

1 **Controlling water infrastructure, codifying water**
2 **knowledge. Institutional responses to severe drought in**
3 **the city of Barcelona (1620-1650)**
4

5 Santiago Gorostiza^{1,2}, Maria Antònia Martí Escayol³, Mariano Barriendos⁴

6 ¹ Centre d’Histoire de Sciences Po, Paris, 75006, France

7 ² Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals, ICTA-UAB, Barcelona, 08193, Spain

8 ³ Department of Modern and Contemporary History, Autonomous University of Barcelona, 08193, Spain

9 ⁴ Department of History and Archaeology, University of Barcelona, 08001, Spain

10 *Correspondence to:* Santiago Gorostiza (santiago.gorostiza@sciencespo.fr)

11
12
13
14 **1. Introduction** 4
15 **2. Methodology and Sources** 7
16 **2.1 Drought reconstruction** 7
17 **2.2 Institutional response** 9
18 **3. Results** 11
19 **3.1 Drought reconstruction** 11
20 **3.2 Institutional response** 13
21 **4. Discussion** 18
22 **4.1 Drought stress and political tensions** 18
23 **4.2 Knowledge transmission and adaptation** 20
24 **4.3 Enforcing control over water infrastructure** 22
25 **5. Conclusions** 24
26 **Author contribution** 26
27 **Acknowledgments** 26
28 **Competing interests** 26
29 **Archival sources** 26
30 **References** 27
31 **1. Introduction** 4
32 **2. Methodology and Sources** 7
33 **2.1 Drought reconstruction** 7
34 **2.2 Institutional response** 9
35 **3. Results** 11
36 **3.1 Drought reconstruction** 11

37	<u>3.2 Institutional response.....</u>	13
38	<u>4. Discussion</u>	18
39	<u>4.1 Drought stress and political tensions.....</u>	18
40	<u>4.2 Knowledge transmission and adaptation.....</u>	20
41	<u>4.3 Enforcing control over water infrastructure.....</u>	22
42	<u>5. Conclusions.....</u>	24
43	<u>Author contribution.....</u>	26
44	<u>Acknowledgments.....</u>	26
45	<u>Competing interests.....</u>	26
46	<u>Archival sources.....</u>	26
47	<u>References.....</u>	27
48		
49		
50		

51 **ABSTRACT:** Combining historical climatology and environmental history, this article
52 examines the diverse range of strategies deployed by the city government of Barcelona
53 (Catalonia, NE Spain) to confront the recurrent drought episodes experienced between
54 1626 and 1650. Our reconstruction of drought in Barcelona for the period 1525-1821,
55 based on *pro pluvia* rogations as documentary proxy data, identifies the years 1626-
56 1635 and 1640s as the most significant drought events of the series (highest drought
57 frequency weighted index and drought duration index). We then focus on the period
58 1601-1650, providing a timeline that visualises rain rogation levels in Barcelona at a
59 monthly resolution. Against this backdrop, we examine institutional responses to
60 drought and discuss how water scarcity was perceived and confronted by Barcelona city
61 authorities. Among the several measures implemented, we present the ambitious water
62 supply projects launched by the city government, together with the construction of
63 windmills as an alternative to watermills, ~~in order to cope~~ a diversification strategy
64 aimed at coping better with diminishing water flows. We pay special attention to the
65 institutional efforts to codify the knowledge about Barcelona's water supply, which in
66 1650 materialised in the Book of Fountains of the City of Barcelona (*Llibre de les Fonts*
67 *de la Ciutat de Barcelona*). This manual of urban water supply, written by the water city
68 officer after three decades of experience in his post, constitutes a rare and valuable
69 source to study water management history but also includes significant information to
70 interpret historical climate. We analyse the ~~elaboration~~ production of this manual in the
71 context of three decades marked by recurrent episodes of severe drought. We interpret
72 the city government aspiration to codify knowledge about urban water supply as an
73 attempt to systematise and store historical information on infrastructure to improve
74 institutional capacities to cope with future water scarcities.
75

76 **1. Introduction**

77

78 ~~In~~Around July 1650, during an intense episode of drought in Barcelona, the city water
79 officer (“mestre de les fonts”) Francesc Sociés started writing a book that described in
80 great detail the water supply and distribution system of the city. At the time, Sociés had
81 been in his post for over thirty years, overseeing the city’s fountains and water supply,
82 and was approaching retirement. After decades of coping with drought ~~very~~ frequently,
83 and well-aware of the precious ~~experieneed~~experience gathered by Francesc Sociés, the
84 city government had asked him to compile his knowledge about Barcelona’s water
85 supply system. The resulting book should perpetually be kept in the city archives to
86 shed light on the work of future water city officers and improve urban water
87 management. In November 1650, ~~he~~Sociés delivered what became known as the *Llibre*
88 *de les Fonts de la Ciutat de Barcelona* (“Book of Fountains of the City of Barcelona”)
89 (Archival source AS1).

90 This article focuses on the three decades (1620-1650) leading to the codification of
91 ~~Barcelona water~~ knowledge about Barcelona’s water supply into the Book of Fountains
92 and examines them from the perspective of historical climatology and environmental
93 history. ~~The period 1625-1635 in Catalonia has already been identified in the historical~~
94 ~~climatology literature~~Our analysis reconstructs the severe droughts experienced in the
95 city during this period and examines the strategies followed by the city government to
96 cope with them, contributing to the growing scholarship on societal adaptation to past
97 climate changes (Degroot, 2018). First, drawing on *pro pluvia* rogations (rain rogations)
98 as proxy data, we identify the years 1626-1635 and 1640s as the most significant
99 drought events that occurred in Barcelona during the period 1521-1825 (highest drought
100 frequency weighted index and drought duration index of the series). This previously
101 unpublished drought reconstruction is the first contribution of our work, which confirms
102 previous research on historical climatology that had pointed to the years 1625-1635 as
103 severely dry (Díaz, 1984; Martín-Vide and Barriendos, 1995; Rodrigo and Barriendos,
104 2008). These results are coherent with a systematic analysis of 165 tree-ring series in
105 the Mediterranean for the last 500 years, which points to an acute period of drought
106 between 1620 and 1640, an episode that affected the whole Western Mediterranean
107 (Nicault *et al.*, 2008).~~Drawing on *pro pluvia* rogations (rain rogations) as proxy data~~
108 ~~and focusing on Barcelona, in this article we establish that the years 1626-1635 and~~
109 ~~1640s constitute the most significant drought events that occurred in the city during the~~
110 ~~period 1521-1825 (highest drought frequency weighted index and drought duration~~
111 ~~index of the series). This previously unpublished drought reconstruction in Barcelona is~~
112 ~~the first contribution of our work.~~

