"Gender Differences in Cooperative Environments: Evidence from the US Congress" (joint with Stefano Gagliarducci)

**Abstract:**

This paper uses data on bill sponsorship and cosponsorship in the U.S. House of Representatives to estimate gender diff erences in cooperative behavior. In OLS regressions with a wide variety of individual, district, and bill type controls, we document two main facts: a) female representatives of both parties recruit a larger number of cosponsors on the bills that they sponsor; b) female Democrats are less likely, and female Republicans are more likely to sponsor legislation that attracts bipartisan support. We employ a number of econometric methodologies to address the potential selection of female representatives into electoral districts with distinct preferences for cooperativeness, including regression discontinuity and matching. Most of the results are robust to the treatment of selection. In particular, we find robust evidence of more bipartisanship among Republican women. Female Republicans are especially likely to attract support from female Democrats, and this is particularly true on bills that address issues more relevant for women, over which female Republicans have possibly less support within their own party. We interpret these results as evidence that cooperation is mostly driven by a commonality of interest, rather than gender per se.