Migrations and Differential Fertility in a European Capital
Madrid, 1905-1906

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Long abstract

Madrid in the early 20th Century is the main city of Spain and a large urban area at the level of the European continent. It is an illustration of the attraction exercised by the capitals, Paris, London, Brussels, Berlin, etc. offering other examples. In 1905 Madrid has 568,835 inhabitants, little more than Barcelona (561,755) but far much than Valencia (233,348) or Sevilla (153,258)[1]. While among the pioneers of historical demography we find the work of Louis Chevalier (1950) on the formation of the Paris population during the 19th century, the school of family reconstitution essentially neglected those turbulent areas, then during the last decades more attention has been paid to harbors and industrial towns that to the capital cities which, however, played a major role in the urbanization of Europe (see exceptions in Keztenbaum and Rosental, 2016, or Brée, 2016). Moreover, we know at a general, broad level, that capitals pioneered the decisive fertility decline (Sharlin, 1986), but miss information on the social groups within their population.

To study Madrid, we benefit from a long-term investment in the construction of a database based on the 'padrones' (census) of 1905, including 152,961 individuals (about 30% of the population) and covering about 30% of the 'barrios' (neighborhoods). Another data source brings 35,508 birth certificates, covering the years 1905 and 1906. Births have been linked to mothers present in the census. In the followings, we describe our plan of analyses. First, we will study the attraction of Spain capital in the female adult (15+) population. Only one third of the Madrid inhabitants in 1905 are natives from the city, two about three are migrants. We will establish the various contributions of the provinces, but also the age structure of the different groups and the time spent

[1] Data for Valencia and Sevilla are taken from the Census of 1910

since their arrival in Madrid. Doing so we aim to identify older and more recent waves of migrants, and the regional logic behind.

This work will result in a typology that in a second time will be used to calculate age-specific fertility rates, the total fertility rate as well as If and Ig (the indexes of general and marital fertility) by groups of migrants and of course also for the natives. We will test the hypothesis of conservation / preservation while in Madrid of the fertility observed in the province / region of origin (see Livi-Bacci, 1968) or acculturation / adaptation to the urban life style (convergence with the behaviors of the Madrilenian natives). Third and last, we will run logistic models on the risk of having a birth in 1905/06 depending of age, matrimonial status, province / region of birth, age at arrival in Madrid (as children, teenager or adult). We will also consider the barrios, to capture at least a part of the big city diversity in terms of socioeconomic and lodging conditions, homogeneity or heterogeneity of the population.

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