113 ~~In addition~~Second, following the ~~pioneering research~~scholarship on the social
114 ~~dimensions of response to~~ past climate variability (Pfister, Brázdil and Glaser, 1999) ~~and~~
115 ~~recent environmental history monographs that have incorporated historical climatology~~
116 ~~(White, 2011; Degroot, 2018)~~, we examine the diverse range of strategies deployed by
117 the Barcelona city government to confront the recurrent drought episodes experienced
118 during these years. ~~In contrast to the development of historical climatology in Catalonia,~~
119 ~~research on the human dimensions of climate variability is still scarce.~~ the years 1626-
120 1650. In contrast to the development of historical climatology in Catalonia, research on
121 the human response to past climate variability is still scarce (Martí Escayol, 2019). The
122 work of Antoni Simon i Tarrés, who highlighted the importance of drought among the
123 complex interaction of factors that triggered social unrest in Catalonia during the late
124 1620s and 1630s stands out among the few existing publications on the topic (Simon i

125 Tarrés, 1981, 1992). Others have underlined that climate conditions in the 17th century
126 accentuated the agricultural, social and political crisis (Serra i Puig and Ardit, 2008).
127 The ~~relevance~~impact of the climatic factor~~climate variability~~ in the Spanish
128 ~~context~~Iberian peninsula during the 17th century has also been ~~underlined~~stressed by
129 Geoffrey Parker, who pointed out that ~~during the reign of Philip IV~~ Spain “suffered
130 extreme weather without parallel in other periods, particularly in 1630–2 and 1640–3”
131 (Parker 2013:289) ~~and examined the revolt of Catalonia against the Spanish King~~
132 ~~(1640-1651) in this context.~~ Parker examined the Catalan revolt against the Spanish
133 King Philip IV (1640-1652) emphasizing the key impact of extreme weather events in
134 Catalan society (Parker, 2013).

135 However, none of these authors ~~explicitly addressed the~~ examined in detail human
136 response to climatic ~~disturbances~~variability in Catalonia during these years. More
137 recently, ~~Mar Grau-Satorras has examined the example by focusing on the case of~~
138 ~~the town of Terrassa (Barcelona region, Catalonia) to analyse).~~ Mar Grau-Satorras has
139 analysed how local communities combined different strategies to cope with drought
140 during the 17th century, including infrastructural, institutional and symbolic responses,
141 which changed throughout time (~~Grau-Satorras et al., 2016, 2018; Grau-Satorras,~~
142 ~~2017).~~(Grau-Satorras et al., 2016, 2021; Grau-Satorras, 2017). Along these lines, our
143 research focuses on the case of Barcelona as an example of Western Mediterranean
144 urban agglomeration (40,000 citizens) under severe environmental stress. Among other
145 institutional strategies in response to drought and diminishing water flows, we discuss
146 the ~~elaboration~~production of the Book of Fountains, underlining the relevance and
147 novelty of the attempt of Barcelona city government to codify water knowledge in the
148 form of a book for future ~~managers.~~urban city officers.

149 In line with ~~previous~~ research in the ~~field of~~ historical climatology re-assessing
150 traditional documentary sources or presenting innovative ones (Adamson, 2015; Veale
151 et al., 2017), our research draws attention to the potential of urban water supply
152 manuals as a rare but significant source to be considered to critically interpret
153 institutional responses to droughts. While the Book of Fountains ~~has been mentioned~~is
154 known in ~~the literature about Barcelona’s history~~Catalan historiography (Voltes Bou,
155 1967; Perelló Ferrer, 1996; Cubeles, 2011), ~~there is no systematic analysis of~~ Francese
156 Socies work~~it remains unpublished and no modern editions of the Book of Fountains~~
157 ~~have ever~~has not been ~~published~~studied in depth. After carrying out the first complete
158 transcription and ~~study~~analysis of ~~this~~the text, this is the first article that contextualises
159 the ~~elaboration~~writing of the Book of Fountains within the ~~most intense dry years~~
160 ~~of severe droughts experienced in Barcelona during~~ the period 1521-1825, 17th century.
161 Manuals of urban water supply constitute rare documentary sources, and we have only
162 identified ~~another book~~one similar book: *Le Livre des Fontaines de Rouen*, written by
163 Jacques Le Lieur between 1524 and 1525 in the city of Rouen, France (Sowina, 2016).

164 The article proceeds as follows. In the next section, we provide an overview of the
165 methods and sources used to reconstruct droughts during our period of study, as well as
166 to review the institutional responses to it. In the “Results” section we present three
167 previously unpublished figures that show the drought frequency weighted index and
168 drought duration index for the period 1521-1825, together with a timeline that presents
169 rain rogation levels in Barcelona between 1601 and 1650 at a monthly resolution. The
170 results about institutional responses are presented in the form of two diagrams showing
171 the main strategies followed by the city government and the specific years they were
172 implemented. Next, the discussion section is subdivided in three parts. First, we
173 examine how institutional responses to drought intertwined with urban and political

174 conflicts. Second, we discuss the Book of Fountains as a strategy for codifying
175 knowledge transmission and ~~improve~~improving urban water management. Third, we
176 analyse the Book of Fountains as a tool to enhance water infrastructure control. In the
177 conclusions, we summarise the relevance of our local case study and point out the
178 potential of urban water supply manuals as historical sources for both climate
179 reconstruction and past climate adaptation.

