(Re)definition of family configurations after divorce*

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(Re)definition of family configurations after divorce*

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Introduction

Divorce Laws in Spain:
- Second Republic (1936)
- Divorce Law 1981 (bi-stages of legal process),
- Reform in 2005 (divorce express)

Our previous work on marriage breakdown in Spain and Catalonia:
- Population Censuses
- Sentences of divorce (since 1996)
- Biographical Surveys (ESD, 1991; FFS, 1996)
  - Application of Event History Analysis, timing of the events, and establishing the determinants factors.
Qualitative study

Current Research Project:

*Family trajectories after divorce.*
*Gender, kinship and territory.*

Work in progress:

*Atlas of divorce of post-divorce indicators.*
*Qualitative study on post-divorce trajectories.*
Objective

The main objective of this research is to study the new unions and new maternities and paternities and how they are placed alongside the previous relationship in the context of meeting the emotional needs and family configuration after divorce, from a gender perspective.
Research Questions

Families and links:
What is the family for our biographers? What involves the emotional ties?
How are the emotional ties in this modern society named?

Gender and power:
What is the degree of empowerment of men and women in the break-up process and the subsequent biography? Is it easy to carry out such a decision?

Post-divorce trajectories:
What is the role of fathers and mothers regarding their children from previous relationship(s)? Are fathers dispensable and mothers indispensable?
Research design

The sample: 13 men and 13 women derived from the pre-divorce trajectory:

- time since the end of the broken union: between 3 and 15 years before the interview;
- having had at least one child in the broken union;
- living in a metropolitan area of Spain (Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia, Seville);
- belonging to the birth cohorts born: between January 1, 1948 and December 31, 1968 (ie they are 40 to 60 years old at the time of interview).
The interviewed and the context

Divorce law

Divorce Law Reform

The survey

Union disruption

Generations 1948-1968

Survey data:
- Diamonds represent 1948-1968 generations, with the x-axis ranging from 0 to 60, and the y-axis ranging from 0 to 60.
- The diagram illustrates the timeline of divorce law reform and the impact on union disruption and the survey data across different generations.

Timeline:
- 1940
- 1948
- 1950
- 1960
- 1968
- 1970
- 1980
- 2000
- 2008

Generations:
- 1948-1968
A Guide for the interview

- Tell me about your own family
- Tell me how did you live the union break-up process
- How have things gone after breaking-up?
- How do you feel about your present situation?
- Do you think men and women follow different paths after they have broken-up?
Research design

During the interview, we used on top of the five questions three other additional resources:

1) the diagram drawing family relationships and emotional ties
2) multiple biography lifelines and
3) a game of words.
Example 1: Family configurations

Angela (1951, 1 daughter and 1 son)
Example 2: Family configurations

Joan Miquel (1958, 1 daughter)
Example: Life’s lines (family biography and linked ones)

Gradiva (1955, 1 daughter)
Research design

How to analyse narratives of family trajectories after divorce?

Narratives:

- to know the importance given by biographers to the events occurring throughout their biographies (family and other linked ones);
- to identify biographical turning points;
- To give sense to the superposition of multiple biographies which define interrelated times.

It is crucial to analyse the graphic material.
Research design

How to analyse narratives with a thematic perspective?

(Renouncing to the analysis of the meaning of each of the 26 biographies)

Interviews entirely transcribed, using a textual analysis programme, useful for both the coding and analysis of narratives.

Example. Reconstruction of motherhood and fatherhood in 5 dimensions:

1. Bond – Priority for women; duty for men.
2. Break-up – Mother does not relinquish to the bond; Father does.
3. Mothering/fathering – Mother is present; father is absent.
4. New unions – For mothers, the care of children makes it more difficult to build new partnerships; for fathers compatibility between a new partner and children from former relationship.
5. New fatherhoods/motherhoods – New fatherhoods desired; new motherhoods unfeasible.
Bonds.  Children have a central role (128) codis

Break-up.  Father beaks (36)

Break-up.  Mother does not (76)

Mothering/fathering.  Father not present (38)

Mothering/fathering.  Mother present (127)

New unions.  Fathers
Compatibility between new partner and former children (24)

New unions.  Mothers
Unhappy marriage children and new partner (61)

New motherhood/fatherhood
Desired paternity (17)

New motherhood/fatherhood
Maternity not feasible (7)
Results and discussion

The long process of union dissolution

Family biography (reconstructing motherhood/fatherhood after divorce)

Linked biographies

A broader family after divorce
TIPOLOGY 1
Ángela (1951, 1 daughter and 1 son)

TIPOLOGY 2
Alejandra, 1966, 1 son)

TIPOLOGY 3
Andreu (1956, 2 daughters)

TIPOLOGY 4
Júlia (1958, 1 son)
Exemple 3: Family configurations.

Eva (1947, 2 sons)
Our overall study premise

Divorce reveals the true nature of marriage

Firstly,
Fatherhood/fathering and motherhood/mothering
after divorce
reproduces pre-existent parental roles

Secondly,
Mothering is assumed to be an obligation, a duty,
while fathering is more of a question of choice.
To be continued:

Post-divorce and vulnerability
in two dimensions:
Health and economic domain
and to promote
dialogue between men and women
Thank you very much