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"Women and gender relations in the labour force. The case of mining, 1500-2000"

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***The women's work at the Spanish mining, 1860-1940***

In this communication, we analyze the women's work at the Spanish mining from 1860 to 1940. We count as data source the official mining statistic that offers a worthy information from 1868 to 1939. The documentation collects, amongst others informations, an annual information of the numbers of women employees at the mines by provinces and minerals (together with men and minors) The women's occupation made up a small percentage of total mining employ, it didn't avoid that there were relevant differences amongst the main extraction centres. The most extreme case was the SouthEast of Spain, practically was banned the feminine work in mining activities. It's important to know that the extraction makes up a peculiar industry, subject to some specifics conditions of work. The existence of different kinds of mining, that affected naturally about the features and possibilities of feminine work.

Women were used almost exclusively at the exterior of the mines in transport work and minerals' concentration along with others auxiliaries activities. In the XIX century, the medium percentage of women employees fluctuates between 3% and 4%, it appreciates a progressive diminution in the XX century, where it passed from the 2% at the beginning to 1% in the decade of the 1930. This evolution produces together with modifications in the employ of children labour.

In this work, we pretend to point out the generals lines of different feminine employ in the Spanish geography. Above all, we're going to study it in relation with distinct mining models that operated in the peninsula. In addition, we're going to analyze the changes that were recorded throughout the studied period, relating with the techniques and productive modifications that were produced and with the legislatives changes in the labor world. Finally, we're going to try to move closer to families strategies that were displayed in the basins where we count with more information.