

Marriage Trends in the San Gabriel Mission

Introduction and Overview

Names

Marriages and Time

Neophytes

Baptisms

Marriages and Deaths

Conclusions

Works Cited

Thank You!

By Sydney Seymour, Chelsea Clark Edmiston, Anayansi Alatorre Romo, Ari Wood, and Angel Ornelas

Primary Interests

- Significance of top bride and groom names
- What happens in 1811 and the years following?
(why is there such a significant spike in marriages?)
- Connections between marriages with baptisms, neophytes, and deaths

Research Questions


Historiography

Data Management

Method of Analysis


Questions

- What are the top bride and groom names?
- How does the frequency of marriages change over time?
- How did the amount of neophyte marriages change from 1785-1824?
- What is the correlation between baptisms and marriages between 1787 to 1855? From 1810-1848?
- What is the correlation between marriages and deaths from 1774 to 1853?

- 
- Haas and Hackel both address the importance of acknowledging and honoring Indigenous authority and acts of agency within the missions, while Castillo and Haas each touch on the importance of elevating Indigenous knowledge.
 - Haas states, "The **colonial practice of misrepresenting and dismissing Indigenous forms of authority and knowledge** gives Indigenous sources a particularly poignant significance" (7).
 - Although we are working with quantitative data, and thus not directly elevating Indigenous knowledge, we hope this data and analysis can be used in a broader framework that works toward subverting said colonial historiographical practice

Data Management

- Did basic cleaning of our data set (Data Set 7, marriage data), essentially what Todd demonstrated on the board. We used R studio, Excel, and Google Sheets.
- For bride and groom names, we combined names that were similar and only included names that occurred at least 5 times.
- For our neophyte data, we included marriages where at least one person was a *neofito* (in most instances both people were *neofito*)
- Our findings cover marriage trends from 1774-1855

