

Closing presentation.

“Interconnected Inequalities
through the Life Course in Spain.”

Project funded by ‘la Caixa’ Foundation (2022-2024)

Andres F. Castro Torres

Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics
Barcelona Supercomputing Centre (BSC)

Carlos Ruiz-Ramos

Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics

Introduction

Social Research Call 2022 - 'la Caixa'

Social Research Call 2022

An overview of the evaluation

Phase	No. of proposals
Proposals submitted to the call	421
Proposals deemed eligible	415
Proposals selected in phase 1.1	200
Proposals selected in phase 1.2	100
Proposals selected in phase 2.1	25
Projects funded by "la Caixa" Foundation	12
Total projects funded in this call including the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia partnership*	13

<https://elobservatoriosocial.fundacionlacaixa.org/en/-/social-research-call-2022-src-2022->

The call seeks to support social research projects that stand out for their **excellence** and that are based on **quantitative** data that provide, through an original and **innovative** approach, robust and solid information to deeply understand current **social challenges**.

Projects must refer to Spain and/or Portugal.

Interconnected Inequalities through the Life Course in Spain - INTERINEQ



INTRODUCTORY
VIDEO: The
intersectional
approach to social
inequalities

www.ced.cat/projectes/interineq



CED^R
Centre d'Estudis
Demogràfics

TheSocialObservatory
 "la Caixa" Foundation

 Generalitat
de Catalunya

UAB
Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

Project presentation

Project's background

Analysis of Latin American Fertility in Terms of *Probable Social Classes*

Andrés Felipe Castro Torres¹ 

Received: 10 March 2020 / Accepted: 18 September 2020 / Published online: 3 November 2020
© The Author(s) 2020

Project's background

Analysis of Latin American Fertility in Terms of *Probable Social Classes*

Andrés Felipe Castro Torres¹ 

Received: 10 March 2020 / Accepted: 18 September 2020 / Published online: 3 November 2020
© The Author(s) 2020

The results show that the lower- and upper-class couples experienced **divergent fertility transitions**. While the upper-class women delayed the first birth, kept the childbearing period relatively stable, and experienced the smallest [fertility] declines, the **lower class women accelerated the first birth**, shortened the childbearing period, and reduced their complete fertility.

Project's goal

To identify the social groups that suffer the most from **inequalities**, their relative sizes, the characteristics of their family life courses, and the social mechanisms that perpetuate their disadvantages.

General Analysis Framework

Multiple
Corres.
Analysis
(MCA)



Clustering

- a. Hierarchical
(Ward method)
- b. Non-hierarchical
(k-means)



***Probable
Social
Classes***

Compare socio
demographic
outcomes

General Analysis Framework

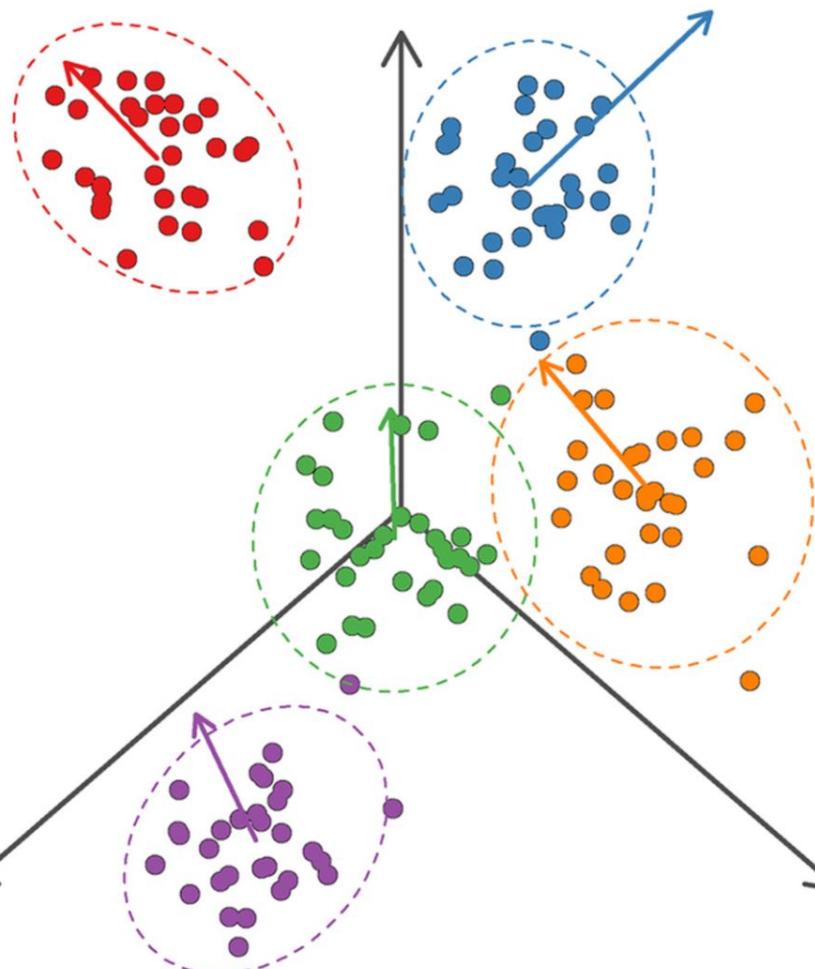
Multiple
Corres.
Analysis
(MCA)



Clustering

- a. Hierarchical
(Ward method)
- b. Non-hierarchical
(k-means)

Probable Social Classes



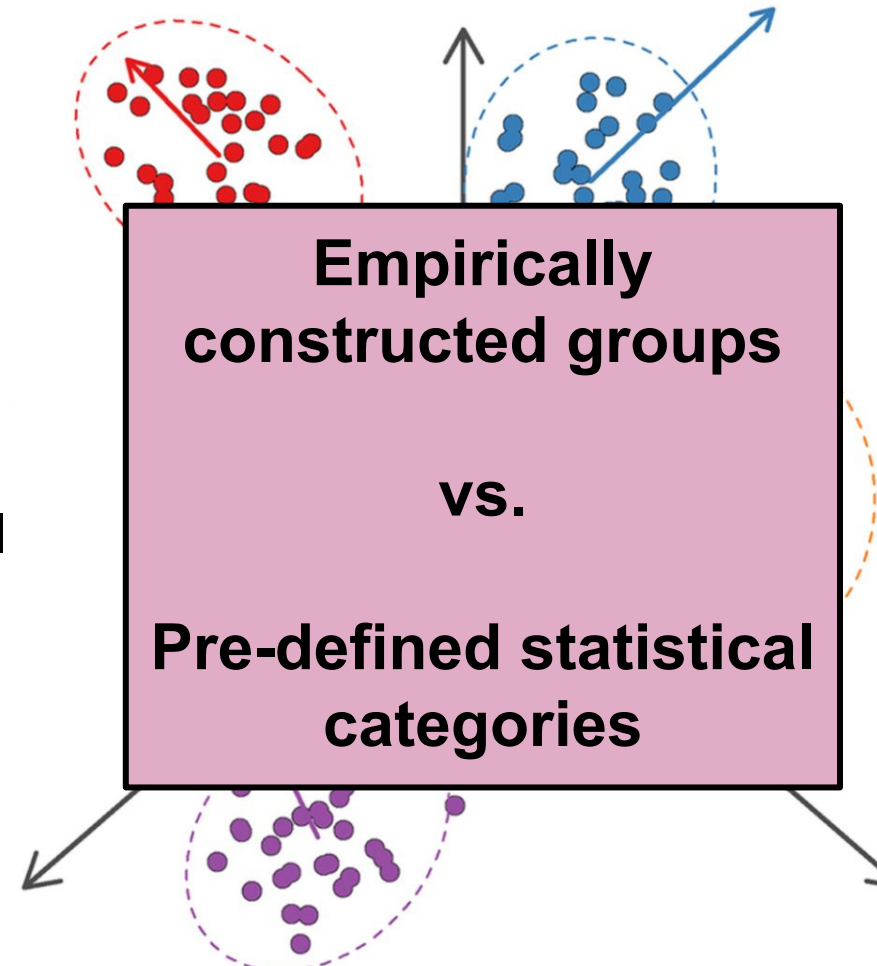
General Analysis Framework

Multiple
Corres.
Analysis
(MCA)



Clustering

- a. Hierarchical
(Ward method)
- b. Non-hierarchical
(k-means)



Scientific contributions

Overview

1st paper

Analyses the role of immigrants in the Spanish social space



2nd paper

To understand the association between *probable social classes* and differing transition to adulthood patterns



3rd paper

To measure how interconnected forms of inequality impact the family and labour contexts in which children and adolescents grow

Immigrants' modes of incorporation in contemporary Spain.

A multivariate quantitative approach

Migration dynamics in Spain

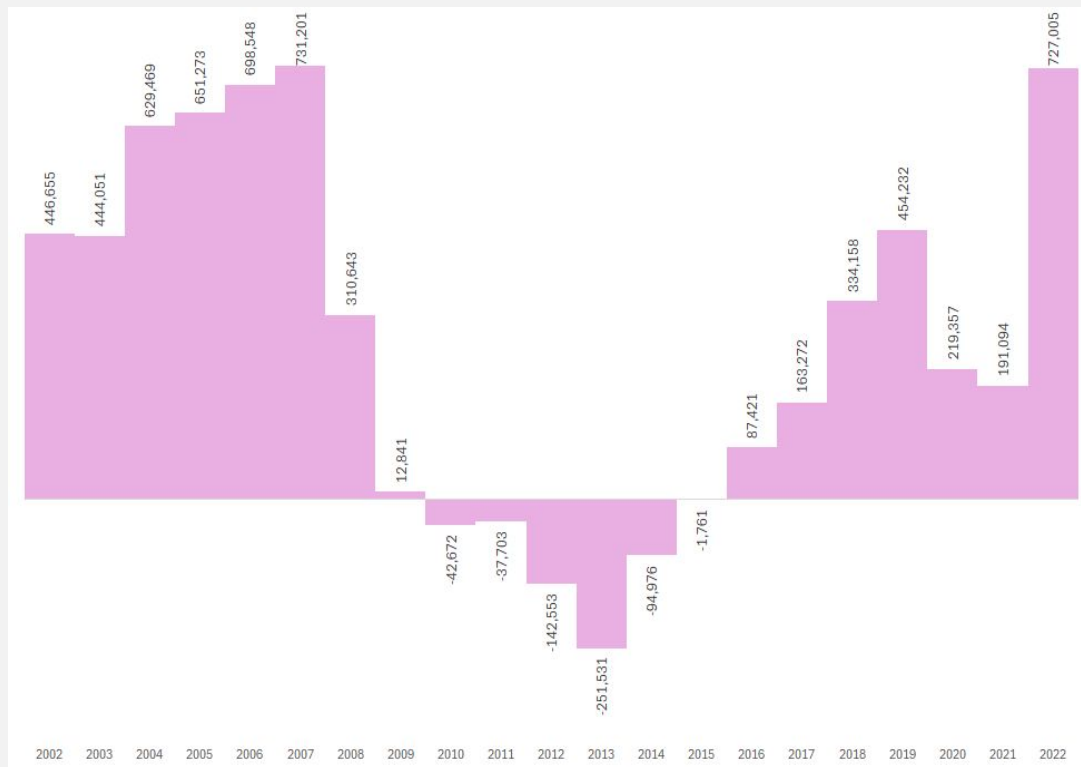
17.2%
Immigration rate 2022
(Moderate)

