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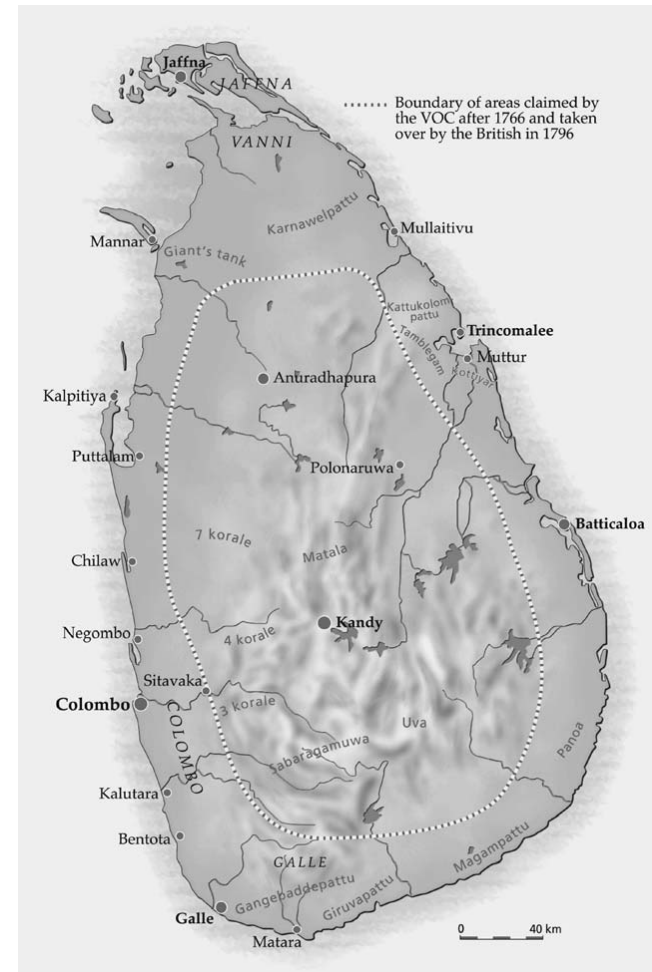
Digital thombos: a new source for Ceylonese family history

Presentation

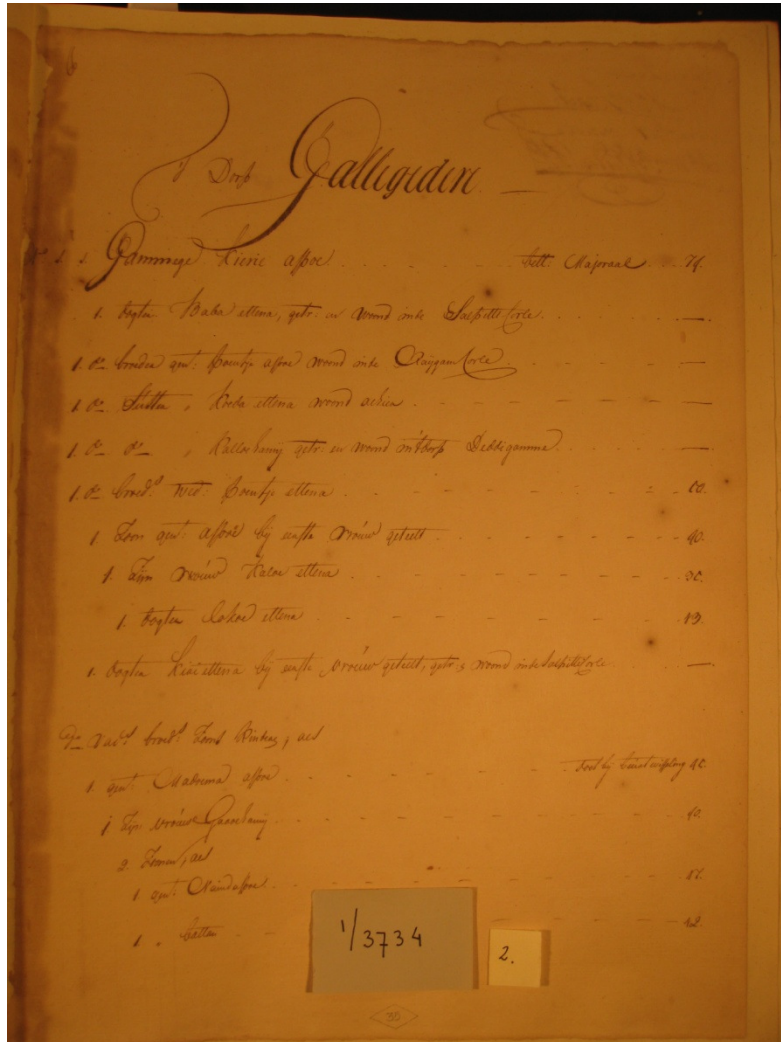
- Acknowledgements: Albert van den Belt, Carolien Huijgen; Kees Mandemakers, Jan Luiten van Zanden
- Background of the source
- Digitization project
- Contents of the families' and land thombos
- Sinhalese household&marriage patterns in a colonial setting