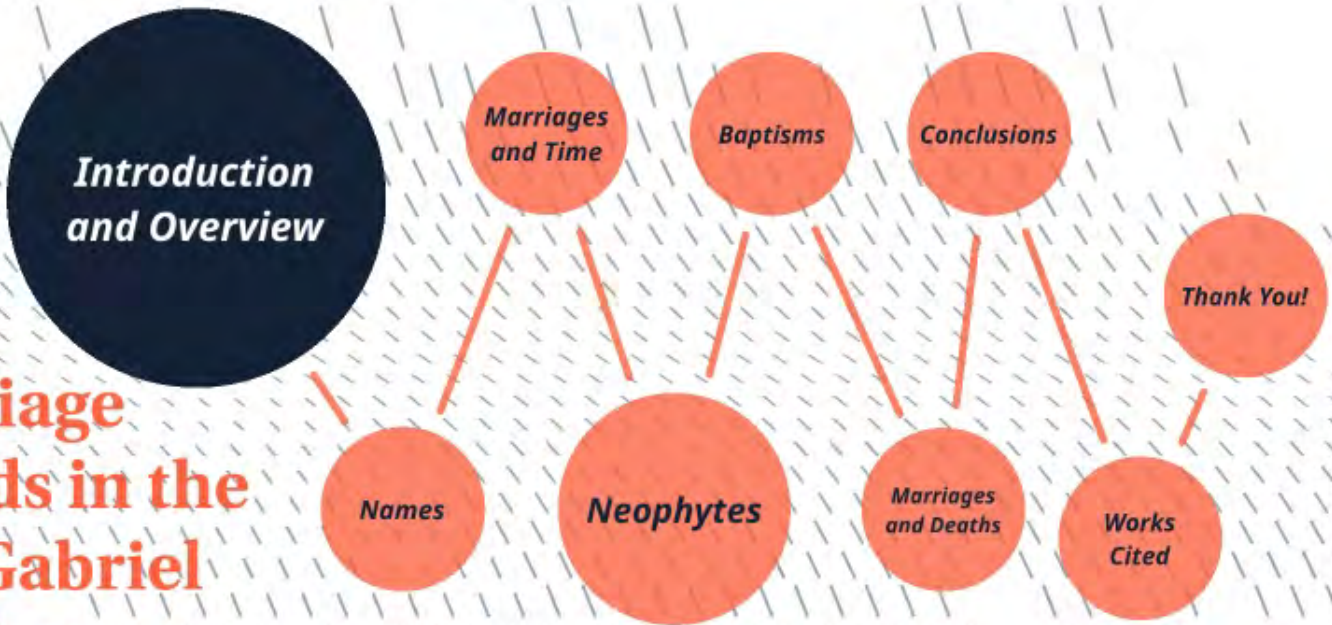


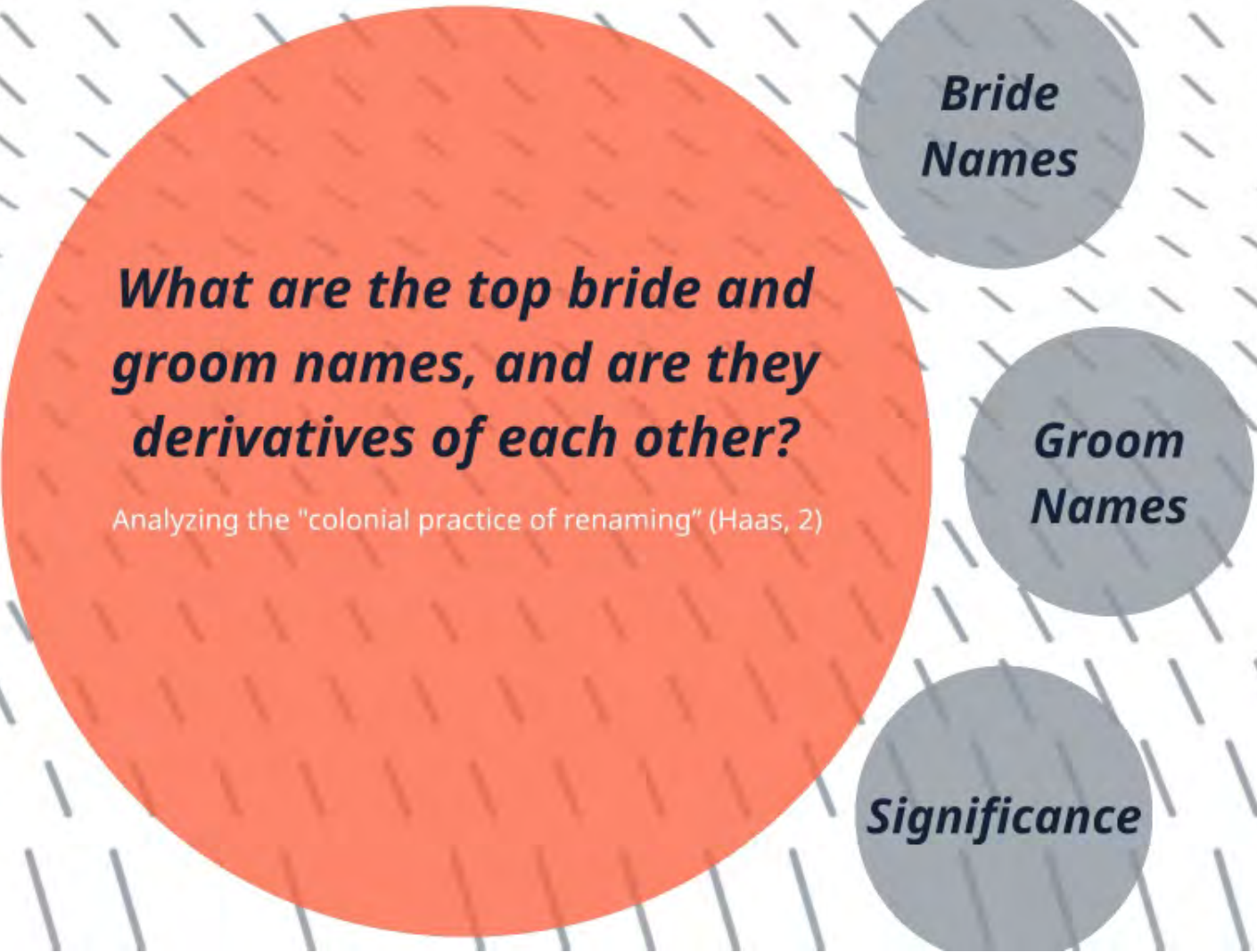
Method of Analysis

We analyzed our data by comparing the trends with historical information and occurrences we learned from class readings and lectures, outside academic literature, and online sources.

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What are the top bride and groom names, and are they derivatives of each other?

Analyzing the "colonial practice of renaming" (Haas, 2)

***Bride
Names***

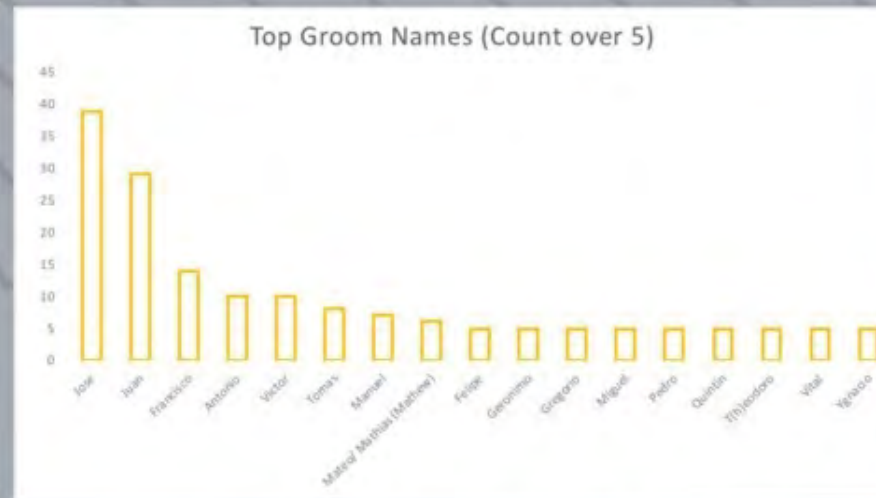
***Groom
Names***

Significance

Top Bride Names



Top Groom Names



What's the significance behind the names?

All Neophyte names with frequencies greater than 5, with the exception of one, had direct connection to Roman Catholicism--specifically to the Franciscan Order. This connection is typically a reference to important Biblical figures, Saints, Martyrs, and Angels.



Examples

Examples

Bride Names



Maria:

Significance: Latin form of Mary, The Mother of Jesus

Juana:

Significance: Feminine form of the name Juan/ John. Reference to John the Baptist.

Gabriela:

Significance: Reference to the Archangel Gabriel, one of the 3 angels celebrated in Catholicism; Similar religious reference to the name of the mission these indigenous people resided in, the San Gabriel Mission

Groom Name Examples

Jose:

Significance: Spanish form of Joseph, Father of Jesus



Juan:

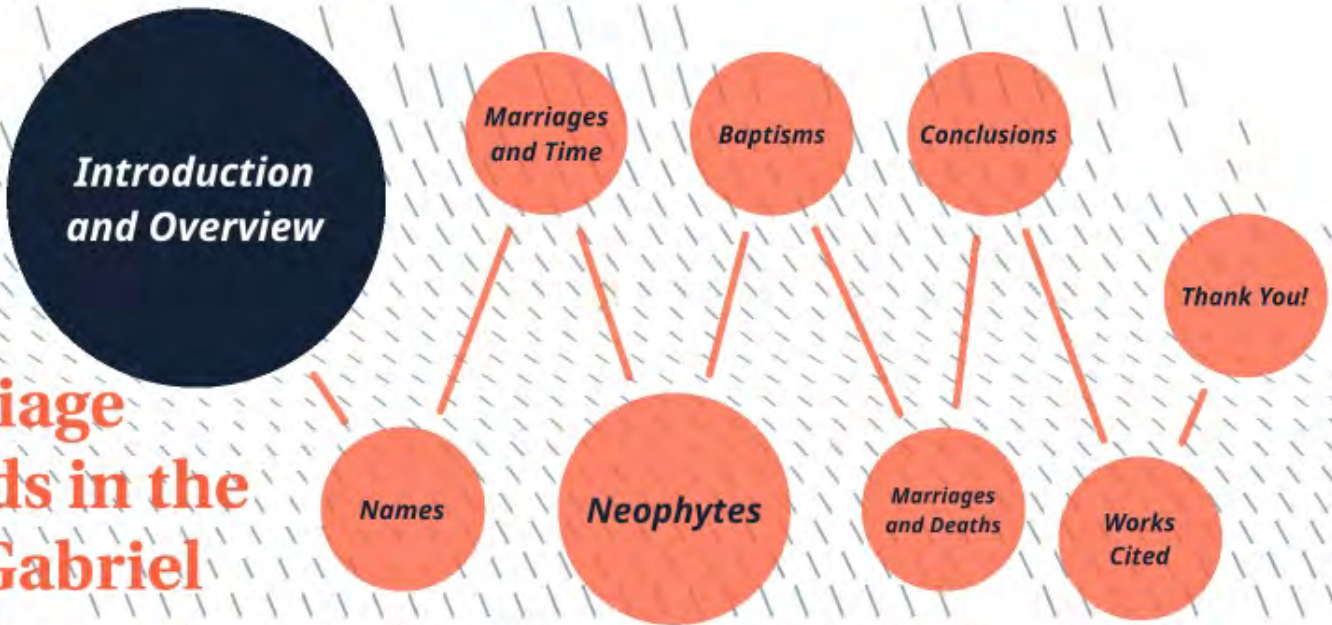
Significance: Spanish form of John. Reference to John the Baptist.