8.2M
Foreign-born
residents

5.5M
Net inflow of
immigrants
2002-2022

2nd
Recipient of
immigrant population
in the EU

Net migration to Spain



Source: Eurostat

Migration dynamics in Spain

- **1996-2007** Economic expansion focused on low-value-added sectors
- Growing labour demand in low-productivity industries together with an increase in the education level among Spanish younger generations
- Immigrants filled the gap concentrating in precarious jobs, leading to a segregated labour market

More recently, improved and widespread communication and mobility facilities → Attracted more privileged immigrant profiles employed in qualified occupations

Heterogeneous incorporation strategies that depend and reinforce existing social inequalities masked by broad concepts like “Immigrants”

Research Goals

1. Examine how immigrants integrate and fare within the Spanish social stratification system
2. Analyse the interplay between social class and origin in shaping immigrants' incorporation experiences
3. Move beyond dichotomous categories of social privilege or disadvantage, to detect complex interactions between the two

Data and Methods

ECEPOV

223,568 individuals aged 20 to 64

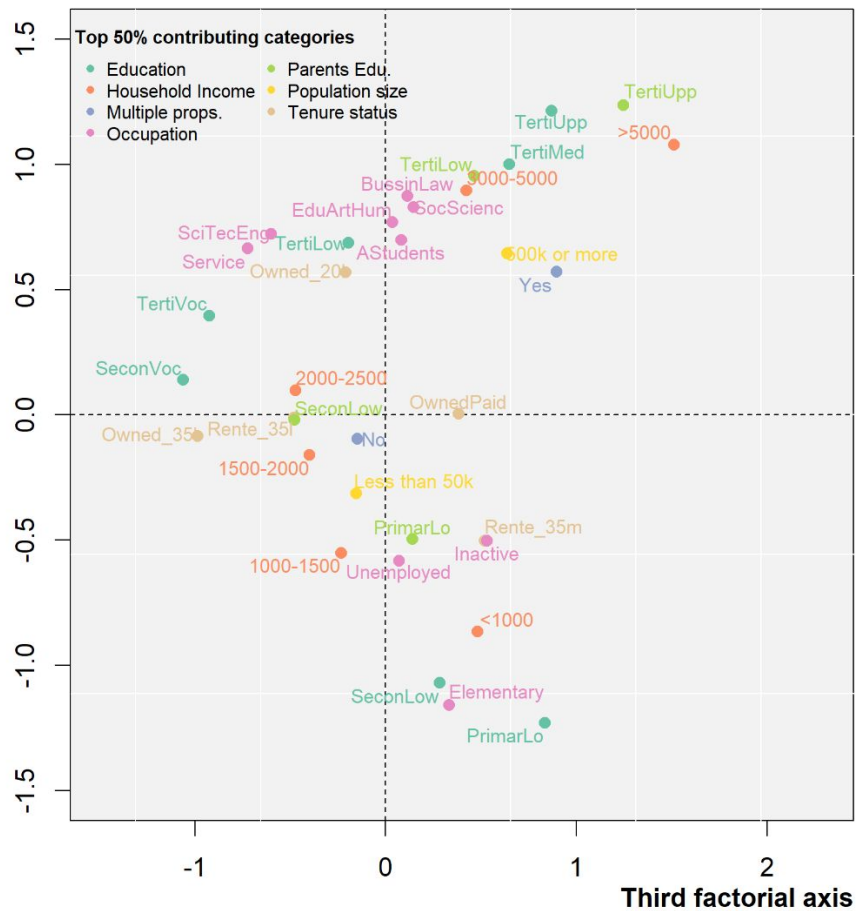
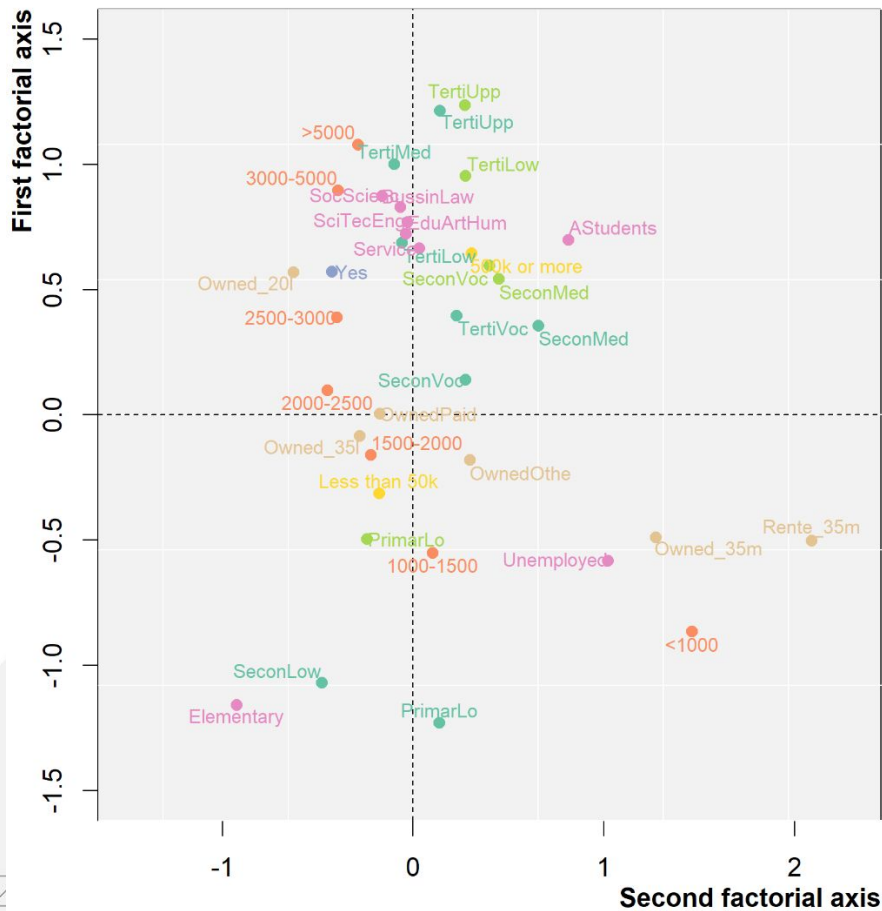
Variables

1. Educational attainment
2. Homeownership status
3. Household net monthly income
4. Educational discipline and employment status
5. Population size of the municipality
6. Parent's educational attainment
7. Owns more than one real estate property

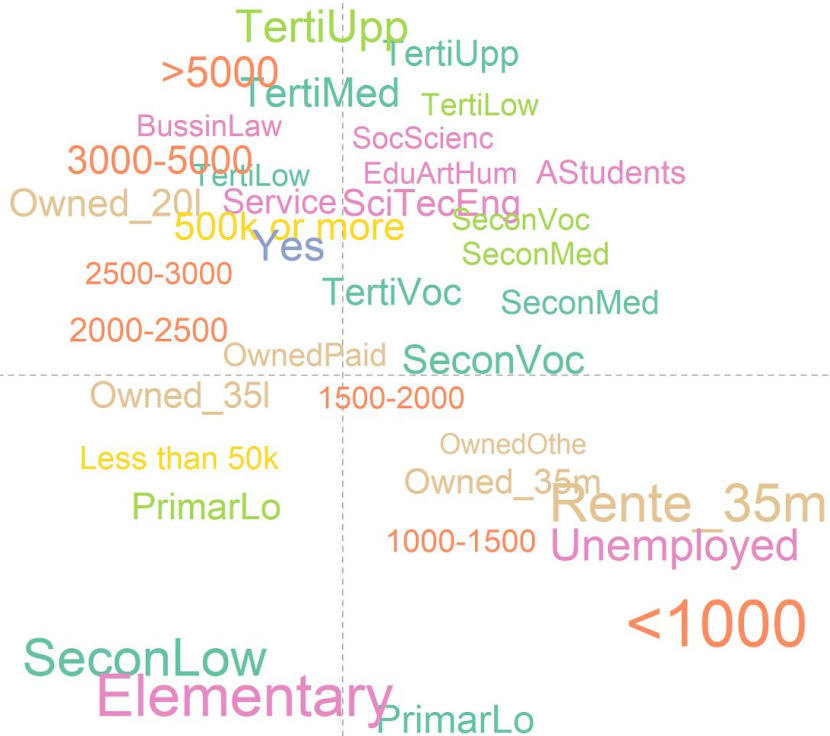
What do we do

1. Social space
2. Interaction between age and region of birth
3. Age-specific cluster analyses

Cloud of categories. First and second and first and third factorial axes

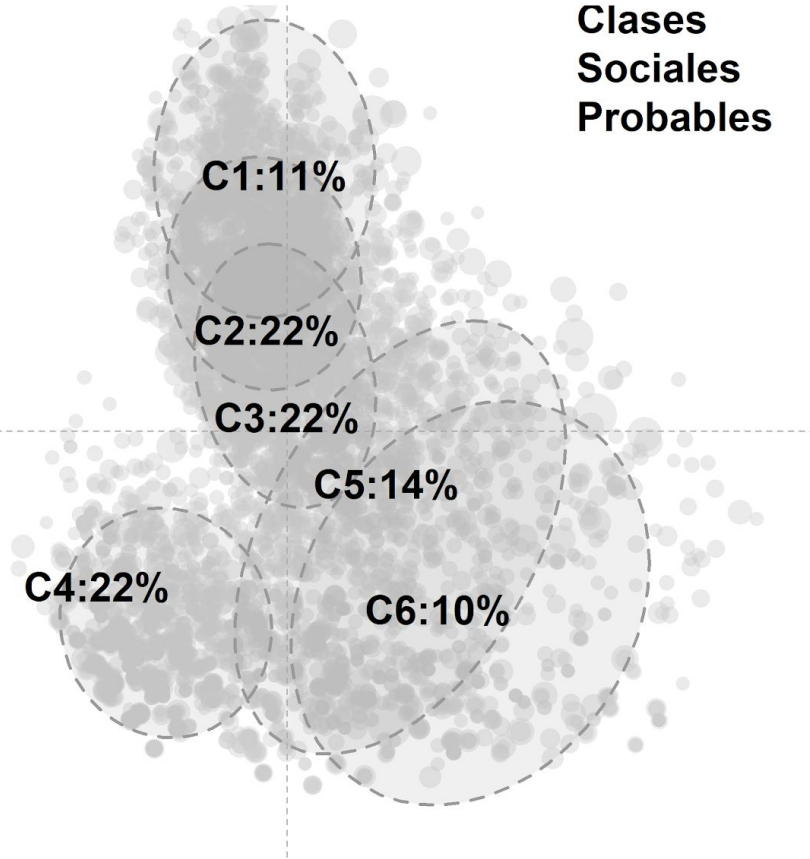


(-) Capital Económico (+)



