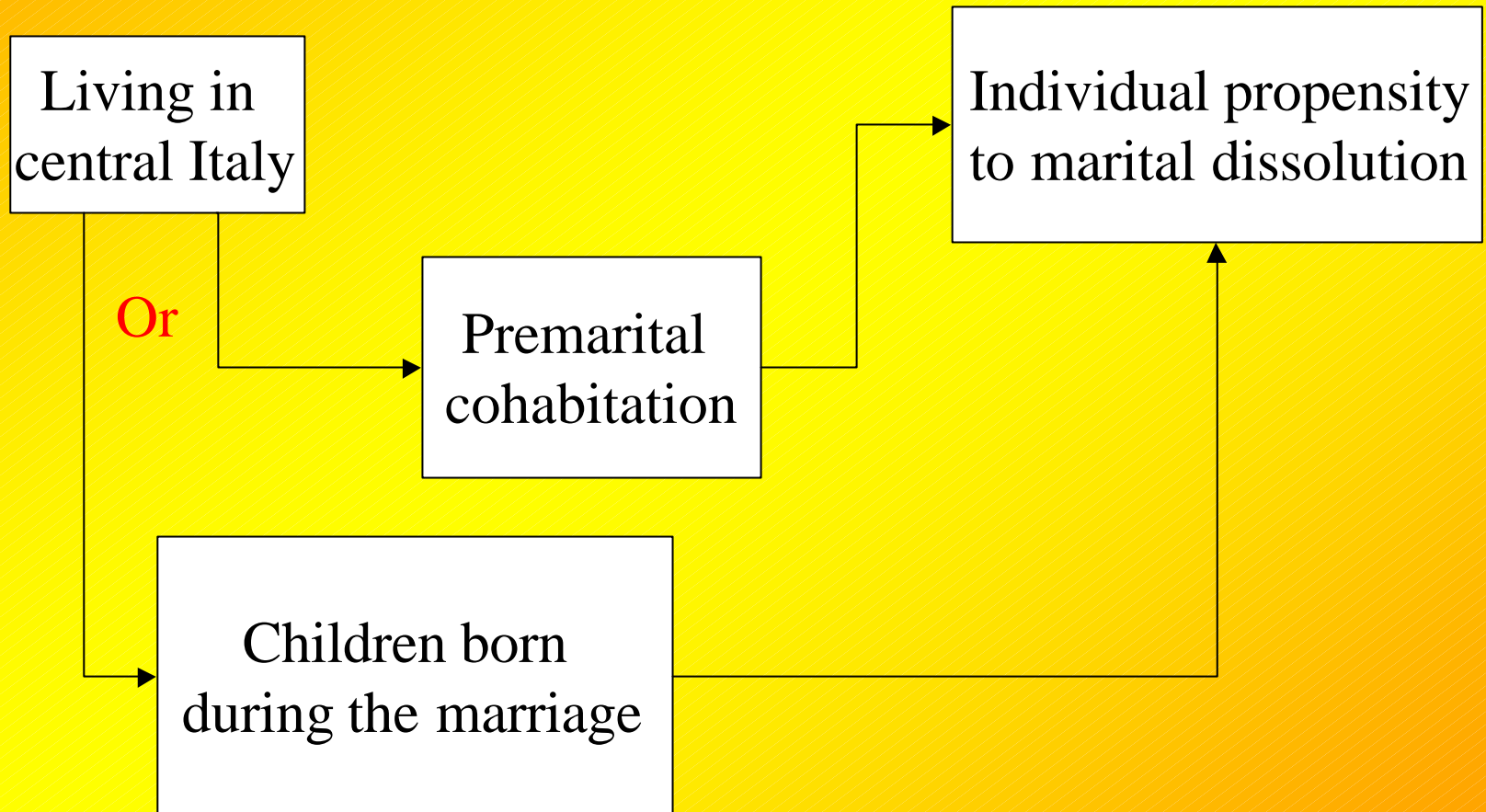
	Odds Ratio	Confidence interval (95%)
<b>Age at marriage</b>		
<i>Less than 24</i>		
25-29	0,81 **	0,69-0,95
30-34	0,85	0,68-1,06
35-39	1,22	0,88-1,69
40 and more	2,01 **	1,26-3,18

# MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

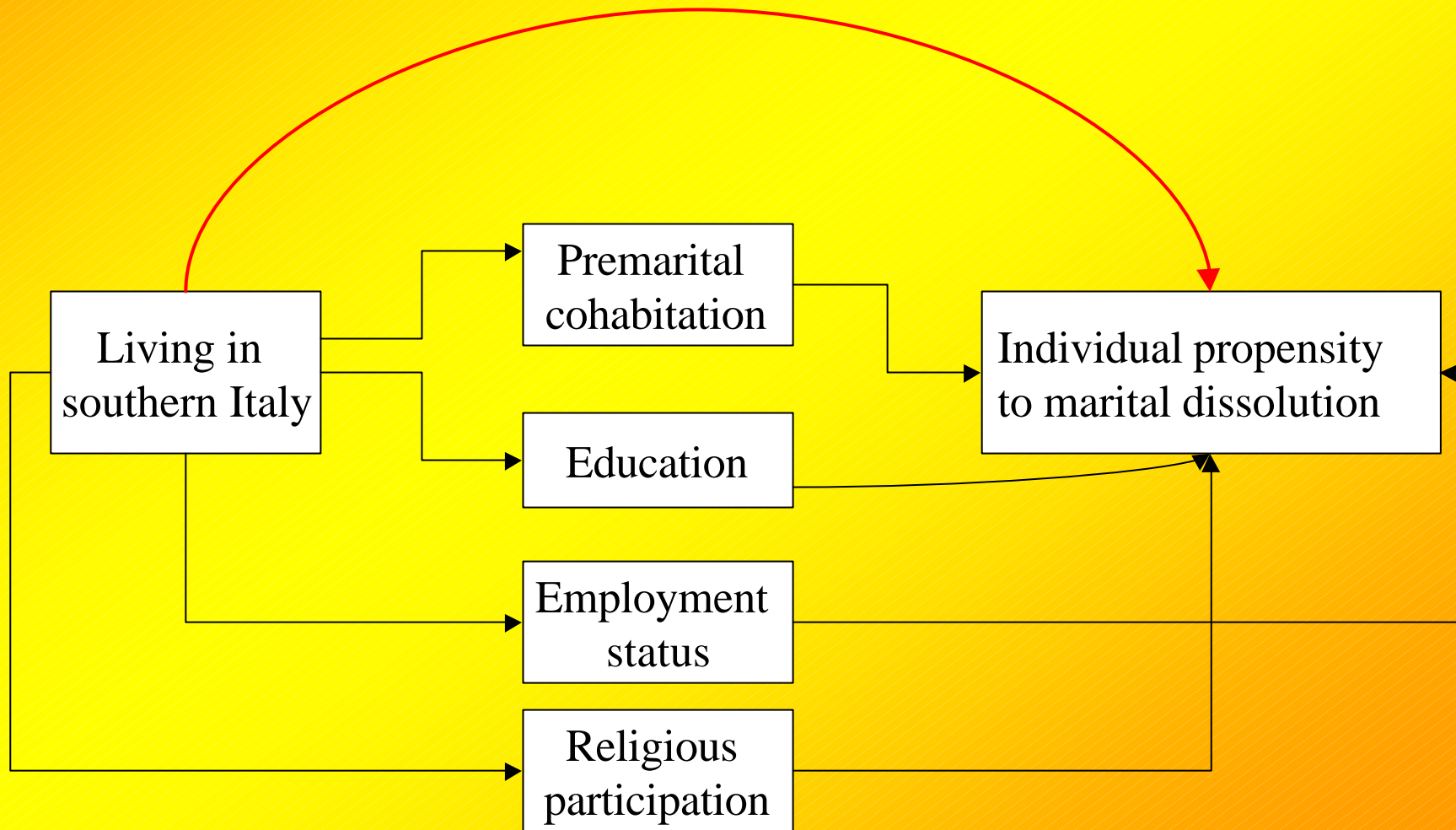
## HAVING EXPERIENCED A MARITAL DISSOLUTION (VS BEING MARRIED FOR THE FIRST TIME)

