

## A Linguistic and Gender Approach to 1841 Tuscany Population Census\*

Manuela Sassi  
Istituto di Linguistica  
Computazionale “Antonio  
Zampolli”, Pisa, Italy

Stefania Biagioni  
Istituto di Scienza e Tecnologie  
dell’Informazione “Alessandro  
Faedo”, Pisa, Italy

Gabriella Pardelli  
Istituto di Linguistica  
Computazionale “Antonio  
Zampolli”, Pisa, Italy

The Census of 1841 in Tuscany was the first official data registry which tried to describe Tuscan population as a whole on the basis of the Granducato’s territory. With the use of special ad-hoc created forms, all demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of families and single persons in “Granducato di Toscana” were described. Work is developed in five points: (1) informatics retrieval of linguistic information from Tuscany of 1800 focused by the arts and craftsmanship more in use in families of that time; (2) gender division of works and craftsmanship; (3) observation of lexical disparity in the four communities and terminological curiosities of that historical period; (4) actually no longer existing craftsmanship; and (5) diachronic analysis of communities, where possible. In this scenario, the authors will introduce the methodology they used for data analysis. Tables and figures will be used to better focus different moments and results of the work. A Glossary in Appendix will contain the English translation of the Italian terms extracted from the Corpus.

*Keywords:* Tuscany Population Census, sociological analysis, gender analysis, the 19th work terminology, linguistic statistics, DBT (Textual Data Base) & Facets, NLP (Natural Language Processing) tools

### Introduction

The data of Census, maintained in the State Archive of Florence<sup>1</sup> supply a precious source for studies of all different aspects of the population and include the following information: name, surname, age, gender, marital status, employment, religion, school, and “social status”. In the registers for each community and for each parish, a full account is given of homes, resident families, and composition of families, including family servants. Each of those entities had a proper incremental code number.

Registers were generated and updated by priests, who at that time were the only surely educated officers widespread on territory. That is the reason why the registers are divided by parish, which is an administrative

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Manuela Sassi, researcher, doctor, CNR (National Research Council), Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale “Antonio Zampolli”.

Stefania Biagioni, researcher, doctor, CNR (National Research Council), Istituto di Scienza e Tecnologie dell’Informazione “Alessandro Faedo”.

Gabriella Pardelli, researcher, doctor, CNR (National Research Council), Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale “Antonio Zampolli”.

<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from <http://www.archiviodistato.firenze.it/statocivile/>.

unit, typical of canonic right, instead of quarters or “rioni” or “contrade”, which instead had been long practiced in civil right.

During early 1980s, the research group of professor Biagioli of Department of Modern History of Pisa University, charged the computational linguistic Institute of CNR (National Research Council) with digitalization and the electronic processing of these data as well as of data from *Catasto*<sup>2</sup> to enable statistical, demographical, historical, sociological, and economic analysis.

In this work, the authors have used the only partially usable subset of data extracted by that work, concerning four communities in the province of Pisa, i.e., actual Bièntina, Càscina, Pontedera, and San Giuliano Terme (at that time named “Baths of San Giuliano”). This work is more on terminological and lexical issues, with a gender related analysis of work and craftsmanship. Each of the four communities has its own peculiar profile.

### Methodology and Tools

The software used for textual analysis and terms extraction is DBT-TP (Textual Data Base-Text Power)<sup>3</sup>. The DBT system is used for many projects, inside the Italian Scientific Community and abroad. The DBT is a software for textual analysis and full-text querying. DBT is a reference point in the literature and Italian language for text-based searches. The texts analyzed with the DBT system is structured in a proprietary format and is available for use by other application procedures via the access functionality that the system provides: (text or SGML/TEI (Standard Generalized Markup Language/Text Encoding Initiative)).

DBT & Facets has been implemented by integrating the core textual search engine DBT with the TP technology<sup>4</sup>. DBT-TP is based on NLP (Natural Language Processing) techniques and linguistic resources used to create tools for the evaluation, analysis, classification, and browsing of information related to the domains of scientific literature. The extraction of implicit knowledge from the texts, through which TP can enrich the documents, is a specialization of the “Facets” technology. DBT-Corpus Query system of textual corpora, i.e., text collections of homogeneous texts structured, tagged, and pre-analyzed and query-able with database methods. The adopted methodology uses all of those capabilities, applying them to subsets of the data of the Census considered as a Corpus and structured on family records. Every analysis is based on ad-hoc created tables. These tables concern works and craftsmanship, which are subclassed as: (1) exclusively or typically male; (2) exclusively or typically female; and (3) shared or gender neutral works.

