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Long-term human capital formation in Spain at the Regional level and Economic Growth

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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?

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

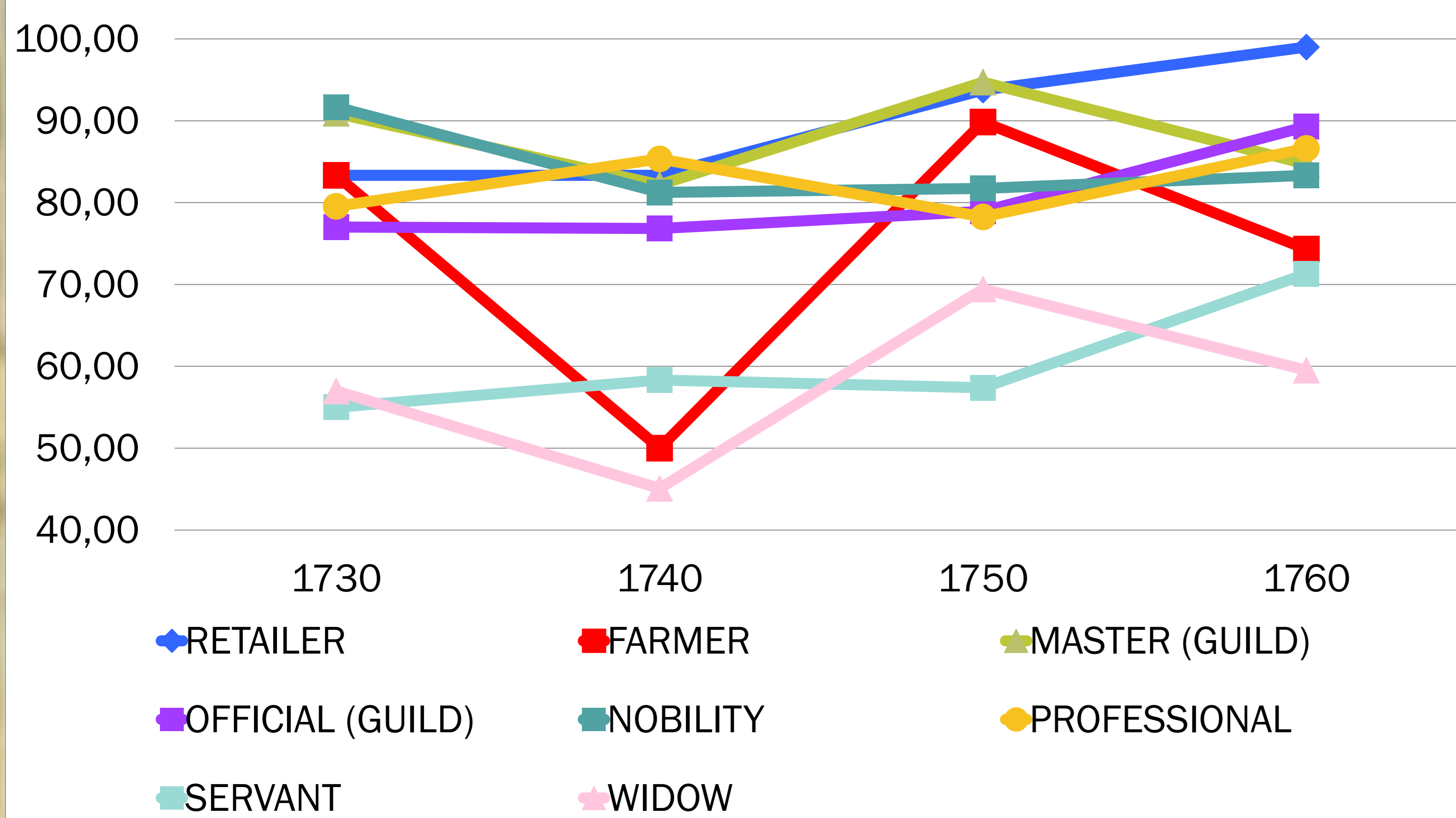
- Manzel, 2009: Whipple Indices in Spanish Provinces between 1830 and 1900 (Censuses of Population 1900, 1930 and 1940).
- Juif and Baten, 2011: numeracy trends in various Spanish samples between 1609-1730.

