

# Approaching migrations through family names, the Barcelona Area (1451-1901)

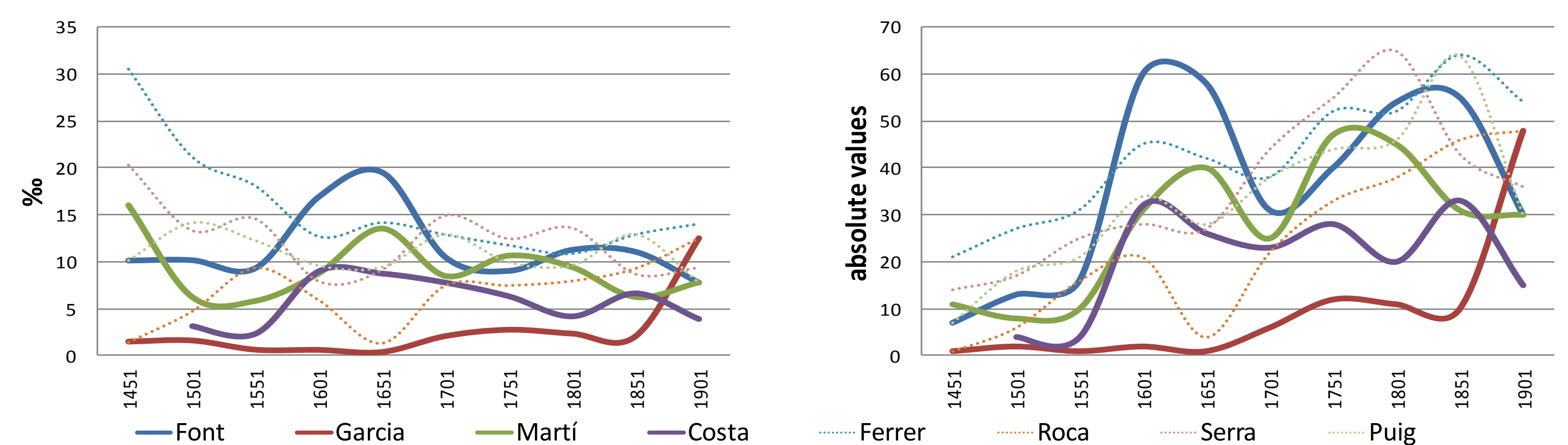
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## FINDINGS

Catalonia has a long history of being a region of immigration. As a consequence of population inflows, new family names were introduced and spread, as reflected by variations in surname frequencies. In this way, we can describe three great migrations flows.

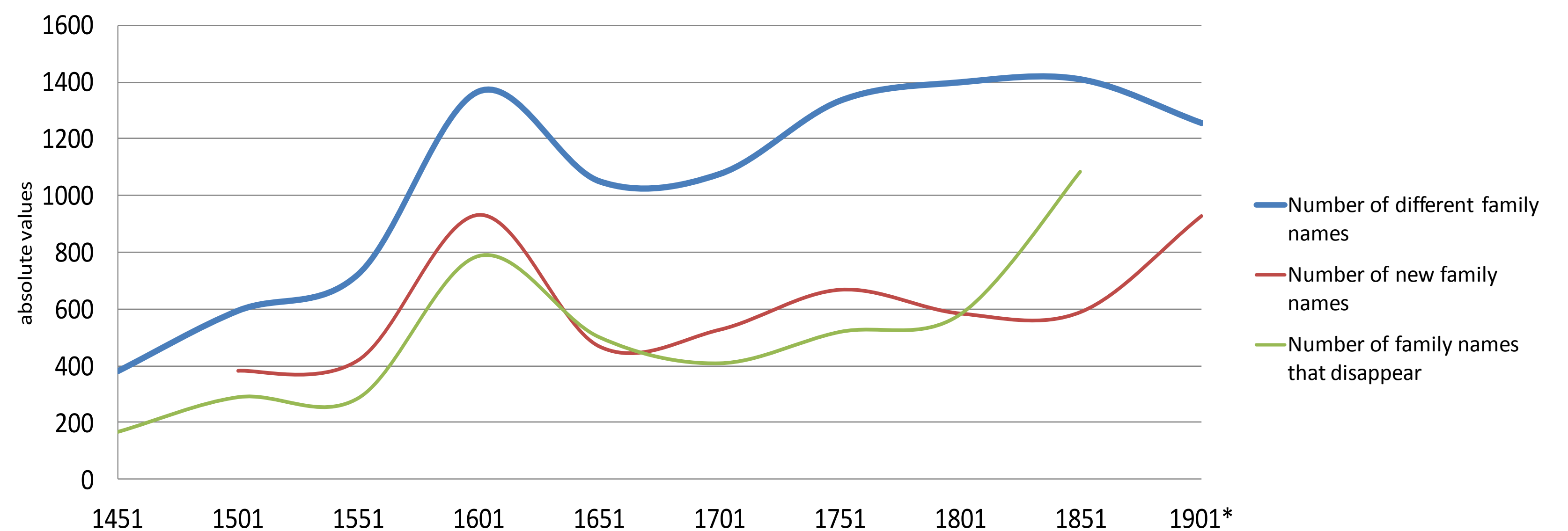
- 1451-1501.** As a result of the *Sentence of Gudalupe* (1486) peasants in Catalonia were released from the manorial system, favoring their mobility.
- 1501-1651.** A huge flow of immigrants from the south of France came to Catalonia among the XVI and XVII centuries, especially to the coastal and urban areas. This mobility influenced the evolution of some Catalan family names, as Costa, Font, Martí or Roca, that increase their frequencies.
- 1801-1901.** In the XIX century, Barcelona was one of the most important industrial regions of Spain. As a result, this area received population from others parts of Spain, introducing new surnames, like García, González, Pérez, or Rodríguez.

