

CALL FOR PAPERS  
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH NETWORK: HISTORICAL DEMOGRAPHY

*WOMEN IN CHANGING LABOUR MARKETS*

Utrecht, 22-23 November 2012

In most Western countries in the nineteenth century, industrialization enhanced women's opportunities for paid work. Due to the mechanization of labour, many occupations became less dependent on characteristics such as upper body strength and stamina, making occupations more congruent to the average female physique. Furthermore, due to the shift towards mass production, mass transportation and mass communication, the service sector increased, enhancing the number of occupations in which traits that have been regarded as typically female such as social skills and nurturing (e.g. see Charles & Grusky 2004) are highly important.

However, a major cultural shift decreased women's opportunities for paid work. The breadwinner-homemaker household became increasingly popular (de Vries 2008) enhancing barriers for women to enter the labour market. Furthermore, while on the one hand gender equality became institutionalized (e.g. in education, suffrage), on the other hand differences between women and men were underlined by a gender essentialist perspective. For example, women were taught different skills in school, periodicals targeted specific audiences, such as schools girls and women (Tinkler 1995), and even women's organization underlined that women were different from men.

The aim of this conference is to gain a better understanding of social inequalities with regard to female labour force participation in relation to macro-level changes in for example, industrialization or legislation in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We welcome studies that describe and explain female labour force participation, as well as studies that focus on demographic results of female labour force participation, such as migration patterns, life chances and stopping and spacing.

Finally, we hope to attract papers that deal with the reliability and representativeness of data sources of female labour force participation (e.g. marriage records or census data). While most of the papers will be quantitative in nature we also hope to attract qualitative papers (e.g. based on diaries or newspapers) that provide insight in women's deliberations with regard to female labour force participation.

Paper proposals (max. 300 words) can be submitted to Richard Zijdeman ([r.l.zijdeman@uu.nl](mailto:r.l.zijdeman@uu.nl)) by March 5th.

Organizing Committee  
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