

ABSTRACT

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A microeconomic analysis of the consumption of cultural goods and services in Italy.

A series of recent empirical contributions on the demand for artistic and cultural goods and services (Abbé-Decarroux 1995; Lévy-Garboua and Montmarquette 1996; Gray 1998; Bihagen and Kat-Gerro 2000; Prieto-Rodriguez and Fernandez-Blanco 2000; Lopez Sintas and Garcia Alvarez 2002; Fisher and Preece 2003) have used individual-level information, collected from representative samples of the national population, in order to estimate the determinants of different cultural consumption patterns.

In this paper we follow this stream of literature, utilizing two sets of micro data on cultural participation and leisure in Italy collected by the Italian Central Statistical Institute with two representative surveys of the Italian population carried out in 1995 and 2000.

On the basis of the methodological assumptions of discrete choice analysis, we study the participation in different types of artistic and cultural activities by building and estimating a series of binomial probit models: this gives us the opportunity to characterise distinct cultural consumption patterns, controlling for various socio-economic and demographic variables.

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