

esshc Conference

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The conference is characterized by a lively, small group exchange, rather than in formal plenary sessions. The conference is organized in many networks covering specific topics. It welcomes papers and sessions on any historical topic and any historical period.

30 March - 2 April 2016 in Valencia, Spain

Organization

The European Social Science History Conference is organized by the International Institute of Social History (IISH), an institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts & Sciences. Information on the IISH is available from its website at socialhistory.org.

Programme

<https://esshc.socialhistory.org/esshc-user/programme>

Sessions organisées par les membres du GDRI

Friday 1 April 2016 8.30 - 10.30

H-9 - RUR11a : Thinking about the Social Dynamics. The Recomposition of Social Structures in the European Countryside (I)

Aula 5, Nivel 0

Networks: [Rural](#) , [Social Inequality](#)

Organizer : Gérard Béaur

Chair : Rosa Congost

Discussant : Rosa Congost

Gérard Béaur : Measuring the Changes in the Social Structure through the Marriage Contracts. The Countryside of Chartres (France), 1731-1790

This paper aims to challenge a major question. How raising the question of social mobility in a non flexible, frozen society ? In what extend could the structure of a society change over time according to changing contextual conditions ? How could you reach changes of the whole society with the emergence of new groups or the disparition of other groups ?

To explore this topic, we will use several thousands of marriage contracts found in the so-called Contrôle des Actes (registration of notarial deeds) with a look on the marriages themselves in the rural parishes near the town of Chartres in a medium-run from 1731 to 1790. We will focus on the shifts which might occur either in the terms used to designate the people or in the amount of the dowry of each social category.

Fabrice Boudjaaba : Social Reclassifications and Family Cultures: Farmers facing Urbanization (Ivry sur Seine 18-19th Centuries)

In the context of industrialization and urbanization of rural areas, the transformation of social structures of the peasantry are important. These phenomena have a significant impact on both social hierarchies within the peasantry but also on the agrarian economy itself. Staying farmer or for the children of farmers, a farmer is no longer obvious for these populations. Under these conditions, some farmers remain but others (themselves or their children) are changing professions.

This paper seeks to understand the variables that explain one or the other option. The goal of this paper is to determine whether the social position within the peasantry, the level of wealth, family cultures (in relation to their geographical and professional roots) may explain these choices facing the change of social and economic structures

For this, we will use a genealogical database and various data on the population of a village, suburb of Paris, in the 18th and 19th century (Ivry-sur-Seine) and economy

Thomas Brennan : Credit and Financial Power in Rural Champagne

The growing commercialization of champagne production and sales in the 18th century stimulated a parallel growth in financial services. Production increased as more acres were planted in vines. Production became more expensive, yet also more rewarding, as wealthy and ambitious growers turned to a more time-consuming and demanding system of bottling and holding stocks. The province became more intimately linked to national and international markets, as buyers showed greater interest in its wines. All these developments required more elaborate financing, for the purchase of land, materials, and wines. It is clear that the changes in wine production and financing affected the wealthier, more urban members of this province most immediately. Nevertheless, this paper asks if there is evidence for the spread of these changes into the rural milieu. Can we find a ripple effect stimulating the smaller producers and some of the secondary services that assisted wine production? In particular, can we see a quickening of financial activity, and did it lead to greater financial power among peasant middle men and entrepreneurs? Did commercially active peasants profit from the greater demands for their products and their credit, and did this lead to new social strata emerging in peasant society? By interrogating the thousands of financial transactions registered in bureaux of the controle des actes in the wine-producing region of Champagne, this paper will test the proposition that commercial growth contributed to a more differentiated rural society and, perhaps, an emerging stratum of peasant "financiers".

Wouter Ronsijn : Developments in the Social Structure of Flemish Rural Society: Focus on the Eighteenth Century

In this paper, the main developments in the social structure of Flemish

rural society will be discussed, focusing on the eighteenth century. The eighteenth century was characterized by rapid population growth, as well as expansion in agricultural output and growth of proto-industrial linen production. Mendels linked these changes to impoverishment, whereas Vandembroeke saw them as a sign of 'relative prosperity' in Flanders. This paper will reconsider these claims. To what extent did population growth and expansion of agricultural and industrial rural production change the social structure of the countryside: did demographic growth result in general impoverishment, or is it rather a sign of prosperity? And how were the effects of these developments distributed over society: was there rising social inequality, i.e. a process of social differentiation (the formation of a (semi-)proletariat and a more prosperous elite), or was there rather stability in the structure of rural society?

