

H-Stat Workshop on Historical Occupational Structures
Hitobashi University, Tokyo, 28 September 2007

Sources
Measurement
Results
Prospects

Historical sources

Census (all papers)

- **`Total' stock at discrete points in time**
- **Varying non-registration, fixed nr of occupational categories, aggregation in published tables**
- **Sometimes info on employment status and other variables, even more so Belgium Industrial vs Population Census**

Vital registration (Shaw-Taylor) baptisms, marriages)

Little info on employment status

Continuous `Inflow'

Self declared, fine grained but `Labourers'

Only married but high % of women

Measurement 2: Occupations

- **Occupations are the `dna' of economy and society, past and present**
- **Most people have one**
- **Occupations capture social status, earnings capacity, and refer to the functional division of work**
- **Some bearing to standards of living**
- **Many historical sources**
- **Strong research tradition in economics, history and sociology**

Measurement 3: Occupations

But less info – higher underregistration – and much smaller range of occupations for women than for men

Not a standard metric like income in euro' →

standardization required: PST, (H)ISCO

Some vagueness and ambiguity in occupational titles, depending on the source

e.g. (rural) labourers; casual workers; incomplete separation of production and selling; petty trade or not

Illegal activities are hidden

Coverage of juvenile labour

More problems for comparisons using printed statistics

Some results 1

- **All papers demonstrate the possibilities to use historical sources to capture long term change and regional variation: rehabilitation of census and vital registers**
- **Also for women's occupations**

Some results 2 The Dutch case

- **ingenious comparison of local early modern sources and 19th c census**
- **Reaffirmation of exceptional modernity of Dutch Republic: very high % living in cities, low % working in primary sector even around 1500**
- **Good transport facilities could create regional specialization (‘Smithian’ Growth, parable of the pin makers) with advantages to agglomeration**

Some results 3 The English case

- **GIS-maps: much clearer picture regional occupational structures in 576 registration districts (would be obscured on county level)**
- **`Revolt of the Early Modernists': by 1750 < 50% working in P; greater increase in S 1500-1750 than 1760-1830 thus IR no abrupt change 1780-1840**
- **in each region 1750-1815 no decline of P, little growth of S;**
- **from 1780's growth of T, transport led**

Some results 4 The Belgium case

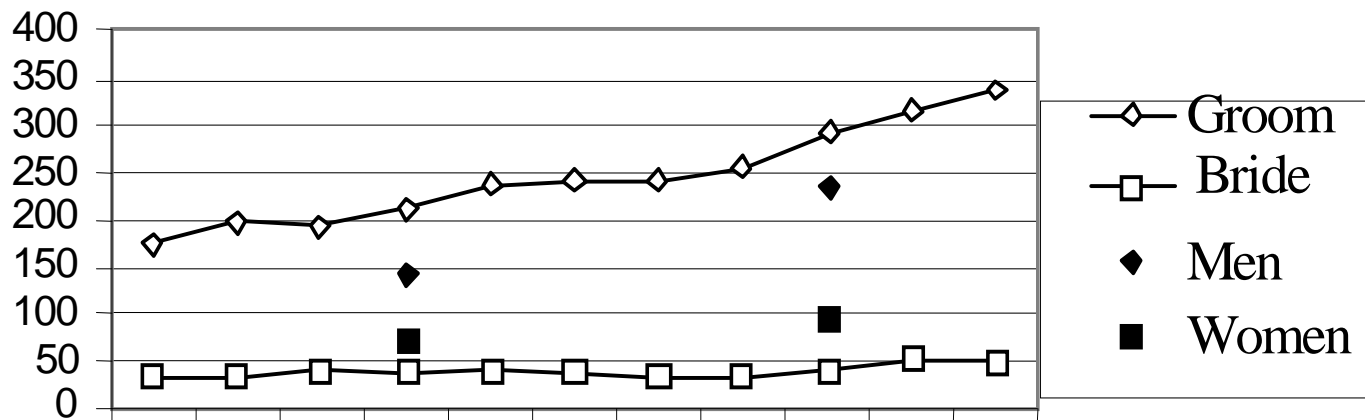
- **For Belgium: rehabilitation of Population census over Industrial Census with high degree of underregistration**
- **High underregistration earlier attempts to estimate P and T from S in IC → underreg. Total labour force**

