

## **Entries and exits in the work trajectory of Mexican women of two generations**

Since 1965 Mexican sociodemographer's research has documented increases in female economic participation rates (1970: 16.4%, 1979: 21.5%, 1991: 31.5%, 1995: 34.5%; 2000: 36.4%, 2004: 37.5%, 2008: 42%).<sup>1</sup>

The researchers also have studied the characteristics of the female work and have pointed out the intermittences and discontinuities along the life course which are related to family transitions as marriage, child's births and sometimes with the socioeconomic situation.<sup>2</sup>

The objective of this research is to show the structure of the female work trajectories as well as the inter-cohort and intra-cohort differences between work trajectories of two women birth cohorts, one of the thirty's and the other one from the fifty's. I study the entries and the exits of the female labor force, their sequence along the women work career and their relation with transitions in family life.

The research questions which leads this work are:

- How is the structure of the work trajectories of two Mexican women cohorts of birth from a longitudinal perspective of analysis?
- Which are the intra and inter-cohort differences between the cohorts?
- How these changes are related to economic crisis and to the events and transitions in the family life?

Based on the previous research the work hypothesis are:

- We are going to observe heterogeneity in the female work trajectories which responds to the diversity of family situations as well as to the economic changes.
- There are going to be inter and intra-cohort changes from an holistic point of view of the trajectories which are related to the transformations in the traditional family life but also to the characteristics of the labor market and the economic crisis.
- I assume that the reasons of the reincorporation varies from woman to woman depending on the scholarship, the socioeconomic status and the grade of compromise with the work in the life.

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<sup>1</sup> The data for 1970 to 1995 is presented by Oliveira, Ariza y Eternod (2001). The data for 2000 was obtained from the Census, for 2004 and 2008 from ENEO for the second trimester of the year.

<sup>2</sup> García y Oliveira, 1994; García y Pacheco, 2000; Cruz Piñeiro, 1994; Cerrutti, 1997; y Pacheco y Parker, 2001.

This research used the biographic data that recompiled the Retrospective Demographic Survey (EDER, 1998: Encuesta Demográfica Retrospectiva) in Mexico. The methodology includes the statistical technique known as sequence analysis.

I already have worked with the data, as a part of my doctoral dissertation. Using the life course framework as theoretical approximation I found a typology that includes the women's work careers. The trajectories with few entries of short duration and the trajectories with few entries of large duration appear to be the most important in the analysis.

I identify three major challenges:

- One of the challenges is break out with the intergenerational transmission of the social rules that make the discrimination of women in front the men.
- Women also need institutional support which help them to structure together family and work along the life course.
- The challenge of certain groups of women is to "stop living separated lives". Women need to search the way to incorporate several dimensions of their lives so they can't feel frustrated or guilty about their decisions in different trajectories of their life courses.

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