Long-term human capital formation in Spain at the Regional level and Economic Growth
Èric Gómez-i-Aznar - Universitat de Barcelona
e Gomezaz7@alumnes.ub.edu

Motivation

1. Improve our knowledge of human capital formation in Spain in the long term.
   • Construction of new databases at a regional level of human capital indicators (alternative to literacy).

2. Assess whether human capital had an impact on regional economic growth.
   • Did accumulation of human capital play a role in explaining the diverse regional trajectories during the early stages of economic growth in Spain?

Methodology and Data

• A new dataset of Age Heaping for Spain in the Modern Era, the Padrón (without biases).
• The Padrón allows to analyse Age Heaping of municipalities and differentiated by gender and occupation, and its subsequent evolution in some cases.
• Numeracy values in 6 Catalan cities between 1570 and 1780:
  • Vilafranca del Penedès (1634),
  • Badalona (1717),
  • Puigcerdà (1722),
  • Vilanova i la Geltrú (1723),
  • Girona (1787),
  • Guimerà (1800).
• Book production between 1472 and 1800.

Results

ABCC trends of traits by birth decades. 1730-1760

Conclusions

Conclusions from the initial analysis of the promising results extracted from the Padrón:

1. Property rights and the unequal opportunities exerted a large negative influence on educational attainments in pre-industrial Spain.
2. But the incentives to acquire numeracy skills grew when the possibilities of upward mobility were existent.
3. The guilds and the household were a structure to access to education and the knowledge skills.

Literature Review

Previous estimations of human capital.

Literacy
• Núñez, 1992: The stock of human capital in each province is proxied by data on literacy rates since 1860. Educational levels according remained low.

Numeracy
• Manzel, 2009: Whipple Indices in Spanish Provinces between 1830 and 1900 (Censuses of Population 1900, 1930 and 1940).
• Juif and Baten, 2011: numeracy trends in various Spanish samples between 1609-1730.

Acknowledgements

I thank Miguel Gutiérrez-Poch and Julio Martínez Galán egregious for their guidance and encouragement.