Francisco:

Significance: A derivative of Francis. Probably named for Saint Francis of Assisi founder of the Franciscan Order; Mission San Francisco de Asís also named for this saint

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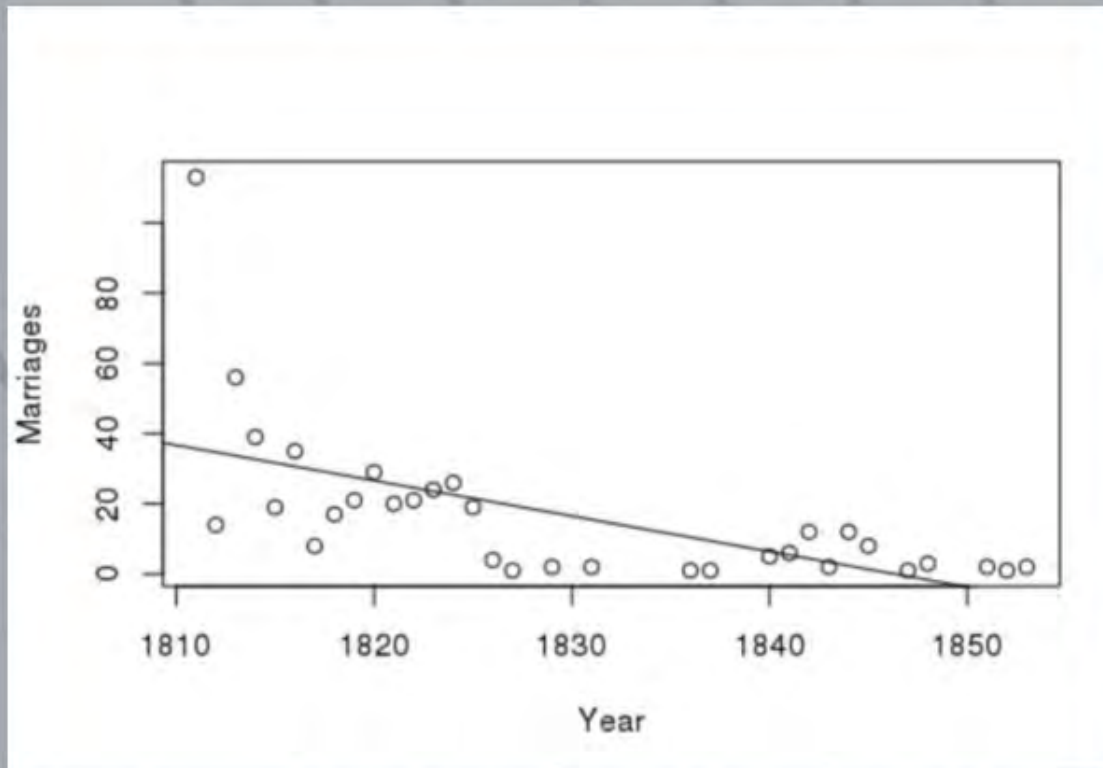


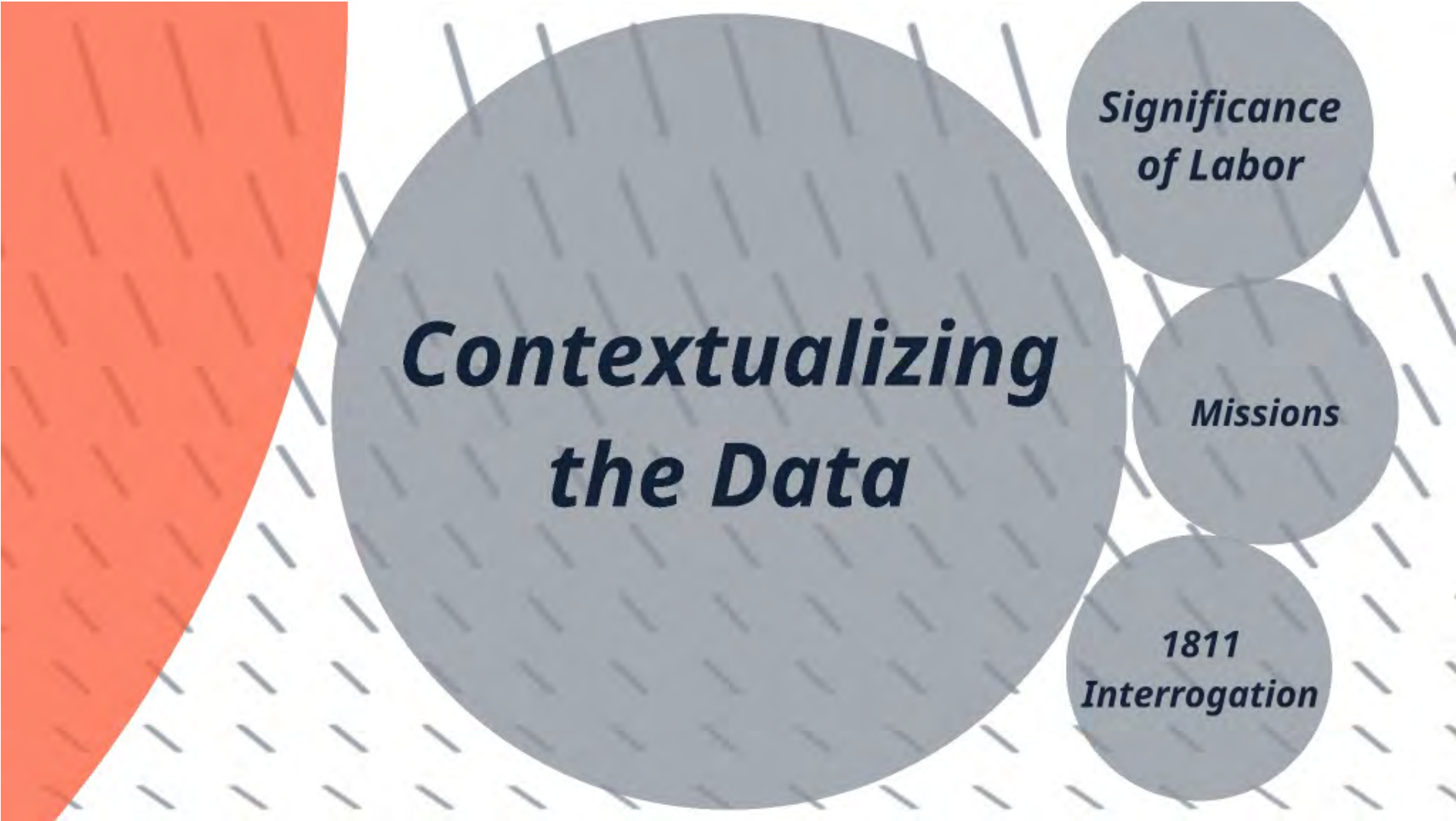
***How does the
frequency of
marriages change
over time?***