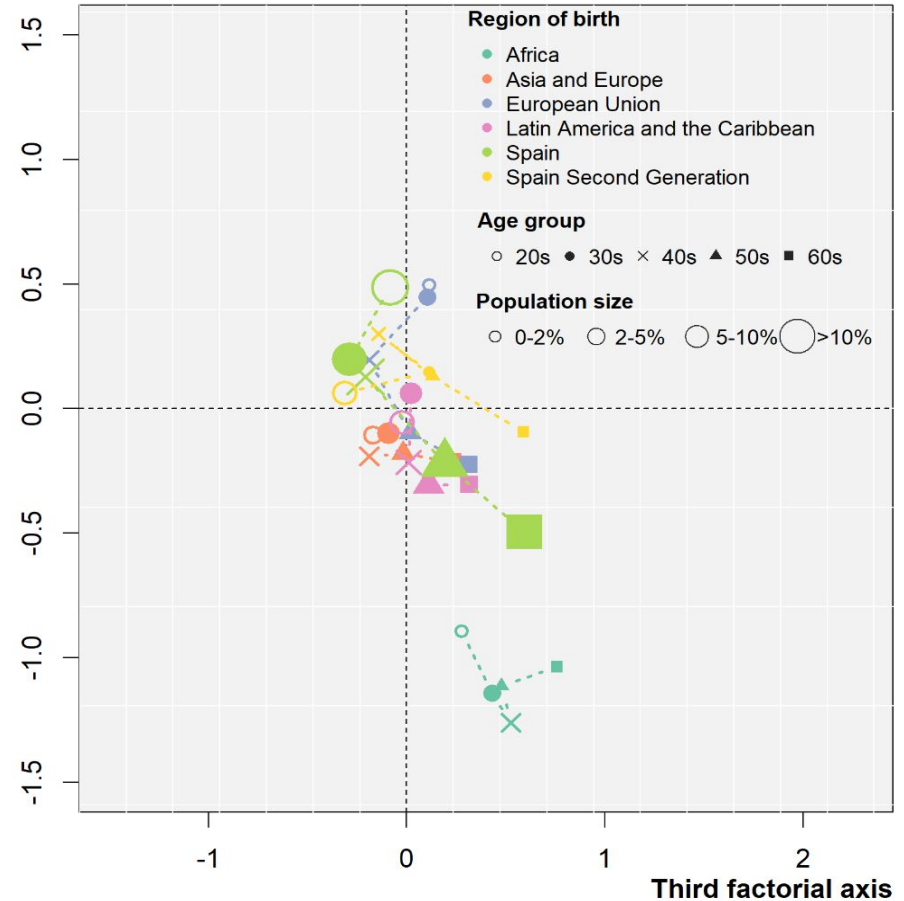
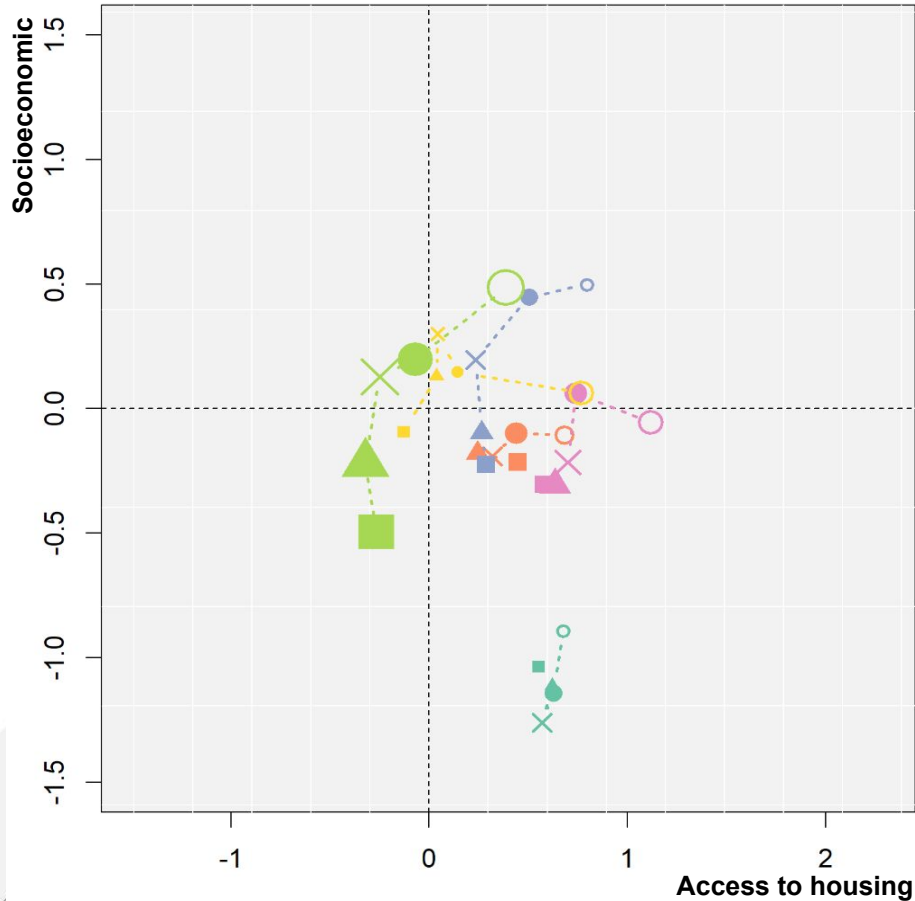
(-) Capital Cultural (+)

Clases
Sociales
Probables

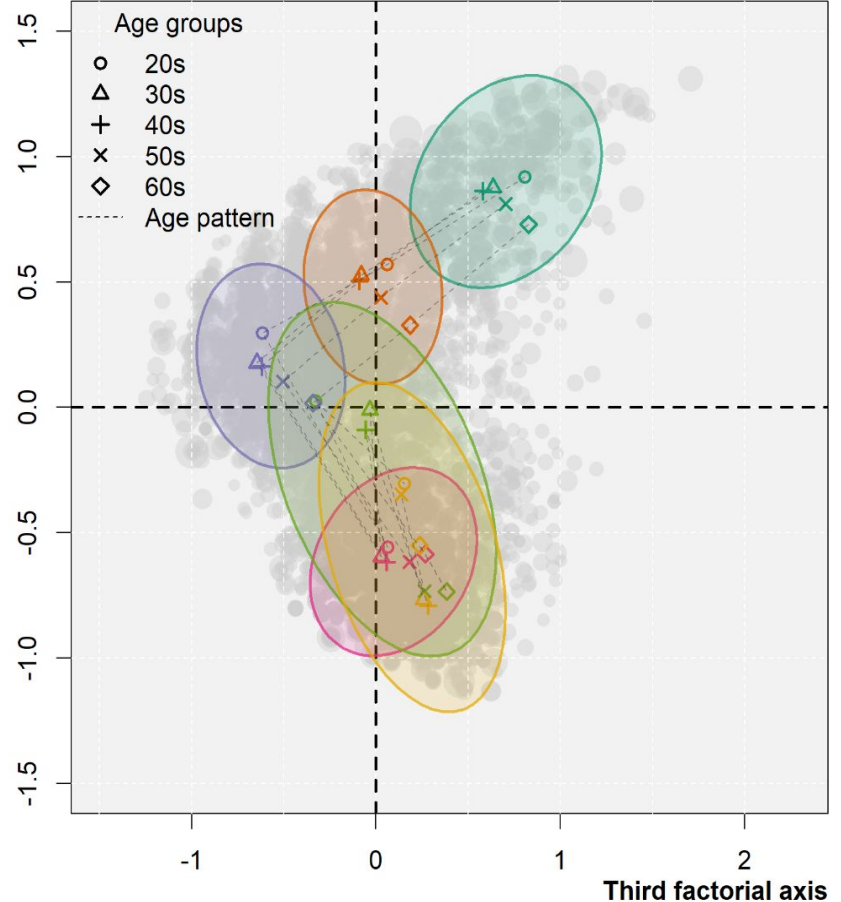
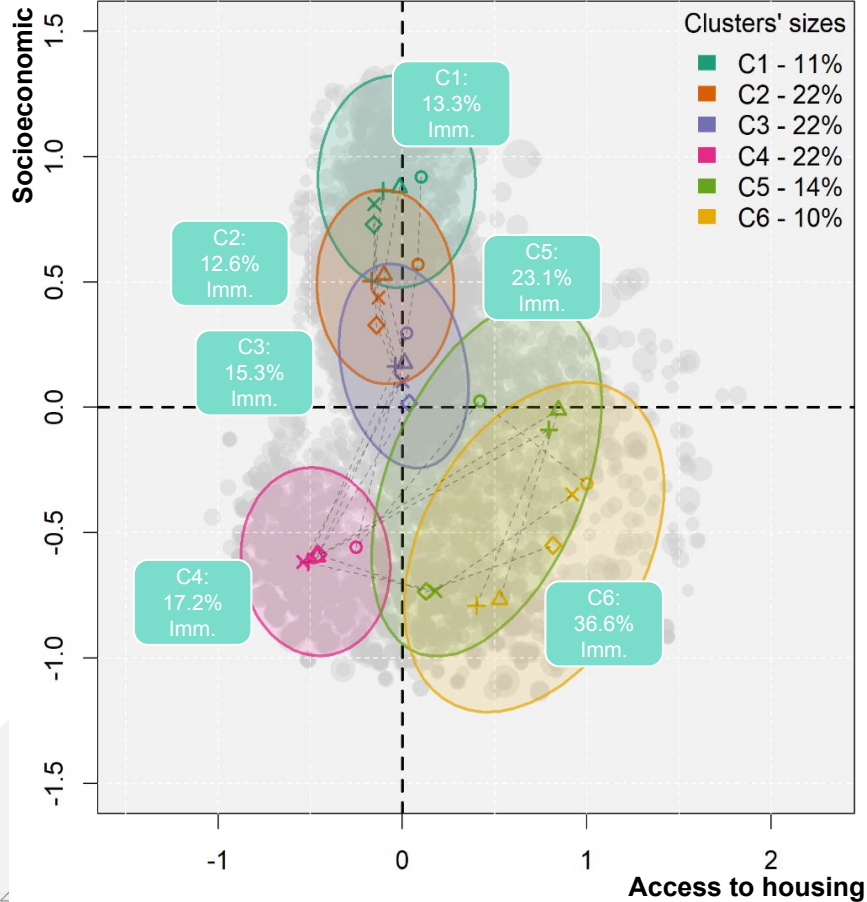


(-) Capital Cultural (+)

Interaction between Age and Origin



Clusters



Conclusions

1. Younger generations are partially excluded because of their lower income and the barriers for accessing to the housing market.
2. A meaningful share of immigrants from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, and other European countries experience social exclusion. Access to housing limits their full development and incorporation into the host society.
3. Age is relevant for Spaniards, Europeans and 2nd generation Spaniards, but its importance diminishes for other immigrant groups.
4. “Second-generation” immigrants occupy a relatively advantaged social position compared to first-generation immigrants, but their socioeconomic outcomes remain worse than those of native Spaniards.
5. We identify overlapping categories of social privilege and disadvantage shared by both immigrants and natives. Rather than viewing social groups as simply privileged or disadvantaged, our findings highlight the complex and fluid nature of inequality.

