

THE IMPACT OF MIGRATIONS ON FEMALE GENERATIONS IN SPAIN IN THE 20th AND 21st CENTURIES: GENERATIONAL DIVERSIFICATION AND REGIONAL PATTERNS

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Introduction

Spain in the 21st century has witnessed its transformation from a country of emigration to one of immigration. This phenomenon has led to a notable growth and diversification by origin of the female generations in the country. This growth in foreign immigration, accompanied by an intense feminisation of migratory flows, has favoured the labour and social promotion of the generations born at the end of the Baby Boom (Domingo & Gil, 2007). Moreover, the transfer of reproductive work to the market, carried out by immigrant women (Parella, 2003; Odriozola & Peña, 2016), is related to what was later called the “Global Care Chain” (Hochschild, 2001).

However, this phenomenon presents a unique dynamic examining migration history since the beginning of the 20th century. The interregional migration of the 1920s and the rural exodus of the 1960s already segmented the regions into those experiencing immigration and those experiencing emigration, impacting the composition of generations according to their origin, with an intensity comparable, sometimes, to that provoked by the two international migratory events of global scope of the 21st century. Comparisons between internal migration in the 20th century and international migration in the 21st century are not new in Spanish regions that have historically experienced significant migratory movements, although until now they have been approached exclusively from the perspective of labour market demand, without a detailed analysis from a generational or gender point of view.

Despite highlighting the remarkable impact of international migration in Spain, it is relevant to consider the demand generated by the marriage market, influenced by several reasons such as the relative scarcity of women in rural areas (Domingo, Bueno & Esteve, 2014) and the models of gender relations that these immigrant women could hypothetically embody (Roca, 2011), as well as the potential impact on birth rates and fertility patterns (Castro-Martín & Rosero-Bixby, 2011).

Objectives

This paper has three main objectives:

- Measure the evolution and diversification by origin due to migratory movements in the entire Spanish state and in all regions at the provincial level;
- Evaluate the disparity for the two centuries by comparing the weight of internal and international mobility;
- Establishing comparatively the main sociodemographic causes and consequences of these female flows.

