

Typologies of filiation, marriage, and economic dependency networks in Chilean households

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Research Question: To explore the kinship networks in households in Chile, and how these networks are associated with patterns of economic dependency and support within households.

BACKGROUND

Social relationships within Chilean households are being transformed. Demographic changes: declining birthrate, population aging and economic changes: reduced access to quality housing alter how families share resources. Existing literature has attempted to quantify new relationships of economic dependence by analyzing trends of adult co-residency with older parents, largely in the United States; however, little research has occurred outside a Western context.

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

The Social and Health Research Center (CISS) housed in the Universidad Mayor in Santiago, Chile is a renowned and productive research organization. Their goal is “to advance well-being at the individual, social, and institutional levels in a context of global demographic, epidemiological, technological, and environmental change.” Research at CISS generally falls within three clusters: 1) social and life-course determinants of health and aging, 2) social relationships and cohesion, 3) institutions and regulation from a cross-national and comparative perspective. Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method research all have a place within CISS’s methodologies.

TABLES

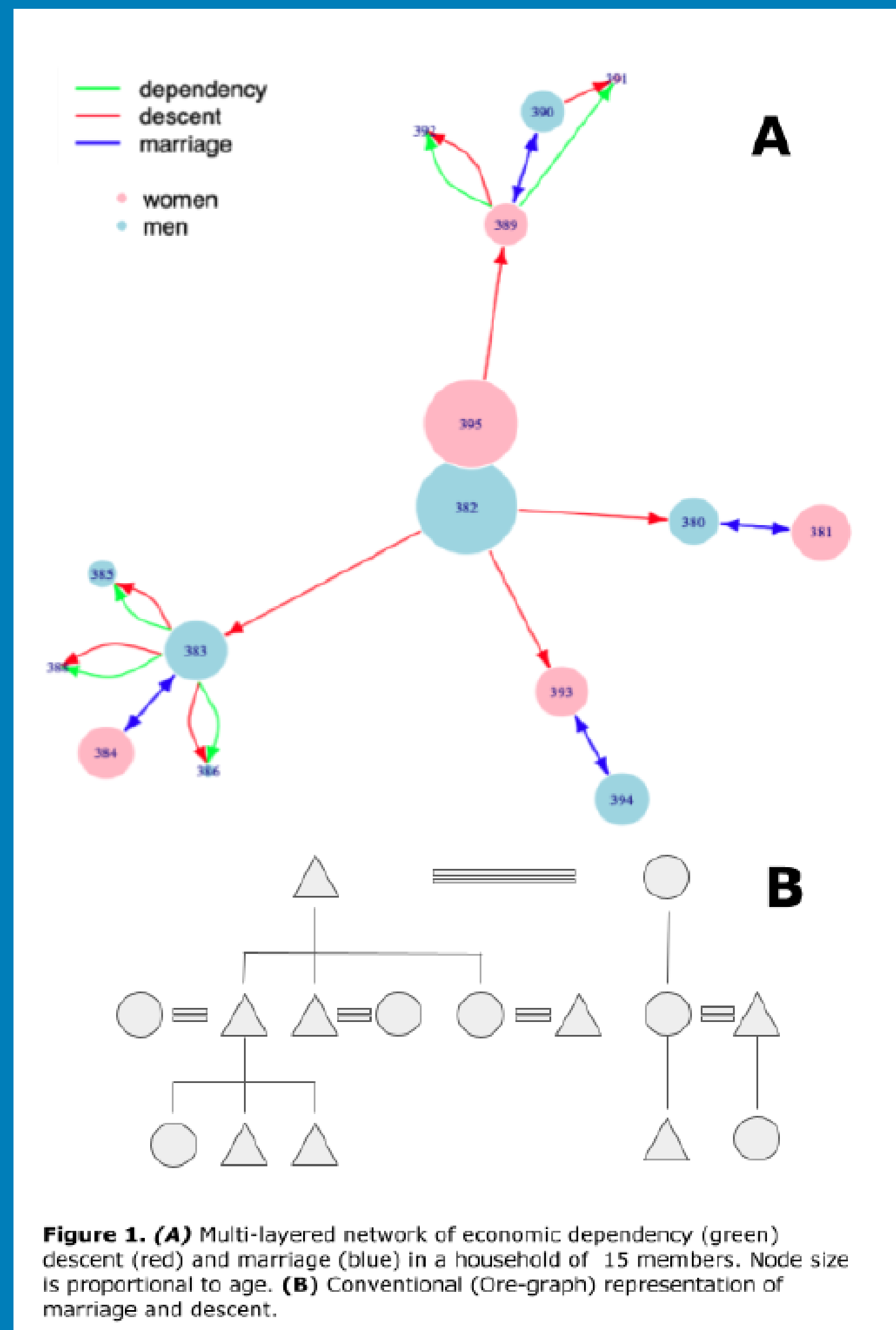


Figure 1. (A) Multi-layered network of economic dependency (green) descent (red) and marriage (blue) in a household of 15 members. Node size is proportional to age. **(B)** Conventional (Ore-graph) representation of marriage and descent.

METHODS

Information from the Chilean National Socioeconomic Characterisation Survey during the 2020 pandemic (CASEN en Pandemia) was used as the primary source to build networks of descent, marriage, and economic support for each of the 62,540 households included in the survey, encompassing 185,437 individuals

Social Network Analysis is our main methodological tool of analysis. A subset of graph theory, SNA allowed us to map out jural, biological, and economic relationships of household residents and describe them quantitatively through density, centrality, and other descriptive variables.

Data Analysis is still ongoing. Preliminary results of the first 10,000 households (selected randomly) show an average household composition of 2.97 and a density of 0.74. Additional descriptive variables are still being calculated.

DISCUSSION

As Data Analysis is still ongoing, we hesitate to make any strong statements about the data. However, initial data supports our hypothesis that density, centrality, and other factors vary significantly between different household types as described in Chilean census classifications. This provides some initial evidence to the theory that economic dependence ties rely on overall household structure.

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