180

181

182 2. Methodology and Sources

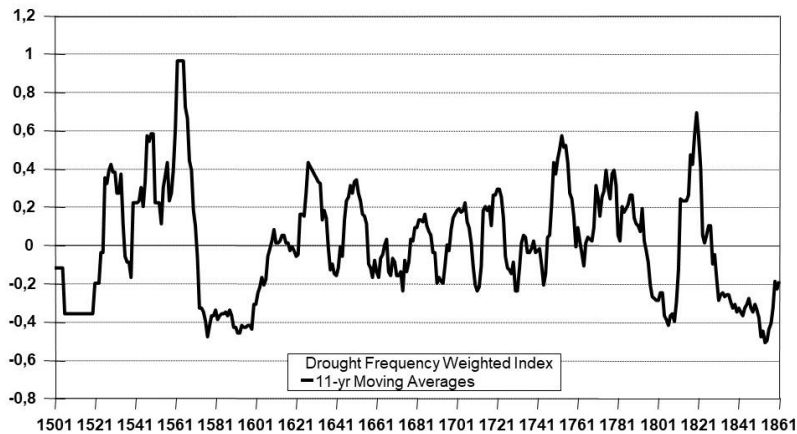
183

184 2.1 Drought reconstruction

185 The climatic conditions during the 17th century can be considered as part of the climatic
186 episode known as the Little Ice Age (LIA). ~~Paleoclimatic research~~ Research on historical
187 climatology has pointed to a higher frequency and severity of cold spells during this
188 episode (Pfister, Schwarz-Zanetti and Wegmann, 1996; Pfister *et al.*, 1998; Ogilvie and
189 Jónsson, 2001; White, 2014). More recently it has also identified and analysed a general
190 increase in the irregularity of rainfall patterns, manifested in the emergence of
191 hydrometeorological extreme episodes with great social and environmental impact. At
192 the climatic scale, in the Spanish Mediterranean this increase in the frequency and
193 severity of extreme hydrometeorological events manifests in periods of around 40 years
194 for the case of extraordinary rainfalls leading to floods (Barriendos and Martín-Vide,
195 1998; Llasat *et al.*, 2005; Barriendos *et al.*, 2019).

196 Rain rogations have been successfully used as a proxy for the reconstruction of rainfall
197 variability (Martín-Vide & Barriendos, 1995; Barriendos, 1996; Barriendos, 1997).
198 Rogations were a mechanism to respond to environmental stress, in this case drought.
199 The institutions involved (agricultural guilds, city councils, cathedral chapters) have left
200 reliable and detailed records, with data at a daily resolution. In Catalonia, rain rogations
201 are classified in five levels, according to ~~its~~ their severity. These categories can be
202 identified by the typology of religious liturgies, from simple rogations inside the church
203 (low, level 1) to pilgrimages to sanctuaries (critical, level 5). An integrated index is
204 obtained by weighting data according to the severity of each level of rogation. This
205 index is standardised so that it can be compared with other populations and regions
206 (Martín-Vide and Barriendos, 1995).

207 Drawing on previous research based on this method and sources, Figure 1 provides a
208 general view of the frequency of extreme droughts for the period 1501-1861 with data
209 from four Catalan cities near the Mediterranean coast at a yearly resolution (Barcelona,
210 Girona, Tarragona and Tortosa) (data adapted from Oliva *et al.*, 2018). This general
211 view allows to identify many recurring events of medium intensity and some of very
212 high intensity for the Catalan coast. The relevant drought events identified are the
213 following: 1520s, 1540s, 1560s, 1620s (c. 1625-1635), 1750s, 1812-1824.



214
 215 **Figure 1.** Drought Frequency Weighted Index (1501-1861). Standardised values. 11 years moving
 216 averages from four cities: Girona, Barcelona, Tarragona and Tortosa. Data adapted from Oliva *et al.*,
 217 2018.

218 In relation to 17th century Catalonia, Figure 1 shows two pulses of drought during our
 219 period of study (1620-1650): a higher one approximately between 1625-1635 and a
 220 lower one immediately after. This assessment is coherent with the systematic analysis of
 221 165 tree-ring series in the Mediterranean for the last 500 years, which point to an acute
 222 period of drought between 1620 and 1640, an episode that affected the whole Western
 223 Mediterranean (Nicault *et al.*, 2008).

224 In order to document the impact of drought in Barcelona and the institutional measures
 225 to adapt to it, our research delves in the Catalan capital leaving aside the other three
 226 cities included in Figure 1. In first place, we apply the drought frequency weighted
 227 index displayed in Figure 1 to the local data of Barcelona (see Figure 4 in the section
 228 “Results”, previously unpublished). Second, we take advantage of a variable that
 229 provides useful information to assess the length of drought episodes. In the case of
 230 Barcelona, the level 2 of *pro pluvia* rogations involved the public exhibition of a
 231 specific relic: the remains of Santa Madrona (Martín-Vide & Barriendos, 1995). The
 232 public exhibition of this relic in the high altar of the Cathedral lasted until the
 233 authorities established that the drought was over. In that moment, the urn containing the
 234 Saint’s remains was taken back to the Chapel of Santa Madrona in the near mountain of
 235 Montjuïc. This liturgical pattern introduces the possibility of analysing the duration of
 236 drought episodes as perceived by local authorities, something that has not been studied
 237 in this geographical context. By accounting for the amount of days per year ~~than~~ that the
 238 level 2 of drought was active in Barcelona and standardising the result to make it
 239 comparable with other cities, we obtain an annual index of drought duration for the
 240 period 1521-1825 (see Figure 5 in the section “Results”, previously unpublished).
 241 Finally, since the data allows for an analysis at a monthly resolution, we aim at
 242 ~~elaborating~~ producing a timeline to describe the behaviour of drought and the different
 243 rogation levels focused on the study period 1600-1650. This timeline (see Figure 6 in
 244 the section “Results”, previously unpublished) allows to distinguish if the dry months
 245 were sporadic and irregular or appeared as a persistent anomaly for long periods.

246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259

2.2 Institutional response

Our analysis of the institutional response to drought focuses on the period 1620-1650. We provide a qualitative analysis of the records produced by the Consell de Cent (city government) in relation to water management during these years. Most of all, we interpret the ~~elaboration~~creation of the *Llibre de les Fonts* in the context of the frequent drought of our period of study. This rare source, kept at the city archives, was written by the water city officer Francesc Sociés during the summer of 1650, at the request of the city government (AS1, Figure 2; AS2). The Book of Fountains is a manual about urban water supply, a text where Sociés provides instructions that codify both the knowledge of his profession and the experience ~~off~~from his job position, where he was posted between 1620 and 1650. The manual aimed at guiding future interventions in the supply system and communicating what future water city officers should know.



260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278

Figure 2. First page of the *Llibre de les Fonts*, Manuscripts, L-15, Arxiu Històric de la Ciutat de Barcelona (AHCB).

The structure of the book follows the water distribution system and describes it as an interconnected network, from the drainage underground ~~channels~~canals in the hills of Barcelona known as “water mines” (*qanats*) to the city fountains. The author indicates with high precision where each element is located, both for those visible and those hidden from view, underground or behind walls (water taps, pipes, water tanks or wells). In addition, throughout the book, the author provides a calendar for the system’s maintenance within a particular urban space and time. Sociés specifies where to intervene and how often, for instance in relation to the cleaning of pipes and curtailing the growth of trees’ roots that can disrupt sections of the system (e.g. every two, four or five years). Nevertheless, Sociés’ temporal specifications do not only apply to maintenance, but also to key historical information about water property rights. Finally, Sociés refers several times to droughts and the lack of water supply experienced ~~several times~~in the city during the study period.

