

3.4 Property rights, social inequality, and agrarian change in southern Europe, II

Room 202

Convener and Chair: Julie Marfany

3.41 Gabriel Jover – Agricultural intensification and changes in the farm demand for daily-labourers in seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries: Son Costa farm, Majorca Island.

The relationships between the process of agricultural intensification and the changes in the labour markets in Majorca Island from seventeenth century to eighteenth century have received little attention. In this period the large farms dominated the agrarian structure of the Island. Landlords and tenants hired a huge amount of wage-workers: confident male labourers and both female and male daily labourers. Throughout the seventeenth century agricultural changes occurred: the vineyards, almond trees and legumes spread, and olive oil became the most important commodity exported to North Atlantic markets. In the Mediterranean agro-systems the increase agricultural output had several constraints related to the soil's aridity and the scarcity of manure. To overcome these bottlenecks it was necessary to improve land capital (hydraulic infrastructures, terracing, etc.) and to intensify labour to maintain soils fertility and to face new tasks demanded by the new crops. The present work explores the changes in farm employment patterns, drawing on accounting books from one farm belonging to a monastic estate. The sources from this farm suggest an intensification of work and shifts in labour demand. I find a fall in male employment and an important increase in female employment. These shifts in female-male demand patterns were probably related to the increase in labour costs due to the more intensive farming.

Gabriel Jover Avellà is a doctor in early modern history and professor of economic history at the University of Girona. He teaches courses on economic and environmental history. His research is centred on agrarian and environmental history on between sixteenth and nineteenth century. He is studying the farms accounts of Majorca, to analyse the changing relationship between supply and labour demand, connecting to productive and technical changes in Mediterranean organic agro-systems.

3.42 Enric Tello and Marc Badia-Miró – Patterns in inequality of land ownership and changes in land use in the province of Barcelona in the mid-nineteenth century

The use of two very exceptional historical sources has allowed us to gather a big dataset on the cadastral valuation of real estate ownership for every taxpayer in nearly all the three hundred municipalities in the province of Barcelona, together with the main land-uses, population data from the 1857 census, their main geographical features (altitude, rainfall, time distances to the Barcelona seaport) or agrolological conditions (mean slope and agricultural suitability of lands), and also the type of jurisdictional regime that existed up to 1836 (manorial, ecclesiastical, royal or shared). These two sources are the *Distribution of Personal Wealth in Real Estate Ownership* published in 1852 by the Official Gazette of the province of Barcelona, and *Land Use Statistics of the Province of Barcelona* calculated by a Spanish topographer in 1858. Although the unique nature of these sources prevents a diachronic use, they allow a cross-sectional analysis.

This has allowed us for the first time to answer in a quantitative way a set of questions addressed for a long time by Catalan agricultural historians: was the number of landowners greater among the residents in winegrowing municipalities, rather than in cereal-oriented ones, or in forestry localities? Was the value of their respective real estates very different? Was the personal wealth in lands, houses and livestock more or less evenly distributed in municipalities specialising in viticulture, in those specialised in cereal production or in woodland and pastureland? Were there large differences in these aspects between small rural villages and bigger cities and towns? We aim

to answer these questions by applying to the abovementioned dataset the inequality possibility frontier and the inequality extraction ratio put forward by Branko Milanovic, Peter Lindert and Jeffrey G. Williamson, in order to establish the main patterns of land ownership inequality in the province of Barcelona in the mid-nineteenth century.

Enric Tello has a PhD in contemporary history and is Head of the Economic History Department at the University of Barcelona. He teaches in the areas of economic history, sustainable development and land use changes, and methodological issues of economic or environmental history. He directs a research team of agrarian and environmental historians, ecological economists and agrarian engineers that studies the long-term historical relationship between the energy or material efficiency in the biophysical flows moved by human societies, and their land use management, considering this connection as a main driving force for the landscape ecology changes experienced by the territory.

Marc Badia-Miró has a PhD in economic history, and teaches statistics and quantitative methods in the Department of Economics and Business Studies at the Barcelona Open University. His research is focused on the economic geography of location and long run economic growth in Latin America and Mediterranean Europe during the first wave of globalisation. He also studies viticultural specialisation and social networks in Catalonia from the mid-nineteenth century onwards. Together with Enric Tello and other historians he has presented a paper on *The Grape Phylloxera plague as a natural experiment: explaining the development and upkeep of vineyard specialization in Catalonia (Spain, 1860–1935)* at the 25th World Economic History Congress that is forthcoming in the *Australian Economic History Review*.

3.43 Rui Santos – Social stratification and the hierarchy of agrarian contracts in southern Portugal, from the early modern period to the mid-twentieth century

I propose to draw on property rights theory to define the hierarchy of agrarian contracts according to the property rights in land that they transferred, in the southern Portuguese province of Alentejo from the early modern period until the mid-twentieth century. I will then relate the types of contracts with the categories in rural stratification, in a highly stratified rural society. The aim is to highlight the homology between the access to property rights, the objective stratification and the cultural categories that designated social strata.

Rui Santos is lecturer in the department of Ciências Sociais e Humanas of the Universidade Nova of Lisbon. His PhD investigated the origins of large estates in the Alentejo region. Since then, his research has focused more widely on property rights, types of agrarian contract and how these have affected the organisation of rural space.