Background

- Old land registers for taxation purposes adapted by Portuguese and Dutch (1640-1796)
- Native power structure kept intact
- 1760 revision to claim land for VOC
- 1771 second revision



Digitization

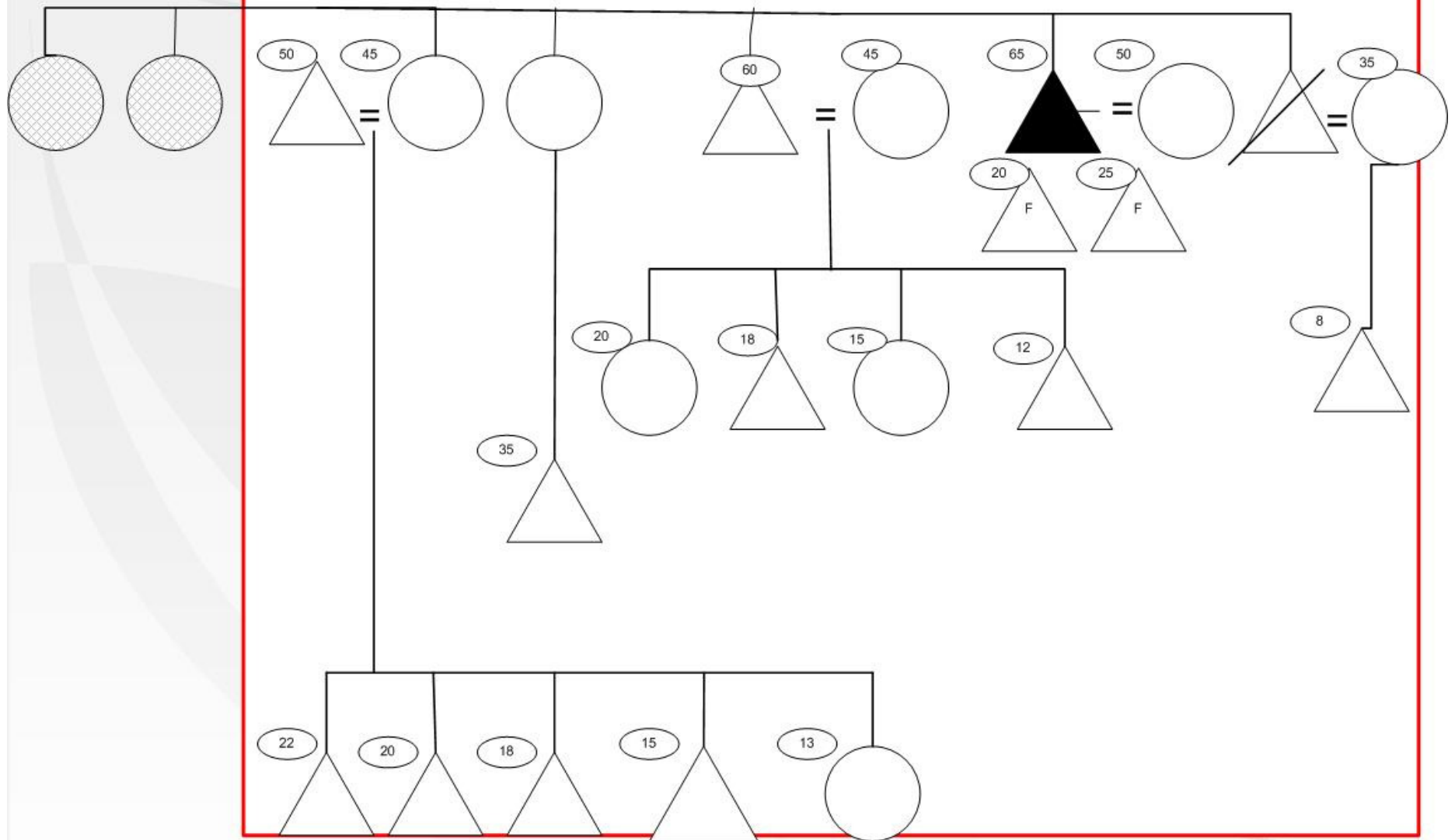


Wal 1423 - 1797																										
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1	1426	Cc	W	M	Loe	3	Poentje	hamij						Hapitigam distr1							nv	v		nv		do1 v ho
1	1427	Cc	W	M	Loe	3	Diendoe	hamij						Raijgam k distr1							nv	v		nv		do2 v ho
1	1428	Cc	W	M	Loe	3	Joan							Loelbaddc dorp1							geh	m			49	br1 v ho
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1	1431	Cc	W	M	Loe	3	Hentie	appoe						Loelbaddc dorp1							nv	m			6	zo2 v br1 v ho
1	1432	Cc	W	M	Loe	3	Baba	appoe						Loelbaddc dorp1							nv	m			3	zo3 v br1 v ho