279 In addition to our analysis of the Book of Fountains, a review of the secondary literature
280 on urban history ~~has identified~~helped to identify valuable works that refer to measures
281 approved by the city government during the 17th century to cope with drought and
282 diminishing water flows (Voltes Bou, 1967; Perelló Ferrer, 1996). We have also
283 reviewed the leaflets published by the city government during our period of study and
284 found several connected to water management. In the first place, we located a pamphlet
285 in defence of a ~~channel~~-project to build an irrigation canal to bring waters from the
286 Llobregat River to Barcelona (AS3, published in 1627). ~~Despite~~Though this project was
287 not carried out, we have traced several references to it in city chronicles and meeting
288 records during the following years (AS4 and AS5). Our review has also identified four
289 leaflets connected to a legal conflict concerning water rights, which in 1634 brought
290 face to face the Barcelona city government and the water officer Francesc Socies with
291 the Cathedral's Chapter (AS6, AS7, AS8, see Figure 3, and AS9).
292



293 **Figure 3.** First page of leaflet “Por la ciudad de Barcelona y Francisco Sossies, maestro de las fventes,
294 con el Cabildo de la Iglesia Maior acerca de las censuras declaradas contra el dicho Sossies”, 1634 (AS8).
295 Source: F.Bon. 10964, Biblioteca de Catalunya.
296
297

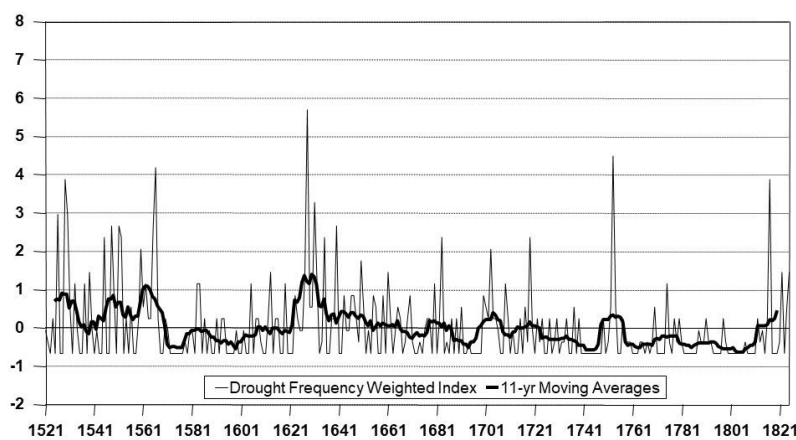
298

299 **3. Results**

300

301 *3.1 Drought reconstruction*

302 Drawing on *pro pluvia* rogations, Figure 4 shows a distribution of drought frequency in
303 Barcelona between 1521 and 1825 with different degrees of intensity. By using yearly
304 weighted indexes, we identify the decades of 1560s and 1625-1635 as the two most
305 significant drought events of these three centuries in the city. The latter, however, stands
306 out for its extreme severity. Moreover, there was no similar experience with drought in
307 the previous 50 years (approximately 1570-1620).



308

309 **Figure 4.** Drought Frequency Weighted Index. Standardised values. City of Barcelona (1521-1825). Data
310 improved from Martín-Vide and Barriandos, 1995.

311

312 Through the development of an index of drought duration based on the records about
313 the public exhibition of Santa Madrona relic, Figure 5 shows that the drought
314 experienced in Barcelona during the late 1620s was perceived as longer than any other
315 registered until that time. While it is difficult to extract more details with these historical
316 records, it is evident that the drought registered had an extraordinary magnitude.
317 However, the long duration of the rain rogations may also be related to the perception of
318 an extreme anomaly by the city authorities, since almost no drought conditions had been
319 experienced in the previous 50 years.

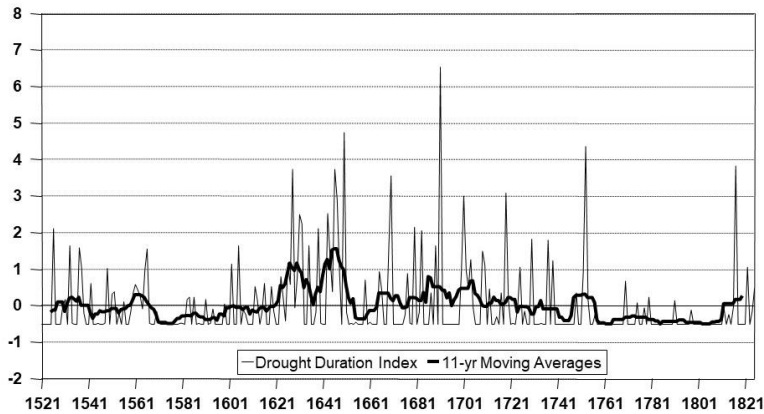
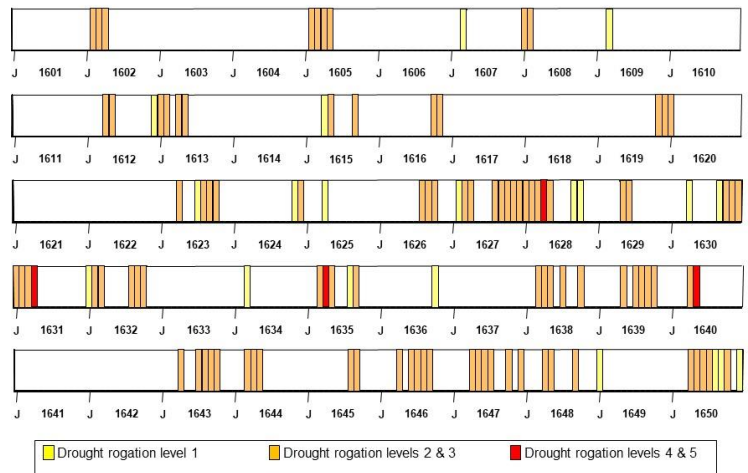


Figure 5. Drought Duration Index. Standardised values. City of Barcelona (1521-1825).

