*Labour history and gender history in Spain (18th-20th century)*.

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**Abstract:** The aim of this paper is to present a comprehensive state of art of the Spanish research on women's work from the perspective of household and family economies. This will allow us to approach the analysis of the following problems: a) the underreporting of female participation on the historical labour markets - a problem that even today affects a consistent account of the social and economic changes linked to the modernization process-; b) reconstruction of historical trends of women’s activity through the industrialization c) determinants of female labour force participation d) the contribution of women to the family economies and e) the real diffusion of the male breadwinner model in Spanish working-class during 19th century. The use of new sources and methodologies, have allowed spanish historians to detect high levels of underreporting of female activity in different localities and sectors. New data has shown a high participation of women in economic activities allowing a better analysis of demand and supply factors and questioning certain conventional theories. Analysis of family budgets has shown the relevant contribution of women to the sustainability of the workers households revealing this approach as a better tool to evaluate living standards.