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1	1436	Cc	W	M	Loe	3	Anno	hamij						Gale korle distr2							nv	v		nv		zu2 v ho
1	1437	Cc	W	M	Loe	3	Tiekiri	hamij						Loelbaddc dorp2							nv	v		nv		zu1 v va v ho
1	1438	Cc	W	M	Loe	3	Roeketie	hamij						Loelbaddc dorp2							nv	v		nv		zu2 v va v ho
1	1439	Cc	W	M	Loe	3	Sobera	hamij						Halwolle dorp4							nv	v		nv		zu3 v va v ho

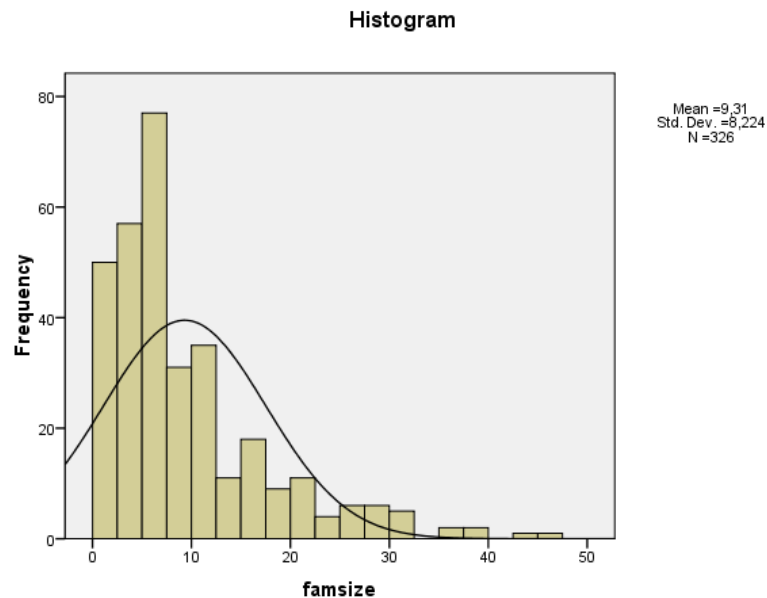
Contents of the head thombos

- Names of landholder/head, wife/wives, children etc
- Relation to the head, e.g. wife of head's brother's first son, adopted child, illegitimate child...
- Caste
- Ages and marital status
- Services to VOC
- Location: about 30% of the listed persons did not live on the family property

**Content of the 'head' thombos: property rights of families&households;
the family of Elledoewege kiri appoe, village head of Wallawitte**

