D. Simonton et al.

Luxury and Gender in European Towns, 1700-1914

Original text:
This book conceives the role of the modern town as a crucial place for material and cultural circulations of luxury. It concentrates on a critical period of historical change, the long eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, that was marked by the passage from a society of scarcity to one of expenditure and accumulation, from ranks and orders to greater social mobility, from traditional aristocratic luxury to a new bourgeois and even democratic form of luxury. This volume recognizes the notion that luxury operated as a mechanism of social separation, but also that all classes aspired to engage in consumption at some level, thus extending the idea of what constituted luxury and blurring the boundaries of class and status, often in unsettling ways. It moves beyond the moral aspects of luxury and the luxury debates to analyze how the production, distribution, purchase or display of luxury goods could participate in the creation of autonomous selves and thus challenge gender roles.

Content
1. Luxury, Gender and the Urban Experience Marjo Kaartinen, Anne Montenach and Deborah Simonton
in Late Nineteenth-Century Budapest Zsuzsa Sidó 13. The Luxury They Could Not Afford?: Households of Workers in the Industrial Town of Drammen, Norway c. 1900 Hanne Marie Johansen Afterword: Gender, Luxury and Towns Revisited Anne Montenach, Marjo Kaartinen and Deborah Simonton