***Marriages
Over Time***

1811

Marriage Changes over Time





Contextualizing the Data

***Significance
of Labor***

Missions

***1811
Interrogation***

- In her article, Haas speaks about the “procession of New World goods that so revolutionized Europe” (21).
- This is a concept that we spoke about in class lecture – production in the Americas, especially the production of sugar (and coffee) greatly impacts Europe.
- It is important we keep in mind the intense history of reliance on indigenous and African labor for global trade. In fact, the commodities coming from the Americas are vital to commerce not only in Europe but also Asia. Caroline Frank states,

“Far eastern trade goods had rapidly become baroque Europe’s most highly valued consumables, for the personal prestige they bestowed as much as for the capital they generated. When explorers gradually realized that East Asia [was not] in the western Atlantic, **European capitalists sought nevertheless to extract resources from the “New World” — using Native American and African labor — that would enhance their commercial relationship** with China. By the late eighteenth century, Asia produced four-fifths of the world’s goods but comprised only two-thirds of its population.” (7)

- Global dynamic, labor in the Americas, namely labor of enslaved Africans but also labor of Indigenous peoples is a vital component of global commerce

Missions and the 1811 Marriage Spike:

- As we know though Hackel's piece, "The Staff of Leadership," starting in 1769 Spain began establishing missions in Alta California. They "depended on religious missions more than military fortifications or civilian towns to solidify [their] control" (347).
- However, in 1810, a lot is going on with Spain. Not only do we see the rise in Spanish American wars, but the Spanish king (Joseph Bonaparte) is incarcerated by the French. As a result, financing for missions in Alta California stops
- This results in a heavy reliance on indigenous labor, making products that sustained the mission colonial economy from 1810-1830
- Many of the marriages were of neophytes, meaning that they were new converts. As Haas states, "Neophyte labor built the entire colonial economy of California." (7)
- Therefore, the 1811 spike in marriage could be linked to newfound high demand for labor in the missions

1811 Interrogation:

- Although it is hard to gauge the impact of this document on Franciscan monks, it does offer a sliver more context for this year (1811)
- “In 1811 the Spanish viceregal government of Mexico sent to Alta California a list of questions regarding the Indians at the missions, their customs and disposition in their native state, and their condition under missionary influence” (Señán, 1).
- This interrogation was answered by Franciscan fathers.
- Read their response on San Gabriel mission in the handout.

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How did the amount of neophyte marriages change from 1785-1824?

Meaning

Graph

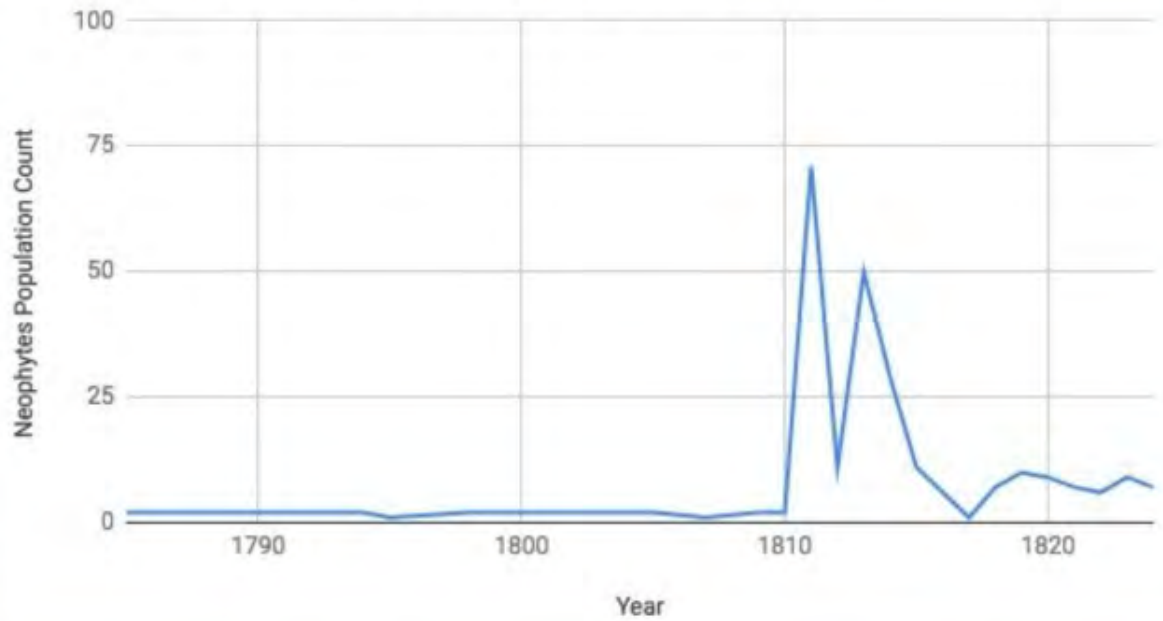
Conquest

Earthquake

Neophyte Meaning in Society

“To have ones’ name placed on the baptismal register initiated movement into a condition of neófia. To be a neophyte meant losing freedom of movement and personal and cultural sovereignty. A temporary condition, it lasted as long as one was considered to be in training or a novice to Christianity and Spanish culture. A condition of unfreedom, it involved being renamed and the new name inscribed on the baptismal and census roles” (Haas, 5).


