



San Gabriel Mission in the Colonial Period: Trends in *Gente de Razón* Baptismal Records

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Overview

Data set:

- 289 baptismal records for *gente de razón*
- Time frame: 1787-1848

Research Questions:

1. In what period of time non-*razón* godparents show up in the documents?
 2. How many single mothers baptized their children?
 3. What is the ratio of females and males baptized?
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Database Analytics

- From database entries had access to:
 - Year, record #
 - Ego's name, ethnicity, sex, legitimacy
 - Mother's/Father's name, ethnicity, origin
 - Godparents' names/ethnicities
- All three questions could be answered in the database
 - Structured Query Language

c. How many records have the father recorded?
[father name is not blank]

```
SELECT baptismID FROM baptism WHERE recordID  
= ".$row_record['recordID']." AND fatherName  
NOT LIKE "
```

Additional Analytics

- In re: question about non-*razón* godparents, results did not tell a clear story
- New questions
 - **Were there individuals who godparented multiple children?**
 - **If so, how many?**
 - **Can we (partially) recreate networks of friends and family?**
- Manually answered in Excel:
 - Names of all recorded godparents in one column
 - Sort alphabetically (first name)
 - Count number of recurring individuals (including spelling variations)
 - Also count total occurrences per individual

Results


How many single mothers baptized their children? **22 (7.61%)**

What is the ratio of females and males baptized? **154 : 131 \approx 1.18 : 1**

How many individuals godparented multiple children? **66 (out of 472 total)**

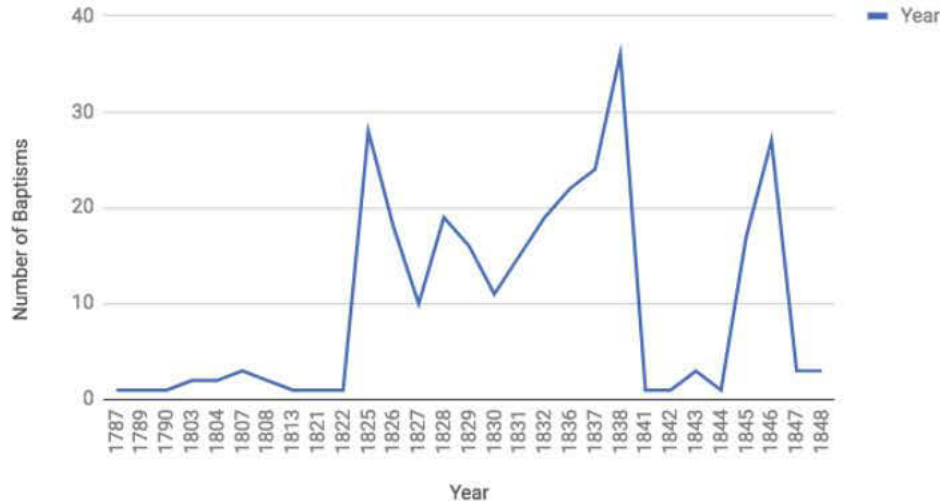


Results

- Other notable data about godparents:
 - For “frequent godparents” (“FGs,” ≥ 2 occurrences in records), the average number of godchildren is **2.61**
 - **11** of the FGs godparented the children of single mothers (in total **8 out of the 22**, or **36.36%**)
 - In total, FGs godparented for **21 distinct families**
 - **7** FGs godparented **twice for the same parents**
 - **12** FGs godparented for other FGs
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Visual Summary