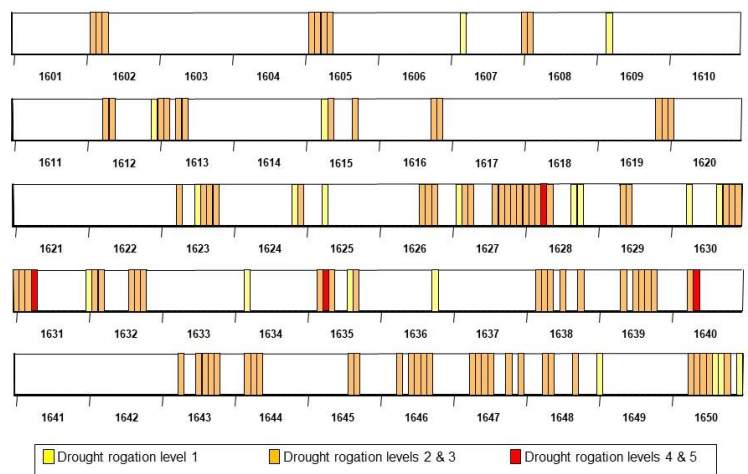
320
321
322

323 The analysis of drought duration presented in Figure 5 reveals another significant issue.
324 After the severe 1620s drought, which extends into the first part of the 1630s, there was
325 a less intense episode, very close in time, around the 1640s. ~~In~~On this occasion the
326 duration of rain rogations of level 2 —involving the exhibition of Santa Madrona— was
327 even longer than in the previous episode (Figure 5). These results do not allow to
328 analyse in detail the development of the drought episode ~~as a natural episode~~ but
329 provide an entry point to the human response to an extraordinary climate event. The
330 first drought ~~episode of the period of the~~ study (1620s to the first half of 1630s) had
331 such a social impact that the almost consecutive episode of the 1640s
332 ~~generates~~generated a proportional response. In view of the impact of drought on water
333 resources and with limited references available after two generations without similar
334 events, the duration of the rain rogations may have been extended as a response against
335 a challenging situation for local authorities.

336 Finally, Figure 6 delves into the first half of the 17th century, the period ~~whenduring~~
337 ~~which~~ the most significant and long episodes of drought have been identified in the
338 previous figures. Figure 6 visualises rain rogation levels at a monthly resolution for the
339 first time in our geographical context. This timeline allows to analyse if drought
340 appeared either sporadically and irregularly, or as a persistent anomaly for longer
341 periods. In the case of prolonged drought during the rainy seasons in the region (spring
342 and autumn), the impacts in agriculture and water supply may have been particularly
343 severe. The results shown in Figure 6 allow to identify the years 1626-1627 as the
344 beginning of the 1620-1630s drought episode shown in Figures 4 and 5. During the
345 1640s, the specific period identified spans from 1643 to ~~+648~~1650.



346



347

348

Figure 6: Monthly drought rogation levels in Barcelona, 1601-1650.

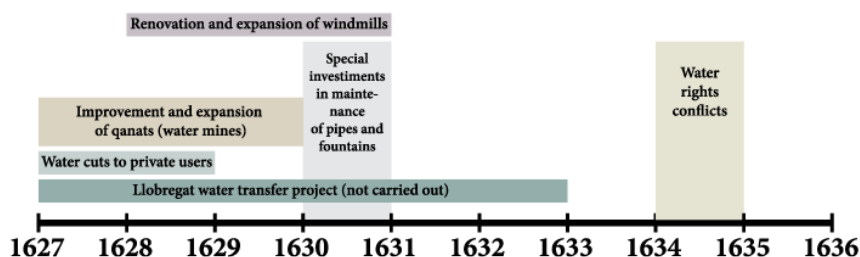
349

350 *3.2 Institutional response*

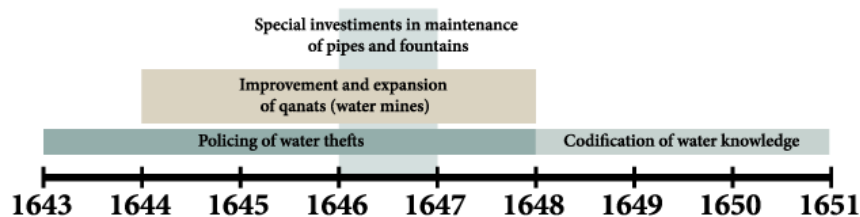
351 Throughout the period 1620 to 1650 the city government implemented a diverse range
 352 of institutional strategies to respond to drought. In the following paragraphs, we
 353 summarise these strategies, ~~which we have~~ identified ~~in~~through our review of primary

354 and secondary sources. Figures 7 and 8 synthesise these responses in relation to the two
 355 periods of drought identified (1620s-1630s and 1640s).

356 One of the main strategies developed by the city council to cope with the diminishing
 357 water flows caused by drought was the improvement and expansion of the urban water
 358 supply sources. During the 17th century, the water supplied to Barcelona’s fountains
 359 came from several underground drainage channelscanals originating in the hills
 360 surrounding the city. These structures, known as *mines d’aigua* (“water mines”) in
 361 Catalan ~~and as *viajes de agua* (“water journeys”) in Spanish~~, were common in all the
 362 Mediterranean and originated in the medieval *qanats* established by Muslim settlers
 363 (Guàrdia, 2011; Custodio, 2012). On several occasions during our period of study water
 364 flows coming from these sources decreased significantly, triggering efforts from the
 365 Consell de Cent to improve and expand old *qanats* and to open new ones. Between
 366 1627 and 1629, the city water officer built a new *qanat* that provided a significant
 367 increase in the waters delivered to Barcelona (Perelló Ferrer 1996: 126-127). During the
 368 second half of the 1640s the Consell de Cent approved the construction of a new *qanat*
 369 in Pedralbes (Perelló Ferrer 1996:129).



370 **Figure 7:** Strategies of institutional response to drought (1627-1636). Source: [Own elaborationThe](#)
 371 [authors.](#)
 372



374 **Figure 8:** Strategies of institutional response to drought (1643-1650). Source: [Own elaborationThe](#)
 375 [authors.](#)
 376

377
 378 Other attempts to diversify the water sources of the city were more ambitious. In 1627
 379 the city government proposed to build an open water canal (approximately 12 km long)
 380 connecting the river Llobregat to the city. The Consell de Cent regarded the Llobregat
 381 waters as the “universal solution” to the problem of water supply, and published a
 382 pamphlet detailing the many advantages of the project. Several experts in water supply
 383 infrastructure came to Barcelona and worked together with the water city officer to draft

384 a detailed proposal which was submitted to the Viceroy and eventually to the Spanish
385 King (AS3). King Philip IV showed interest in the project, but also concerns about the
386 landowners affected (Voltes Bou 1967: 58-59). In 1633 the project made a comeback,
387 when the city officers called water supply experts to resume the work on the canal and
388 even started marking it on the ground (AS4). However, the Royal Privilege needed was
389 not obtained (AS5: 137, 154-155) and the project did not go ahead (Voltes Bou,
390 1967:59-60; Perelló Ferrer, 1996:127-128).