Neophyte Population Change over Time



- There were spikes in neophyte marriages in 1811 and 1813

Neophytes and Conquest

- The increase of neophyte marriages in 1811 may be attributed to Spanish efforts to maintain control in missions at a time where they were losing power domestically
- Conversion to Catholicism was a vital part of Spanish conquest and maintaining the racial hierarchy in missions



December 8, 1812

- In December of 1812 there was a disastrous earthquake that destroyed many houses and public buildings and was detrimental to the mission
- The earthquake may have contributed to the spike in neophyte marriages in 1813

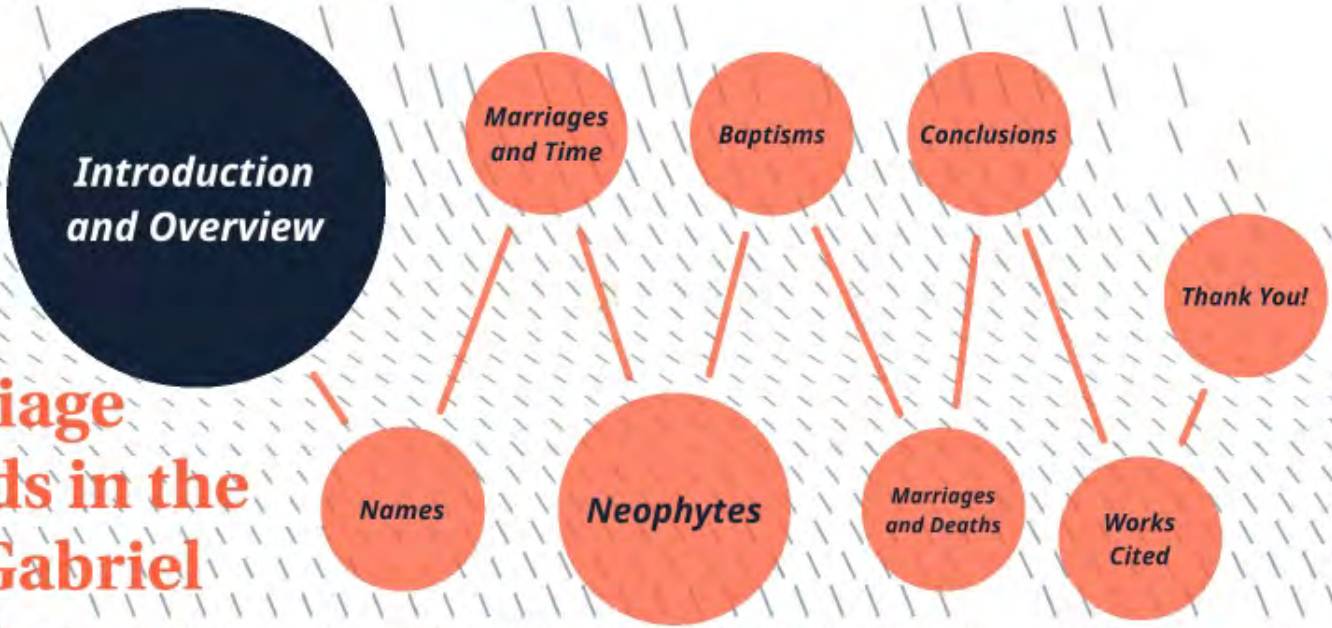
Ecological Hypothesis

Ecological Hypothesis

“Environmental push factors... and environmental changes... were motivating reasons for the rapid incorporation of native peoples into the Spanish mission system of Alta California” (Peelo, 549).

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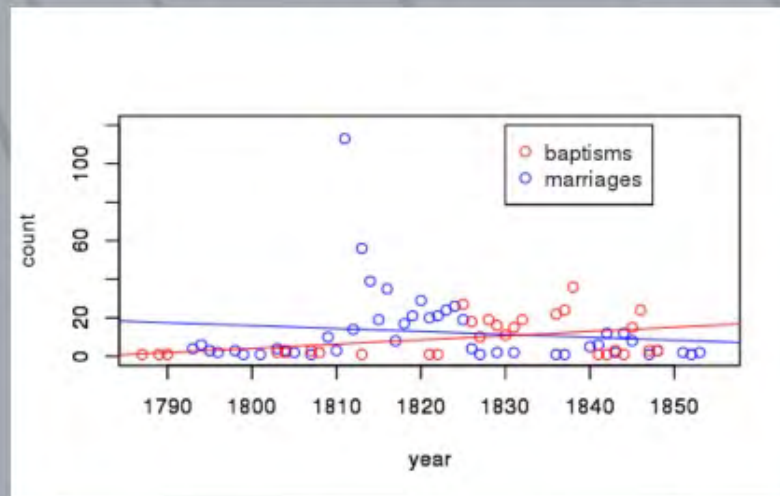


