Maquila Employment and Fertility in Mexicali, Mexico: A Study of the Dynamics of Productive and Reproductive Relations

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Abstract
Data on 193 women working in Mexicali, Mexico during a period of rapid expansion of female employment in Mexico's maquila industry in the mid-1980s is used to examine a model of the dynamics of production and reproduction derived from developmental and critical feminist perspectives on gender and development. Analyses confirm most predictions of the model, suggesting the utility of both perspectives. Results indicate that while fertility shapes the type of employment a woman acquires, type of employment has little effect on subsequent fertility. Unanticipated results regarding education point to the importance of considering elements often discussed under the rubric of human agency to more fully understand the dynamics of production and reproduction.

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