

From the normalization of control to the democratization of intimate relationships: signs of gender based-violence in Italy

Anna Gadda, Sabrina Ortelli, Marta Pietrobelli

EDV University of Milano-Bicocca*

Research Aim

The poster shows the results of a quantitative research conducted by EDV-University of Milano-Bicocca in collaboration with the online newspaper 27°ora - Corriere.it, on the perception of gender based-violence among the newspaper's readers

The aim of the research is to depict the extent to which domestic violence is perceived, recognized and condemned within intimate relationships among the readers

Research question

The research aims at exploring:

- ✓ Whether any socio-cultural factors and discriminatory values that can justify gender-based violence persist into intimate relationships
- ✓ Whether such behaviours are recognized as gender-based violence indicators

Research Methods

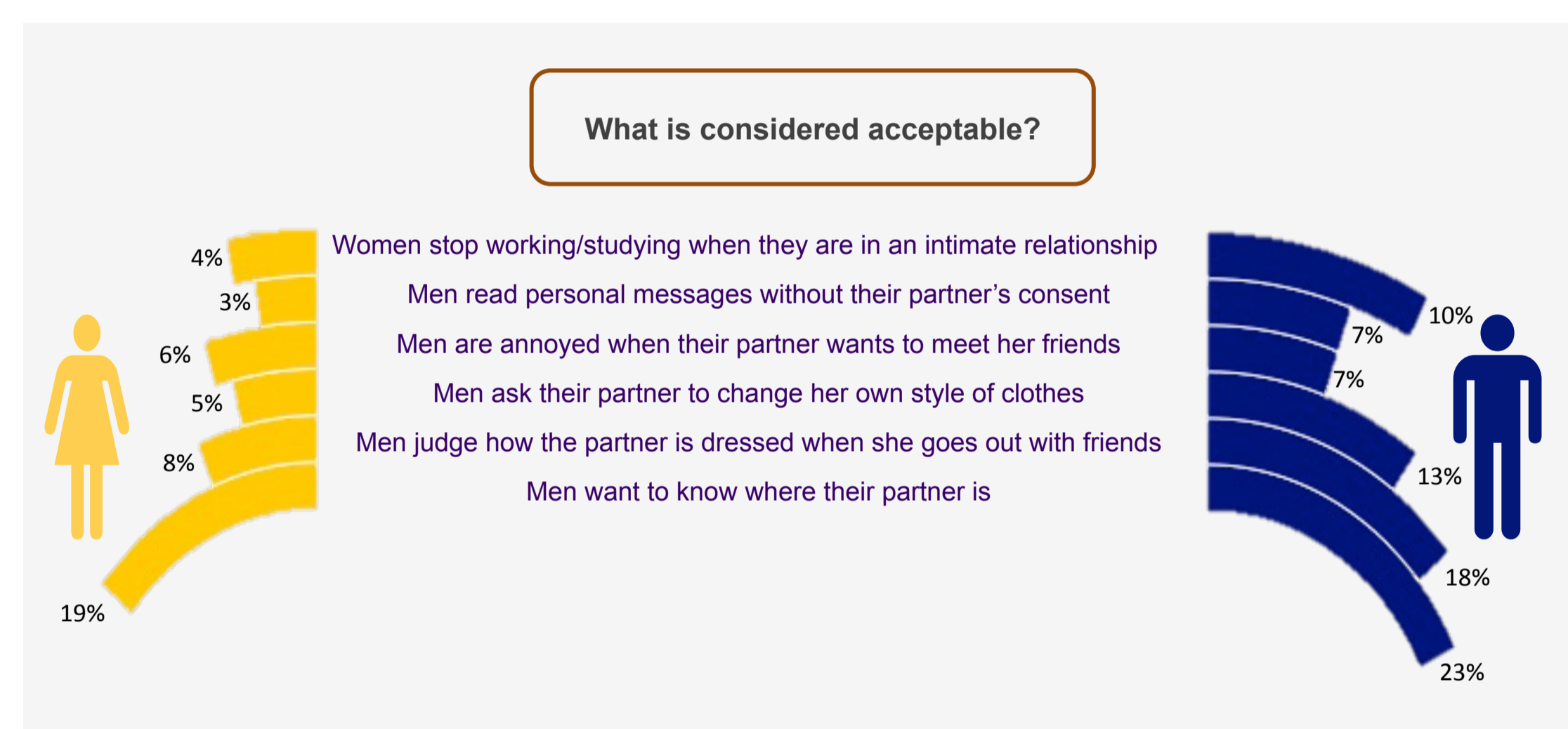
- ✓ Online quantitative questionnaire
- ✓ Sample: 5.987 people, of which 3.115 women (52%) and 2.872 men (48%)
- ✓ Research conducted in November 2016