***What is the relationship
between marriages and
baptisms?***

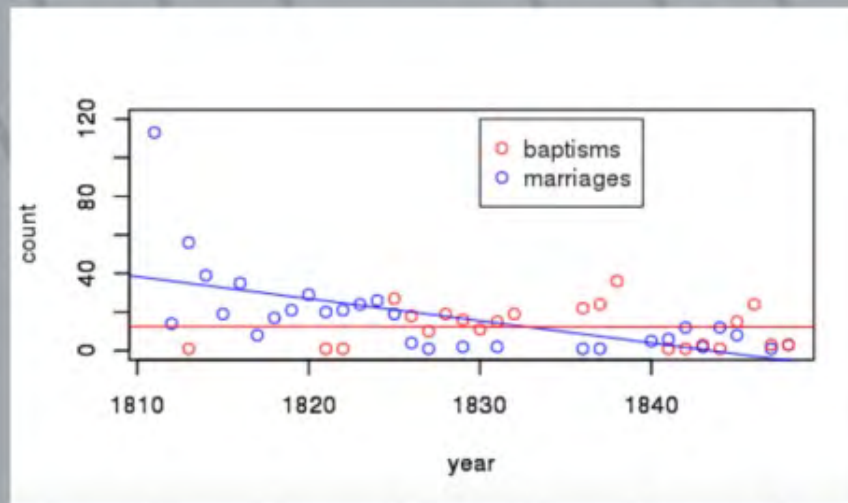
1787-1855

1810-1848

Baptisms and Marriages

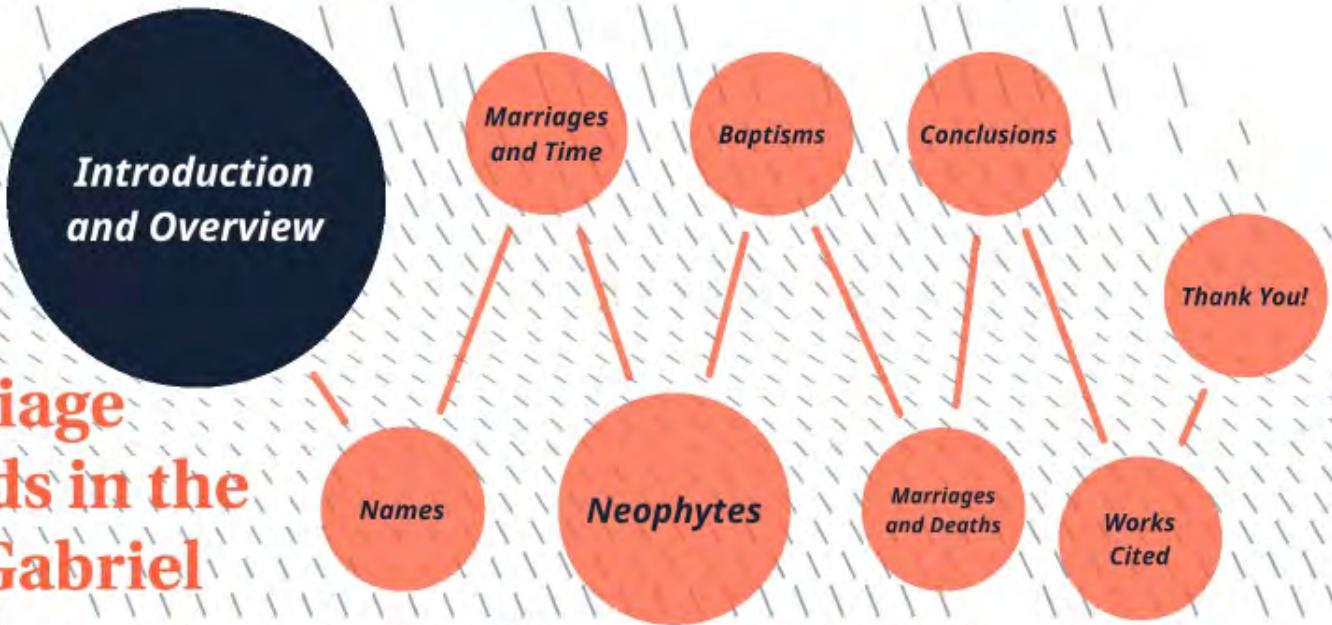


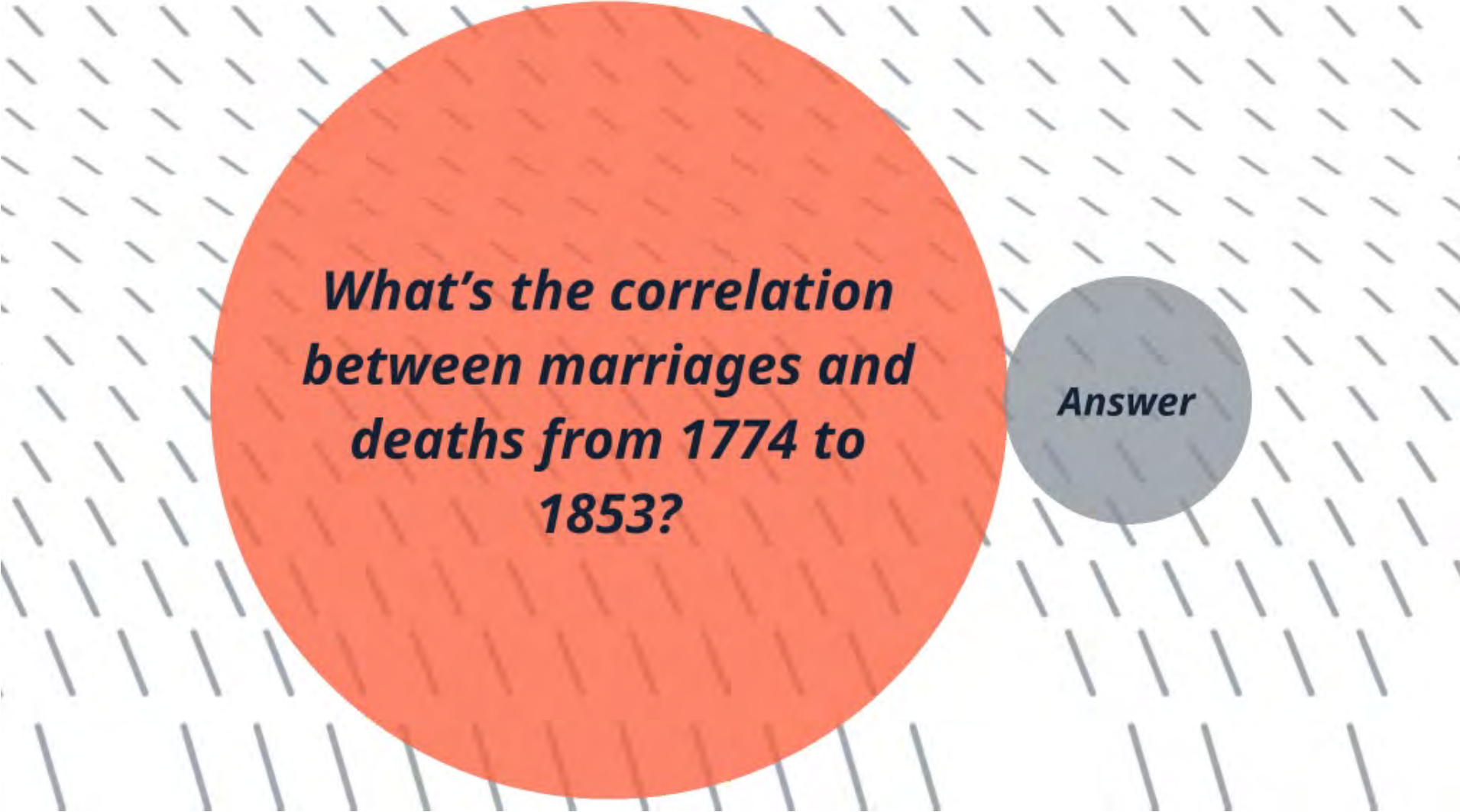
Baptisms and Marriages



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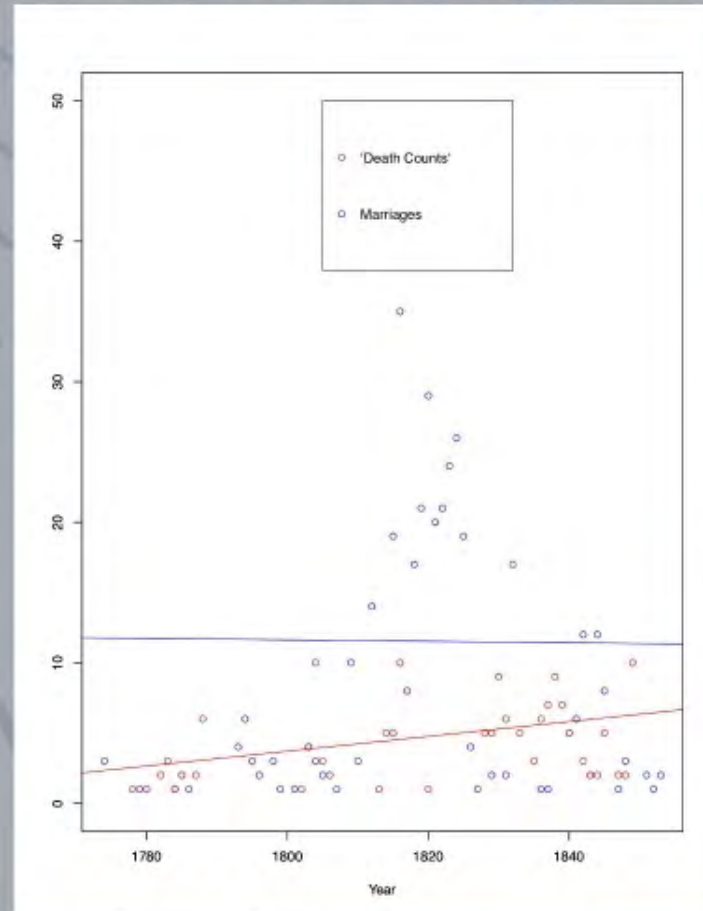