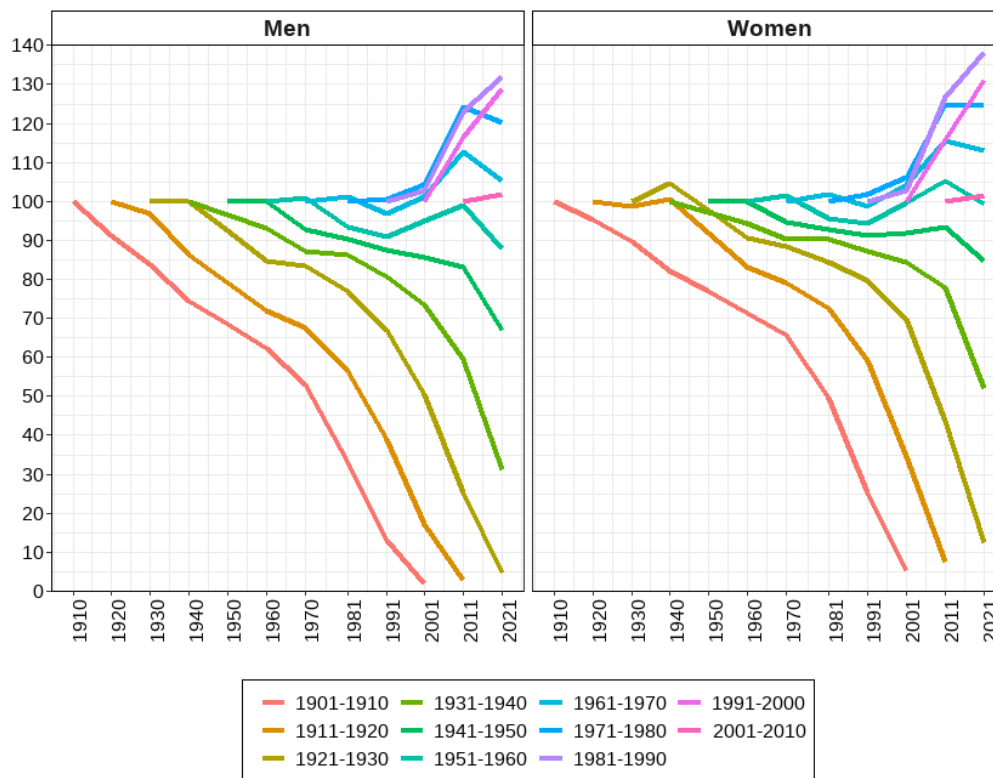
Data and Methods

Data from the Continuous Register Statistics (1900-2001) and the Population and Housing Censuses (2011 and 2021), completed with data from the Labour Force Survey (EPA), have been used to fulfil the different objectives. Generations born between 1901 and 2020 will be considered, grouped by decades, as they are the main generations present in 2023 and, therefore, those affected by internal migrations of the 20th century and the two migration booms of the 21st century.

First Findings

- The evolution of the cohorts (Figure 1) has been modulated by the effect of out-migration. In the older cohorts, a reduction in their initial numbers can be observed due to the flows of emigration abroad in the 1950s and 1960s. On the other hand, in the most recent cohorts, there is an additional contribution of population numbers as a result of the immigration boom of the 21st century.

Figure 1. Evolution of the Size of Male and Female Cohorts from 1910 to 2021, Spain.

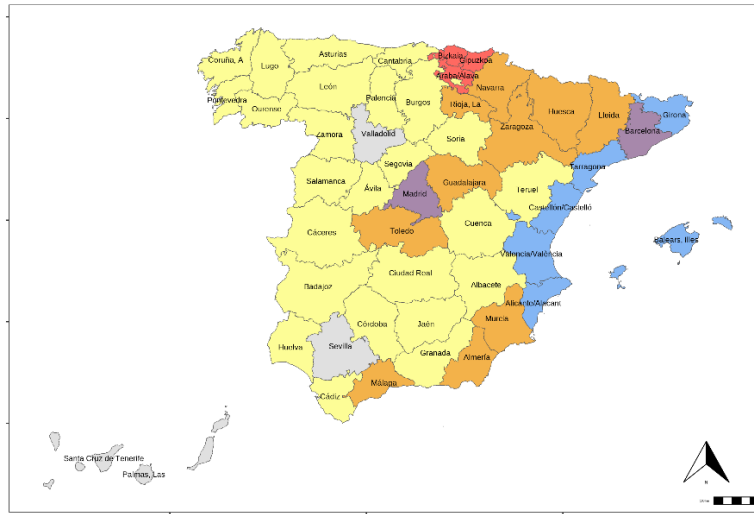


Source: Own Elaboration based on the Continuous Register Statistics of 1910-2001 and the Population and Housing Censuses of 2011 and 2021 (INE).

- By studying the evolution of the size of the cohorts by the different provinces of Spain, we can establish territorial patterns (Figure 2) and distinguish between provinces that have been immigrant for centuries, those that have shifted from being emigration-prone to immigration-prone and those which, having been immigrant throughout the 20th century, have reduced their contribution to the migratory balance in the 21st century.