The total of the units (Male and Female) is 41,887, grouped in 7,190 families, and spread in four communities (see Figure 1).

Language oriented analytical reading of data has also brought to light the different phonetic and graphic forms of the various words in different communities, e.g., *filandara* (Bientina) and *filandaja* (San Giuliano)<sup>5</sup> as well as in the same territory like the two forms “infima classe”<sup>6</sup> and “bassa classe” used to point and label the low estate of a wood cutter (*legnajolo*) a miller (*mugnaio*) or a midwife (*levatrice*)<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Public registry of buildings and land ownership.

<sup>3</sup> Retrieved from <http://dbtvm1.ilc.cnr.it/SitoDBT/> (DBT: developed by E. Picchi at ILC is a CNR trademark).

<sup>4</sup> Retrieved from [http://dbtvm1.ilc.cnr.it/Faccette/DBT\\_e\\_Faccette.dll](http://dbtvm1.ilc.cnr.it/Faccette/DBT_e_Faccette.dll).

<sup>5</sup> The use of the “j” sign indicates a long semi consonant “I” sound.

<sup>6</sup> Lowest class, sub proletariat

<sup>7</sup> See Appendix for the glossary and descriptions.

Creation of ad-hoc taxonomies was also needed for the conceptual classification of different jobs and trade types (agricultural, textile, trade, professions, and craftsmanship).

Bientina	Cascina	Pontedera	S. Giuliano T.	Total
2,420	14,999	9,446	15,022	41,887

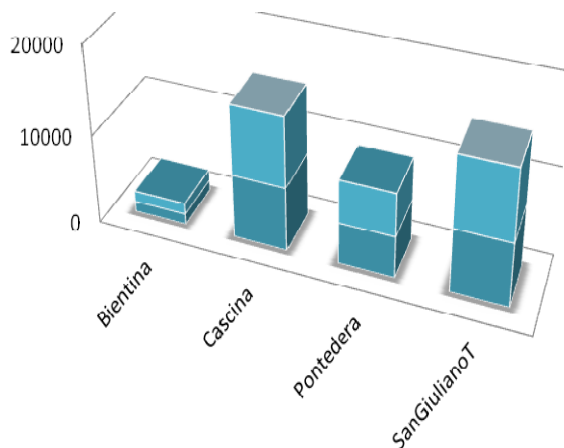


Figure 1. Communities/Women and men.

### Jobs Arts and Craftsmanship in Pisa Province in XIX

Today's use-and-throw lifestyle was unconceivable then, so ordinary life goods were repeatedly fixed and arranged in order to be again fit to everyday's use. Whence over 70% of all craftsmanship was concerned and specialized primarily with such "Ars reparatoria" which enabled entire households to live on that income.

So there were *calzettaja*, *calzolaio* (shoe repair), *canapajo*, *fabbro* (blacksmith), *fiascaja*, *manifattrice di pèneri* (basket female crafter), *seggiolaio* (stool maker), *zuccherinajo* (that concerns the sugar), and all of them mostly repaired instead of crafting from scratching all everyday's objects.

Which occupations were recorded by the many priests of Tuscany territory in 1841? In which sectors was female work employed? Which types of jobs by men and women were indistinctly done?

#### Noun Use in Craftsmanship Naming

The sample of the four tuscanian communities sees (expectably) agricultural work ahead of any other activity. The voice *colono/a* (equivalent: farmer) lists 583 female and 1,695 male workers (about 4% of total population). To this single term, we must add both multi-word terms, like *colono al monte* (mountain farmer), *lavoratore/trice al campo* (countryside worker), or verbs containing label like *lavora al campo* (he/she works in the countryside). Terms like *mezzajolo* or *mezzano*, refer to people working on not their own country. This last term indicates the farmer working under contract, according to which he shares the harvest with the landowner. The multi-word *contadino d'altri* (farmer employee) indicates someone who works by year, or by shorter terms, soil of alien ownership either for money or for a crops share. By adding up all these labels we reach a total amount of 854 female and 2,663 male operators.