***What's the correlation
between marriages and
deaths from 1774 to
1853?***

Answer

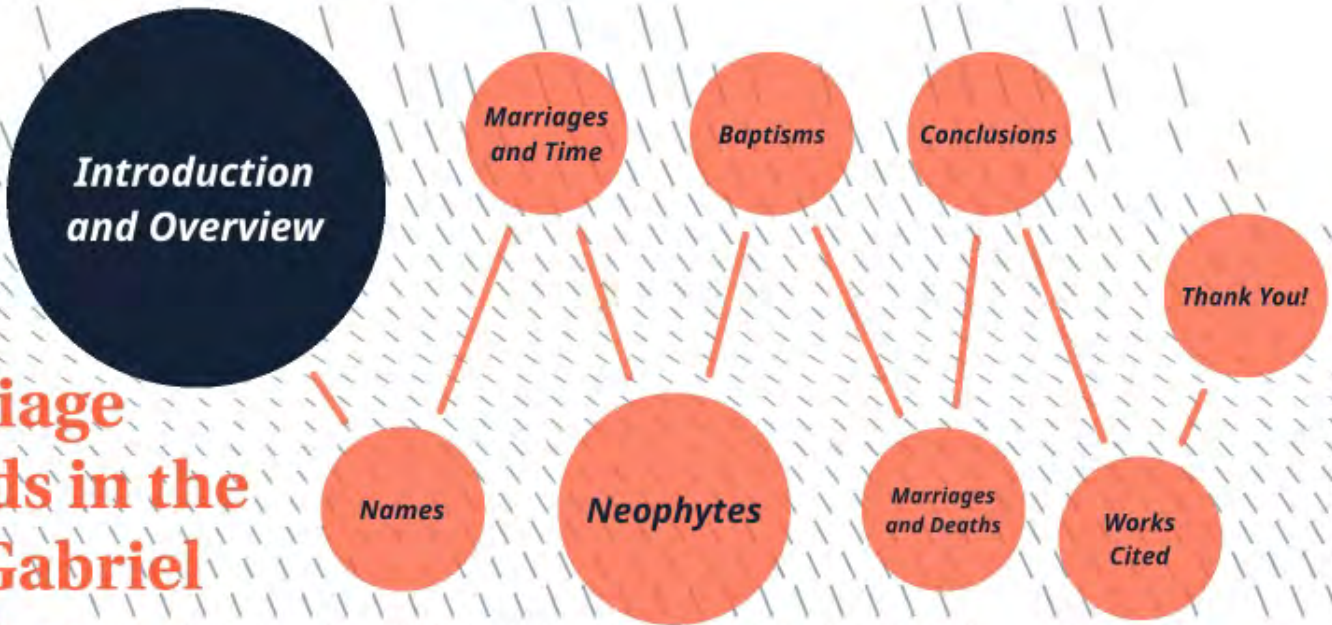
Death and Marriage Trends

**P Value:
-0.05595687**



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Benefits

The data we analyzed gave us numerical values and trends that we could use as evidence to prove the ideas we discussed in class and found in the readings