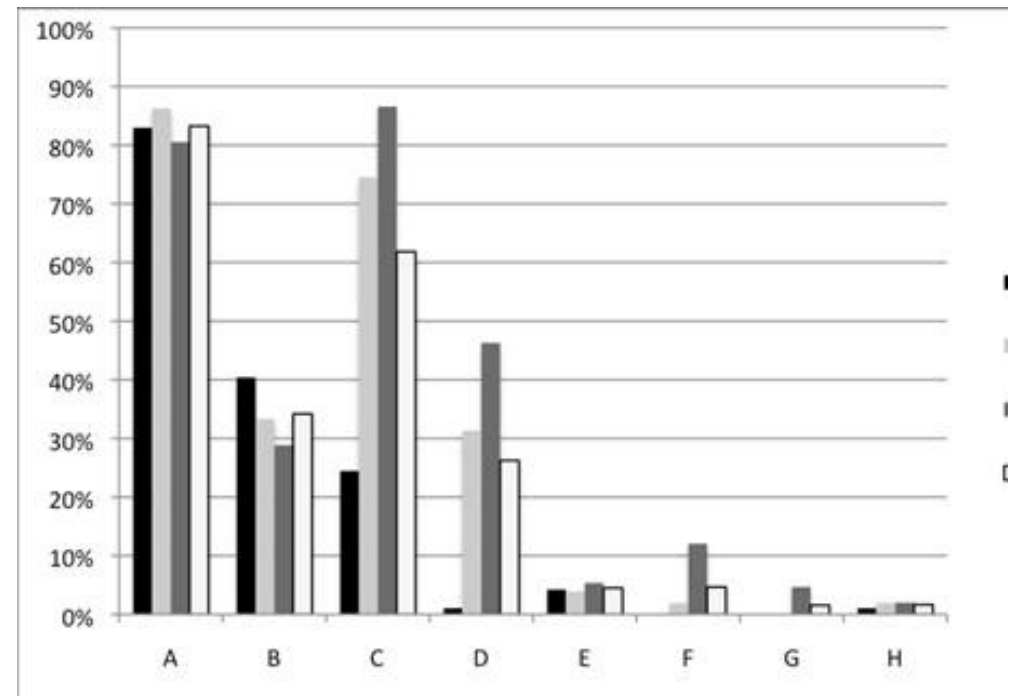


Household or family compound size and composition



32% of all household members are head/wife of head/child of head
68% is extended family in one way or another

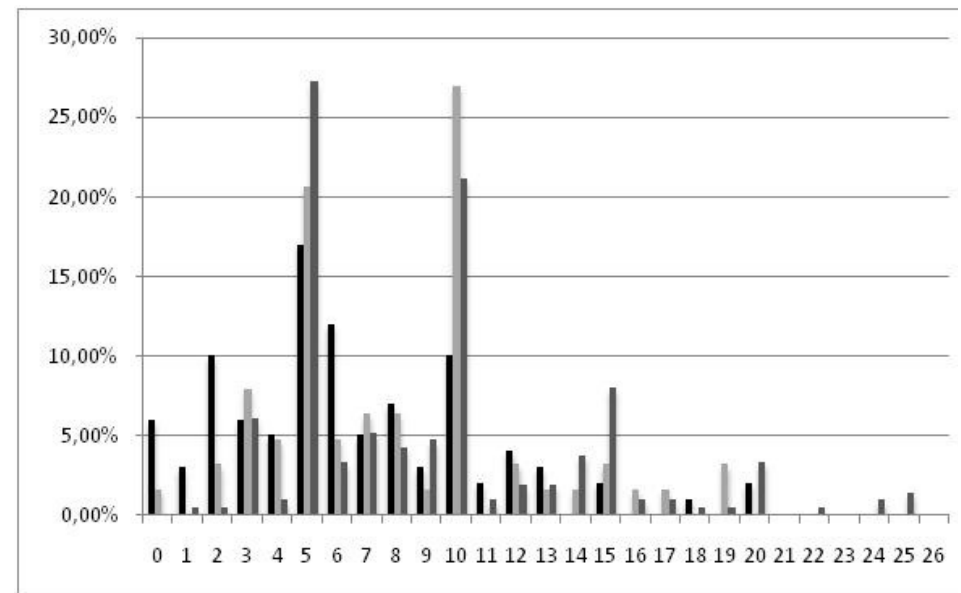
A= wife/children of the head
B=Grandchildren/daughters- and sons in law
C Lateral: Siblings of head and their families
D=Upward through father
E=Upward through mother



