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Recent Work in
Belgian Historical Demography
19th and early 20th centuries

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[309] Preface

[311-346] Muriel Neven and Isabelle Devos, *Breaking stereotypes. Historical demography in Belgium since 1981 (19th and early 20th centuries)*_____

The introductory article of this special issue presents the main research results and trends in Belgian historical demography of the past two decades. Belgian researchers have displayed great dynamism and have broken down many stereotypes. Their attempts have been original thanks to the particularity of their sources, they have searched for methodological innovation and have challenged traditional ideas.

[347-369] Isabelle Devos, *Selective bibliography of Belgian historical demography, 1981-2001 (19th and early 20th centuries)* _____

[371-401] Jan Van Bavel, *Malthusian sinners: illegitimate fertility and early marriage in times of economic crisis. A case study in Leuven, 1846-1856*_____

This article focuses on nineteenth century women that broke Malthusian principles by getting pregnant out of wedlock and by marrying early. It starts from the common denominator in scholarly debate, which associates sexual intercourse of single young women with proletarian living and working conditions, isolation from the family of origin, and migration. The Belgian population registers allow to shed more empirical light on the effects of living conditions. The findings incite to have a closer look at the structure of the marriage market in order to explain illegitimacy and bridal pregnancy.

[SAMENVATTING 398 | RÉSUMÉ 400]

[403-429] Thierry Eggerickx, *The fertility decline in the industrial area of Charleroi during the second half of the 19th century. Did sedentary and migrant people have a different behaviour?* _____

The aim of this analysis is to compare the fertility strategies adopted by migrant and sedentary couples in the industrial crisis context of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. What was their level of fertility before, during and after of the period of the industrial crisis? Who were the forerunners of the fertility decline? And when the decline started, were the control strategies of these two populations the same?

[SAMENVATTING 428 | RÉSUMÉ 429]

[431-452] Katleen Dillen, *From one textile center to another: migrations from the district of Ghent to the city of Armentières (France) during the second half of the 19th century* _____

This article studies the reasons for the inhabitants of the district of Ghent to migrate. Is it correct to consider migration as a survival strategy? What was the impact of industrialisation on migration? To answer these questions migrations figures are examined in full

detail. This macro analysis is completed by a micro study of 280 families who left Ghent for Armentières and permits to reconstruct the itineraries and to examine family ties within the sample.

[SAMENVATTING 449 | RÉSUMÉ 451]

[453-495] Michel Oris and George Alter, *Paths to the city and roads to death: Mortality and migration in East Belgium during the industrial revolution*

We offer an interpretation of the migration-mortality complex in the nineteenth century at the time that the population was escaping from the grip of hunger and recurrent famines. This study uses results from several case studies, based on both aggregate statistics and cross-sectional analyses of nominal data. In addition, we present some original multivariate longitudinal analyses from Belgian population registers, which are famous for their precise recording of migratory movements. Results destroy or nuance many stereotypes about migrants, mobility and mortality among the nineteenth century industrial populations, stressing the importance of selection processes and family dynamics.

[SAMENVATTING 492 | RÉSUMÉ 494]

[497-527] Marc Debuissou, *The decline of infant mortality in the Belgian districts at the turn of the 20th century*

This analysis studies the decrease of infant mortality in Belgium at the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. In a cluster analysis Belgian districts are grouped together according to the level of infant mortality and the rhythm of decline. These results are confronted with contemporary literature, in particular with medical commission reports. It appears that the spread of the basic principles of child care, through the creation of infant dispensaries, played an important role around World War I.

[SAMENVATTING 526 | RÉSUMÉ 527]

[529-556] Jeroen Backs, *Mortality in Ghent, 1850-1950. A social analysis of death*

Is death unjust? Do rich people live longer than poor people? Research for the city of Ghent has succeeded in eluding this issue. During the nineteenth and twentieth century there was an important social differentiation of death. This inequality increased until the beginning of the past century, due to a growing infant and child mortality caused by bad feeding habits and a widespread use of child labour.

[SAMENVATTING 555 | RÉSUMÉ 556]

[557-578] Anouk Devrieze and Eric Vanhaute, *Working-class girls. The life-courses of 33 women cotton workers in Ghent, around 1900*

In this article we examine some of the possibilities of life course research. We trace the lives and careers of 33 female textile labourers from Ghent, using population registers and wage books. Our research results are confronted with a number of practical difficulties this method entails.

[SAMENVATTING 577 | RÉSUMÉ 578]

[579-619] Bart Van de Putte and Koen Matthijs, *Romantic love and marriage. A study of age homogamy in 19th century Leuven*

The aim of this article is to explore the relation between age homogamy and the increasing importance of romantic love, using the certificates of first marriages in nineteenth century Leuven. Alternative explanations of age homogamy are evaluated. Also the methodological consequences of the historical decline of the age-at-marriage are taken into account. The results of the analysis show that especially the cultural middle class has an increasing preference for same age partners, which can be linked with the growing importance of romantic love during the second half of the nineteenth century.

[SAMENVATTING 616 | RÉSUMÉ 618]

[621-647] Paul Servais, *The Church and the family in Belgium, 1850-1914*

The Catholic Church has played an essential role in the evolution of the Western family. The Council of Trent seems to mark a culmination. Yet the nineteenth century called whole sections of the Church's doctrine in matrimonial matters into question, while modifications in society drove it to transform its approach to the familial system. This evolution between 1850 and 1914 is analysed in three steps: doctrinal and moral positions, episcopal declarations and propositions and moral education manuals.

[SAMENVATTING 644 | RÉSUMÉ 646]

[649] Inhoud – Sommaire – Contents XXXI, 2001