Transition to adulthood and the intergenerational transmission of disadvantages among young adults in Spain

Contextualization

Spain stands out demographically in terms of a:

1. Delayed transition to leaving the parental home
2. Delayed coresidence with partner
3. High mean age at childbearing
4. Low complete fertility rates
5. Relatively high involuntary childlessness among older adults

Research goals

1. To analyse the social space of inequalities at different stages of the transition to adulthood
2. To understand the association between probable social classes and differing transition to adulthood patterns
3. To provide a framework for identifying the social structure in which demographic processes take place

Data

Spanish Fertility Survey 2018

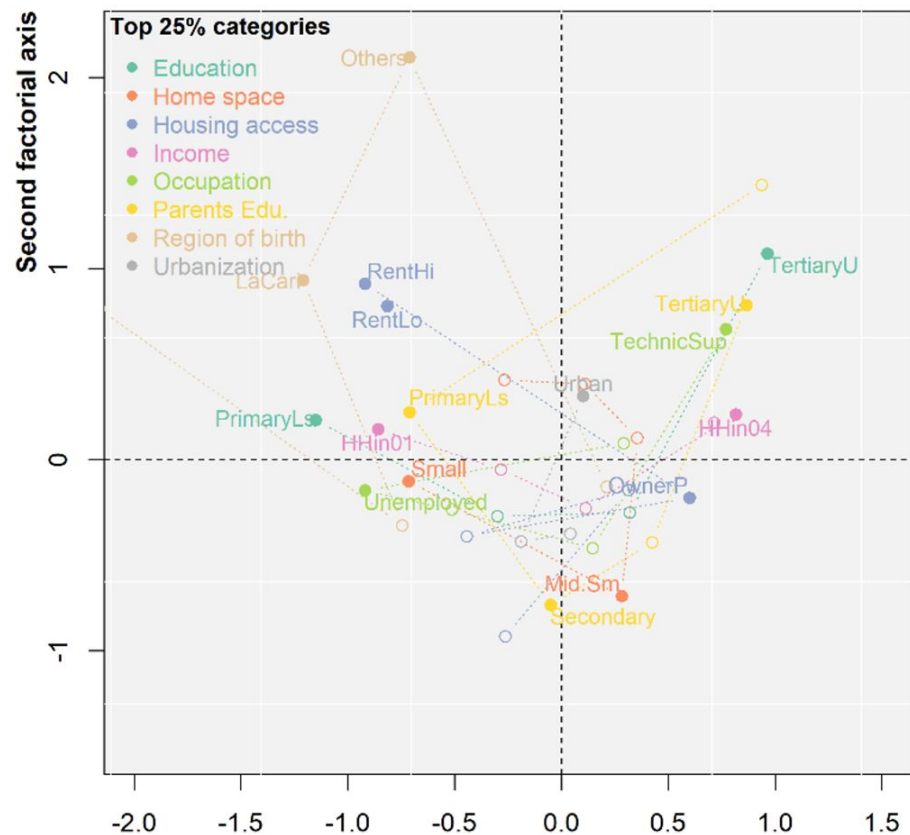
5K individuals in two age groups: 20-28
and **29-35**

Variables

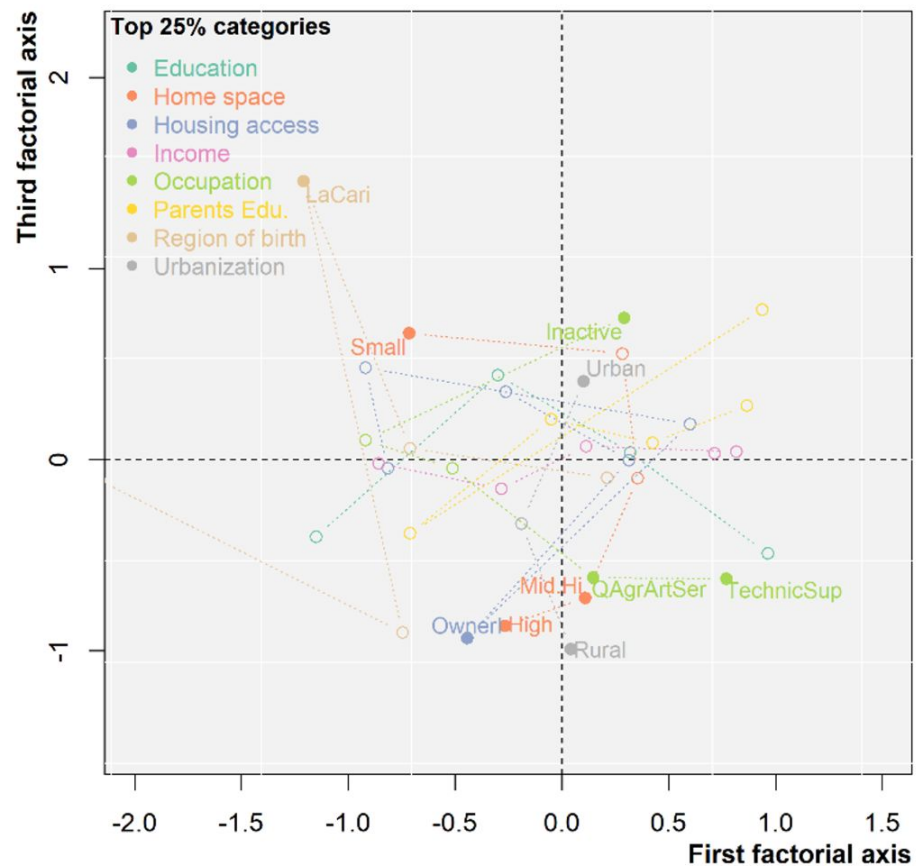
1. Place of birth
2. Education
3. Occupation
4. Space availability at home
5. Type of access to dwelling
6. Urbanization
7. Net monthly income
8. Parents' education

Individuals 22 to 28 years old

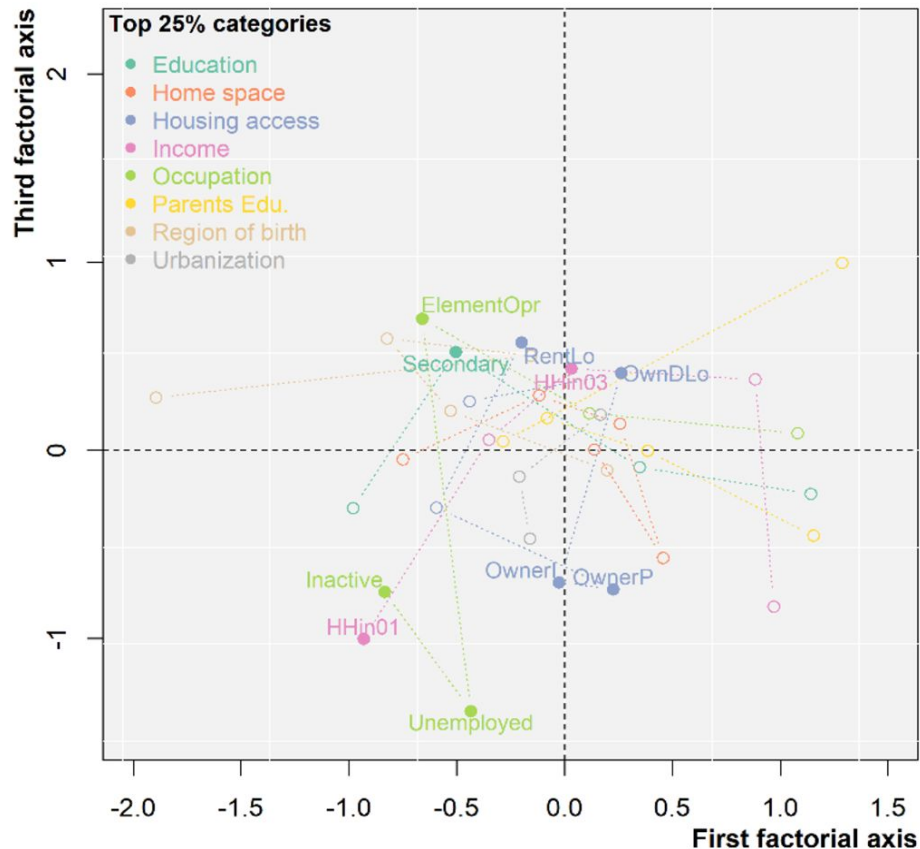
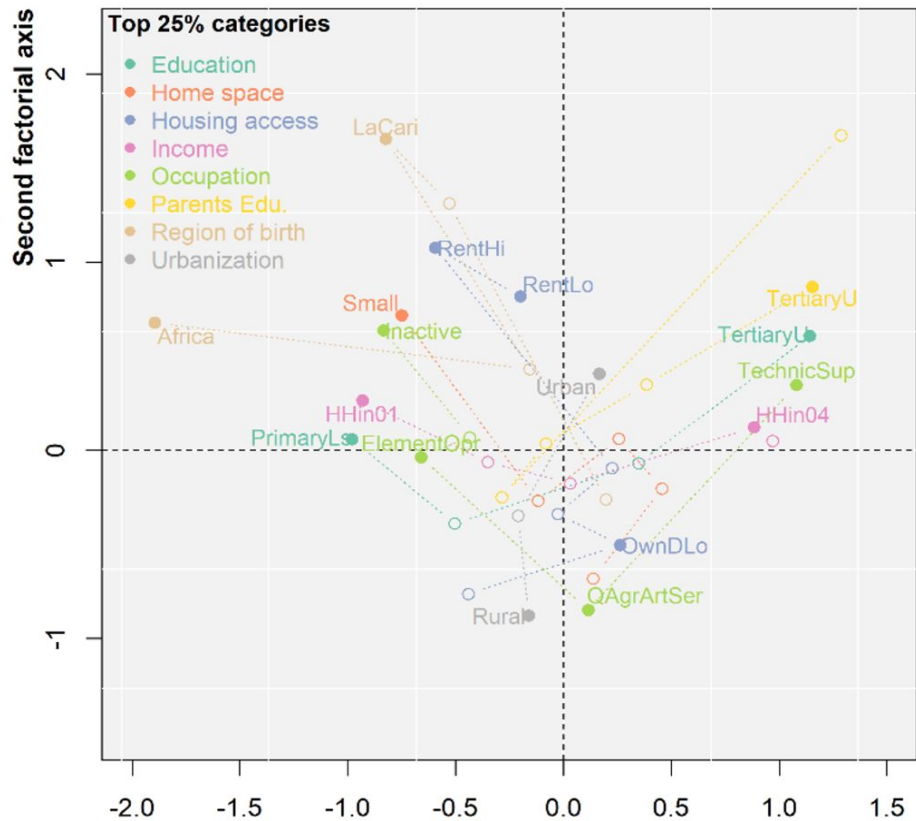
Panel A