Friday 1 April 2016 11.00 - 13.00

[H-10 - RUR11b : Thinking about the Social Dynamics. The Recomposition of Social Structures in the European Countryside \(II\)](#)

Aula 5, Nivel 0

Networks: [Rural](#) , [Social Inequality](#)

Organizer: Rosa Congost

Chair: Gérard **Béaur**

Discussant: Gérard **Béaur**

Josep Colomé Ferrer : Rabassaires: Consolidation and Crisis of a Social Model in Southern Europe Viticulture in the Nineteenth Century

Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were consolidated in Catalonia various processes of wine specialization, giving rise to, in some cases, farming communities whose livelihood was especially linked to the evolution of the wine sector. We analyze the characteristics of these communities, with particular attention to the relationship between population growth and expansion vineyards, and the importance they had large property and contract of rabassa morta in this process of agricultural specialization, giving rise to the emergence of new rabassaires settlements. Secondly we study the social differentiation in these new communities and the characteristics of the labor market, highlighting the role played by women in the reproductive strategies of these rabassaires families.

Finally, the gradual advance of the liberal state and the consolidation of capitalist ownership of land strained relations between owners who wanted to apply the new rights recognize them liberal legislation and a rabassers that claimed some customary rights that were part of the legacy inherited from generations bygone, giving rise to an important social conflict in the last decades of the nineteenth century. The repression by the state in defense of capitalist ownership of land, death of vines caused by phylloxera and the indebtedness of many of the families rabassaires, accounted for ending the conflict and finished off the vineyards specialization model had characterized this territory.

Antonio López Estudillo : Agrarian Change, Social Transformations and Inequalities in two Catalan Wine-growing Villages in the 18th and 19th Centuries: the Rabassaires of Rubí and Castellbisbal

Rubí and Castellbisbal are neighbouring villages whose combined population multiplied more than tenfold between 1719 and 1887, supported fundamentally by the ploughing up of new terrain and the planting of vineyards. In the beginning of this period, the farms (masos) provided structure to the occupation of the land, generated the bulk of agricultural products and housed a high proportion of the local population. The best pieces of land hosted mixed cultivations with a strong predominance of cereals, with the rest for forestry uses. The terrain was exploited by well-off farmers (emfiteutes or tenants). The rest of the population resided in small neighbourhoods which housed the poorer families, many of whom worked as mossos [servants] for a day's wage or more permanently, and who had, at most, tiny plots of land on lease. The agrarian transformations of the period reconfigured the social groups and relationships linking them. Those emfiteutes with large areas strengthened their position with respect to the seigniorial lords and themselves became new rentiers. At the base of the system, the vast majority of farming families acquired by rabassa morta [emphyteutic contracts specific to winegrowers] some plots of land and supplemented the income from their crops with daily wages; only young single boys (lit. mossos) from poor families were taken on as permanent employees. From among both of these groups, there were some who accumulated plots of land en rabassa. Although they had to pay demanding rents, they enjoyed a relatively comfortable position as long as wine prices were favourable. Overall, (until the arrival of the phylloxera plague) the generalized access of the poor to land en rabassa and the consolidation of this group of fairly comfortable rabassaires defined a society which, despite the obvious inequality, enjoyed a less pronounced stratification, less effective obstacles to mobility and a remarkable degree of political empowerment among the rural middle and working classes.

Gabriel Jover et Antonia Morey : Composition, Levels of Wealth and Social Status of the Large Tenants. Mallorca (16th to 20th Centuries)

The purpose of this communication is to contribute, by means of a study carried out on the island of Mallorca in the western Mediterranean, to the characterization of a social group traditionally regarded as intermediate and well-off: the tenant farmers. These individuals are presupposed, in many cases, to have had a transcendent role in the introduction of capitalist means of production. This role is often attributed to them without the support of a sufficiently rigorous empirical study and under a general assumption that what happened in Britain can be extrapolated to other territories. What seems to emerge from the current state of our research and from the size of the guarantees demanded by the landowners as stipulated in their contracts, is that they must have had sufficient capital (in land, urban properties, working capital, ground rent, etc.) to be able to return

in "good condition" the farms they managed. From this it could be inferred (although during certain periods there are also examples that contradict the idea) that the group of large tenant farmers were indeed a wealthy group that, over time, even became landowners themselves and enjoyed a social and political prominence within their communities.