In this labeling, the priests, having in this crucial moment the role of "data collectors", made wide use of both their trained scholarship and their experience and specific knowledge of their territory, whence an heterogeneous lexicon for job definitions arose in the lists of the words employed to that end. For this reasons, we can detect significant differences even in neighboring municipalities.

### Verb Use in Craftsmanship Naming

Multi-word terms often include verbs and the most used are “andare” (to go), “fare” (to craft), “operare” (to operate or to act as), the graphic form that all these terms assumed may be very different. For the verb “andare”, we have a basic significance “to move for working outside own home or land” but four quite distinct usages:

(1) Forms like: (a) *Va a far legna in macchia* (female), picks up [burning] wood in forest; (b) *Va a scuola*, for a (male) student; and (c) *Va a raccogliere letame* (male), (he goes to gather manure), in 1841 in Pontedera it was still a salable skill;

(2) Forms indicating works for third parties, like: (a) *Va a bottega di calzolaro* (male), indicates a male who goes to learn activity or help activity of a craftsman who produces and repairs shoes (there still is a surname indicating this craftsmanship in Italy and in several cities you can find streets titled to it); and (b) *Va a opera a fare erba* (female), weeds gatherer for other people (from Latin “opera”, neutral plural voice indicating all paid jobs);

(3) Similarly, for verb “fare” we have: (a) the usage meaning to craft, like in *Fa calze*, (female) craftswoman producing stockings and socks; and (b) the usage meaning to execute a job like in:

-*Fa scuola* (teaches)

-*Fa faccende a domicilio* (domestic worker);

(4) Forms like verb “operare”, meaning to act or to execute and usually employed in the present participle form, are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

#### *Types of Work Categories*

Labels referring directly to agricultural works	Referring to specific soil products	Indicating sale or trade of soil products	Pertaining to ownership of soil or work contracts
garzone di campagna	vinajolo	negoziante di grani	piccolo colono di proprietà
lavora al campo	fruttajolo/fruttajola	negoziante di grasce	piccolo mezzajolo
lavoratrice al campo	garzone di vinajolo	negoziante di legna	piccolo proprietario
piccola colona		negoziante di legna per forno	pigionale
piccola colona a monte		negoziante di olio	possidente, usufruttuaria
piccolo agricoltore		negoziante di vino	possidente agricoltore
operante		Ortolano/ortolana	possidente livello
bracciante			poche terre possidente, operante

### Gender Split of Works in XIX in Pisa Province

In which job sectors were women involved? An answer to this question required the categorization of all job and craftsmanship, which we made in 15 sectors and related sub categories (see Table 2).

To generate taxonomies (or Facets), each job label has been analyzed and inquired, and not all of them were at first sight comprehensible and exhaustive, thence we found necessary to resort to an etymological and historical dictionary of Italian language, i.e., the dictionaries of *Accademia della Crusca* in Florence. We associate to the sector labels defined above letters M for male and F for female in order to show the gender presence in different sectors (see Figure 2).

Semantic aggregation procedure has necessarily been of heuristic type, which explicitly means that several terms were moved across sectors in order to reach a correct conceptual distribution. Originally we had 24 job sectors, but we merged some of them to avoid dispersion of information so that finally we finish with 15 sectors.

Table 2

*Gender Presence in Different Sectors*

Settore	Sector	F	M
agricolo	agriculture	854	2,663
apprendistato/studio	apprenticeship and learning	3	30
artigianale	craftsmanship	25	462
commerciale	Trade & sale	85	605
servizi	services	160	1,552
domestico	domestic work	2,766	131
ecclesiastico	church	0	113
edile	building	1	109
legale	legal	0	18
medico e paramedico	medical and paramedical	10	32
metallurgico	metallurgy	0	107
militare	military	0	39
proprietà e mediazioni	ownership and intermediation	36	115
pubblico impiego regio	public administration	7	30
tessile	textile	1,206	269