	Odds Ratio	Confidence interval (95%)
<b>Area of residence</b>		
<i>North</i>		
Centre	0,87	0,73-1,02
South	0,70**	0,59-0,83

# THE EFFECT OF THE AREA OF RESIDENCE (1)



# THE EFFECT OF THE AREA OF RESIDENCE (2)



# MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

## HAVING EXPERIENCED A MARITAL DISSOLUTION (VS BEING MARRIED FOR THE FIRST TIME)

	Odds Ratio	Confidence interval (95%)
<b>Education</b>		
<i>University degree</i>		
Upper secondary school degree	1,28*	1,00-1,64
Lower secondary school degree	0,97	0,76-1,24
Primary school degree	0,65**	0,49-0,88

# MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

## HAVING EXPERIENCED A MARITAL DISSOLUTION (VS BEING MARRIED FOR THE FIRST TIME)

	Odds Ratio	Confidence interval (95%)
<b>Employment status during the marriage</b>		
<i>Always employed</i>		
Employed with at least one period of unemployment	0,83 *	0,72-0,97
Never employed	0,76 *	0,60-0,96

# MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

## HAVING EXPERIENCED A MARITAL DISSOLUTION (VS BEING MARRIED FOR THE FIRST TIME)

	Odds Ratio	Confidence interval (95%)
<b>Parental divorce</b>		
<i>No</i>		
Yes	1,84**	1,27-2,68

# MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

## HAVING EXPERIENCED A MARITAL DISSOLUTION (VS BEING MARRIED FOR THE FIRST TIME)

	Odds Ratio	Confidence interval (95%)
<b>Premarital cohabitation</b>		
<i>No</i>		
Yes	2,01**	1,62-2,49

# MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

## HAVING EXPERIENCED A MARITAL DISSOLUTION (VS BEING MARRIED FOR THE FIRST TIME)

	Odds Ratio	Confidence interval (95%)
<b>Religious participation</b>		
<i>High</i>		
Medium	1,64**	1,34-2,02
Low	2,09**	1,75-2,50
No religious participation	3,27**	2,65-4,02

# MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

## HAVING EXPERIENCED A MARITAL DISSOLUTION (VS BEING MARRIED FOR THE FIRST TIME)

	Odds Ratio	Confidence interval (95%)
<b>Children born during the marriage</b>		
<i>No children</i>		
One children	0,54**	0,45-0,64
Two or more children	0,33**	0,27-0,40

