

SURVEY OF HISTORICAL DATABASES WITH LONGITUDINAL MICRO-DATA

For more information about this questionnaire or questions about entering specific information, please mail George Alter (alter@indiana.edu) and/or Kees Mandemakers (kma@iisg.nl).

1/ Identifying information

Name of database:	Geneva Database
Location:	Département d'histoire économique et sociale
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2/ Main objective and scope of the database:

Exploring structures, dynamics and heterogeneity of populations living in Geneva – the "Calvinist Rome" - between 1816 and 1850, i.e. when the city became the heart of a religiously mixed canton and hesitated between ancien regime and modernization. During that period, precocious neo-Malthusian practices coexisted with a traditional Malthusian system of late marriage and high level of final celibacy. The latter had their origins largely in migration flows that affected the matrimonial market and linked the labour market to a complex demographic system.

3/ Sources: Please enter Yes or No and the time period for the main sources included in the database

Yes/no	Start year	End year	Type of source	Comments
Y/N			Baptisms	
Y/N			Marriages from church registers	
Y/N			Burials	
Y/N			Population registers (continuous) maintained by a church	
Yes	1816	1850	Civil birth certificates	Not totally reliable
Yes	1800	1880	Civil marriage certificates	
Yes	1816	1850	Civil death certificates	
Y/N			Civil population registers	

Yes	1816	1843	Census	
Y/N			Nominative lists	
Y/N			Other:	
Y/N			Other:	
Y/N			Other:	

4/ How was the sample (or samples) defined?

In all the sources, we selected the persons with a family name beginning by the letter B. In a second time, we linked the information present in the various files to reconstruct life courses.

As far as the censuses were concerned, we in fact took all the household members when one member (or the head or someone with a kin ties to the head) had a name beginning by the letter B.

5/ Units of observation:

Please enter Y or N for each unit that can be followed over time

		Comments:
Yes	Individuals	Date of birth, origin, place of birth, occupations, address
Yes	Married couples	Date of marriage, parents names, occupation, origin
Y/N	Families	
Yes	Households	With relationships on all people living inside the household
Y/N	Farms	
Y/N	Other:	
Y/N	Other:	
Y/N	Other:	

6/ Describe the geographic area under observation

City of Geneva within the walls.

7/ Is information available about related individuals who are not in the sample?

Examples:

Marriage registers often include occupations of parents.
The census sample may include everyone in the household of an individual in the sample.

Everyone in the household is included (not only the “B”)

8/ What events can be identified? Do events have dates?

Y/N	Event	Are these events dated? Y/N/P(= partial dates, e.g. year only)	
yes	Birth	P	Comment: sometimes, there is only the age or years only
yes	Marriage	Yes	Comment:
yes	Death	Yes	Comment: the hospital for old people was outside the city; so probably underestimation.
yes	Migration	P	Comment: we started to collect passports, but this is not finished. But we systematically identified those who didn't die between two census and were no more present at the next census.
Y/N	Widowhood	Yes	Comment: trough direct observations and interpolations.
Y/N	Other:	Y/N/P	Comment:
Y/N	Other:	Y/N/P	Comment:

9/ These questions describe the way observation is censored.

A) How do individuals enter observation?

By birth in the city of Geneva 1816-1850, or by presence at one census (1816, 1822, 1828, 1831, 1837, 1843)

B) How do individuals leave observation?

Death in the city of Geneva or absent at the next census (open interval after 1843).

C) Are some entry or exit dates unknown?		
Yes, migrations dates and sometimes death. They can be approximated using the censuses.		
D) Are some entries or exits interval censored (i.e. the exact date is unknown, but it can be located between two known dates)?		
Yes, most events between two censuses (marriage, widowhood, exit, etc.).		
10/ Residence and Household (Y/N/Partly)		
Yes*	Can observations be linked to residential locations?	
no	Are the dates and locations of movements within the observation area recorded?	
Yes**	Are all individuals who lived in the households of members of the sample recorded?	
* = sometimes there is the floor		
** = we took all the individuals in the household with however one big exception, when the sample member was a servant in a household where nobody else was an household member. This rule is just justified because otherwise the work was excessive.		
11/ Kinship relations		
A) How is kinship recorded in the sources?		
Variable		
B) How deep (number of generations) is the available kinship information?		
Sometimes 3 (experience on marriage certificates).		
12/ Linkage		
Which sources and units of observation have been linked?		
	Y/N/Partly	Comments:
Births/Baptisms	partly	
Marriages	yes	
Deaths/Burials	partly	Reliable for the sample but the case of the hospital for old people and perhaps some children wet-nursed and dying in the countryside.

Population registers	Y/N/P	
Census	yes	
Nominative lists	Y/N/P	
Other: passports	partly	Information about departure date
Other:	Y/N/P	
Other:	Y/N/P	
Other:	Y/N/P	

How is linkage represented in the database? For example, do all occurrences of an individual include a universal identification number? Are records linked to each other but not to a universal ID?

all occurrences of an individual include a universal identification number

13 / What data structures have been added to the information in the sources?

		Comments:
Yes	Date of entry and date of exit by individual	Approximated
Yes	Events by individual	Widowhood for example
Yes	Time constant information (date of birth, sex, etc.) by individual	Date of birth has been approximated from age.
Yes	Husband-Wife pairs	
Yes	Mother-child and Father-child pairs	But step-relations are problematic.
Y/N	Other:	
Y/N	Other:	
Y/N	Other:	
Y/N	Other:	

14/ What reference/coding systems have been linked to the data?

Yes	Occupational titles (like HISCO): more or less the Philadelphia Social History Project structure for the social status and a code of our own for activity branches.
Yes	Locations (including geo-referenced systems): self-code on origin place + a dictionary of places of origin with religious and linguistic identities.
Yes	Other (religion, civil status etc.): indeed for religion and civil status

Yes	Other: code for streets and arrondissements.
Yes	Other: Laslett code of household type; a typology of solitude ; a typology of sibling groups.
Y/N	Other:
<p>15/ Have you developed any software for analysis or data extracting? Please describe the capabilities and outputs of these programs.</p>	
<p>We have some 40 programmes in clipper, one set for preparing the data, another one for exploitation and production of results.</p>	