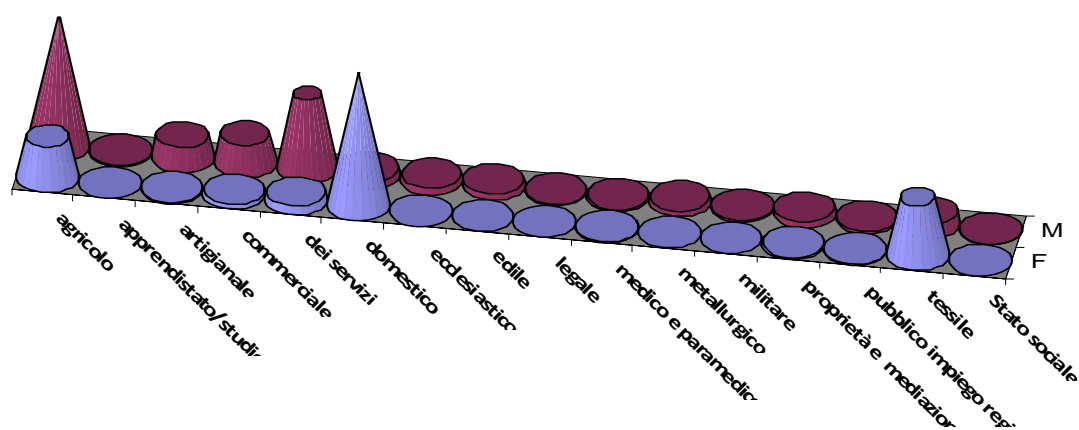


Figure 2. Gender presence in different sectors.

Notably we were forced to add a special category for brokering activities, which had a great relevance at that time and nowadays. The entire phenomenology of the work market entry has been classified under apprenticeship, e.g., *impara l'arte del carratore*, *impara l'arte del calzolaro*, and *inizia a tessere canestre*.

A special relevance was the domestic work sector, in which most of jobs are typically or exclusively female, like *balia*, *domestica*, and *fa le faccende a domicilio*.

The professional terms related to medical and veterinary work have resulted totally unambiguous. Service sector is a restricted version of the actual tertiary and includes works like *vetturale*, *vetturino*, *nocchiero* (indicates the activity of conducting ship in and out from harbors), *stiratora*, *tintore/tintora*.

In the trade and sale sector, we have extracted all related activities, even if the term in dictionaries presented semantical ambiguity between the producing craftsman and the seller, like *fusajo*, *chincagliere*.

In the craftsmanship sector, three subsectors have been created and considered as craftsman categories: metallurgy, textile works, and masonry. All jobs that have been admitted, or that are female-dominant, were extracted from single taxonomy. In that period, most of the out-of-home works were exclusively male.

We can immediately see that agriculture is by far the dominating sector and also the most gender shared or neutral. Women and men shared countryside work (*bracciante* is gender free term) and organized it (*fattore/essa, contadino/a, colono/a*).

The second gender-shared sector is the textile craftsmanship, which we see in the terms: *tessitore/a, sarto/a*, while the threading work named *filandaja/filandara/tessiera/tessitrice* is exclusively female. Also commerce sector is shared, and we have terms like *fornajo/a, fruttajolo/a, bottegajo/a*; instead, commerce of tobacco and salt is exclusively male.

Medical sector has professions that are exclusive to each gender; the professions of *medico* and *chirurgo* are exclusively male, while *ostetrica* and *levatrice* are exclusively female.

Military, clergy, legal, and royal officials sectors are exclusively male, and we may observe that the terms *suora* and *monaca* are not listed in this Census.

Men and women reporting a job label are classified by their kinship relationship to the family head. In Figure 3 appears as bar-reference number on the left side; the work indicator [triangle] is measured on the total of individuals [cross] and the reference number is on the right side.