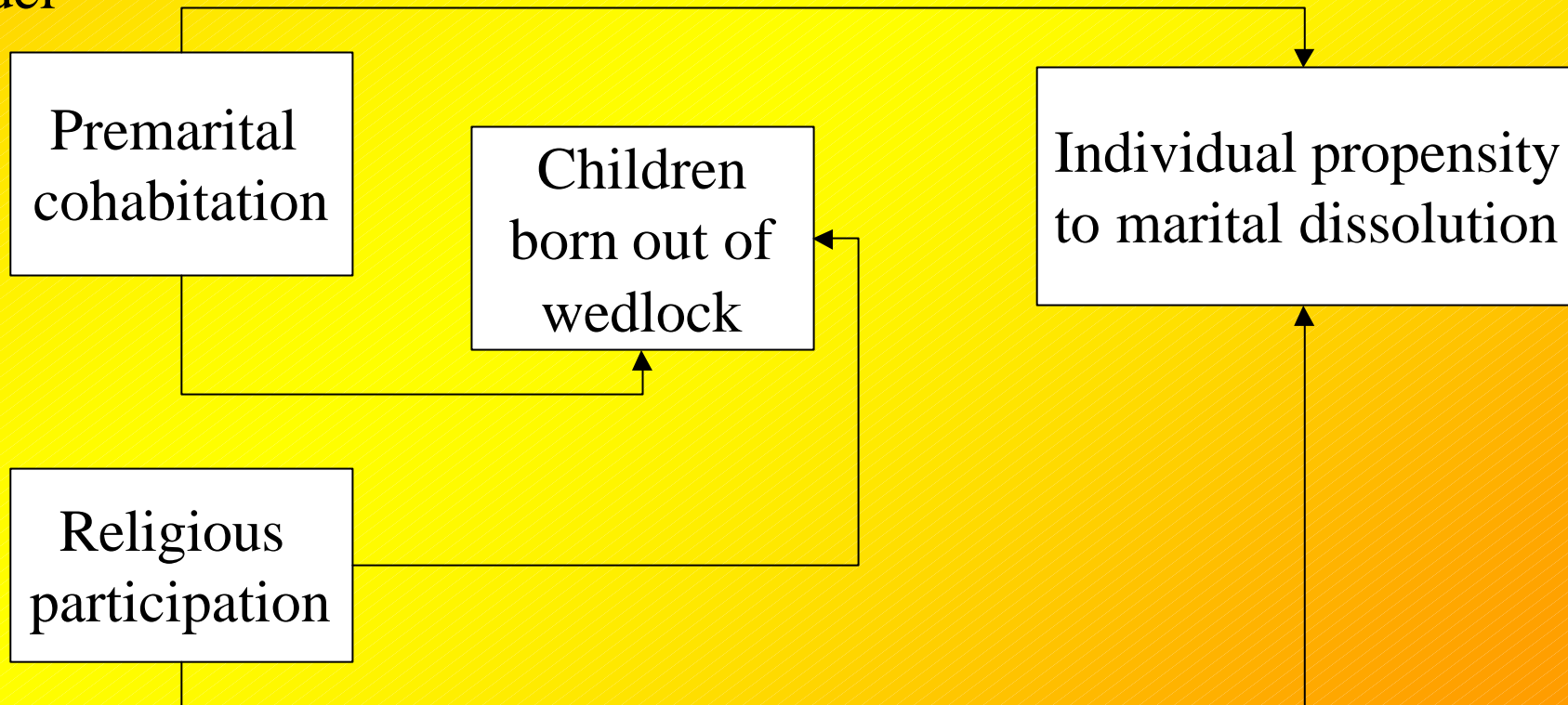
# MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

## HAVING EXPERIENCED A MARITAL DISSOLUTION (VS BEING MARRIED FOR THE FIRST TIME)

	Odds Ratio	Confidence interval (95%)
<b>Children born out of wedlock</b>		
<i>Yes</i>		
No	0,83	0,62-1,12

# THE EFFECT OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK

- The effect of the variable is statistically significant if the religious participation and the premarital cohabitation are not included in the model



# MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

## HAVING EXPERIENCED A MARITAL DISSOLUTION (VS BEING MARRIED FOR THE FIRST TIME)

	Odds Ratio	Confidence interval (95%)
<b>Marriage cohort</b>		
<i>Before 1960</i>		
1960-1969	1,21	0,73-2,01
1970-1979	1,82*	1,10-2,99
1980-1989	4,23**	2,57-6,95
After 1989	0,99	0,06-15,69
<b>Education</b>		
<i>Low</i>		
High	3,50	0,84-14,56
<b>Interaction marriage cohort*education</b>		
<i>Before 1960*high education</i>		
1960-1969*high education	0,47	0,11-2,10
1970-1979*high education	0,43	0,10-1,82
1980-1989*high education	0,40	0,09-1,68
After 1989*high education	2,97	0,70-12,60

# MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

## HAVING EXPERIENCED A MARITAL DISSOLUTION (VS BEING MARRIED FOR THE FIRST TIME)

	<b>Odds Ratio</b>	<b>Confidence interval (95%)</b>
<b>Sex</b>		
<i>Male</i>		
Female	0,55*	0,32-0,96
<b>Employment status during the marriage</b>		
<i>Never employed</i>		
Employed (with or without unemployment)	0,49**	0,29-0,83
<b>Interaction sex*employment status</b>		
<i>Male* Employed (with or without unemployment)</i>		
Female* Employed (with or without unemployment)	2,60**	1,48-4,56

# CONCLUSION: ITALY IN THE EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK

Some trends common to most European countries emerge:

- Premarital cohabitation
- Parental divorce
- Employment status

But also some important differences:

- The role of education
- The effect of children born during the marriage

**Thank you!**

Comments and questions are welcome