Methodology and Data

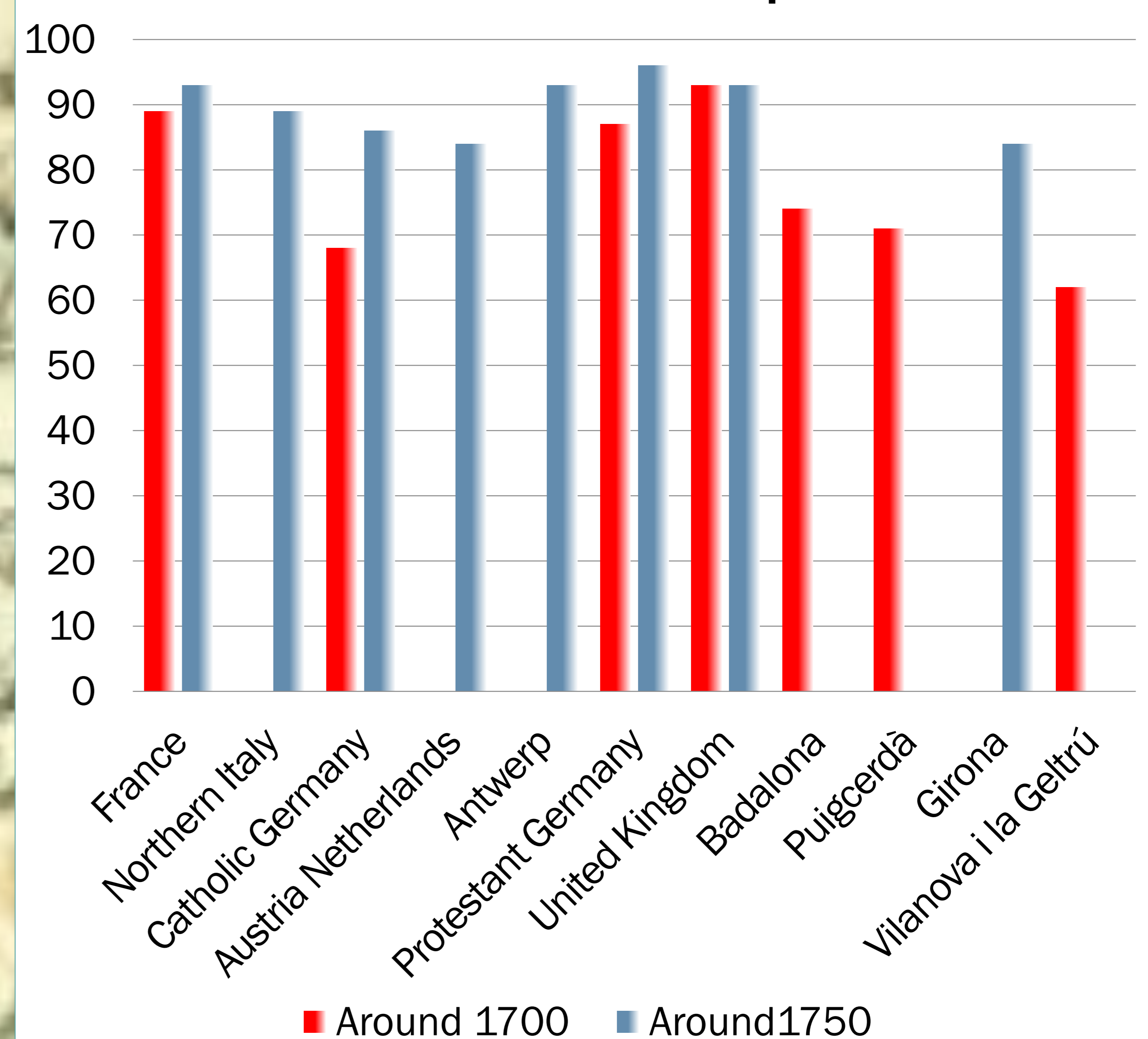
- A new dataset of Age Heaping for Spain in the Modern Era, the **Padrón** (without biases).
- The **Padrón** allows to analyse Age Heaping of municipalities and differentiated by gender and occupation, and its subsequent evolution in some cases.
- Numeracy values in 6 Catalan cities between 1570 and 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



International comparison



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.

References

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