*Women as partners and administrators in businesses in urban Catalonia in the 18th century.*

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**Abstract:** Historically, in Catalonia, the participation of women has had great importance in the management, administration and development of businesses located in urban areas, related to the development and provision of food, retail and commercial distribution of manufactured goods and other products. The communication is divided into two parts. The first discusses the contributions of recent historiography of the fundamental role of women in the evolution of different business sectors. In England, the members of CHORD group at the University of Wolverhampton have extensive bibliography on the subject. In Catalonia, the work that members of the TIG in the University of Barcelona being carried out in recent years, are providing extensive information and new approaches that address the trajectory of women with their own business or as participants in family businesses or other. The second part of the communication examines the contribution of women as partners and administrators in the formation and development of different businesses located in the urban area in Catalonia in the 18th century. Taking as a case study in the Commerce sector wholesale, and the retail sector with multiple businesses in which it combines trade and production, the role of women as partners entrepreneurs and managers is analyzed. The scope of study focuses in Barcelona, and three Catalan towns - Igualada, Mataró and Figueres - with different socioeconomic backgrounds. Primary sources are notarial protocols, namely contracts of constitution and renovation of mercantile societies deeded in the local notaries. The documentation provides valuable information about the dynamics of every business, and shows peculiarities in different sectors of activity. This situation allows us to observe multiple circumstances that many women find themselves in, and they become visible because they are participating as independent subjects with the power to make their own decision.