

Title: Dialogue between the quantitative and the qualitative for better understanding the biographies of divorce

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1 Aim

Check the contributions of the quantitative analysis of divorce based on retrospective surveys and compare these results with those obtained in a qualitative study carried out in Spain in two periods (2008-2012), to better understand the biographies of divorce. Show the lights and shadows of each of these approaches. The key question is how combining the two approaches in a unique research project, to dynamically integrate biographical facts and perceptions of its protagonists.

The global dimension is co-parenting and gender relations before and after divorce. Divorce is part of the heart of the recent family changes and in the crossroads of the current tensions in the gender and generations power relations and the construction of the legalities (on shared custody), although very few research have been done in the socio-demography of the divorce in Spain combining both methodologies.

2. Background

In the early 1980s the analysis of biographies in the demography, populations and methods of observation of individual trajectories have diversified and enriched, and methods of analysis are now a field of research in continued development (Courgeau, 2006). According to Daniel Courgeau precisely because of the better observation of the individual life course at the pace of biographical research, it can be said that changes of states do is reduced to simple events, they are characterized by more or less extended in time transitions. However, with the application of the techniques of biographies demographic analysis or *event history analysis*, the main concern of demographers was the accurate dating of events. The precise moment of rupture and the sequence of events are essential, when you want to measure the probability of occurrence of an event based on certain factors (or events) considered independent or decisive, when we ask: what changes occurred in other biographies that we believe in relation to divorce? When there?

Secondly, in demography, the recognition of the contribution of the qualitative perspective is not recent (Bozon,) 2006. Qualitative research in the field of demography, in addition to quantitative research, has made a significant contribution. The contrast between the two approaches has allowed to identify what facts are ignored in a biographical survey among all these events that are significant and important in the narration of the own biography by protagonists. On the divorce research, while biographical surveys just dating the constitution of the union (in the best of cases distinguish the cohabitation of marriage) and the end of the common residence; a qualitative study can highlight many non lineal complex processes associated with the union breakdown.

3 Data and methodologies

For the contrast between the results of the quantitative and qualitative study of divorce in Spain, I rely on two types of data: 1. the results of the biographical analysis of divorce from biographical surveys and 2. The results of a qualitative study I conducted in Spain in two moments, 2008 to study the pioneering generations of divorce in Spain and 2012 for the younger generations. In both cases, we study the breakdown of a relationship after having children.

The contrast between the two methodological approaches allows us to expand the explanations of demographic phenomena, understanding of the process. But it remains independent studies.

4. Discussion and application of the results

The central question that remains is: how to integrate the quantitative and the qualitative in the same search?

My aim is to design a study that can capture vital events (all events related to the divorce family biography, and all the facts related to the time and space use of families of post divorce) with precision and *at the same time* the perception that the protagonists have in relation to their practices. This can help us to understand the transformations that occur in roles and gender relations and with parental roles before and after divorce, and know the distance or the correspondence between perceptions and practices.

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