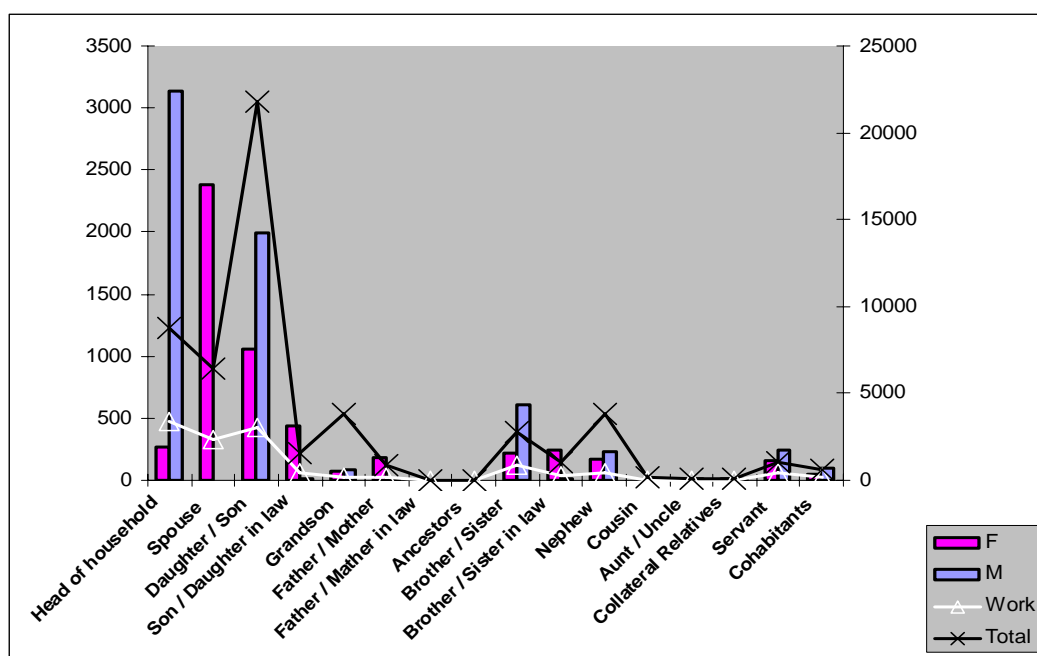


Figure 3. Work classified by family relationship.

### DBT-TP & Facets Technology Applied to the Corpus

The extraction of implicit knowledge from the text, through TP can enrich the documents, which is a specialization of the faceted technology (Facets). The Facets concept is peculiar of Archives and Library Science field, but is used in Information Retrieval too.

In Library Science the term “Facet” identifies the elements of a structured material such as library catalogs, which are characterized by the code of the field and its contents. TP extends the concept of Facets, extracting pairs “field + content” also from parts of the structure containing free text, typically bibliographic descriptions, abstracts, etc.

In this sample, the contents are extracted by the procedures of TP directly from the free text, using their

linguistic-statistical approach and elevated to the rank of Facet. The facets are so extended; replacing them with the set of all terminology annotations that TP has automatically marked.

Tools that we have developed, starting from our base engine DBT and named “DBT & Facets”, can use the text so enriched for analysis, classification, query, and navigation.

The result of the query *tessiera* + *canapajo* shows both the relations among craftsmanship and family names (see Figure 4).