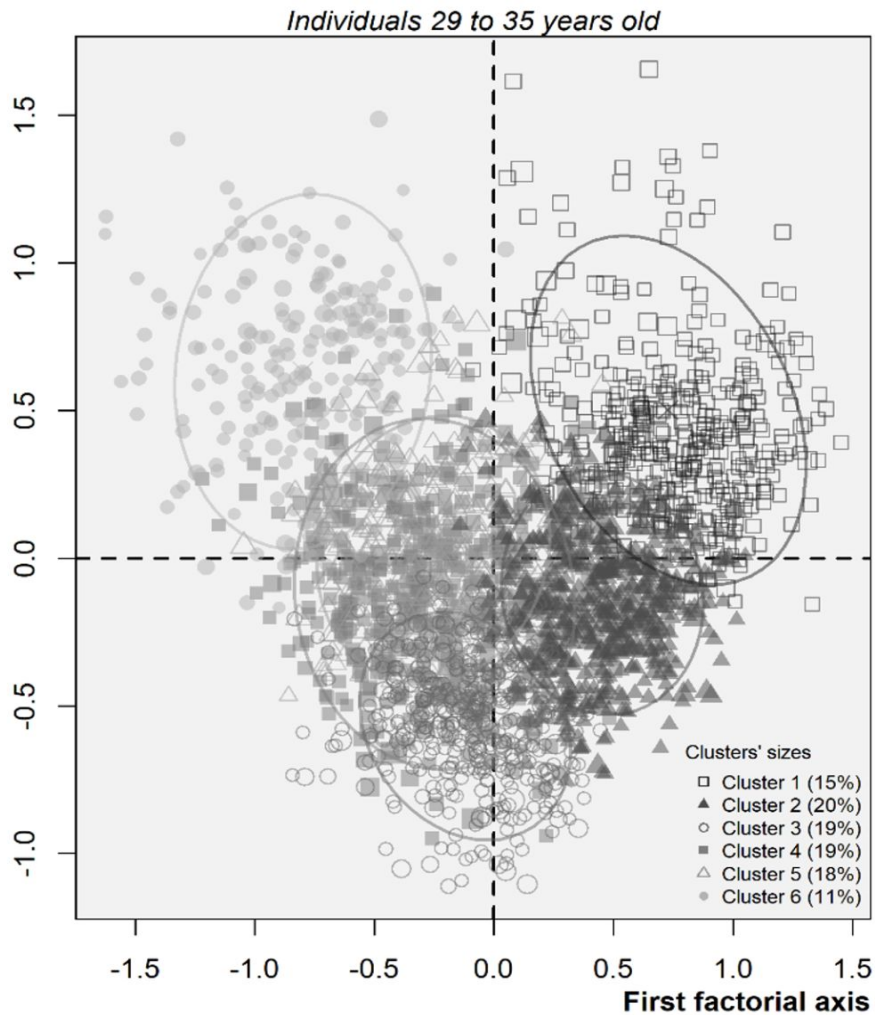
Panel B



Results



Results



Clusters and
cloud of
individuals

Results: Probable Social Classes

Cluster 1 (15%)

Socially privileged:

- Highly educated
- Top income earners
- Parents highly educated
- Immigrants appear fairly well represented

Cluster 4 (19%)

Spanish non-urban class:

- Overrepresentation of Spanish-born
- Residing in rural and intermediate areas
- High rates of unemployment and inactivity
- Low-income levels
- High % of homeownership (inheritance)

Cluster 2 (20%)

Spanish middle class:

- Overrepresentation of Spanish-born
- Relatively well-off
- Mostly qualified or technician workers

Cluster 5 (18%)

Socially unprivileged non-urban class:

- Mostly with secondary education or less
- 19% of immigrants
- Elementary occupations
- Residing urban areas
- High % of tenants

Cluster 3 (19%)

Spanish middle-lower non-urban class:

- Intermediate occupations
- Residing in rural and intermediate areas
- Middle-income levels
- High costs por accessing to homeownership

Cluster 6 (11%)

Socially unprivileged social group:

- Primary education or below
- High unemployment and inactivity
- Difficulties for accessing the housing market
- 79% immigrants mainly form LaCar

Results

Cluster	Transition to adulthood (all individuals)			Fertility desires (all individuals)			Fertility aspirations (desired children > 0)	
	Living independently	Coresiding with a partner	At least one child	No children	One child	Desired children	Plan to have children in three years	Prospective fertility gap
<i>Individuals aged 29 to 35</i>								
1	79.1 (2.7)	54.1 (5.9)	23.0 (2.5)	16.4 (3.7)	13.3 (1.0)	1.9 (0.1)	66.0 (1.8)	1.3 (0.0)
2	80.9 (1.2)	64.1 (1.6)	32.8 (2.1)	16.5 (3.2)	15.5 (1.0)	1.7 (0.1)	62.1 (3.6)	1.1 (0.0)
3	79.5 (1.2)	62.4 (3.7)	43.0 (3.6)	10.0 (0.7)	20.4 (1.7)	1.8 (0.0)	54.4 (1.7)	0.9 (0.0)
4	54.6 (5.5)	36.1 (7.2)	32.4 (7.8)	22.0 (4.2)	14.2 (1.3)	1.6 (0.1)	42.6 (4.6)	1.3 (0.1)
5	83.3 (1.2)	68.2 (2.5)	46.9 (3.1)	14.6 (2.7)	18.6 (3.2)	1.8 (0.0)	49.3 (1.8)	1.1 (0.1)
6	85.2 (4.5)	74.7 (4.0)	73.6 (2.2)	4.4 (0.8)	16.9 (2.1)	2.3 (0.1)	39.4 (3.1)	1.2 (0.1)

Conclusions

1. We identify axes of social differentiation
2. Survey does not include the highest social classes in our social space
3. Different transition to adulthood patterns lead to similar outcomes

Dissemination



SECOND VIDEO:
Transition to Adulthood
and the Intergenerational
Transmission of
Disadvantages Among
Young Adults in Spain

Unequal Family Contexts for Children and Adolescents in Spain

Contextualization

Economic change



Change in family dynamics

- o Educational expansion
- o Women's incorporation into the labor force
- o Stagnation of men's real income and labor force participation
- o Increasing unemployment rates
- o Growing job instability
- o Economic fluctuations



- o Shift from a male-breadwinner to a dual earner model
- o Women's greater bargaining power within marriage
- o Increase in divorce rates
- o Cohabitation
- o Non-marital births
- o Re-partnering
- o New family arrangements

Contextualization

Stratified exposure to economic and familial turmoil



- o Traditional univariate approaches
- o But inequality is experienced at the intersection of multiple social factors

Research goals

01

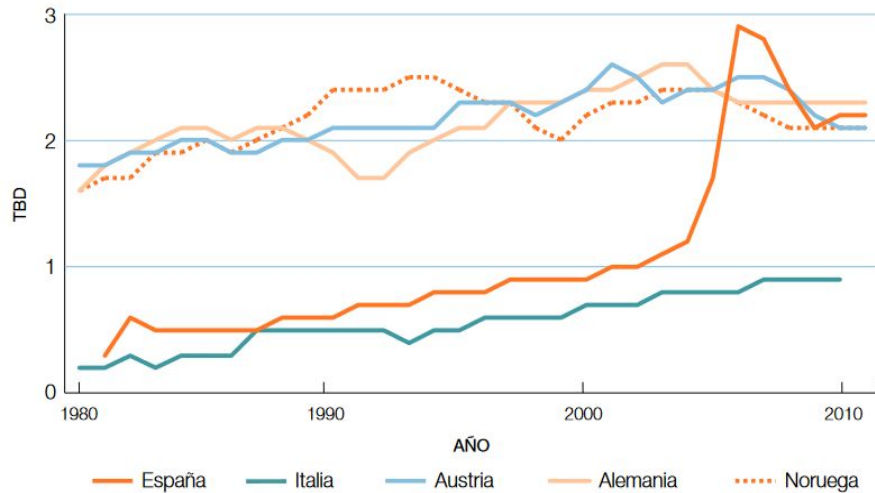
Identify the social groups that suffer the most from interacting inequalities

02

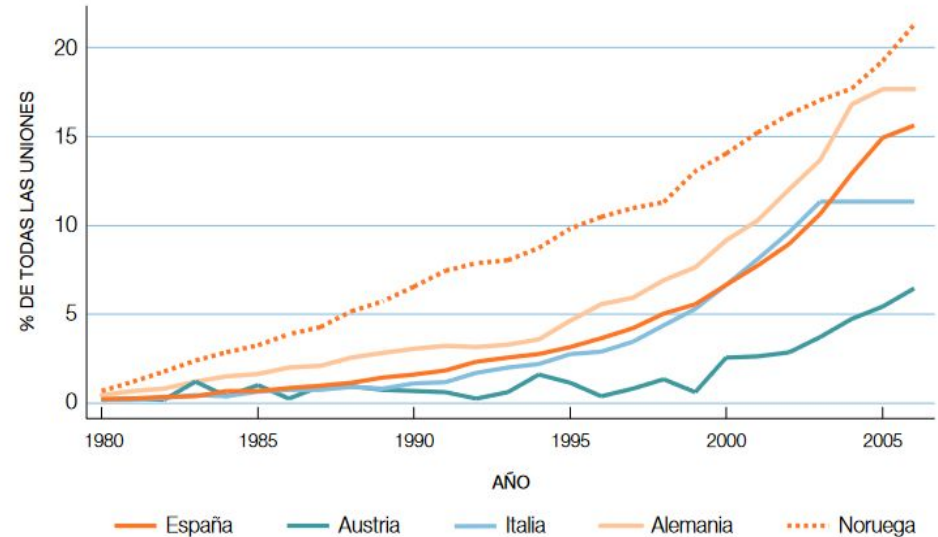
Understand how interconnected inequalities interact with the family and employment contexts in which children are raised

The Spanish case

Gross Divorce Rate



% Cohabiting unions over all unions



Source: Data from EUROSTAT.

Note: These graphs appear in Esping-Andersen, G., Arpino, B., Baizán, P., Bellani, D., Castro-Martín, T., Creighton, M.J., Delclòs, C.E., Domínguez, M., González, M.J., Luppi, F., Martín-García, T., Pessin, L., Rutigliano, R., 2013. El déficit de natalidad en Europa.

