

Social Mobility and Industrialization in Milan, 1880-1910: Exploring the Modernization Thesis.

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1. Motivation

- Literature Gap: pronounced lack of evidence before WWII & women's role¹².
- ↑ industrialization in Milan (1880-1910)³⁴.

2. Objectives

- Mobility patterns in Milan (1880-1910),
- Validity of modernization theory.

3. Empirical Strategy

- **Data:** *Portale Antenati & FamilySearch*
 $N = 4,600$ marriage records from 22 Milan municipalities (1880-1910) using HISCO.

Complementary methods:

- Mobility tables & Altham statistics,
- Intergenerational elasticity of occupations,
- OLS to find determinants of upward mobility.

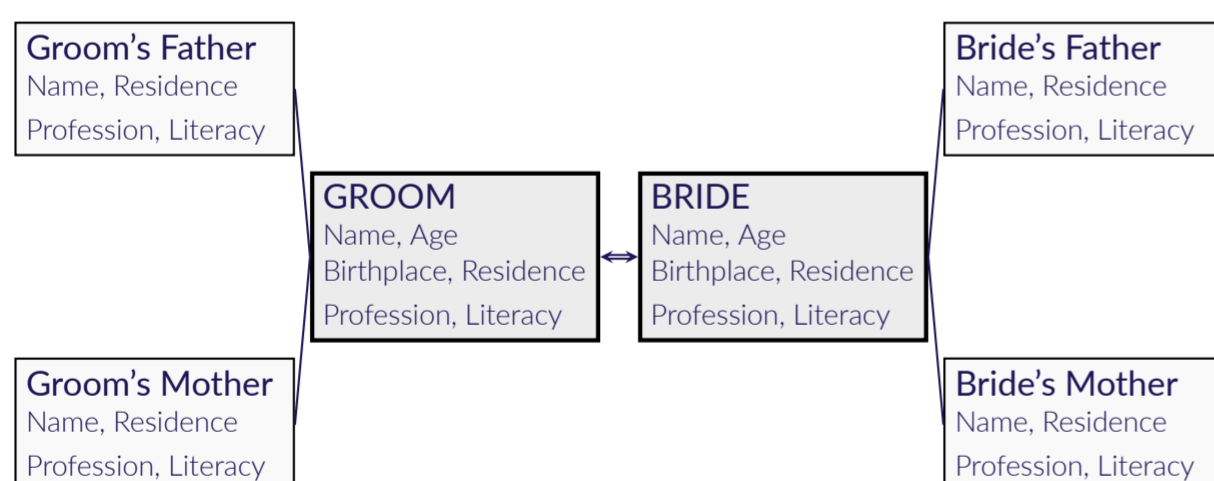
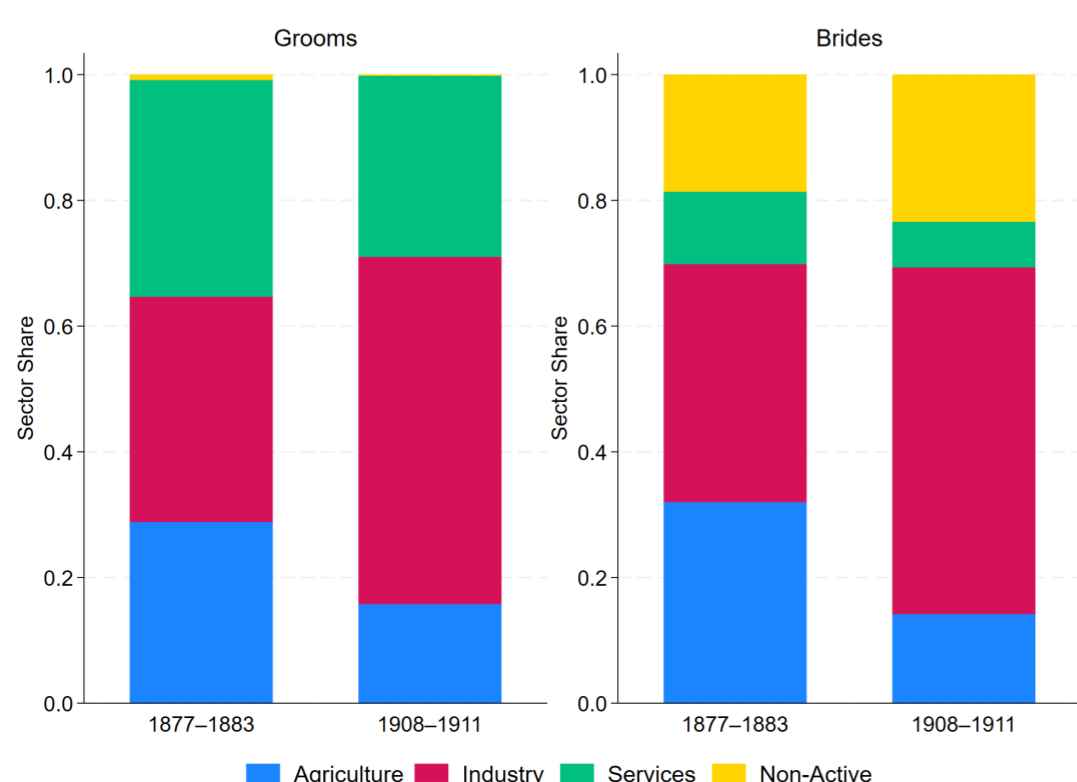