Main results

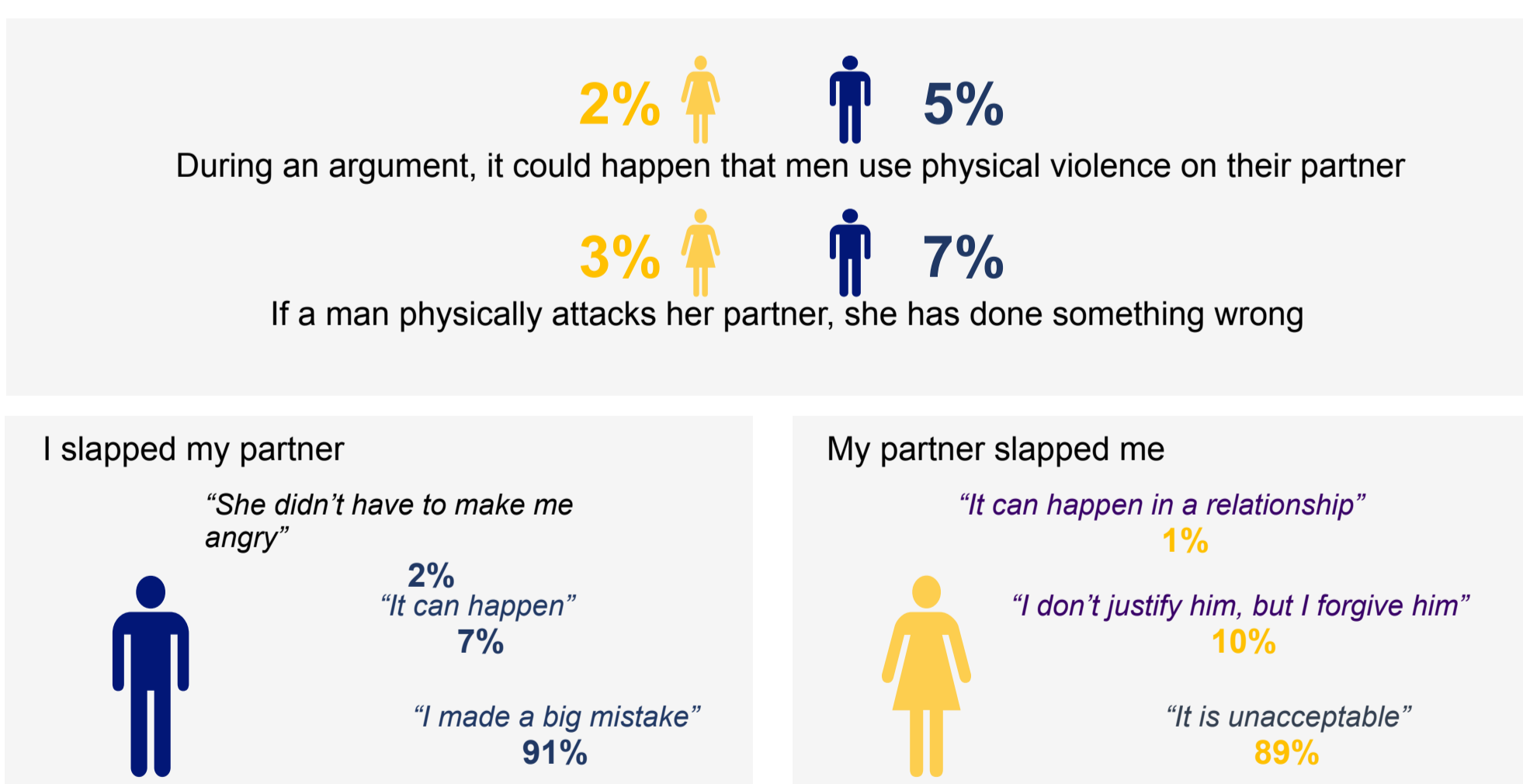
1. Men and women consider specific relationship's values in different ways