Limitations

Summary



Limitations

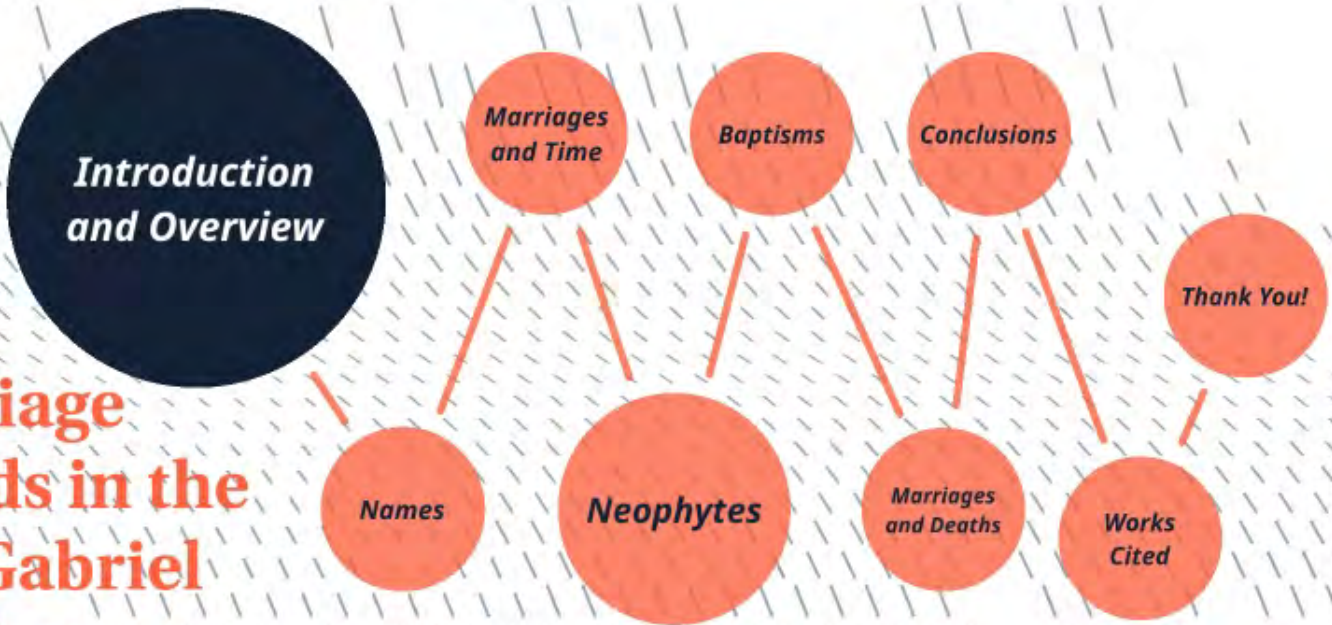
- There was inconsistency in the data sets...
 - time periods covered
 - amount of information provided
 - spelling
 - organization

Summary

- Our data paired with the readings and lectures suggests that neophyte marriages were used to maintain Spanish influence in the mission system
- We were unable to come to any conclusive findings on the relationships between baptisms and marriages and between marriages and deaths because of limited data
- We found the most common names in the mission had Franciscan religious importance, which could suggest the erasure of indigenous cultures when paired with class readings and lectures

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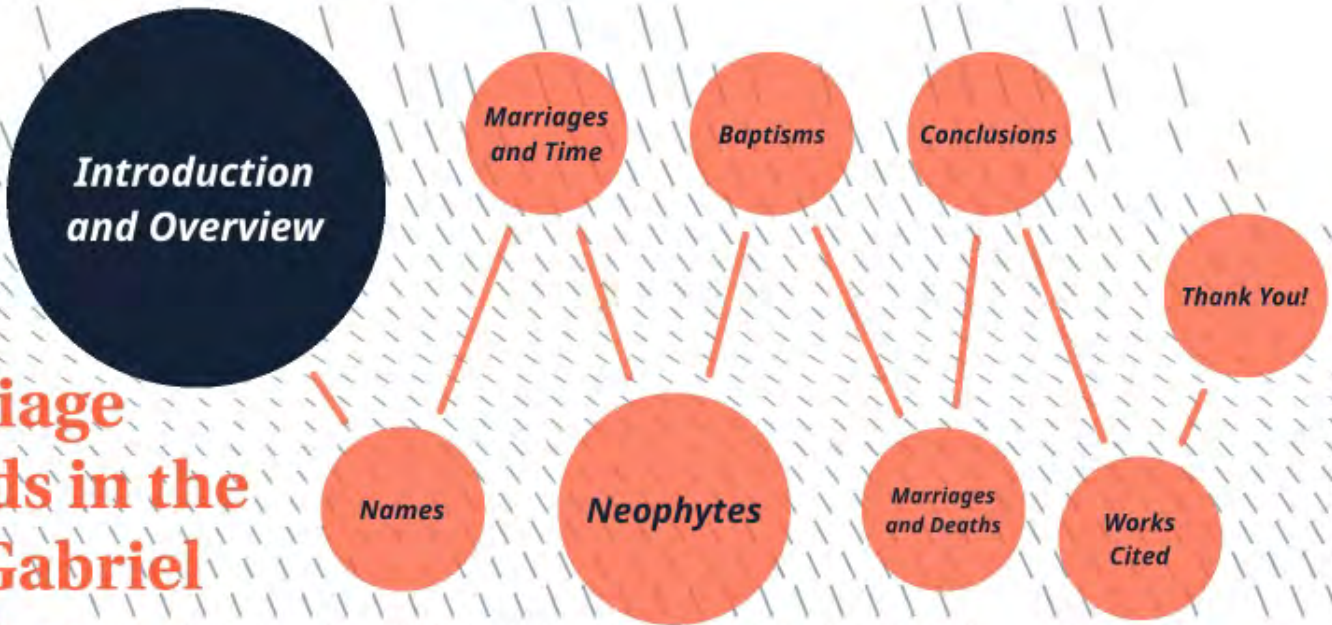


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Fin

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