



## ABSTRACT

### Characterizing human capital in Spain from a regional perspective

(1850-1900)

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**Abstract:**

Human capital is one of the most important research fields in economics. Although there have been many successful attempts to link human capital with development and economic growth (Romer, 1986; Lucas, 1988), some authors have suggested that human capital may be composed by different levels, each of them implying different types of knowledge (Mokyr, 2005). Considering these premises, it is clear that the study of the progressive implantation of different levels of education may allow for a better understanding of the paths of economic development. However, many of the features of a country's trajectory of growth stand out for their pronounced regional character (Williamson, 1965). In this regard, it seems advisable to insert the question of human capital within the body of literature that has analysed the characteristics of Spanish economic growth and its inequalities from a historical territorial perspective. As Martí-Henneberg and Tirado (2018) point out, our understanding of the sources of economic growth may improve substantially if we consider "a historical analysis of the reasons behind the relative success or failure of different regions within different national and/or supranational contexts".

Using 19<sup>th</sup> century Spain as our time-space framework, this session will show our research plan for answering questions relating the effects of human capital in Spanish economic growth from a historical regional perspective. What was the regional characterization of education before the transition to the liberal state? Did the policies introduced by the liberal state change the regional distribution of educational



performance? Were there regional economic factors affecting the supply/demand of education? Were there any differences across levels? Lastly, we will show our main sources of historical and geographical data: variables of economic performance, cognitive abilities at different levels (municipalities, provinces, regions) and other historical evidence related to the construction of the Spanish education system.

## References

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