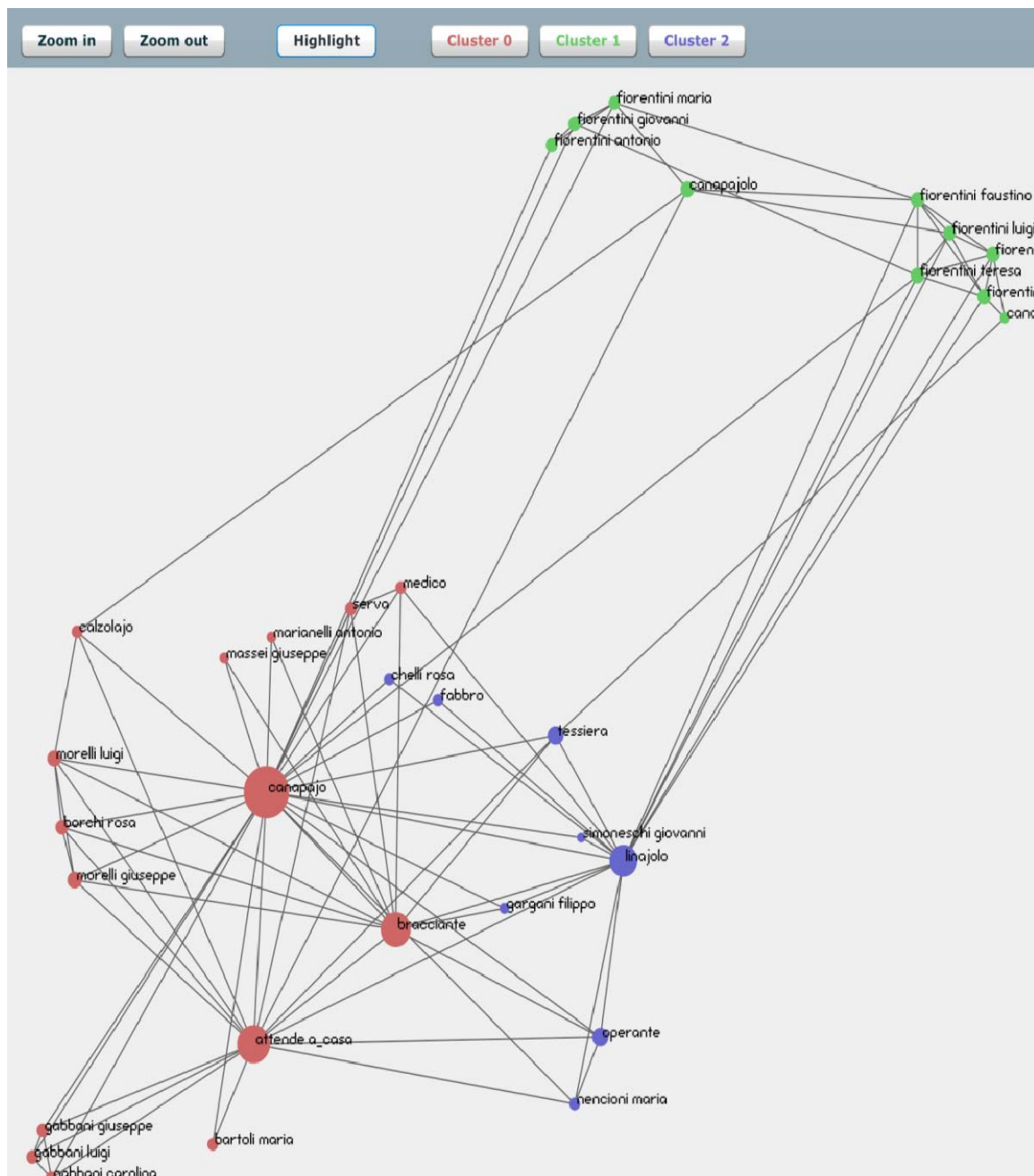


Figure 4. Query result of weaver + hemp worker.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> The smaller circles represent the family groups.

## Conclusions

The study emphasizes that women have worked inside their home (the domestic work sector): In all communities, a total of 2,766 females are labeled with *attende a casa*, *massaia*, *casalinga*, etc.. Since ancient times, women have added to this in-home activity: threading, weaving, horticulture, and in some cases, the real fieldwork.

The textile work appears to be dominated by women whose 1,206 units are four times the number of males employed in that sector. Agriculture is still dominated by male; 2,663 units are more than thrice the number of females employed.

Rarely women practiced a single activity even if determining the percentage of activity results quite difficult by using the available information. For example, knitting and similar was made to supply an income instead of saturating the family necessities. Works like *balia* and *serva* surely required the compensation either in money or in form of “roof and food”.

Surely, men too in that period added temporary activities, e.g., a craftsman might become a temporary agriculture unit, especially in times of scarcity.

Our final graph clearly shows that domestic work is the 54% of the whole female work; the major classes are textile work at 23% and agriculture 17% (see Figure 5).

