

Risking divorce from the end of the 19th century to nowadays

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Despite recent researches, knowledge about divorce is still limited. Moreover, studies based on individual data are very rare and almost non-existent for France (with the exception of two Master's theses).

The mobilization of Family surveys (enquêtes “Famille”) will provide information on people who have divorced since the generation born in 1899. These surveys are complementary to the census and focus on family history to study fertility and nuptiality. The first survey was implemented in 1954 and was followed by those of 1975, 1982, 1990, 1999 and 2011. The two first only concern women but men are interviewed since the one of 1982). In addition, the latest wave of the Family surveys (2011) makes it possible to study PACS (civil union) breakdowns between couples of the same sex and of different sexes.

These surveys make it possible to follow the familial and reproductive history of individuals and to know the future of a couple without the need to reconstitute families (it also makes it possible not to exclude mobile families as in the Henry method). They give information, for each individual, on the date of birth, the date of marriage(s) and dissolutions of these marriage(s), the number of children with their dates of births, their sex and their eventual date of death. They also provide information on the level of education, the region of residence

By using so-called life course or biographical analysis methods, it will be possible to know the risk that women and men of a certain generation have of divorce, depending on their level of education (the only proxy variable of social level that varies little or nothing over time, which is essential for retrospective analysis), their age, the year of marriage, the number of their children or their region of residence (their birthplace, on the other hand, is not indicated). The analysis will be though using gender and social perspectives.