Number of Baptisms Per Year

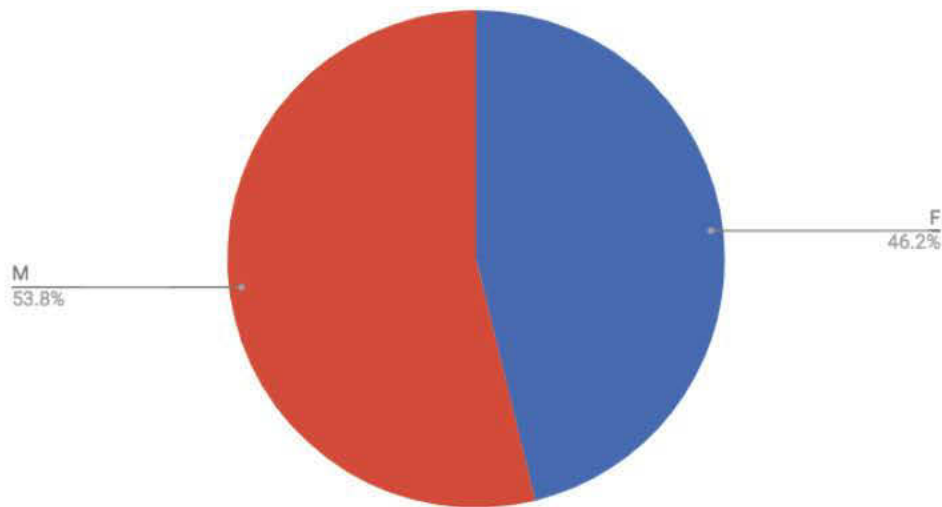


Number of Baptisms per Year

- 1838 had the most baptisms (36 baptisms)
- Significant drop in the number of baptisms from the year 1838 to 1841
- Significant increase in the number of baptisms from year 1844 to 1845 as well as from 1822 to 1825