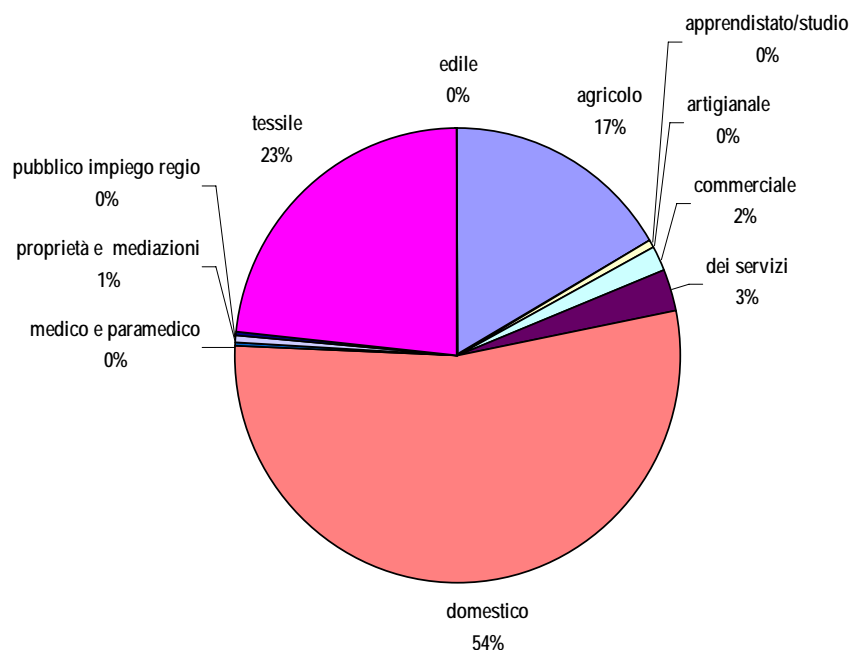


Figure 5. Female work.

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#### Appendix: Glossary

**arrotino = grinder**

Who sharpens knives and craft tools to cut

**attendente (attende a...) = housewife (or soldier)**

Woman that takes care of something (in the military environment: soldier awaits the personal service of an officer)

**balia = nurse**

Who Breeds and feeds children

**barrocciao, barrocciante = carter**

Who transports goods with a cart

**bettolante = “bettolante”**

1. Anyone who frequents taverns 2. Tuscan: owner of the tavern

**boscaiolo = woodman**

1. Who cuts the wood 2. Who is responsible for the cultivation and care of forests

**bracciante = laborer**

Who works in day as a laborer or farmer

**braciao = “bracciaio”**

Who keeps the embers for reuse

**bracino = charcoal maker**

Who makes or sells charcoal

**calzettaia = maker of stockings**

1. Who makes, sells or repairs stockings. 2. A stocking factory worker

**calzolaio = shoemaker**

Artisan who makes or repairs shoes of all kinds (craftsman)

**canapaio = hemp worker/seller**

Who collects, works or sells hemp

**cappellaio = hatter**

1. Who makes or sells hats mannish 2. Who, in falconry, put or put off the cap to rapacious

**carbonaio = charcoal**

1. Who makes charcoal in charcoal 2. Those who sell charcoal and firewood, wholesale or retail

**carradore = wheelwright**

Anyone who builds or repairs carts and wagons.

**casiere = caretaker**

Tuscan: caretaker of a house

**cavatore = 1. dentist/2-3. quarryman**

1. Who pulls a tooth or blood 2. Workers involved in mining of the quarry: c. marble, stone, sand 3. Excavator

**cerchiaio = “cerchiaio”**

Who manufactures or sells rims

**chincagliere = “chincagliere”**

Who manufactures or sells knickknacks

**chirurgo = surgeon**

Who practice surgery

**ciabattino = cobbler**

Who repairs shoes, rare Manufacturer of slippers

**colono = settler**

Farmer who grow for someone else's

**contadino (lavora al campo) = farmer**

1. Who cultivate the land 2. Inhabitant of the countryside

**convivente = cohabitant**

Who entertains a marriage-like relationship with a person, without being legally married

**corbellaio = maker of baskets**

Who makes baskets

**domestica = housekeeper, housemaid**

Maid service

**ecclesiastico = churchman**

Who belongs to the clergy

**fa faccende a domicilio = housemaid**

Who do chores at home

**fa scuola = teacher**

Who teaches at school or at home

**fabbro = smith**

1. Artisan who works with iron and produces iron objects: f. blacksmith—Tinker: f. coppersmith, tinsmith 2. Ancient form: Manual worker in general, craftsman

**fattore = farmer**

Person who carries on the management or direction of a farm

**fiascaia = maker of flasks**

Who makes, stuff with straw or sells flasks

**filandara, filandaja = spinner woman**

Who works in a textile mill

**fornaio = baker**

Who cooks or sells bread

**funzionario regio = royal official**

Who exerts particular functions or administrative directives

**fusaio = maker of spindle**

Makers of spindles, person manufacturing or selling spindles

**giubilato = retired person**

Who is retired

**guardaroba = keeper of the wardrobe**

1. Ancient form for attendant of the cloakroom 2. Secret waiter that took care of the garments of the Pope

**guardiano 1 = guardian**

Who is in charge of guarding, monitoring of places or property of others: g. a warehouse, a house, a lighthouse, g. horses, pigs (day or night watchman). [Synonymous with overseer]