391 Along with the investments devoted to expanding and diversifying the sources of water
392 supply, the city government attempted to improve the efficiency of the existent system.
393 In 1630-1631 it devoted substantial efforts to the conservation and
394 upkeep/maintenance of the city pipes, fixing broken sections, and cleaning those that
395 were clogged by earth and trees. During the second half of the 1640s it also invested in
396 the improvement of the city fountains (Voltes Bou, 1967:60; Perelló Ferrer, 1996:127-
397 129). ~~But in~~ In moments of great acute scarcity, the city government would actively
398 police ~~any possible theft of water~~ thefts from the urban supply system and, if needed,
399 impose restrictions to private users. The ~~acute dry conditions~~ severe drought experienced
400 during 1627 and early 1628, for instance, ~~foreed~~ was the justification for the city
401 government to cut off water supply to almost all private users in the city (Perelló Ferrer,
402 1996:126). ~~After suspecting~~ In order to confront water thefts during the 1640s, ~~in 1644~~
403 the city government went as far as approving a search into all the houses close to the
404 main pipe to find where the water leak was or who had illegally drilled into the pipe and
405 set a tap (AS1, chapter 22; Perelló Ferrer 1996:128) (see Figures 7 and 8).

406 The ~~proactive attitude of the~~ city government efforts to regulate water use by ~~the urban~~
407 institutions and private actors ~~who had access to it~~ sometimes created acute tensions
408 ~~with some of them~~. A remarkable example occurred during our period of study
409 involved the Consell de Cent and the Cathedral's Chapter. In 1634, the city
410 government's decision to cut water supply to the Cathedral triggered a remarkable
411 confrontation-major scandal. The Cathedral's Chapter ~~immediately~~ excommunicated the
412 city water officer and the members of the Consell de Cent for offending the property of
413 the Church, ~~causing a great scandal in the city~~ (AS5). ~~The~~ Even if water flows to the
414 Cathedral ~~proved that~~ were restored after its right to ancient water ~~was granted by an~~
415 ~~agreement with~~ rights were demonstrated and the Consell ~~dated in 1355~~. ~~The~~
416 excommunications were lifted ~~the very same year, but despite accepting the Cathedral~~
417 ~~Chapter's rights~~ after several weeks, the city government publicly reasserted itself as the
418 "master and owner of the waters that flow to [Barcelona's] fountains" (AS7).

419 Extreme drought did not only cause problems in the city fountains, but also in the water
420 mills needed to produce flour. During very dry years/periods, the water level in the
421 irrigation ~~channels was~~ canals might not be high enough for them to function. This
422 situation forced the city government to transport the grain to locations farther from the
423 city, thus increasing the associated costs and occasionally jeopardizing the city's flour
424 supply (Simon i Tarrés 1992: 165-169). The unreliability of watermills ~~in dry~~
425 years/during severe droughts was invoked by the city government in their plea to bring
426 the waters of Llobregat river to Barcelona via a water canal. In fact, it was the reason
427 why the city government owned two windmills outside the city walls since earlier times
428 (AS3). However, due to the almost absence of dry years/periods since the 1570s, these
429 windmills ~~had been~~ were little used and fell into disrepair. In 1628, the Consell de Cent
430 requested ~~its~~ their renovation along with two new windmills; five more would follow in
431 1629. Therefore, the city government addressed the unreliability of watermills during

Con formato: Interlineado: Mínimo 1,15 pto

432 dry years with a great expansion of the city windmills, which grew from two to nine
433 (450%) between 1628 and 1631 (Perelló Ferrer 1996: 286-288).

434 Finally, towards the end of the study period (July 8, 1648) the Consell de Cent asked the
435 water city officer to write a book about ~~the city's~~Barcelona's water supply and the
436 operation of the city's fountains. The Book of Fountains, written during the very dry
437 year of 1650, provides a detailed description of the main pipe supplying the city, water
438 infrastructure, including each of ~~its~~the branches and sections of the city's main pipe,
439 along with the buildings receiving water supply and the location of the water conduits
440 and fountains (see Figure 9). The value of the knowledge compiled in the book was
441 regarded as critical, and according to the city government's instructions, it could not
442 leave the city government's grounds (AS2:325-326, 400).



443
444 **Figure 9:** The urban water supply network of Barcelona as described in the *Llibre de les Fonts*. Source:
445 Modified from Guàrdia, 2011.

446
447 The Book of Fountains did not only provide readers with a geography of the water
448 network elements, but also with a calendar for the system's maintenance and key
449 historical information about water property rights and concessions to specific buildings.
450 Moreover, it includes useful information for the reconstruction of the climate of the past.
451 Socies' account points out the years 1626 and 1627 as the beginning of a long dry
452 period in Barcelona. TheAccording to his testimony, the first two decades of the 17th
453 century had been a time of water abundance, when the city government supported the
454 expansion of the water distribution system and granted water concessions to several
455 aristocratic houses and monasteries (AS1, chapters 65, 69, 79 and 98). All this came to
456 an end between in 1626-1627. In Socies own words, "the abundance of waters lasted
457 until the year 1626 (...). Already in the year 1627 came a great drought and in the
458 fountains of the city there was a great lack of water" (AS1, chapter 65). When writing
459 the book in ~~the summer of~~ 1650, Socies visited the *qanats* of Nostra Senyora del Coll
460 and pointed out that it was the first time in his life that he saw them dry. After 30 years
461 on his post, Socies wroteconsidered that as years passed by, the flow of water in the city
462 had been decreasing. He underlined the importance of the *qanat* construction he had led
463 in the late 1627-1629 to keep water running in Barcelona's fountains during the driest
464 yearsperiods (AS1, chapter 65).

466 **4. Discussion**

467

468 *4.1 Drought stress and political tensions*

469 In this section, we discuss how the unprecedented drought pulse started in 1626-1627
470 heightened micro and macropolitical tensions in Barcelona. By looking at three ways in
471 which the institutional responses to drought intertwined with urban and political
472 conflicts, we shed light on the complex interlinkages between drought, water scarcity,
473 food supply and politics at the local and regional scale.

