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Title:

Patterns of Household and Family Structures, drawn from the Austrian census 1910.
A Regional and Socio-economic Comparison

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Within MOSAIC-project (MPIDR) a sample of communities, covering the recent Austrian territory in 1910 was compiled. A database in SPSS-format was created, containing the lists of persons as registered in the census 1910, following their assignment to communities, houses, households and families. With the help of this database it is possible to examine size and personal composition of households resp families. The main questions are: can we detect significant regional patterns in household resp. family structures and can we prove if these patterns are in line with differences in regional socio-economic structures? To which extent are general categories like "agrarian" and "industrial" sufficient to explain differences in these patterns or do we have to differentiate variations like pasturing and arable economies or light and heavy industry resp. small and large farms, workers households and those of white-collars, craftsmen etc.? Can we prove if there were regional patterns, driven by dominating socio-economic groups, if there was a kind of communicative and imitating across-effect or did "agriculture" always differ from "industry" or "service"? Can we find thus regional patterns, socio-economic patterns or regional socio-economic patterns?

The database used consists of census entries from different villages in Tyrol, Styria and the city of Waidhofen upon Ybbs in Lower Austria and covers about 20.000 cases, sorted by about 5000 households. For all the single persons the names, relationship to household-head, date of birth, family status, occupation and occupational position, place of birth, literacy, religion/confession etc. are registered. Thus not only information on single persons, but on families and households also are given. Each of the three regions/sites selected

contain approximately 7000 persons, so no region/site is over- or underrepresented. General source-critical routines have been done, proving a high reliability of the materials.

Analysis on family resp. household structures, using mass data has been performed since the 1970s, in Western and Northern Europe especially. Southern Europe, Central Europe and particularly Eastern and South-Eastern Europe has been re-detected (for early works in these fields for e.g. Hungary cf. T.Farago, R.Andorka, for e.g. Serbia J.Halpern and E. Hammel) in the last 10-15 years only in historical demography (cf. Reher, M. Szoltysek, S. Gruber, P. Ori, K.Kaser e.a.). R. Wall, P. Laslett, E. Hammel, French-and Dutch demographers have already done much pioneer work and, based on their rich work, invented family/household types, in order to guarantee comparability over historically very different and peculiar European regions. There is very less analysis done for Austria in the sense of using mass data and typologies proposed in historical demographic literature, not for modern times especially. M. Mitterauer and his colleagues have collected a lot of data in the 1980s and 1990s in the Viennese Family Database, but less has been analysed until now, according to the conditions mentioned above. (cf. M. Cerman, J.Ehmer, P.Schmidtbauer).

The main assumptions are, that agrarian villages/households/families are different in size and composition to urban and industrial sites. Yet we also do expect, that different agrarian ecotypes had an impact on household/family formation. Therefore the villages, sampled in this MOSAIC-database, had been selected by such socio-economic criteria. Religious criteria could not have been considered, 99% of the Austrian population had been Catholics, even in the small city of Waidhofen upon Ybbs with about 5000 inhabitants in 1910 we found only 34 persons belonging to the Lutheran Church and only one household with a Lutheran household head.

Besides these differences in a regional and socio-economic sense, the results of this first analysis should serve the international comparison of Austrian data with results from other European regions. Did the Eastern Austria belong to a transitional zone like Kaser & Mitterauer have claimed or did its household/family structures resemble more Western patterns? Can these patterns from Austria sufficiently be depicted by Laslett's typology for example?