



Social exclusion, endogamy, and occupational transmission. The Mallorcan *xuetes* (ca. 1770-1930)

*Exclusión social, endogamia y transmisión ocupacional.
Los *xuetes* mallorquines (ca. 1770-1930)*

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ANALYTICAL SUMMARY

We analyse the socio-professional specialisation of a group that was marginalised because of its ancestry, as descendants of Jewish converts: the *xuetes*. Their marginalisation only affected those who bore fifteen surnames, which coincided with those of the last people condemned by the Inquisition. As a result, because of their lineage, they were forbidden during the Old Regime from holding many offices and posts. In practice, they were only allowed to access the guilds of silversmiths, merchants and velvet workers or silk dealers. As has occurred throughout history with other ethnic and religious minorities, this exclusion forms the basis for their professional specialisation. A question we also link to their endogamous and kin relationships, the use of common codes of conduct and the establishing of networks of solidarity and trust.

Theoretically, the publication from the late 18th century on of successive regulations prohibiting their discrimination, the promulgation of the 1812 Constitution, the triumph of liberal legislation after 1830 and the subsequent alteration of the political and economic model should have put an end to this discrimination. However, the occupational specialisation and generational transmission of professional skills was maintained. This persistence is confirmed in this article through different types of documentary sources (population registers, lists of guild members, industrial registrations, etc.) which have been organised for different historical periods, according to the PSTI International Classification. This method facilitates comparison with other geographical areas and other marginalised groups, and at the same time enables us to conclude that the *xueta* contribution in the form of human capital was especially relevant in commerce in general, cloth sales in particular, and different trades related to metal.

From a different perspective, the crossover of nominal sources with tax rates have revealed the economic and social heterogeneity of the group studied. In particular, the control of the majority of the wealth by a small number of families. In the final stage of the Old Regime, they formed a parallel elite to the actual nobility. In spite of their origin, they enjoyed greater social recognition and combined the exercise of wholesale and retail commerce with the possession or leasing of large estates, the ownership of urban assets and lending. For them, the triumph of the Liberal State was particularly transcendental. On the one hand, because it allowed them to access secondary and higher education in the same conditions as the rest of the population. And on the other hand, because of their rates of taxation, they were now able to participate in political life and take part in some of the island's main modernising projects, along with the bourgeoisie per se.