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**Women and Labour Movementunder a Dictatorship Comisiones Obreras (Workers’ Comissions) in the area of Barcelona during Franco’sdictatorship (1964-1976) *TIG-UB***

General Francisco Franco’s dictatorship in Spain (1939-1975) developed a set of laws designed to put burdens on women’s work in regular job market, especially on married women’s work. It also suppressed political freedom, banned strikes and trade unions. Nevertheless, some workers tried to organise unions, such as ComisionesObreras (Workers’ Commissions, CCOO). CCOO appeared in several industrialised areas in Spain from the 1960s on.

The area of Barcelona was one of the first places where CCOO were organised, and it is an interesting setting to analyse women’s participation in labour movement. Women’s participation in labour market was very significant since the 19th century, and female workers took part in labour conflicts. However, people who organised CCOO in Barcelona in 1964 assumed a masculine definition of the ‘working class’ that harmed its relationship with female workers. Women participation and CCOO attitude towards them during the Francoism can be divided into two periods: from 1964 to 1969 and from 1969 to 1975.

At the beginning of the first stage, women who took part in CCOO got in contact with the movement due to family ties with labour activistsor because labour militants contacted them since their knowledge might be useful for the movement (as it happened with some social workers). Male CCOO leaders and militants only considered militants the latter ones. Then, some female labour activists were integrated into the movement. During this period, the PSUC, one of the parties that had more influence on CCOO, tried to promote a female organisation called MovimientoDemocrático de Mujeres (Democratic Women’s Movement) to fight the dictatorship. Many female CCOO militants were asked to join it, but many of them did it reluctantly because theythought that participating in a female organisation was less important than getting involved in the labour movement.

As CCOO wanted to increase its capacity to summon so as to fight the dictatorship more efficiently, it wanted to attract female workers. It became clear from 1969 on, when the female participation in CCOO increased, and these women were treated as militants. Although there were not female organizations inside CCOO, claims addressed to women workers (such as equal pay) reappeared from 1974 on.

We need to wait until 1977 to find a female (and feminist) organization inside CCOO, the Secretaría de la Mujer (Secretariat for Women’s Affairs). Some female militants who took part in CCOO since the early 1970s and were influenced by the feminist movement began to doubt about CCOO’s definition of work, working class and its claims in terms of gender.