Prospects 1 for future research

- **Extension in time (early modern period), space (Asia, LA), Fully comparable fine grained coding**
- **Descriptive and explanatory models of:**
- **Complexity**
Specialisation
Hierarchy
Stages of growth
Evolution of class structure

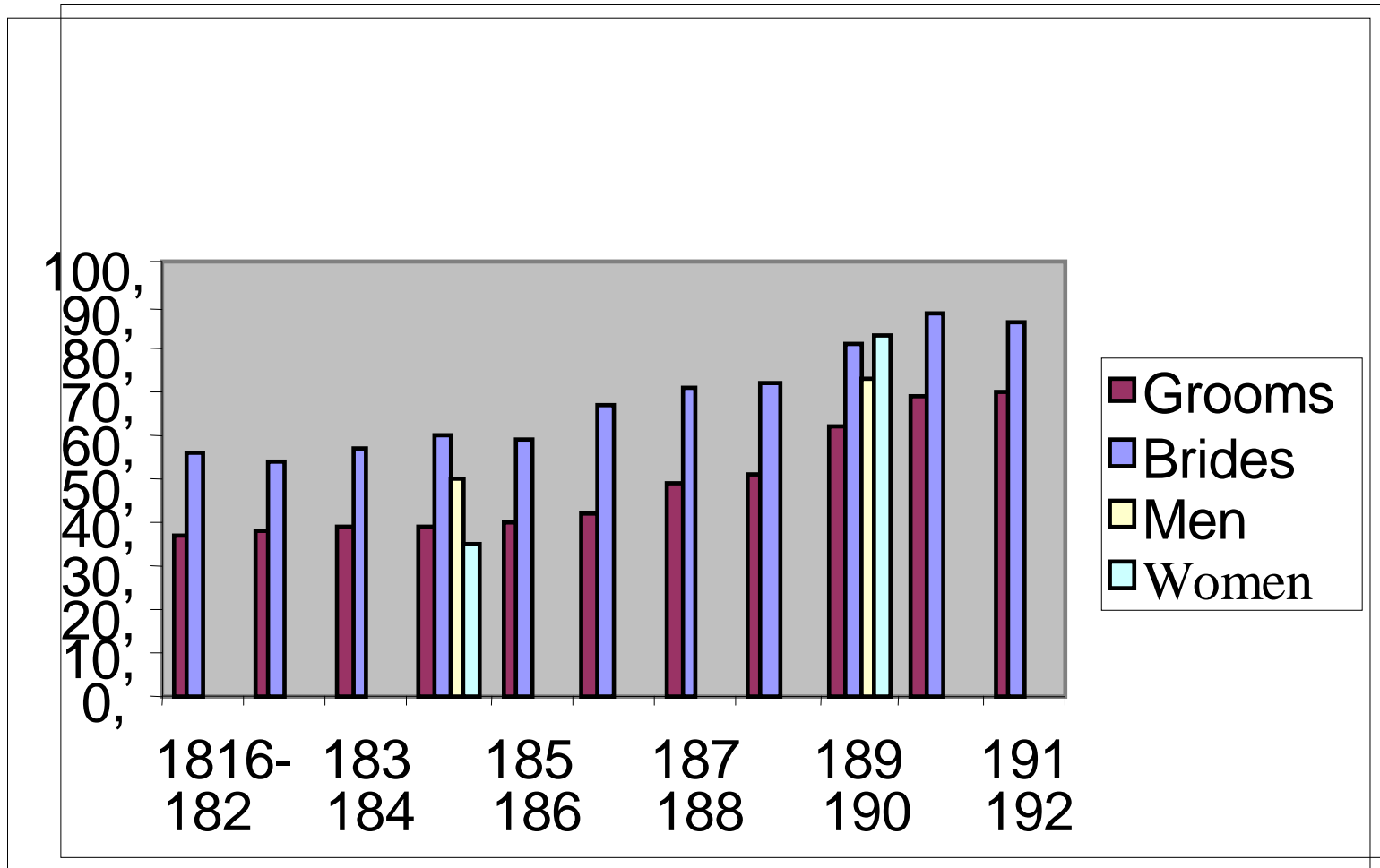
Prospects 2: Measuring complexity

Number of different HISCO-groups in marriage acts and census, province of Zeeland 1816-1922



Prospects 3 Measuring Specialization

Number of specialized occupations in marriage acts and census in Zeeland
1816-1922



Prospects 4 Capturing changes in class structure)

Zeeland marriage acts 1816-1922 according to HISCLASS