Figure 1. Kinship Diagram: Milan Historical Records.

4. Descriptive Analysis

Figure 2. Sector Distribution: Spouses (Grooms and Brides) in Milan, 1880-1910.



5. Preliminary Findings

Figure 3. Share of Persistence, Upward, and Downward Mobility in Milan, 1880-1910

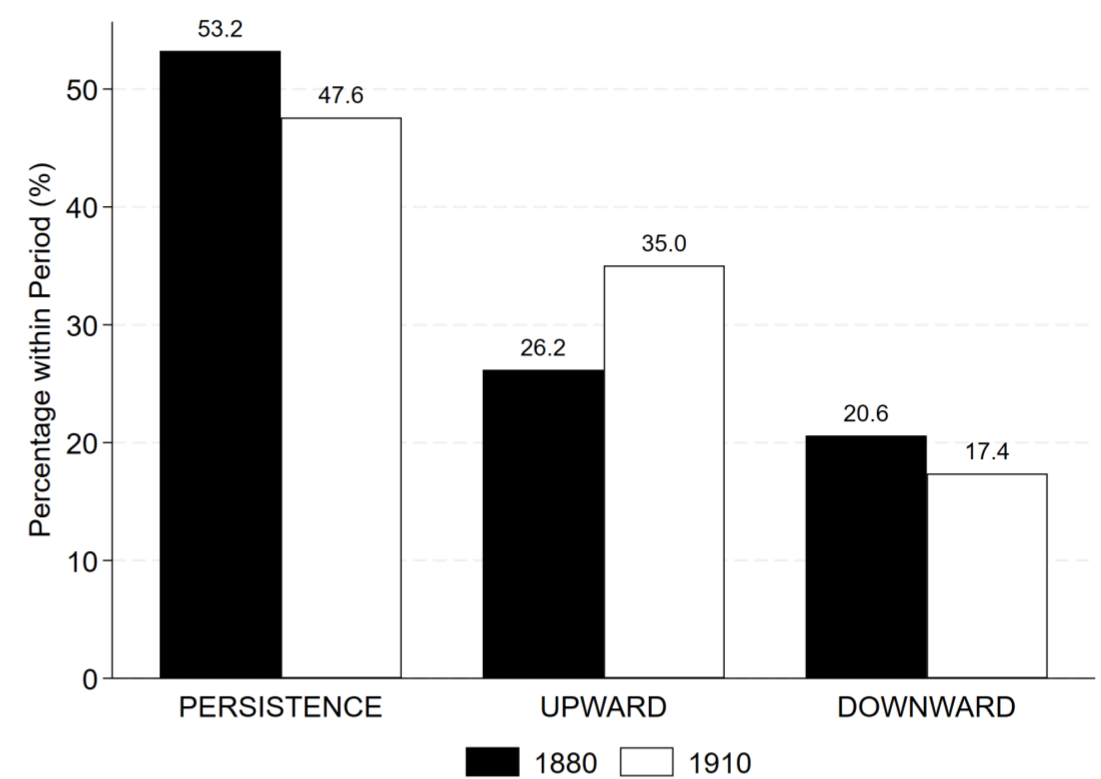
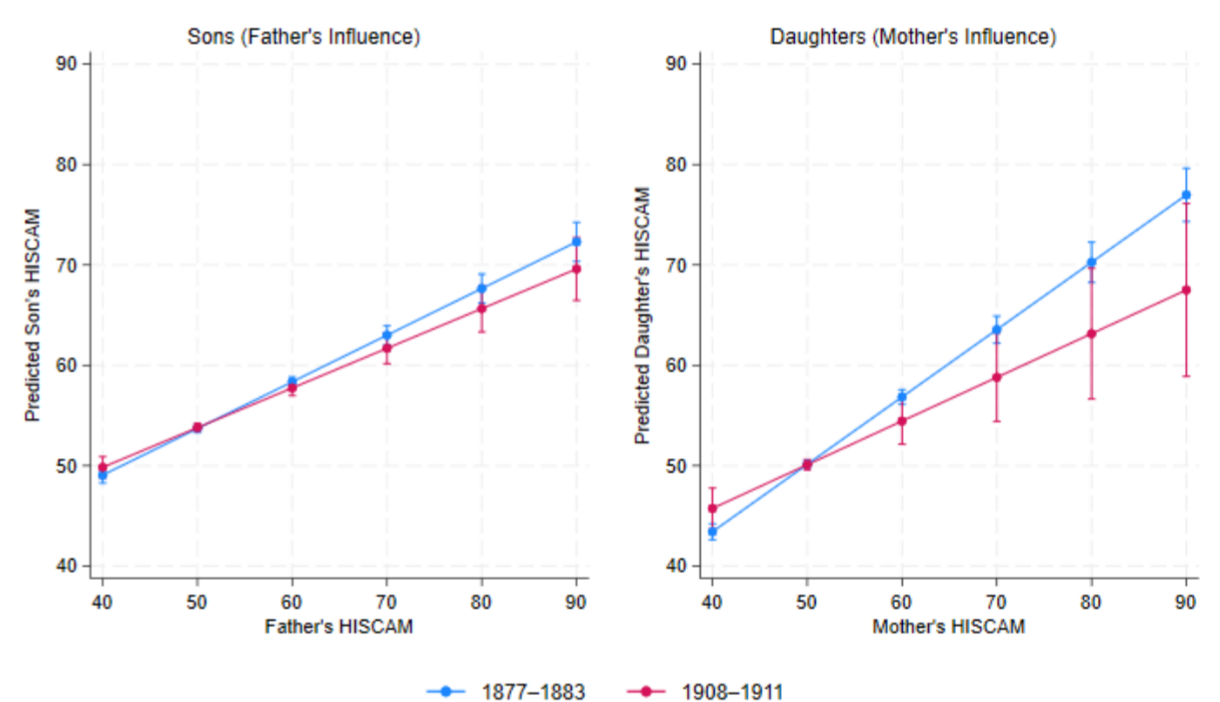


Figure 4. Intergenerational Transmission of Status: 1880 vs 1910



6. Discussion

Complex interplay between **gender & status inheritance**. **Modernization theory only partially supported**.

- **Absolute Mobility** → The lowest occupational stratum contracts substantially.
- **Drivers of Ascent** → Employment in industry/services increase upward mobility.
- **Gender Effects** → Mixed evidence on patterns of women's status over time and sector-specific outcomes.

7. References

- [1] Freschi, G. and Martinez, M. 2024. "Intergenerational mobility in 19th-century Italy: A case study approach". *Rivista di storia economica*, 40, 1, pp. 43-76.
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- [4] Licini, S. 2020. "Women, business, and finance in 19th century Milan". *Journal of Modern Accounting and Auditing*, 16, 3, pp. 117-129.