Visual Summary

Count of Ego Sex



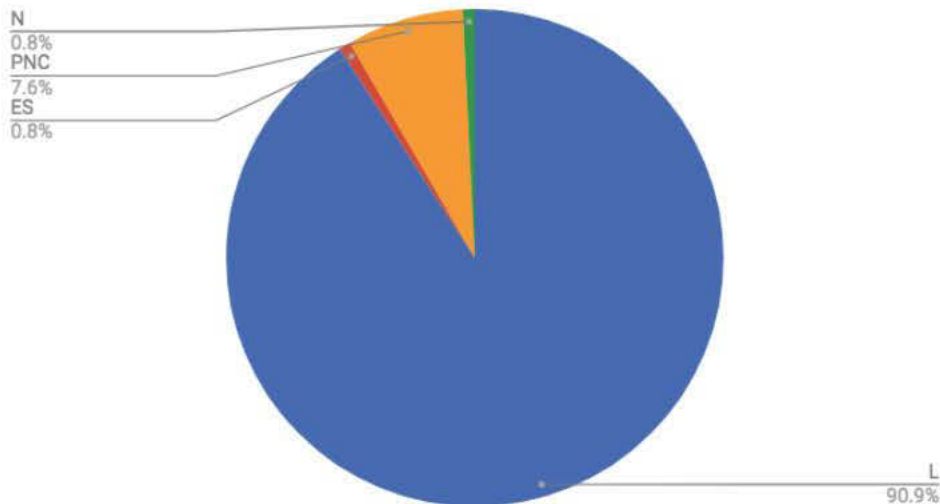
Gender ratio

289 baptismal records for *gente de razón*

- 53.8 % were male
- 46.2 % were female

Visual Summary

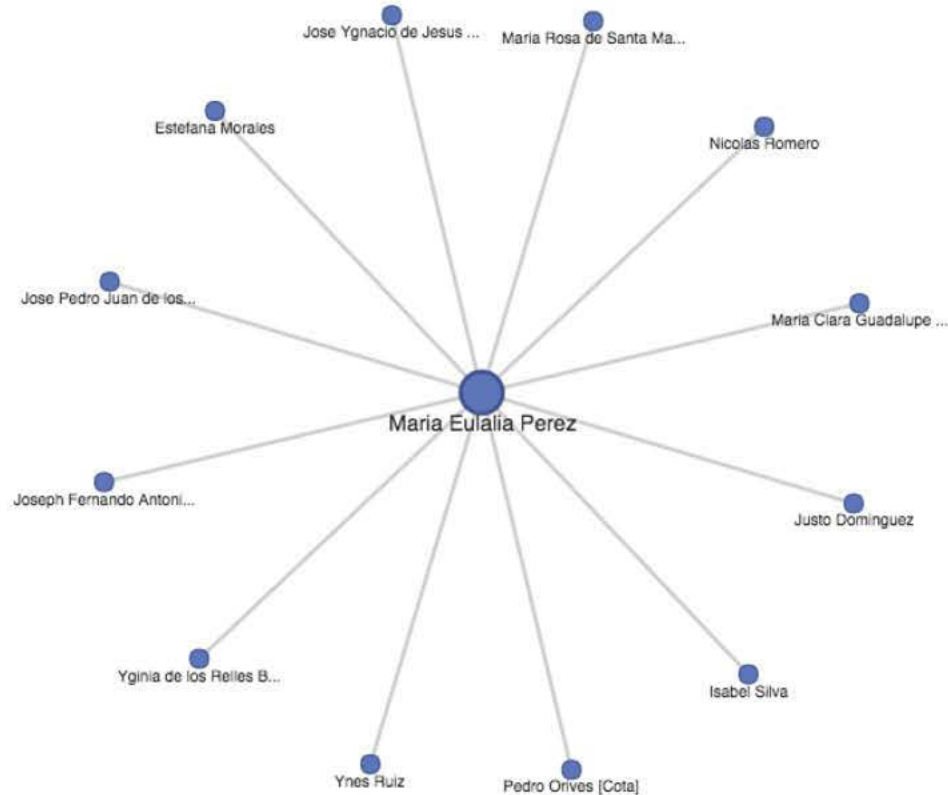
Ratio of Ego Legitimacy



Ego Legitimacy

- 90.9 % were legitimate
- 0.8 % were *espurio*
 - Born out of wedlock or father is not known
- 7.6 % did not have a father stated in the record (not known)
 - Conclusion: 7.6 % of the egos came from a single-mother family.
- 0.8 % did not have a legitimacy stated

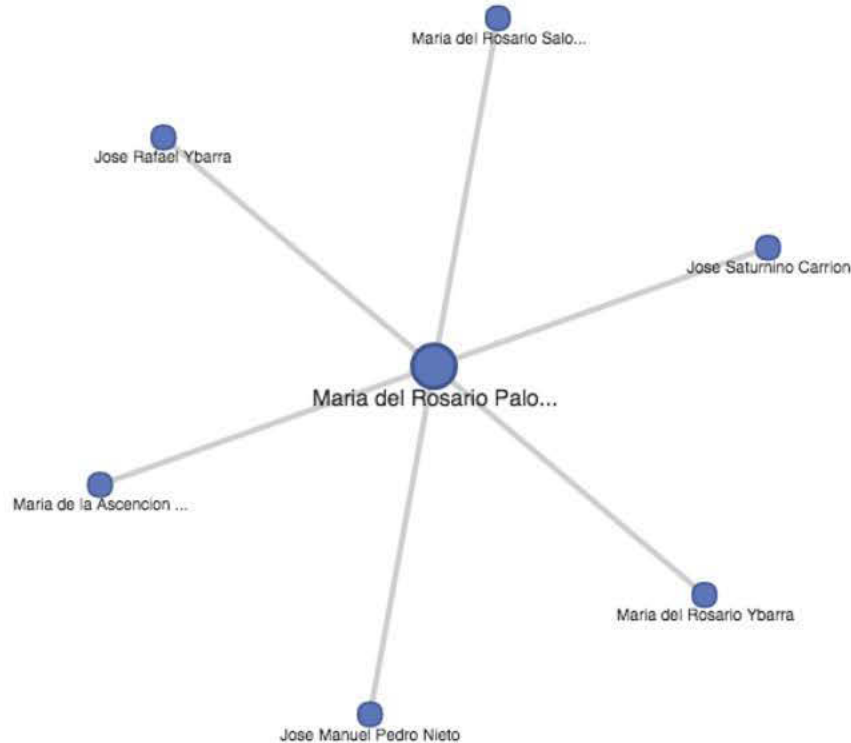
Visual Summary



Godparent name: Maria Eulalia Perez

- A *razón* woman
- Godparented 12 people from 1825-1831 (all of them are razón)
- Two of the people she godparented have the same parents (siblings)

