

Victoria López Barahona & José A. Nieto Sánchez,

“La formación de un mercado de trabajo: las industrias del vestido en el Madrid de la Edad Moderna”, *Sociología del Trabajo*, 68 (2010), pp. 147-168.

ABSTRACT

“The formation of a labour market: clothing trades in Madrid during the modern age”

This article traces the historical background of Madrid’s characteristic contingent of dressmakers and seamstresses during the so-called Restoration period, focusing on two interrelated processes developing throughout the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries in this capital city. On one side, the heyday of the clothing trades and the emergence in the very heart of them of a new costume industry: the ready-to-wear clothing. On the other side, the reorganization of the labour market supplying these industries; a reorganization which witnesses the reinforcement of sexual division of labour, assigning clothing trades to women, and the gestation of official channels of training and access to the labour market for this labour sector by way of the institutionalization of what we have called ‘school-workshops’. The evolution of these processes is traced taking as landmarks or references the impact of court demand, the mercantile turn of guilds’ elites, the spreading of a submerged costume industry, the impoverishment of the working classes, and the industrial and formative plans proposed by the Bourbon Reform government.