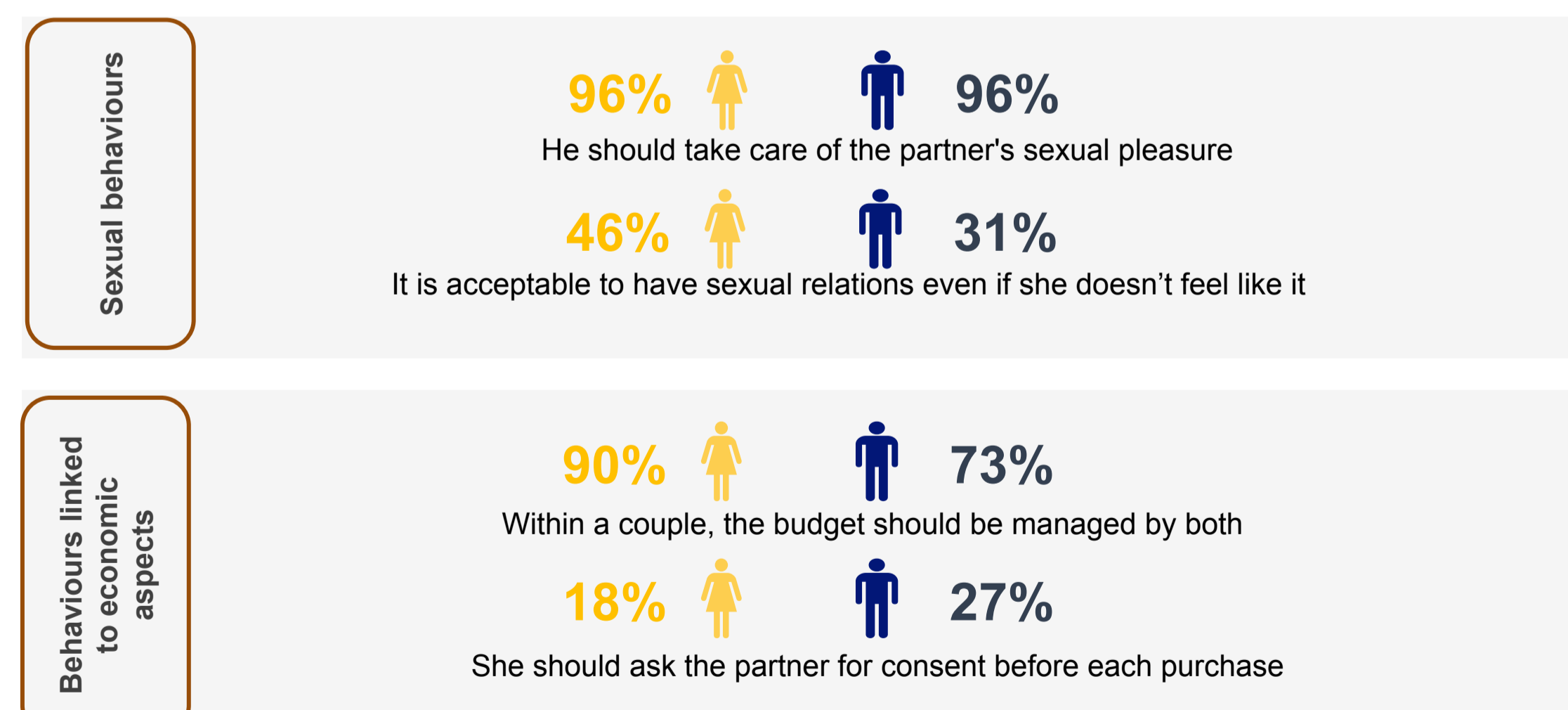
2. Men and women have a different perception of "acceptable" behaviours within an intimate relationship



3. Both men and women tend to condemn physical violence



4. Both men and women don't recognize other specific behaviours as violence



Conclusions

- ✓ Psychological as well as economic violence are still difficult to be recognized within an intimate relationship, particularly by men
- ✓ Women are willing to deconstruct their 'traditional' role within the society, attributing high importance to independence within a relationship
- ✓ There are some attempts towards a social transformation of gender norms, with both men and women condemning physical and sexual violence, leaning towards a "democratization" of intimate relationships
- ✓ However the normalization of control is still radicalized within the Italian society