

**Title:** Changes in family structures as a result of specific urbanization. Demographic aspects of the development of the railway town of Łapy in the Years 1851-1939.

**Keywords:** industrialization, urbanization, demographic transition, family, marriage, family reconstitution, parish registers, rail transport, 19th century, 20th century

Although the interest of historical demography has a long tradition, our knowledge of the family model in the past is very poor. The main objective of the project is to trace changes in the structures of the petty-noble and working-class families in the north-east of the Kingdom of Poland. Questions will be asked about the changes taking place in the smallest social cell, including regarding the age of marriage, length of marriage or female fertility.

The project will be based on a case study of Łapy, small town emerging at the end of the 19th century. This town was created as a result of an intensive urbanization process of rural areas. The reason for the demographic development of the town was the construction of the Warsaw-Saint Petersburg Railway and the location of the railway station and rolling stock workshops on the border between the Polish Kingdom and the Russian Empire.

The basic sources for the study will be the parish records of baptisms, weddings and deaths (about 60,000 records) supplemented with censuses, land lists and notarial files. The chronological range is 1851-1939.

Through to the research objectives, it will be possible to locate the economically backward areas of the north-eastern Kingdom of Poland in the process of unevenly demographic transition taking place across Europe.

The project will consist of several stages of research. The most time will be devoted to creating databases founded on mass sources in the form of parish records. It will be used, among others, family reconstitution methodology recognized in the environment as one of the best methods for researching families in the past. The achieved statistical results will be compared with other regions in Poland and Western Europe. The results will be presented at international conferences and submitted in the form of articles for scientific journals.

The project has an innovative character. So far researches in Poland has not addressed the issue of changes taking place in the family model against the background of industrialization changes due to the development of railways.