Manoela Pedroza : Customs, demands and stratagems on Royal land : Property rights, conflicts and demands between 'interlopers' and landowners (Fazenda Real de Santa Cruz Estate, Brazil, 1761 – 1822)

The Fazenda de Santa Cruz, which is the territorial object of this study, was the largest Jesuit agricultural undertaking in South America. When it was demarcated in 1731, it measured ten square leagues. In the 1740s, 740 slaves worked on the land (in addition to free mestiço workers, to native Indians who lived in villages and the priests themselves). Following the expulsion of the Jesuits in 1759, the Portuguese crown took over this immense area of land (in 1761). It was then administered by the Viceroy of Brazil until the country's political independence in 1822. During this sixty-year period (which is the temporal scope of this study), the administrators had to deal with three major problems. The first was the construction of a system capable of overseeing the captive workforce and the 'interlopers' in addition to administering employees, managing payments and receivables and satisfactorily replacing the agricultural production and extraction structure of the expelled Jesuits. Secondly, they had to deal with lack of information and communication, resources, personnel and political will, all of which hindered more effective implementation of (highly debated) projects and policies on behalf of the Royal Treasury. Thirdly, they were faced with a resident population on the Fazenda and its neighboring lands (freemen, slaves and native Indians) who persistently disobeyed orders and plans. This population refused to submit to the Viceroy's designations, particularly in relation to the payment of foros (tithes) and rendas (yield). Within this population, we focus on a group which official sources termed 'intrusos' (intruders or interlopers). Our objective has been to discover more about these people: who they were, where they came from, what they did and what they fought for during the time of the Viceroy. We made use, in particular, of documents stored at the Brazilian National Archives. We also researched parish records of births, marriages and deaths of freemen and slaves in the Curatorship of e Santa Cruz and the written recollections and exhortations of the administrators. We consider that the references made to 'interlopers' in official letters and reports provide an opening through which we can examine the history of the land conflicts on this Fazenda from the interloper's perspective. This is so even though the official references reflect a criminalizing and homogenizing view. We seek to uncover some of the established customs on access to and management of natural, agricultural and grazing resources which dated back to the 'time of the Jesuits', or which were otherwise asserted against the landowners on the basis of being ancient established rights. We describe the way in which the 'interlopers' made use of misinformation, freedom and mobility in order to disobey, de-legitimize, undermine and threaten the official territorial and

colonial policies of the Crown. In closing, we describe the social, political and territorial results in the 1820s of this tug of war (i.e. following sixty years of disputes). We highlight various key victories and defeats in the struggle: the demarcation of land, the placing of limits on use of the land, submission to the landowners and the payment of *rendas* (yields).

Rosa Congost, Enric Saguer, Rosa Ros : Unearthing Silent Social Changes. The Emergence of Intermediate Social Groups in a Rural Society: the Region of Girona in the 18th Century

Some of the social change that has taken place throughout history has either gone undetected or else has not been noticed until long afterward. We can describe such changes as silent. In order to analyze them properly, we must first seek out the historical moments in which they originated, which is especially important in the study of structural changes. The social change we propose to study took place in the region of Girona during the 18th century and consisted of the emergence of an intermediate social group from the masses of rural society, known locally as the *treballadors* [workers]. We shall see, to begin with, an increase in the number of *treballadors* - a process which instead of leading to a downward mobility, seems to have led to a significant improvement for at least a part of this group, as suggested by an analysis of their dowries and post-mortem inventories. The availability of access to land in the context of a boom in the number of emphyteutic contracts may help to explain this effect. The suggestion of a social change of this type clashes with the traditional view that Ancien Régime societies barely underwent any significant structural changes or that, in any case, social change in a period of population growth such as the one under consideration here, would necessarily have generated impoverishment and proletarianization. Our analysis also challenges those approaches, linked to the so-called industrious revolution, which have excluded the possibility that the lower classes in some regions in southern Europe, especially those with stem families, had experienced improvement in their living standards.

Friday 1 April 2016 16.30 - 18.30

[K-12 - RUR01](#) : Assessments of Food Intake, Food Intake and Height at the Local, Regional and National Level

Aula 8, Nivel 0

Networks: [Family and Demography](#) , [Rural](#)

Organizers: Laurent Herment, Laurent Heyberger

Chair: Niccolò Mignemi

Discussant: Niccolò Mignemi et Laurent Heyberger

Brian A'Hearn : The Anthropometric History of the Mediterranean World

Long-run height series for several southern European countries stagnate or decline from the early eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth century. Read jointly with estimates of GDP per capita and real wages, this evidence indicates that Mediterranean households were forced to work increasing annual

hours in an effort to protect an already meagre living standard. After the mid-nineteenth century, conditions improved in all countries, but with different timing. Also different was the phasing of anthropometric and economic improvements, reflecting distributional and public health influences on living conditions. Today's southern Europeans are typically shorter than their northern neighbours, which is only partly explicable in terms of measured health and wealth in the region. New evidence indicates that genetic differences may also play a role.

Ulf Christian Ewert : Food Production and Rural-urban Differentials in Nutritional Status: the Case of Early-industrial Saxony

The paper proposed is dealing with the correlation of food production, nutrition and health in

Saxony in late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Saxony was a pioneering region in the German Industrial Revolution. Nevertheless, the nutritional status of Saxons decreased continuously in the process, and towards the middle of the nineteenth century the population got into a severe nutritional crisis. Especially the rural population seems to have experienced a sharp downturn in nutritional status in this period, as can be inferred from the declining trend of average male height and a waning physical fitness of army conscripts.