Age at marriage

- Civil status problematic: only 'married' or 'widowed' mentioned
- Through first child:
 - Men 29,0; women 22,0
- SMAM
 - Men 25,0; women 22,1

Age difference men and women



Land thombos

Many details on landed property, e.g.:

Type (garden, etc)

Share owned by the family

Number of coconut trees, sour sop trees etc

How the parcel was acquired (e.g. dowry)

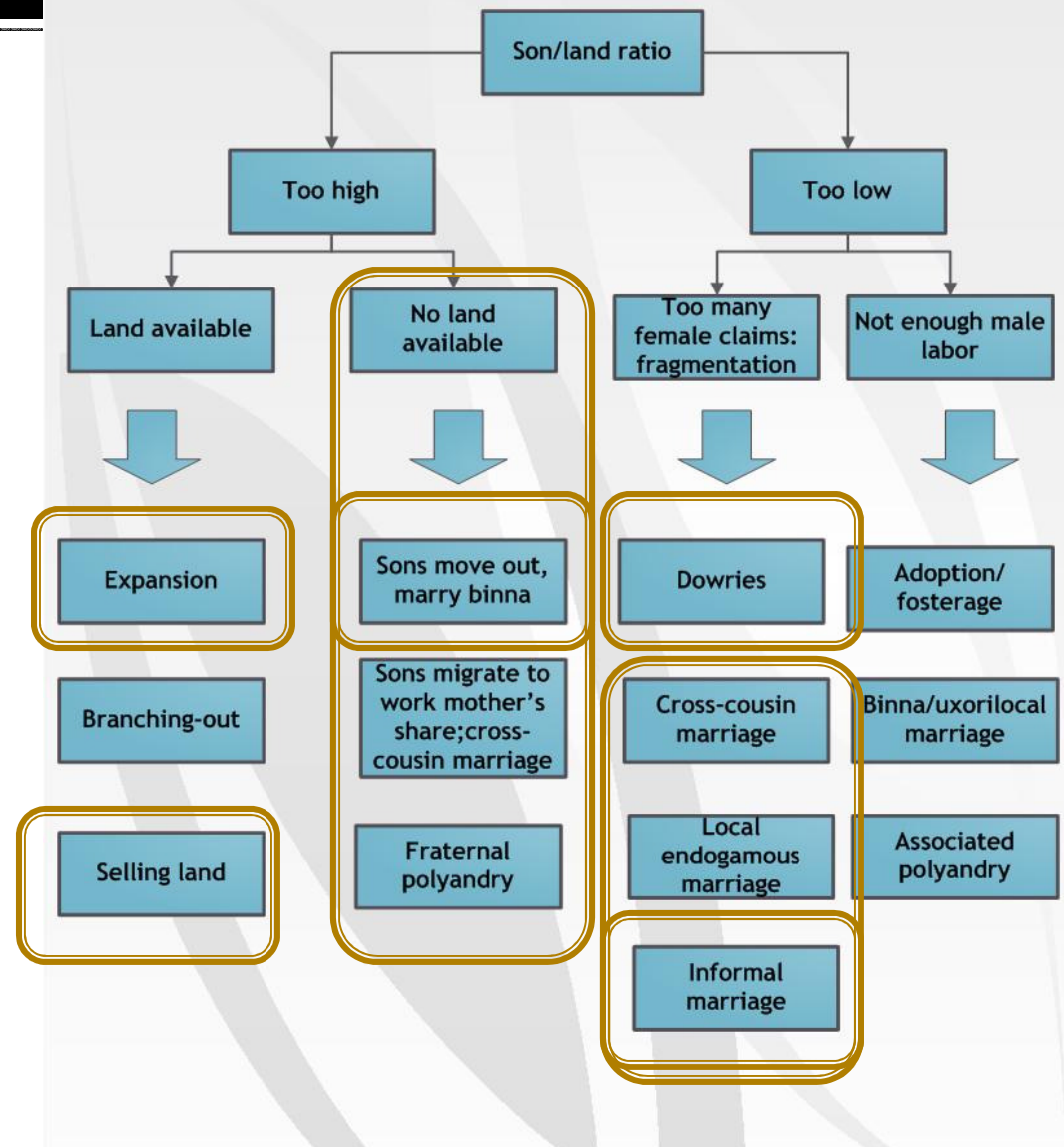
Services & taxes tied to the land (in money/kind)