474 The impacts of the severe dry period started in 1627 went beyond Barcelona and
475 critically disrupted food supply during the following years. By 1628, a contemporary
476 witness stated that “the dioceses of Barcelona, Tarragona and the plain of Urgell cry of
477 thirst” (Simon i Tarrés 1992:161-162). Between 1628 and 1631, ~~dry years drought~~ and
478 extreme climate events critically affected agriculture in Catalonia, resulting in bad crops
479 and adding new tensions to both local and regional conflicts (Simon i Tarrés 1992:158-
480 161). The diminishing grain supplies could have been compensated with imports from
481 southern France and Milan, but war and plague in these regions prevented it. The
482 Barcelona city government ~~had~~ boosted the construction of windmills to secure the
483 transformation of grain into flour during dry periods, when water flows watermills were
484 ~~too little unreliable~~ (see Figure 7), ~~but often there was simply no~~. However, the
485 agricultural impact of drought in the region reduced the availability of grain to be
486 milled.

487 During the spring of 1631, the protests for the price, scarcity, and bad quality of bread
488 in Barcelona ended up in violent riots that ~~directly~~ threatened the lives of the city
489 government members. In response to this subsistence crisis, the Consell de Cent
490 assumed full control of bread production, ~~banning any production or distribution of~~
491 ~~bread by other institutions, and~~ putting in place a centralized, street-by-street rationing
492 system. In the end, a wheat cargo coming from Mallorca in May 1631 alleviated the
493 shortage (Simon i Tarrés, 1992). However, the strategy of enforcing a centralized
494 rationing system during scenarios of scarcity –or whenever these scenarios seemed
495 feasible– remained in use during the following years. This is consistent with other
496 studies that have identified rationing limited resources such as food or water (either by
497 centralising its distribution or applying sanctions) as adaptive responses to climate
498 variability (Grau-Satorras et al., 2021).

499 ~~The~~ However, the very mechanisms established to cope with ~~the~~ subsistence crisis ~~of~~
500 ~~1627-1631 in Barcelona~~ intertwined with ~~ongoing~~ power struggles, ~~sometimes~~ setting
501 the scene for new conflicts. During 1633 the Barcelona city government
502 ~~attempted~~ continued to enforce ~~its~~ control ~~of~~ over bread production and distribution, put
503 into practice two years earlier. The insistent ~~public calls issued to~~ warnings directed at
504 the monasteries and the Cathedral to prevent them from producing and distributing
505 bread suggest that these regulations were far from being followed. In this context, on
506 the 4th of January 1634, a representative from the Consell de Cent confiscated a piece of
507 bread that had been produced by the Cathedral, confirming that this institution was
508 disobeying the calls from the city government (AS5). The accusations escalated rapidly,
509 and among the reprisals approved, the city government ordered the water officer to cut
510 off the water supply to the Cathedral. ~~This~~ In order to enforce the food rationing
511 mechanisms, the Consell de Cent banned access to another critical resource: water.

512 However, this decision triggered a ~~scandal which soon went beyond the walls of the city~~
513 ~~of Barcelona. On the basis~~ major conflict. Arguing that they had offended cutting the

514 ~~water flow was an offense to~~ the property of the Church ~~by cutting the water flow, the~~
515 ~~Cathedral's Chapter excommunicated~~ the members of the Consell de Cent and Francesc
516 Socies ~~were excommunicated~~. While it was bread production and distribution, not water,
517 what had originally been the cause of the dispute, legal rights about water supply ~~and its~~
518 ~~value~~ were at stake. The ~~conflict cannot be interpreted as caused by water scarcity, but~~
519 ~~the recent experience on the~~ critical value of water in ~~times of the recent~~ severe
520 ~~drought/droughts~~ helps explaining the reprisal chosen by the Consell and the virulent
521 response of the Cathedral. By questioning access to water, a quarrel over bread
522 ~~rationing and~~ distribution rights transformed into a major legal ~~easedispute~~ leading to
523 the excommunication of the city government officials ~~including the city. As pointed~~
524 ~~out by Grau Satorras et al. (2016), water officer.~~

525 ~~The conflicts could occur independently from droughts, but were certainly intensified~~
526 ~~by them. Moreover, they often reconfigured the way water rights were dealt with. In the~~
527 ~~case of Barcelona, the city government could impose restrictions over water uses to~~
528 ~~certain monasteries or private urban users, but actors like the~~ Cathedral's Chapter
529 ~~soon actively resisted these regulations. The Cathedral's Chapter~~ proved that, ~~unlike~~
530 ~~many monasteries in the city, its right to receive waters-water rights~~ went back as far as
531 1355, as ~~demonstrated/shown~~ by the documents kept in its archive (AS6 and AS7).
532 Water supply to the Cathedral was restored, ~~but~~ in a ~~matter of hours. In~~ the legal
533 ~~conflict/dispute~~ that followed, ~~even if~~ the Consell ~~acknowledged the Cathedral's rights~~
534 ~~to water, it also~~ reasserted its ~~own~~ role as the institution responsible of maintaining and
535 overseeing urban water supply. ~~In order to justify the water cut off, the city government~~
536 ~~argued that they had not been aware that the Cathedral hold old rights to these waters~~
537 ~~(AS6 and AS7). The Cathedral's Chapter, on the other side, considered that both the~~
538 ~~city government and the city water officer had been perfectly aware that waters~~
539 ~~belonged to the Cathedral, and therefore underlined that the water cut off had to be~~
540 ~~considered an aggravated crime against the Church properties—one that was punished~~
541 ~~with excommunication (AS8). The legal case fell in the hands of the Archbishop of~~
542 ~~Tarragona and was discussed in Madrid and Rome.~~ Mutual accusations between the
543 Cathedral and the Consell continued for months, even if the excommunications were
544 provisionally lifted after a few weeks (AS4:205-206); ~~AS6, AS7, AS8, AS9).~~