Data

Spanish Fertility Survey 2018

- **9,685** individuals aged 39 to 55
- **13,178** children from 5 years before birth to 18 years of age

Variables

1. Place of birth
2. Education
3. Occupation
4. Space availability at home
5. Type of access to dwelling
6. Urbanization
7. Net monthly income
8. Parents' education

Methods

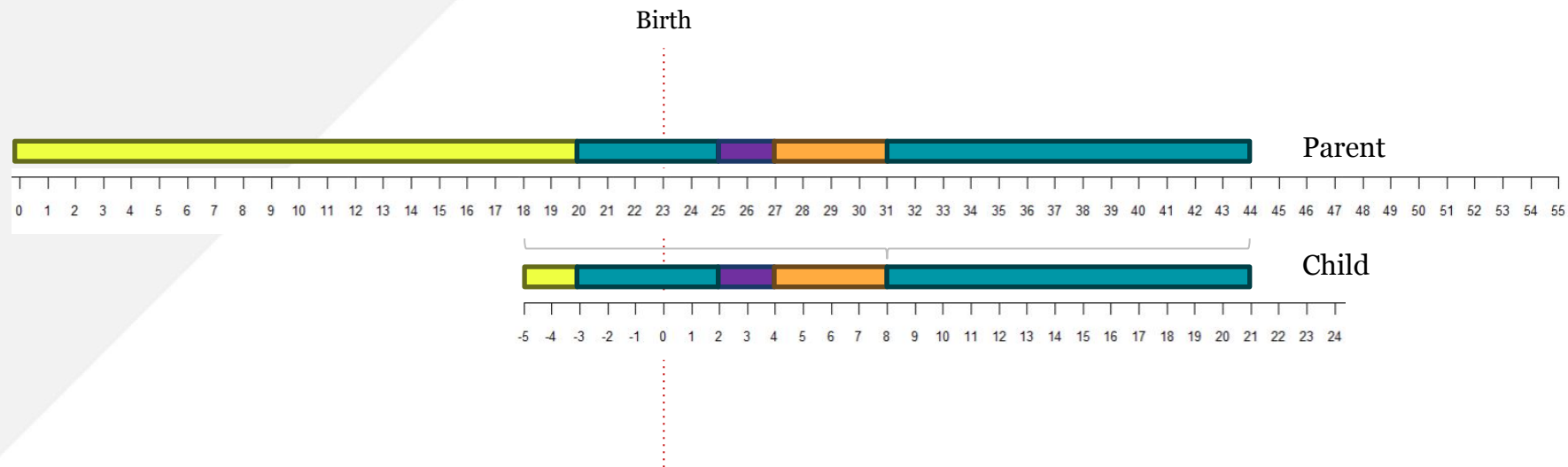


Data & Methods



Methods

Sequencing



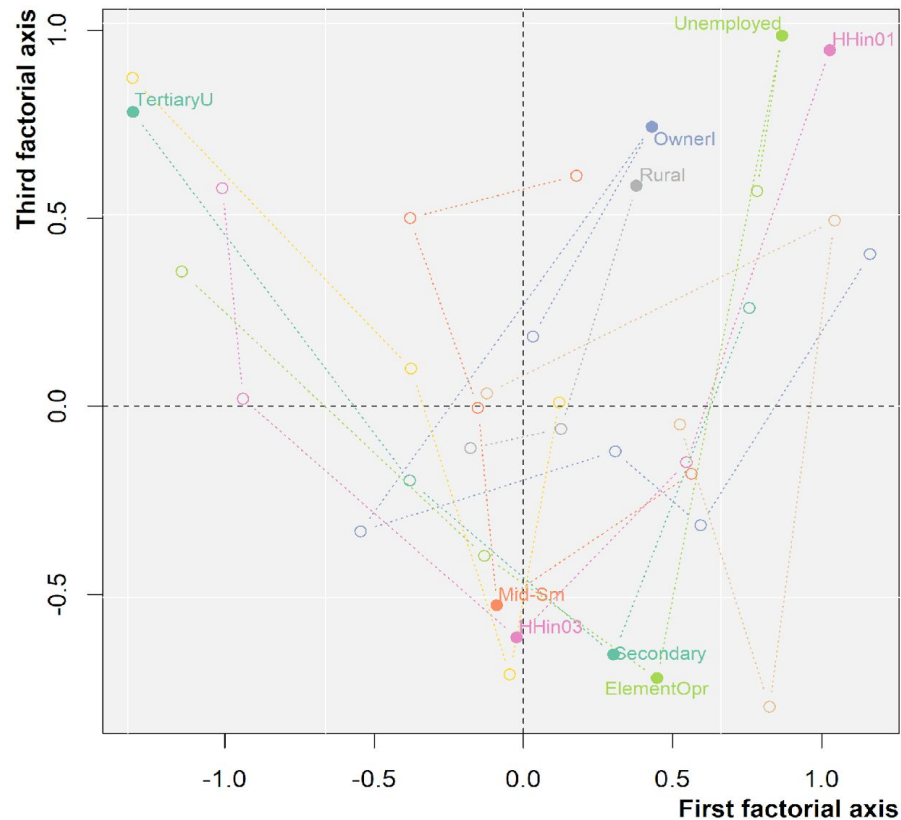
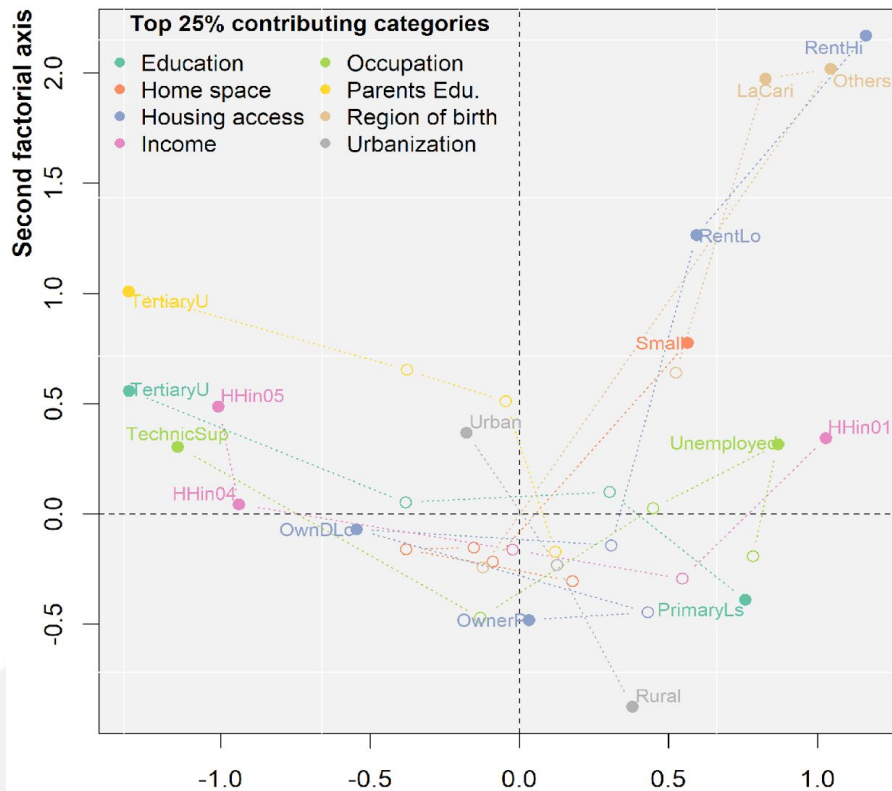
Single at parents'

Cohabiting

Married

Separated/Divorced/Widowed

Results: The Spanish social space



Results: Probable Social Classes

Cluster 1 (14.1%)

Socially privileged:

- Highly educated
- Top income earners
- Parents highly educated
- Immigrants appear fairly well represented

Cluster 2 (19.7%)

Spanish middle class:

- Overrepresentation of Spanish-born
- Relatively well-off
- Mostly qualified or technician workers
- Parent's only reached primary education

Cluster 3 (21.7%)

Spanish middle-lower class:

- Mostly elementary occupations
- High share of individuals facing high financial burdens for accessing housing
- Middle-low income

Cluster 4 (21.1%)

Spanish non-urban class:

- Overrepresentation of Spanish-born
- Residing in rural and intermediate areas
- Intermediate occupations

Cluster 5 (13.4%)

Socially unprivileged non-urban class:

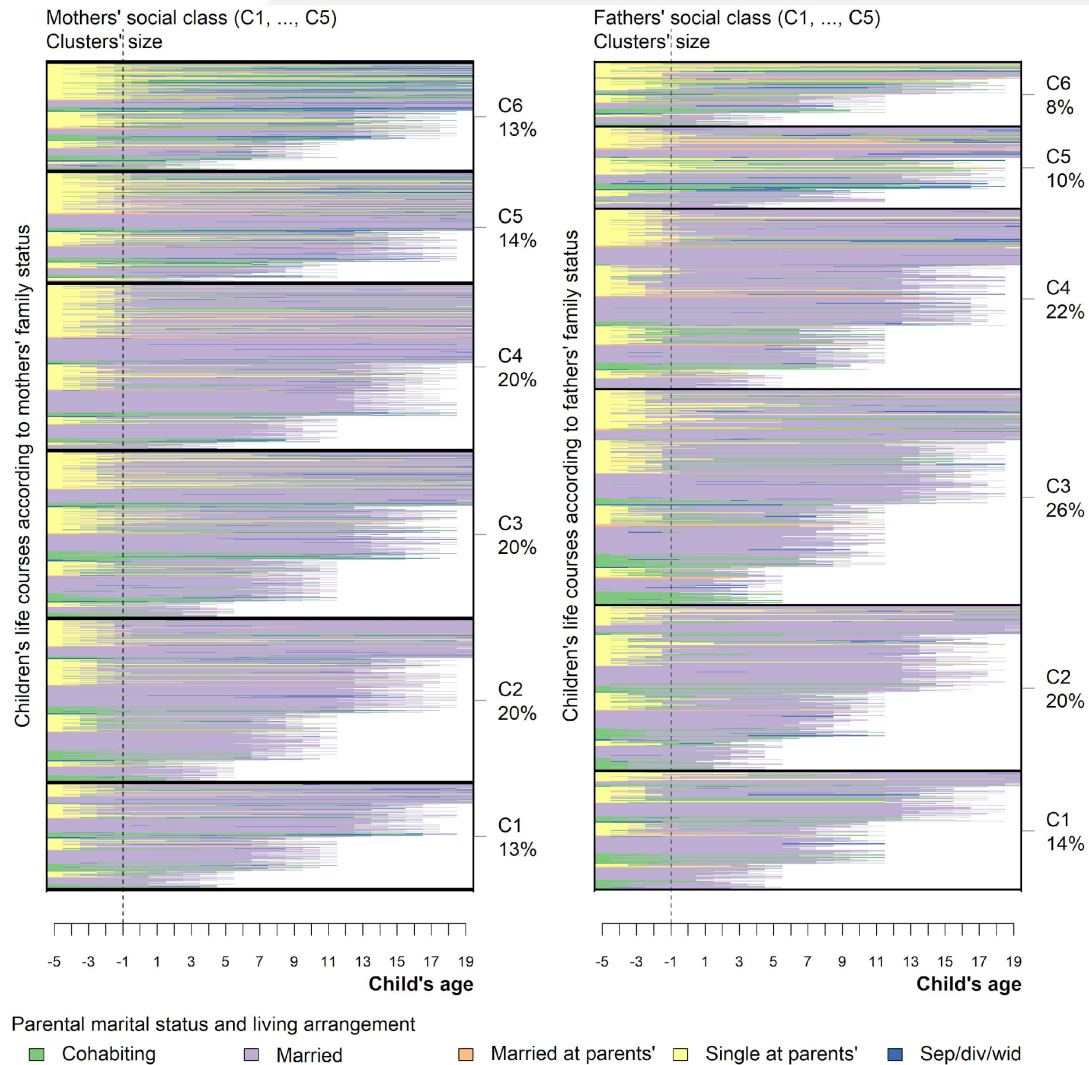
- Mostly with primary education or less
- Migrants from all regions (11%)
- High unemployment and inactivity
- Residing in rural and intermediate areas

Cluster 6 (10.0%)