**Can we relate dynamics in
Ceylonese marriage patterns to
colonial/economic developments?**

Patrilocal residence for men, virilocal for women, *bilateral* inheritance, individual property rights (permanent/temporary).

- What happens when VOC curtails land availability:
- Increasing wealth inequality:



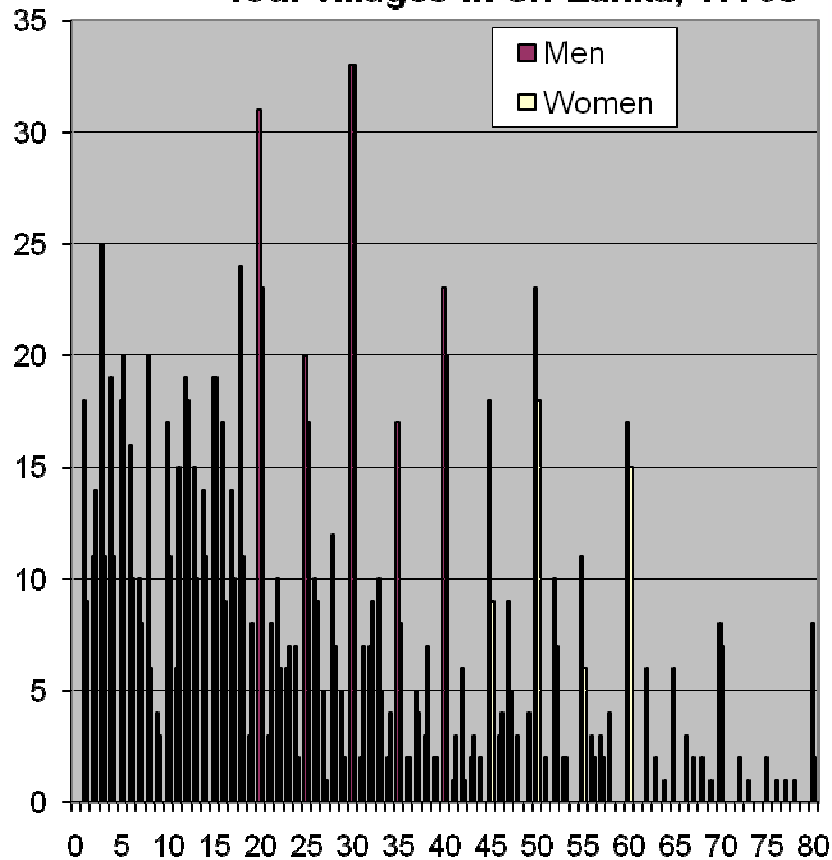
Testing hypotheses on economic developments and marriage patterns

- Connect aggregated data on villages with regional population density/pressure of VOC (N.R. Dewasiri, *Peasant in transition. Agrarian society in Western Sri Lanka under Dutch Rule 1740-1800*)
- At the micro-level: connect family complexity and type of marriage to actual landholding
- Across villages: reconstruct marriage alliances countering property fragmentation

How is this related to human capital?

Place	year	Urban/rural	Z-scores	Z-Men	Z-women
Sri Lanka	1770	Rural	35	34	36
Bruges	1470-1520	Urban	17	18	17
Flanders	1470-1570	Rural	14	14	18
Florence	1427	Urban	32	25	40
Toscane	1427	Rural	53	49	56
Ethiopia	2002	both	43	40	46
Indonesia	1910	both	47	46	50

Age Structure of Men and Women in four villages in Sri Lanka, 1770s



Relate (relative) female numeracy by family wealth, type of family, by mother's position in the household, by age difference with husband?

Thank you!