Visual Summary

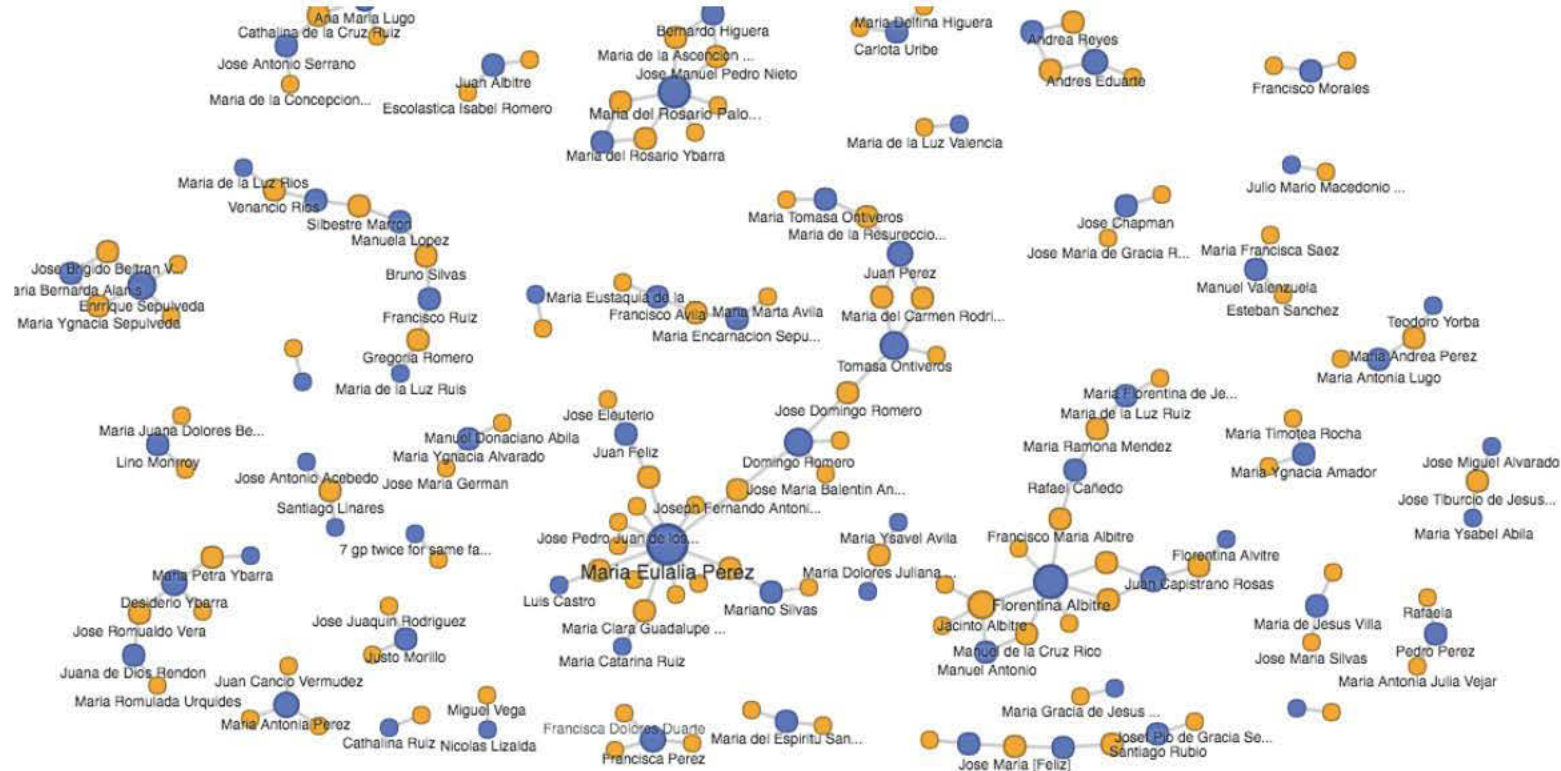


Godparent name: Maria del Rosario Palomares

- A *razón* woman
- Godparented 6 people from 1825-1836 (all of them are *razón*)
- Two of the people she godparented have the same parents (siblings)

Blue- godparent

Visual Summary



Impact

- *Compadrazgo*: bonds of intimacy, business relationships.
- Clandestine trade: foreign migration Jose Chapman and Guillermo Richardson
- Baptism the solution for connections and business affairs in Alta California.
- Baptism: native labor force for production.
- Mission recruiting women as cooks, healers, teachers and business managers.



Compadrazgo: Maria Eulalia Perez and Jose Chapman

Maria Eulalia Perez (Eulalia Perez de Guillen Marine)

- Godmother of 12 children

Jose Chapman (Joseph John Chapman)

- American-born settler in Alta California

Guadalupe Ortega (prominent Californio family)

Comadre:

Jose Pedro Juan de los Angeles Chapman (1825)

Maria Clara Guadalupe Chapman (1831)



Challenges

- group dynamic
 - two seniors, one junior, and one first year
 - worked well: each had varying levels of experience in research
- challenges in conducting our research
 - limited by the numerical (rather than interpretive) nature of the data
 - coming up with questions that gave meaning to our research
- once we came up with questions, process was made easier
 - all of our questions were answered in database



Benefits & Drawbacks of Using SQL

1. Benefits

- a. There's a way to allow permutations
 - i. Useful for how different group members may have written words (lower case, upper-case, razon vs razón)
- b. Quantitative questions are easy to answer
 - i. How many baptisms from ____ to ____ ?

2. Drawbacks

- a. The answers one gets from querying need further analysis
 - i. We can ask how many godparents are non-razón, but then we'd have to think about what the non-razón people could be
- b. If the data is formatted nicely in the database, the queries are easy. If this is not the case, it's more complicated.
 - i. Say there wasn't a field for Last Name but we want to know about Last Name relationships, we could do this by assuming the last two words in a person's name are the last names, but we can't guarantee it'll work for all cases

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References

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