Women’s work careers in France:

Continuity and singularities in an intergenerational perspective

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Research objectives

In a *long time* perspective, we want to:

• investigate work careers of women born between 1930 and 1950

• compare to their mothers’ ones

And then ...

• try to find patterns of mothers-and-daughters careers (2-generation lineage)
2830 individuals living in Île-de-France and aged between 50 and 70 (born between 1930 and 1950),

Familial, residential and occupational histories of the interviewees and their *entourage* over several generations.
| Age | Activity details of the survey | Status | Activity at the enterprise | Time | Place of work | Comment | A8 | Annote | Periods transition Activities in Renan

1487 women, between 50 and 70 years old, living in Île-de-France from 14 to 50 years old

- Studies
- Full-time job
- Part-time job
- Inactivity

Biographies & entourage survey - 2001
### Mère

**Quéue est la succession des nées en naissance, mariages, enfants... qu'a eue votre mère ?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession, qualification, inactivité, interruptions (spécifier arrêt pour enfant, maladie, chômage etc.)</th>
<th>Statut (C, 3, 4)</th>
<th>Activité de l'entreprise</th>
<th>Lieu de travail (commune, dépôt)</th>
<th>Quand ? Repères chronologiques</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1ère activité PP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aide à ses parents à la ferme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restauration (crêperie)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>À votre naissance PP</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2ème activité DP</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3ème activité DP</td>
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<tr>
<td>4ème activité DP</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**E: 1831**

**V: 1945**

- A-t-elle connu des périodes d'inactivité ou des interruptions dues à la guerre, au chômage, à la maladie, aux enfants, à une reprise d'études... ? Si oui, les placer dans la chronologie.

- [ ] A quel âge ? Jusqu'à quand ?

**AP Récapitulons : pour vous quelle a été son activité principale (spécifier la qualification, OS, OQ ...) ?**

1. Indépendante
2. Salière du secteur public et nationalisé (spécifier)
3. Salariée secteur privé
4. Autre (spécifier)

**Activité de son entreprise :**

(ex: parfumerie; fabrication ou commerce)

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1402 women, born between 1886 and 1935 from 14 to 50 -> 37 years:

- Studies
- Job
- Inactivity
Characterizing work careers

• **Atomistic approach:**
  – Unit of analysis = event
  – Modelisation of transition likelihoods / durations
  – Stochastic, explanatory

• **Holistic approach:**
  – Unit of analysis = trajectory « as a whole »
  – Identification of ideal-types, patterns
  – Exploratory, descriptive
Sequence analysis

• Individual trajectories are built as sequences of states

• Grouped together according to their degree of similarity
techniques = optimal matching analysis (OMA), ...

⇒ Typology of trajectories
Optimal Matching Analysis (1)

- Method used in molecular biology (DNA strings)
- Introduced in social sciences by Andrew Abbott in the 80's
- **Principle**: measuring dissimilarity between pairs of sequences by calculating the cost of the transformation of one sequence into the other

*See for example (Macindoe & Abbott, 2004)*
Optimal Matching Analysis (2)

Example:

\[ X: \text{B B A B A B} \]
\[ Y: \text{B A B A B B} \]

\[ \rightarrow 4 \text{ substitutions} \]

\[ X: \text{B B A B A B} \]
\[ Y: \text{B A B A B B} \]

\[ \rightarrow 1 \text{ insertion, 1 deletion} \]
Optimal Matching Analysis (3)

- 3 elementary operations:
  - insertion
  - deletion
  - substitution

- Each operation is assigned a cost

- The distance between two sequences is equal to the minimal cost needed to transform one sequence into the other
Optimal Matching Analysis (4)

- Comparison between all pairs of sequences
  -> distance matrix
  -> clustering (HCA, ...)
  -> typology of trajectories
“Full-time job” (early vs late)

Women born between 1930 and 1950

Early: 37%

Late: 18%
"Inactivity or early stopping" (18%)

"Inactivity" (early vs late)

"Stopping (after 30)" (6%)

Women born between 1930 and 1950
“ Interruption ” (11%)  

“ From full-time to part-time job ” (4%)  

“ Interruption, then return to part-time job ” (6%)  

Women born between 1930 and 1950
Evolution over cohorts

• Stability of “early full-time job”: 
  around 38%

• Increase of “late full-time job”: 
  from 14% (1930-1939) to 22% (1946-1950)

• Decrease of “inactivity or early stopping”: 
  from 24% (1930-1939) to 12% (1946-1950)
Mothers’ careers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of career</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>always active</td>
<td>35,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stopping (at around 26)</td>
<td>33,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>always inactive</td>
<td>23,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>interruption (between around 21 and 32)</td>
<td>7,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100,0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1402 women born between 1886 and 1935
Linking daughters’ and mothers’ careers

i. OMA -> 2 distance matrices (daughters and mothers separately)

ii. MDS -> 2 sets of components (daughters and mothers separately)

iii. Canonical PLS -> 1 set of components

iv. HCA -> typology of daughter-mother careers
“Active mothers and daughters” (31%)

Daughters: only child, clerical and sales worker, low education, born in Paris region, youngest cohort (1946-1950)
“Interrupting mothers, active daughters”
(25%)

**Daughters:** higher-level occupations, oldest child, born in Paris region, father manual worker
“Inactive mothers and daughters” (17%)

Daughters: foreigners, no diplomas, youngest child
“Inactive mothers, active daughters” (15%)
“Active mothers, interrupting daughters” (12%)

Daughters: only child, no diploma, oldest cohort (1930-1939)
Paper available soon:
http://nicolas.robette.free.fr/Publis_eng.htm

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