**guardiano 2 = prison guard**

Who is the keeper of the prison

**guardiano 3 = guardian**

Father superior of a convent (Franciscan order)

**guardiano 4 = guardian father/guardian angel**

Who is involved in the case of something

**impotente = impotent**

Who does not have the power, the force required to work

**inabile = unemployable**

Who is unable to work

**iniziato a... = initiate into...**

That people who are trained in things that require specialized studies

**legna, erba (va a far.) = gatherer of firewood or grass**

Who gathers firewood or grass

**legnaiuolo = carpenter**

1. Artisan who makes rough carpentry work 2. Who is the roughing cutter and logs felled in the woods

**letame (va a raccogliere...) = goes to collect manure**

Who collects manure

**libraio = bookseller**

1. Who sells books 2. Ancient form: amanuensis

**magnano = "magnano"**

Tuscan: Craftsman, often walking, running minute articles of iron as keys, locks, etc.—Tinker: person manufacturing boilers and other containers, especially copper

**medico = physician, doctor**

Who practice medicine professionally

**mendicante, questuante = beggar**

Who begs, who lives by begging

**mezzajolo = sharecropper**

Farmer who leads a fund sharecropping

**militare = soldier**

Who belongs to a military

**ministro = minister**

Who exerts an office, a ministry

**muratore = bricklayer**

Who builds masonry

**negoziante di grani = merchant grain**

Who sells grain

**negoziante di grasce = seller of pork fat, lard**

Who sells pork fat, lard

**negoziante di olio = seller of olive oil**

Who sells olive oil

**negoziante di vino = wine seller**

Who sells wine

**nocchiero = steerer, steersman, helmsman**

Who guides the ship

**operante delle strade, stradino = roadwork**

Workers involved in the maintenance of roads. today Roadwork

**operante mugnaio = miller**

Who grinds wheat, oats. Grinder

**orefice = goldsmith**

1. Those who work with precious metals and gems to make jewelry and other items 2. Who sells cutlery

**orfana = orphan**

Who is left devoid of one or both parents

**ortolano/ortolana = greengrocer**

1. Who, for commercial gain, cultivates a garden 2. Who sells vegetables

**ostetrica e levatrice = midwife**

Nurse specializing in assisting women in labor

**pescatore = fisherman**

Who exercises the art of fishing

**pettinaio = “pettinaio”**

Who makes or sells combs

**pigionale = tenant**

1. Tenant 2. Tuscan: Farmer who has rented a farm (renter)

**possidente = landowner**

That the person who owns real estate, esp. land and homes, and lives all or part of their annuity

**possidente usufruttuaria = landowner usufructuary**

Who enjoys the usufruct of an asset

**scalpellino o scarpellino = stonecutter**

1. Those who work or carve stone or marble with chisel 2. Sculptor of little or no value

**scuola (va a.), scolaro = pupil**

Who goes to school

**segantino = sawyer**

1. Who cuts by hand or machine the trunks of trees to obtain firewood or boards to reduce to woodworking 2. A day laborer to cut hay or grain, mower, reaper

**segatore = sawyer**

1. Who saw for a living: sawyers of wood, marble, iron, sawing machine 2. Reaper

**seggiolaio = chair maker; seller; mender/repairer**

Who makes, repairs or sells chairs

**sellaio = saddler**

1. person manufacturing, repairs or sells saddles or other leather items 2. Who is in charge of conservation and repair of saddles and everything related to the equipment of quadrupeds

**speziale = apothecary**

1. Who sold spices and medicinal herbs (The Art of doctors and apothecaries, in medieval Florence, the corporation that was one of seven major arts) 2. Pharmacist and Grocer

**stiratora = ironer woman**

Who irons clothes and linens for the profession

**suora = nun**

Belonging to a religious order or congregation with simple vows only

**tessiera = weaver woman**

Who works to the loom

**tintore/tintora. = dyer**

Who dyes fabrics and leathers. Who works in a dry cleaners, and whoever manages or owns

**tornitore = turner**

Who polishes metals, wood

**vetturale/vetturino = driver/coachman**

Who makes the job of transporting goods or people with beasts of burden or draft

**vinajolo = vintner**

Who sells the wine wholesale or retail. Common Name: innkeeper

**zuccherinajo = confectioner**

Who makes and sells candy