A possible reason for worsening living standards in the countryside could be the increasing income disparity, since industrial wages rose, while at the same time wages for craftsmen and agricultural labourers were falling in real terms. Also, Saxons became more market dependent, substituting not only necessities for new consumables, but also protein-rich food for low-quality food. This might also have contributed to the obvious decline in their physical fitness and health, although it is not really clear, why this effect should have been stronger for the rural population in particular. Looking at the food supply side reveals that although the agricultural sector was subject to considerable reform in 1832, and even before that had improved in terms of output and productivity, Saxony no longer could feed its population with domestic production alone.

In order to explain rural-urban differentials in nutritional status during early industrialisation and to clarify the relative impact of agricultural development and more integrated food markets on both living conditions and the nutritional environment especially of the rural population, the correlation between food production and the aggregated nutritional status of the Saxon population is tested within a structural equation model, controlling for population growth, urbanisation, regional development and climate change.

Hector García Montero : Height, Food and Inequality in Rural Central Spain, 1765-1840

Anthropometric history has become a hot topic among the Spanish economic historians in the last years (e.g. Martínez Carrión, 2009). However, the period encompassing the second half of the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century, in which for most of European countries the literature has placed the "early modern economic growth puzzle", remains

still practically unexplored in the Spanish case.

This work explores the trend in average male height for the cohorts born between 1765 and 1840 in a wide area of rural Central Spain, covering parts of current five modern provinces and more than 90 communities (N=29400). In spite of the classical pessimist views about the economic and welfare performance of the interior rural Spain economies during this period, in recent times new research has revived the debate pointing out arguments and new data to support a certain degree of optimism respect to the long-term trends in the GDP and agrarian product per inhabitant. Is that "optimism" also supported by a general improvement in the biological standards of living? If the agrarian product grew over this period, as it has been pointed out recently by the "optimists", was that growth reflected in a general trend to the increase in average height? Or, on the contrary, there was a puzzle, as it seems in most of the European territories, with an increase of net food production coexisting with decreasing heights. This work tries to answer these questions testing different hypothesis that can explain this puzzle in the case of interior Spain. To this respect three aspects are analyzed: a) the effects of the important institutional and sociopolitical changes (the end of the "Ancien Regime") took place along this period on the economic performance and the social distribution of the agrarian product and its impact on the net nutritional status; b) related to the earlier, the importance of economic inequality as a potential key factor behind conducting the trends observed in the biological wellbeing and; c) the possible role played by other factors determining physical stature, such as disease environment and physical exertion during childhood and adolescence.

Laurent Heyberger : Stature, Nutritional Availabilities and Population Censuses in 19th-century Algeria: a Calling into Question of the Classic Vision of Demographic History

Studying the balance sheet of the colonization of Algeria in anthropometric terms is necessary since the classic sources of demographic and economic history are incomplete or not reliable. The demographic history of nineteenth-century Algeria is little known, even if since 1954 the demographic extrapolations of Yacono for the period 1830-1886 are generally accepted. According to Yacono, the Algerian population numbers three million in 1830, then undergoes a decline, before reversing course in the beginning of the 1870s thanks to growth rates unequalled until the postcolonial period. This history is the object of debates between "colonial" (Yacono, Lefeuvre, 2006) and "post-colonial" historians (Sari, 1982, Kateb, 2001) who claim that population numbers at least four millions in 1830 and that there is a demographic stagnation during the 1870s and 1880s. We will call the first scenario H1 (colonial) and the second one H2 (post-colonial). We reconstitute the height trend of the native population of Algeria, thanks to the roll-number of tirailleurs (random sample, N = 11,992), and construct models with socioeconomic and demographic variables, in order to resolve this debate.

Statistical analysis of the height of the tirailleurs reveals stagnation followed by an increase for the 1860s, 1870s, and 1880s birth decades.

Nevertheless, according to H1 the difficulties increase in the 1870s and 1880s: drawing on the official results of censuses, per capita grain production drops by 31 percent until the year of the first census unanimously rated reliable. Furthermore, the height increase cannot be explained by improvement in the epidemiological context. We translate grain and animal productions into caloric availabilities. Grain productions are more reliable than animal productions, since we observe correlations between vegetal productions and rainfalls, but no correlation between animal productions and rainfalls. We observe a correlation between rainfalls and stature and a correlation between caloric availabilities (from grains) and stature in the case of H1, but not in the case of H2. Then we reject H1: it seems that Algeria is more populous in 1872 than colonialist historians claim, and then that the size of the population in 1830 must be revised upward: at least 4.2 millions.