## PROGRESS AND CHANGE ON 8 FAMILY NAMES (1451-1901)



Source: Barcelona Historical Marriage Database (BHMD). 1900 is an estimation.  
Selection of family names that experiment more variation in their relative frequencies along the period.

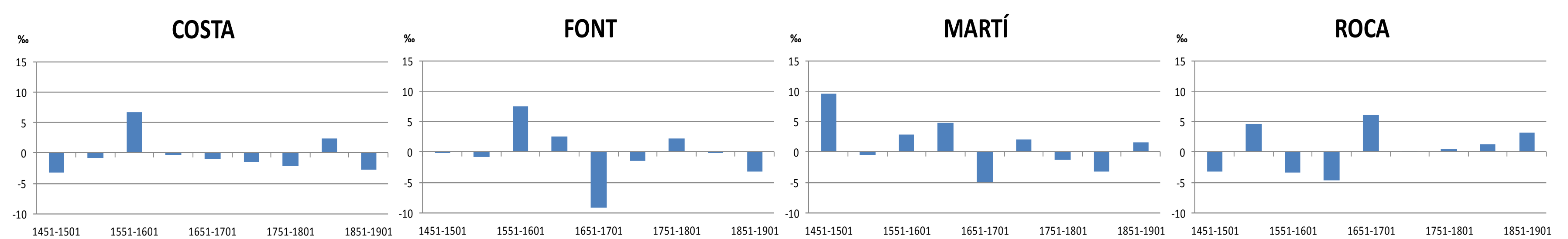
## APPEARANCE, DISAPPEARANCE, NUMBER OF SURNAMES (1451-1901)



Source, Barcelona Historical Marriage Database (BHMD). 1900 is an estimation..

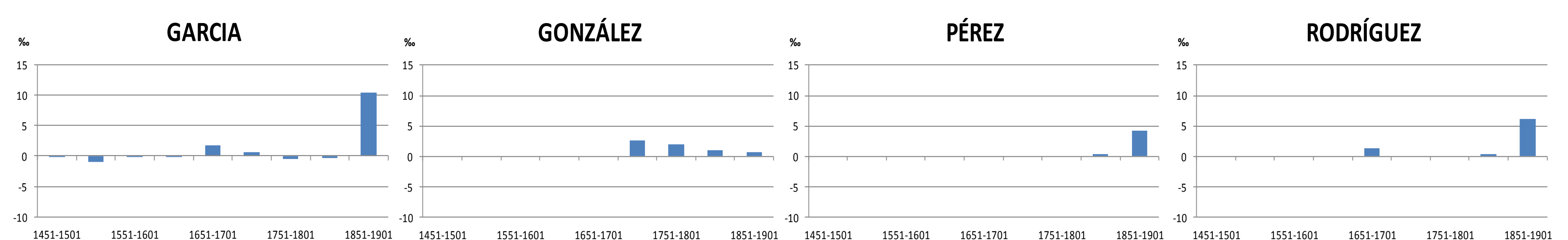
## MIGRATIONS AND FAMILY NAMES

### The influence of French immigration on Catalan surnames (XVI-XVII centuries)



Source, Barcelona Historical Marriage Database (BHMD). 1900 is an estimation.