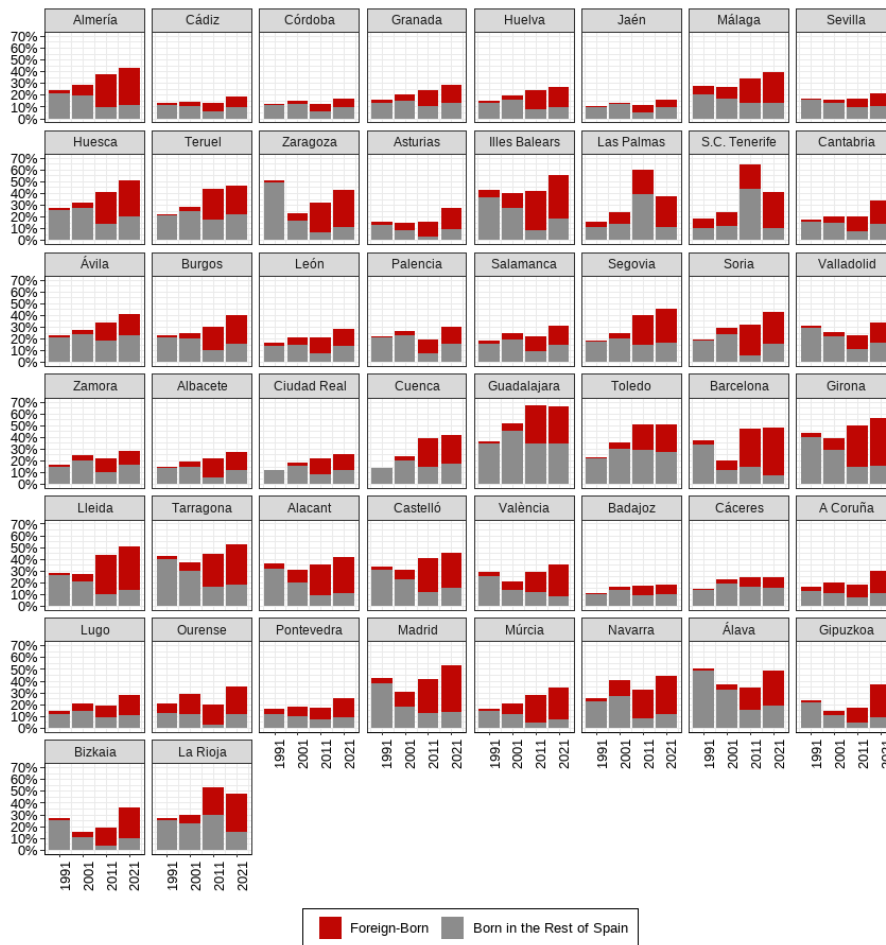
- After analysing the composition by place of birth of women aged 25-34 (Figure 3), a significant diversification by origin can be observed. In 1991, women aged 25-34 were those born between 1957 and 1966; in 2001, 1967-1976; in 2011, 1971-1990; and finally, in 2021, those born between 1981 and 2000.

Figure 2. Provinces of Spain According to Typology of Impact of Migration in the Evolution of Female Cohorts.



Source: Own Elaboration based on the Continuous Register Statistics of 1910-2001 and the Population and Housing Censuses of 2011 and 2021 (INE).

Figure 3. Percentage of Women Born Outside the Province Aged 25-34 in 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2021.



Source: Own Elaboration based on the Population and Housing Censuses of 1991, 2001, 2011 and 2021 (INE).

Expected Findings

- To contribute to a systemic understanding of migrations in population growth based on territorial patterns, distinguishing between provinces traditionally immigration-prone, those that have shifted from being emigration-prone to immigration-prone, and those that, having been immigration-centric during the 20th century, have seen a decrease in migratory contributions in the 21st century.

- To integrate the relationship between production and reproduction to understand migratory trends from a historical perspective. The expected pattern is to observe how female migrations, to attend to the externalisation of reproductive labor (which were confined to large cities and upper-middle classes), have become widespread in the 21st century, with the massive entry of native women into the paid labor market and the increase in educational levels. Linked to the above, that female migrations in the 20th century associated with unpaid reproductive work were limited almost exclusively to family reunifications of immigrants, while currently, they have expanded to meet a demand generated by the relative scarcity of women in certain areas.

- Finally, we expect to observe that the labor market position of immigrant women may be influenced by the volume of female generations of native women.

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