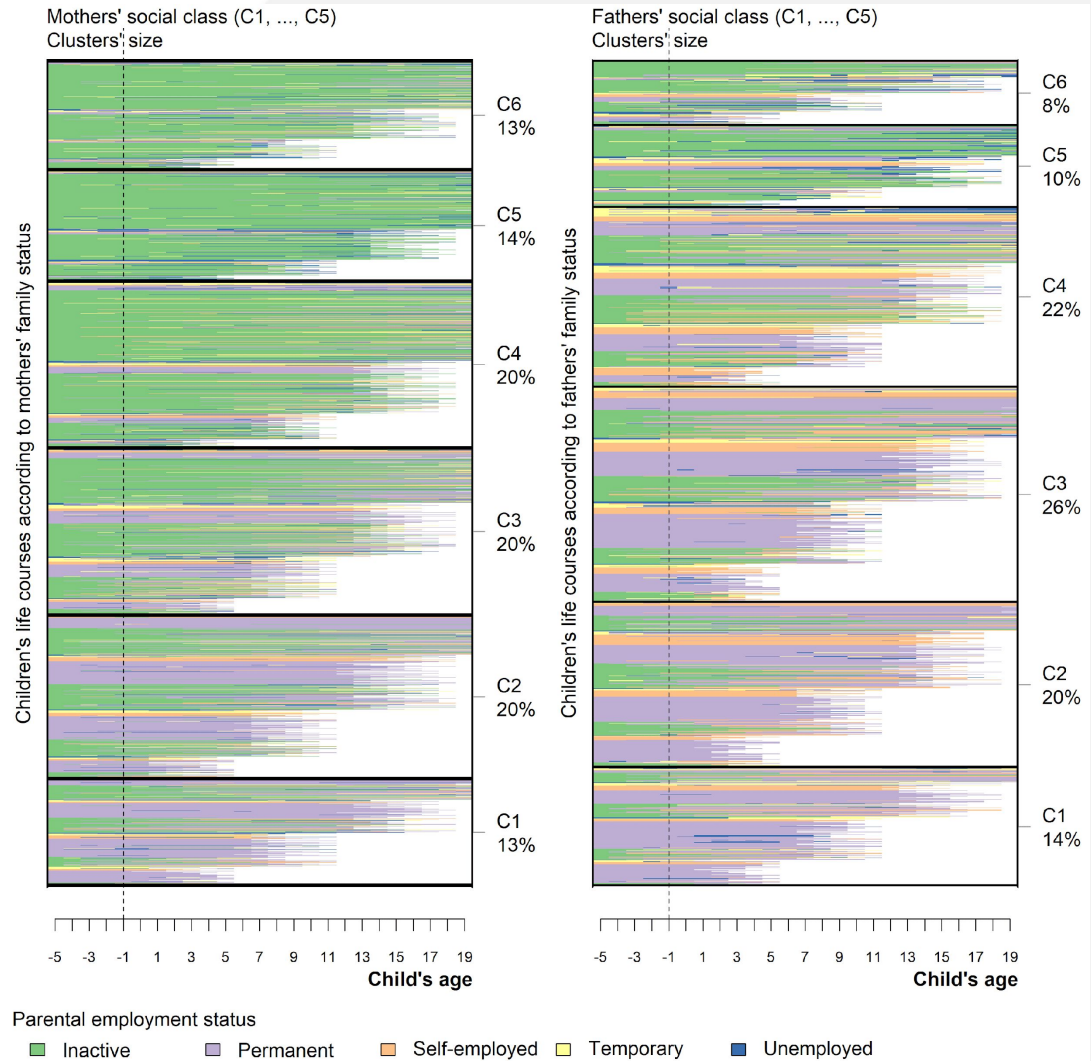
Socially unprivileged social group:

- 79% immigrants mainly from LaCar
- Higher educated than clusters 4 and 5
- Less inactivity but higher unemployment than cluster 4
- Difficulties for accessing the housing market