### Spanish immigration through surnames (XIX century)



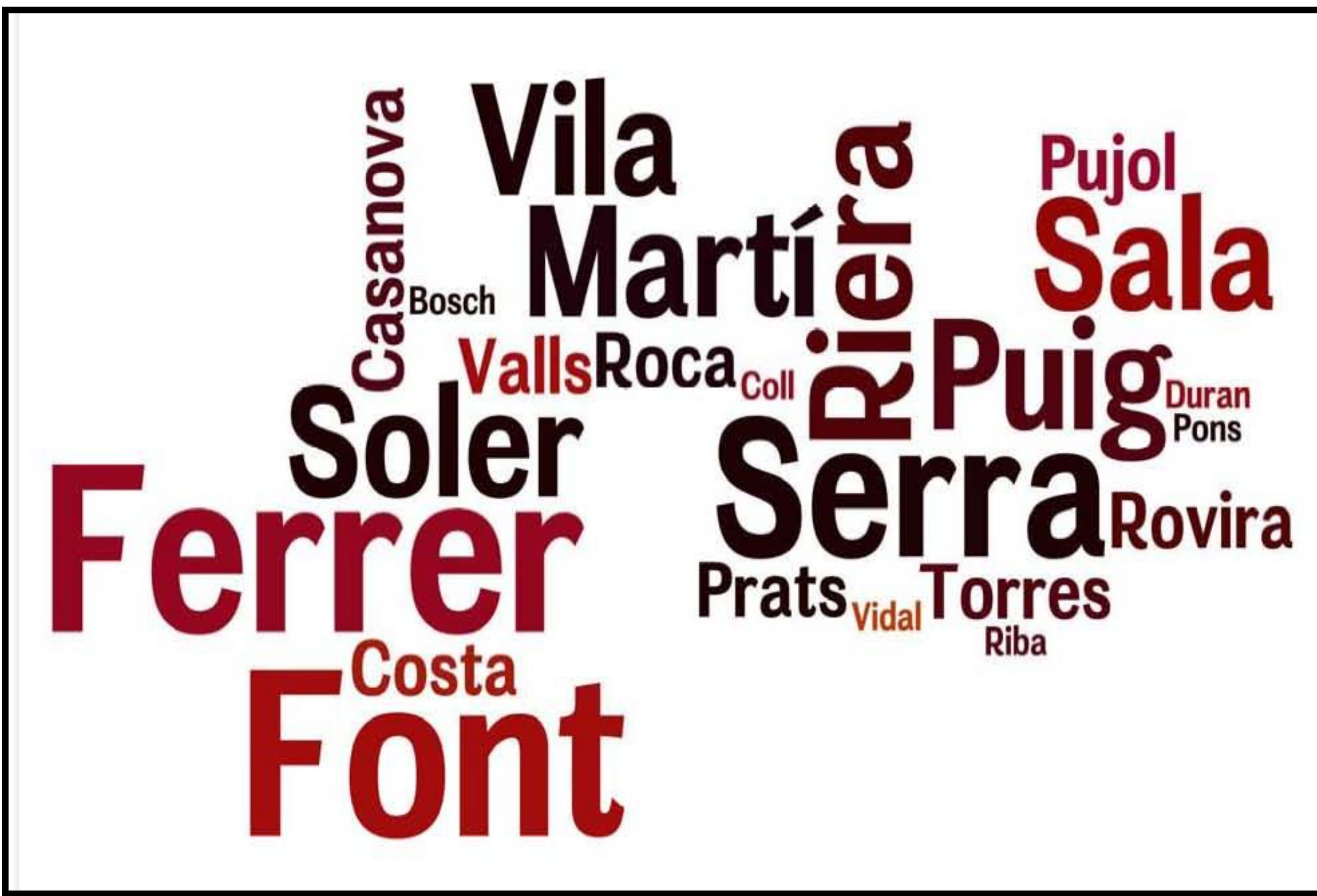
Source, Barcelona Historical Marriage Database (BHMD). 1900 is an estimation.

## DISCUSSION

✓All the important migration flows are reflected in the appearance, disappearance, frequency and number of surnames in the Barcelona area during 1451-1901.

✓French immigration can be detected in the abnormal increase of certain surnames, both in absolute and relative values. The surnames themselves are less explicit, since they did not differ much from Catalan names or adopted Catalan forms or spelling.

✓The parallelism in the appearance and disappearance of surnames during the migratory waves may suggest a substitution effect of the native population, by the migrants, mostly males, in the marriage market.



25 Most common family names (1451-1901).  
Size is proportional to its frequency.

## INTRODUCTION

Due to lack of appropriate registers, migrations are the most difficult demographic phenomena to measure, both in the past and in the present. Family names offer a special source of information for the indirect study of population mobility.

## AIM

We aim to illustrate the potential of family names as a source for the study of migration, focusing on the Barcelona area between 1451 and 1901, using the family names contained in the **Llibres d'Esposalles**.

## THE PROJECT: FIVE CENTURIES OF MARRIAGES

On 1409 Pope Benedict XIII (Pedro Martínez de Luna), visited Barcelona and granted the new Cathedral a tax on marriage licenses (*esposalles*) to be raised on every union celebrated in the Diocese. Between 1451 and 1905, a centralized register, called **Llibres d'Esposalles** recorded more than **700.000** marriages.

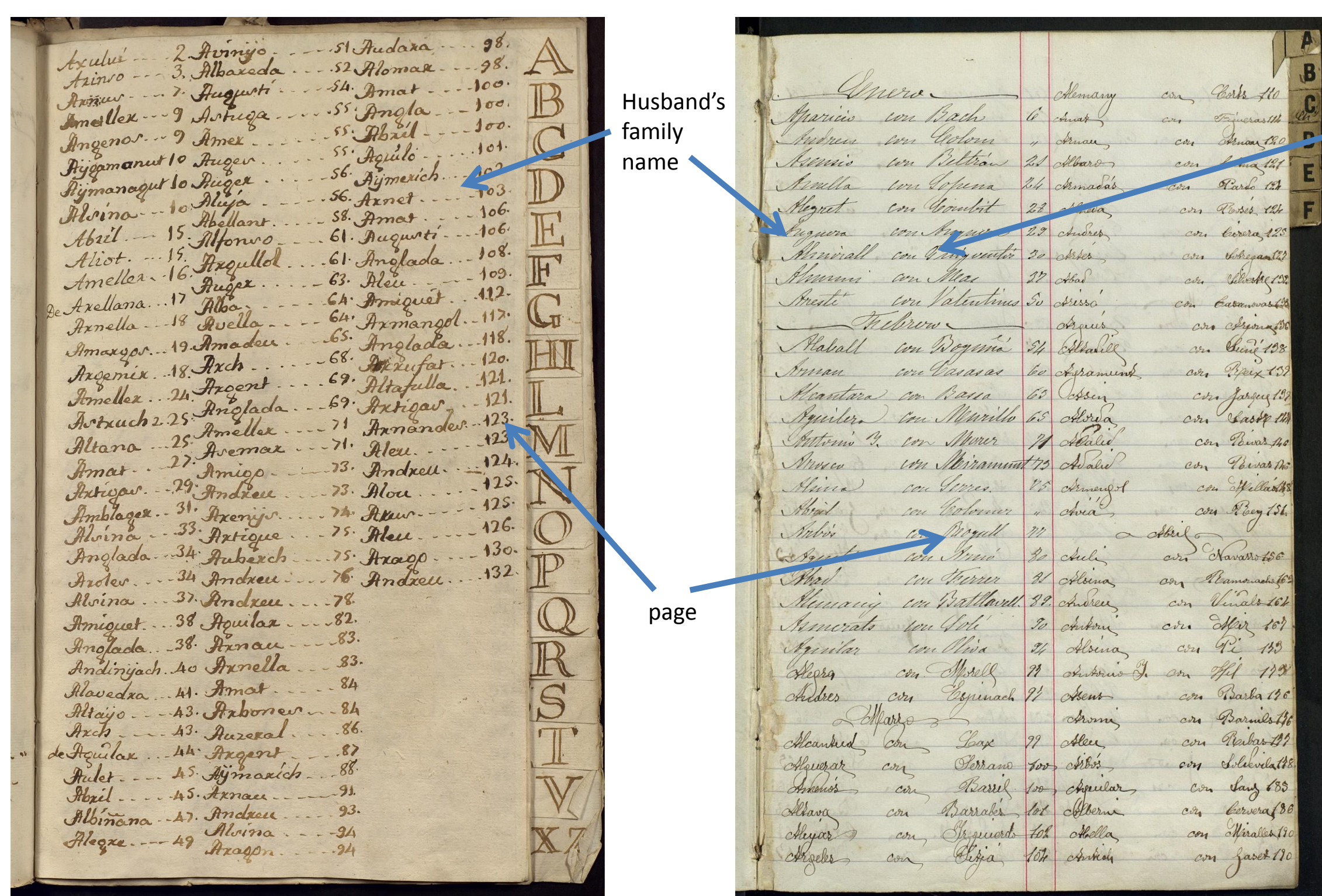
These books are used to construct the **Barcelona Historical Marriage Database (BHMD)** within the **Five Centuries of Marriages project (5CofM)**. This is an Advanced Grand project (2011-2016) directed by Dr. Anna Cabré (CED-UAB) and founded by the European Commission through the IDEAS program of the European Research Council.

## DATA SOURCE: INDEXES OF THE LLIBRES D'ESPOSALLES

At the end of each *Llibre d'Esposalles* there is an index of the family names of every marriage (husband's family names, and depends on the period, also the wife's family names).

1597-1599 (volume 59)

1897 (volume 236)



This poster is founded by the “Five Centuries of Marriages” project (ERC-2010-AdG\_20100407) and the I+D+I project “Matrimonio y posición social en el área de Barcelona, 1451-1905. Construcción de una base de datos y análisis sociodemográfico” Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (SPAIN). Plan Nacional de I+D+I (CSO2010 21300/SOC).