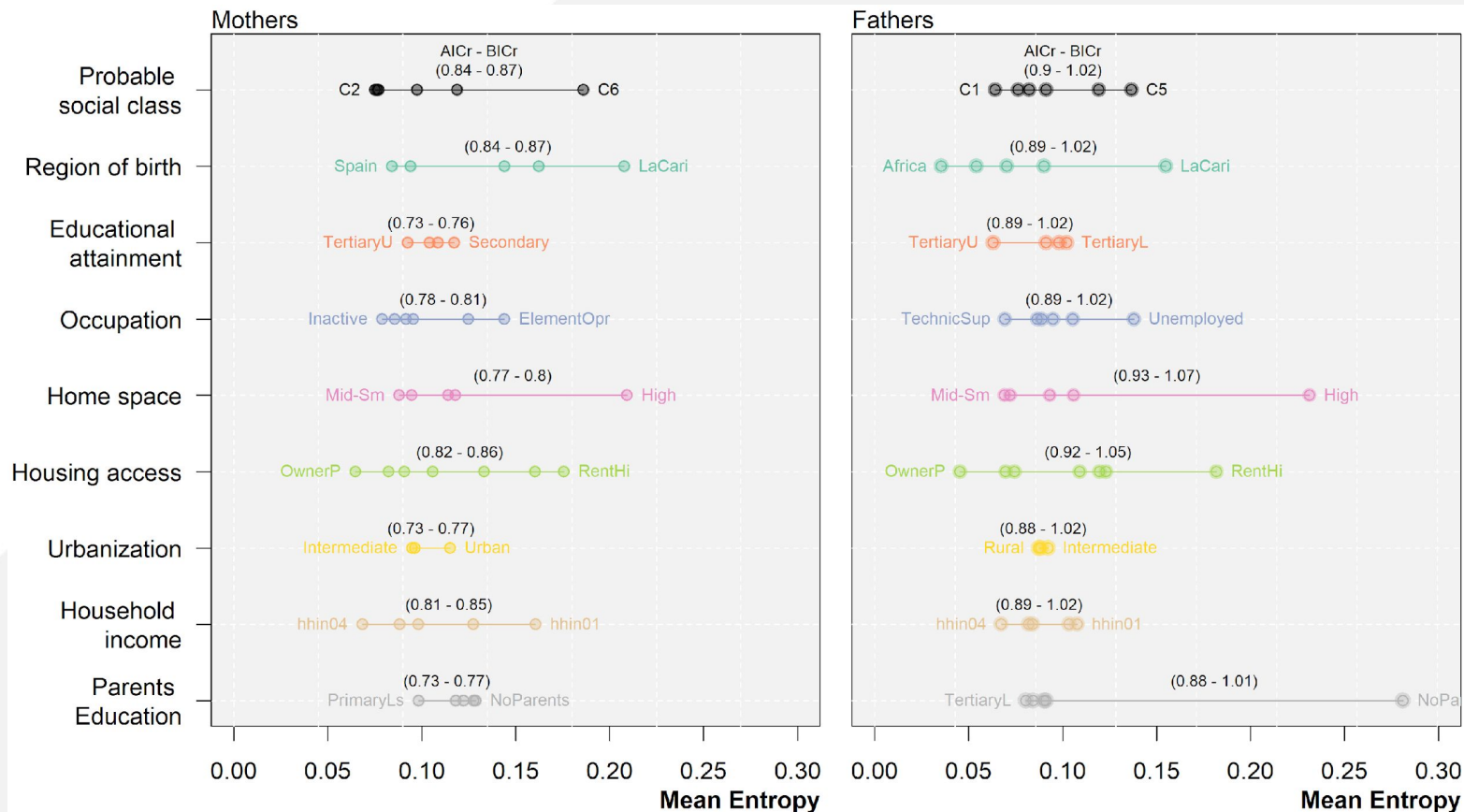
Results: Family trajectories



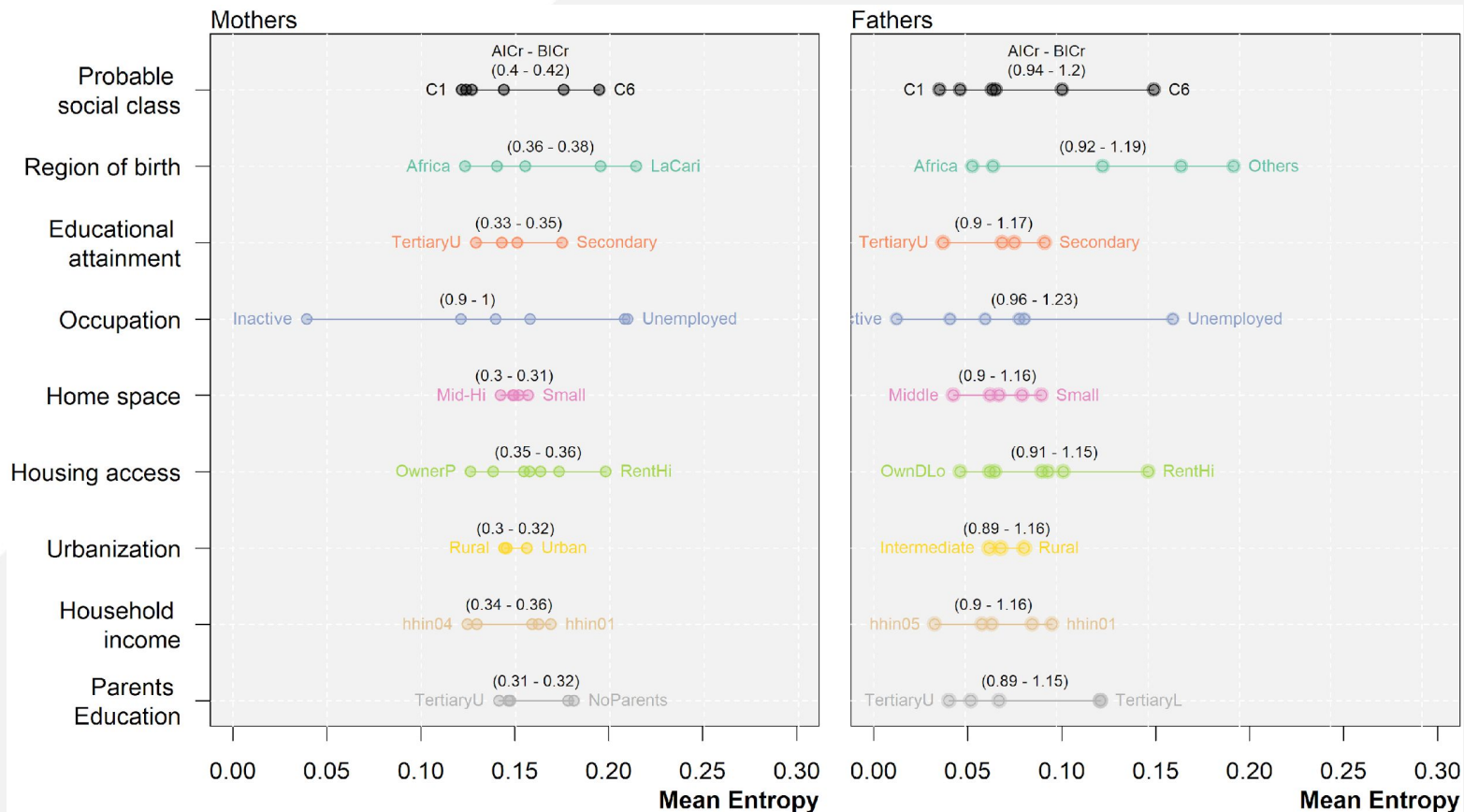
Results: Labour trajectories



Results: Family trajectories' entropy gaps



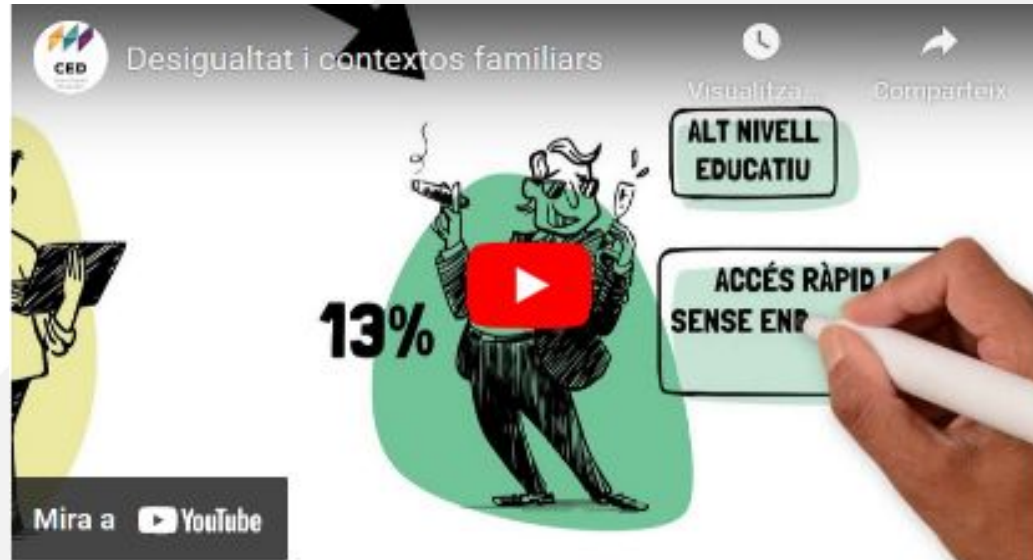
Results: Labour trajectories' entropy gaps



Conclusions

- o The social space approach provides a more complex picture of the Spanish society
- o *Probable social classes* and their components shape demographic behaviour, socioeconomic outcomes, and the reproduction of inequalities
- o The class gradient in the exposure to children's family and labour contextual instability might have been underestimated by traditional approaches

Dissemination



THIRD VIDEO:
Unequal Family
Contexts for
Children and
Adolescents in
Spain

Project Management and Costs

Budget vs. Costs

PRESSUPOST		
Personnel	76,000.00	
Travel	5,660.00	
Goods	2,200.00	
Subcontracting	2,500.00	
Dissemination	4,500.00	
Other	300.00	
Indirect costs	8,500.00	
Total	99,660.00	

Budget vs. Costs

PRESSUPOST		EXECUTAT	
Personnel	76,000.00	Personnel	66,511.14
Travel	5,660.00	Travel	12,019.55
Goods	2,200.00	Goods	2,209.59
Subcontracting	2,500.00	Subcontracting	0.00
Dissemination	4,500.00	Dissemination	10,857.25
Other	300.00	Other	70.00
Indirect costs	8,500.00	Indirect costs	8,500.00
Total	99,660.00	Total	100,167.53

A PhD's timeline 2023



Training
Travel and networking
Milestones

A PhD's timeline 2023

January 2023	Start of the PhD
February 2023	Course: Demography and Inequality - EDSD
March 2023	Course: Family, Fertility, and the Life - EDSD
May 2023	Course: Matrix Approaches to Modelling Kinship: Theory and Applications - MPIDR
June 2023	Conf: International Sociological Association Conference - Melbourne
July 2023	Course: Summer Methods School - UPF Causal Inference, Machine Learning for Social Sciences, Introduction to Multilevel Models and Multilevel 2: Analyzing comparative longitudinal survey data using multilevel models.

July 2023	Course: Spatial Analysis with R Barcelona Summer School of Demography
October 2023	Conf: Red Esp. de Políticas Sociales Conference - Palma de Mallorca
November 2023	Course: Geometric Data Analysis - Uppsala University
November 2023	Submission: Paper sent to a journal

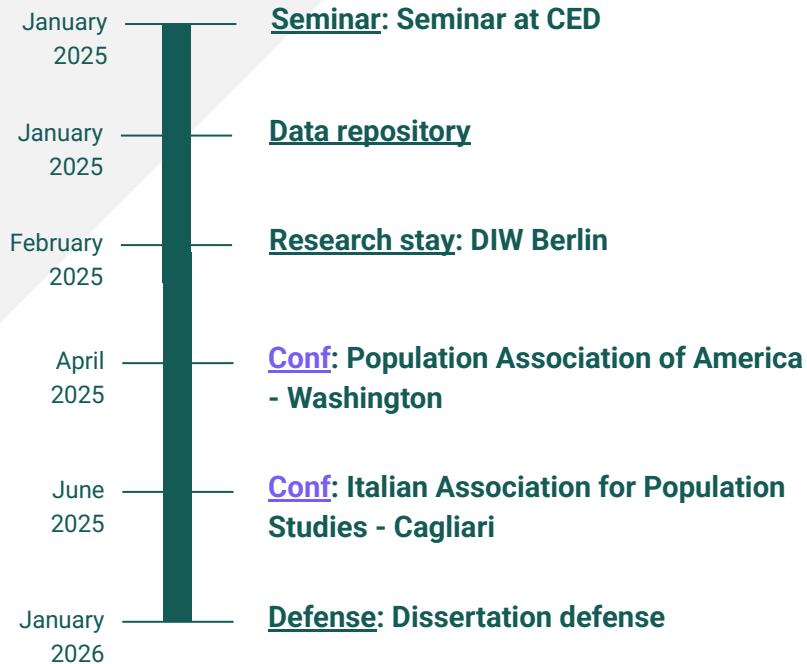
Training
Travel and networking
Milestones

A PhD's timeline 2024



Training
Travel and networking
Milestones

A PhD's timeline 2025



Training x 10 courses
Travel and networking 8 conferences
Milestones 3 preprints

Data Repository



CED⁹
*Centre d'Estudis
Demogràfics*

CORÀ.Repositori de Dades de Recerca >

<https://dataverse.csuc.cat/>

Data Repository



CED
Centre d'Estudis
Demogràfics

CORA.Repositori de Dades de Recerca >



Unequal Family Contexts for Children and Adolescents in Spain

Jan 15, 2025 - Social Stratification

Ruiz-Ramos, Carlos; Castro Torres, Andres Felipe, 2025, "Unequal Family Contexts for Children and Adolescents in Spain", <https://doi.org/10.34810/data1980>, CORA.Repositori de Dades de Recerca, V1

The environment in which children and adolescents develop plays a crucial role in shaping their future outcomes across various social, educational, economic, psychological, and health domains. Current research on the connection between inequality and family context often relies o...



Immigrants' modes of incorporation in Spain. A multivariate quantitative approach

Jan 15, 2025 - Social Stratification

Ruiz-Ramos, Carlos; Castro Torres, Andres Felipe, 2025, "Immigrants' modes of incorporation in Spain. A multivariate quantitative approach", <https://doi.org/10.34810/data1979>, CORA.Repositori de Dades de Recerca, V1

Analysing immigrants' incorporation patterns into host countries is essential for understanding social inequalities in contemporary societies. This study examines the living conditions of immigrants in Spain, moving beyond univariate approaches to social stratification by assessi...



Transition to adulthood and the intergenerational transmission of disadvantages among young adults in Spain

Jan 14, 2025 - Families, inequality and social change (DEMFAMS)

Castro Torres, Andres Felipe; Ruiz-Ramos, Carlos, 2025, "Transition to adulthood and the intergenerational transmission of disadvantages among young adults in Spain", <https://doi.org/10.34810/data1908>, CORA.Repositori de Dades de Recerca, V1

This repository allows the reproduction of the analyses carried out in the article "Transition to adulthood and the intergenerational transmission of disadvantages among young adults in Spain". The repository contains two folders: one with the code and the other with the output d...

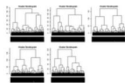


<https://dataverse.csuc.cat/>

Example

Immigrants' modes of incorporation in Spain. A multivariate quantitative approach

Version 1.0



Ruiz-Ramos, Carlos; Castro Torres, Andres Felipe, 2025, "Immigrants' modes of incorporation in Spain. A multivariate quantitative approach", <https://doi.org/10.34810/data1979>, CORA.Repositori de Dades de Recerca, V1

Cite Dataset ▾

Learn about [Data Citation Standards](#).

Access Dataset

Contact Owner

Share

Make Data Count (MDC) Metrics [?]
since 2024-04-01

46 Views [?]

23 Downloads [?]

0 Citations [?]

Description [?]

Analysing immigrants' incorporation patterns into host countries is essential for understanding social inequalities in contemporary societies. This study examines the living conditions of immigrants in Spain, moving beyond univariate approaches to social stratification by assessing the interaction between categories of privilege and disadvantage. As the second-largest recipient of immigrants in Europe, Spain offers valuable insights into the relationship between migration and social inequality. Using Geometric Data Analysis and clustering methods, we provide a structural and multidimensional perspective on social cleavages, revealing segmented assimilation patterns related to housing, employment, and education, influenced by age, origin, and social class. Our findings also show that second-generation immigrants experience only partial assimilation. This comprehensive analysis offers a deeper understanding of how various social categories shape immigrants' integration, shedding light on the complex interplay of factors that influence their experiences in Spain and potentially other European countries with similar immigration trends in recent decades. (2025-01-15)

Subject [?]

Social Sciences

Keyword [?]

inequality, social stratification, immigration, segmented assimilation, social space

Related Publication [?]

Is Supplement To: Ruiz-Ramos, C., & Torres, A. F. C. (2025, January 15). Immigrants' modes of incorporation in Spain. A multivariate quantitative approach. <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/439frdoi>: <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/439fr>

License/Data Use Agreement



Files

Metadata

Terms

Versions

Change View

Table

Tree

README.txt (5.3 KB)

- code_repro
- outputs_repro



Dissemination activities



JAN 2024 N° 034

Social classes and transition to adulthood in Spain

Andrés F. Castro Torres
Researcher Beatriu de Pinós (CED)

Carlos Ruiz Ramos
Researcher in Training (CED)

Social stratification and transition to adulthood

A research project, "Interconnected Inequalities and Family Life Courses in Spain" (INTERINEQ) headed by Andrés Castro, a researcher at the Centre for Demographic Studies (CED) offers a new look at transition to adulthood and low fertility in Spain. From a quantitative and multivariate perspective, this

The illustration shows a white figure holding a red globe with a family scene inside. Below the figure, the text 'SOCIAL CLASS' is written. At the bottom, a row of small cartoon characters is shown.

THIRD VIDEO: Immigrants' modes of incorporation in contemporary Spain (Forthcoming)

Non-academic stakeholders involvement

1. Initial contact for proposal support, **January 2022**
 - i. **Ministry** of Social Protection, Inclusion and Migrations
 - ii. Spanish High **Commissioner** Against Child Poverty

2. Kick-off meeting, **March 2023**
 - a. Ministry & Comm

3. Follow-up meeting, **November 2024**
 - a. Ministry *dropped out* - Comm. *disappeared*

Gràcies

Andres F. Castro Torres

Email: acastro@ced.uab.es

Carlos Ruiz-Ramos

Email: cruiz@ced.uab.es

www.ced.cat/projectes/interineq