545 Finally, among the diverse range of strategies launched by the city government in these
546 years (see Figure 7) one stands out for its ambition and scale: the project to build a canal
547 bringing the waters of Llobregat river to Barcelona. ~~Launched/Proposed~~ as soon as 1627,
548 the project harmed the interests of aristocratic landowners, who opposed it consistently.
549 The petition reached King Philip IV in the aftermath of his meeting with the
550 representative body of Catalonia (*Corts*), held in 1626, where the King's proposal to
551 raise an economic and human contribution from Catalonia to support the Spanish army
552 had failed (Elliott, 1984). ~~The situation repeated a few years later, in 1632, when the~~
553 ~~impact of drought in food supply had been felt and (Elliott, 1984; Parker, 2013). The~~
554 ~~situation repeated a few years later, in 1632, at a time when~~ Barcelona received less
555 than a third of its usual water supply (Voltes Bou 1967:59). The ~~conversation/dialogue~~
556 about the project was resumed ~~around the time of coinciding with~~ a new fiasco at the
557 meeting of the Catalan *Corts* with the King. The permission and Royal Privilege from
558 King Philip IV were never obtained, and the project came to nothing despite the
559 advanced preparations carried out by the Consell de Cent (Perelló Ferrer, 1996:127-128).
560 Three centuries were still to pass until the waters of Llobregat were channelled to
561 Barcelona (Burgueño, 2008; Tello and Ostos, 2012; Saurí, March and Gorostiza, 2014).
562 ~~Lacking the political support and the resources needed for a major infrastructural work~~

563 ~~like the Llobregat canal, local authorities focused in alternative, less expensive options,~~
564 ~~such as improving the efficiency of the water supply system and expanding the already~~
565 ~~existing network of *qanats*, among other (see Figure 7). While these works increased~~
566 ~~urban water flows, they provided a precarious equilibrium in time of recurrent drought.~~

567 Facing decreasing water flows, the city government project to build a canal from the
568 Llobregat river was an ambitious attempt to increase the variety of water sources
569 supplying the city. Diversifying the sources of critical resources is an adaptive strategy
570 to cope with climate variability that has been identified in several contexts (Grau-
571 Satorras *et al.*, 2021). Lacking the political support needed for a major infrastructure
572 like the Llobregat canal, local authorities in Barcelona focused on alternative, less
573 expensive versions of the same strategy: they built new *qanats*, expanded the old ones,
574 and invested in the maintenance of the existing system (see Figure 7). Similarly, when
575 watermills proved to be unreliable, the city government rapidly approved the renewal
576 and expansion of windmills. Altogether, by diversifying water and energy sources, they
577 increased their adaptive capacity in a time of recurrent drought.

578 579 *4.2 Knowledge transmission and adaptation*

580 ~~Under the light of the troubled decades of 1620-1650 for water supply, we interpret the~~
581 ~~efforts of the city government to codify water knowledge into a book as an attempt to~~
582 ~~anticipate future difficulties by collecting the knowledge of the past. In other words, the~~
583 ~~Book of Fountains represents an effort to develop tools for future generations to cope~~
584 ~~with the impact of water stress into the urban water supply infrastructure.~~

585 ~~The city government's petition to Sociés took place during~~Under the light of the
586 recurring droughts experienced between 1626 and 1650 supply, the efforts of the city
587 government to codify water knowledge into a book can be interpreted as an attempt to
588 improve future management by collecting the knowledge of the past. Like private
589 diaries (Adamson, 2015) or peasant family books (Torres i Sans, 2000; Grau-Satorras
590 *et al.*, 2021), the Book of Fountains aimed at gathering and transmitting experiences to
591 future generations. Following Grau-Satorras *et al.* (2021), its production can be
592 interpreted as an adaptive strategy consisting of storing information to better cope with
593 future climate variability. However, unlike private diaries or family books produced at
594 the household level, the Book of Fountains was an initiative of urban institutional actors
595 that involved the whole city of Barcelona and its water sources outside the city walls.

596 The city government asked Sociés to write a book in the summer of 1648, after a
597 significantly dry spring and five years of recurrent droughts (see Figure 6). During these
598 years, the water stress suffered in the city made any suspected water theft a critical
599 matter. The aggressive ~~attitude~~approach demonstrated by the city authorities in policing
600 water thefts between 1643 and 1648 (see Figure 8) marks an increased awareness of the
601 importance of controlling urban water infrastructure (see the following section). The
602 need to expand urban water flows also involved investments in new *qanats* and
603 extraordinary funds for the maintenance of the supply network (see Figure 8). All these
604 works required additional expenditures, ~~since~~because the salary paid to the water city
605 officer included only maintenance tasks. Accordingly, the city government considered
606 that with the assistance of a book compiling urban water knowledge the expenditure
607 related to city fountains would ~~be lowered, therefore improving urban water~~
608 ~~management-decrease~~. The economic reasons to write the Book of Fountains were
609 explicitly mentioned in the petition directed to Francesc Sociés (AS2:325-326).

610 ~~The city government lacked knowledge about~~When it came to intervening in urban
611 water infrastructure ~~and fully, the city government~~ depended on the water city officer.
612 The severe impact of droughts during the 1630s and 1640s only made these
613 circumstances more evident. By the late 1640s, the city water officer was aging with no
614 successor in sight. ~~His and the~~ precious knowledge, ~~involving almost three decades he~~
615 ~~embodied was in risk~~ of ~~working with urban water infrastructure, risked~~ being lost. In
616 this context, the city government saw an opportunity to intervene in the process of
617 knowledge transmission by putting forward a proposal to write a book. Only ~~during the~~
618 ~~dry year of in~~ 1650 did Francesc Sociés ~~accept this demand~~agree to the proposal, in
619 exchange of receiving a salary until the end of his life (AS9AS2:325-326). The Book of
620 Fountains was written during the continuously dry months of 1650 (see Figure 6) which
621 caused the loss of the harvest and made the year be known as “the year of misery”
622 (Guàrdia, Pladevall i Font and Simon i Tarrés, 1986:105).

623 Perhaps key to ~~his~~Sociés’ decision to accept writing the Book of Fountains, the water
624 officer had no direct relatives to whom pass on his knowledge and job post.

625 Traditionally, when approaching retirement, ~~it was~~ the city water officer ~~who~~ would ask
626 the city government for permission to perform his duties accompanied with an assistant
627 – usually his son or son-in-law. After working together ~~for~~ several years ~~receiving~~
628 ~~only one salary~~—the apprentice would then replace the city water officer ~~in his post~~
629 (Perelló Ferrer 1996:77). This father-to-son tradition of knowledge transmission was
630 common within guilds’ structures, where family and the family house were units of
631 production (for the Catalan context, see for instance Creixell i Cabeza, 2008; Solá,
632 2008). Within this context, knowledge about professions was transmitted to direct
633 ~~family relatives~~ and to apprentices. Therefore, knowledge transmission combined a type
634 of oblique transmission (teacher to pupil) with a vertical type (father to son, uncle to
635 nephew) (Leonti, 2011). This mechanism of transmission could sometimes involve the
636 creation of dynasties of the same families in the same job post, keeping knowledge
637 away from the city government (Montaner i Martorell, 1990:177).

638 By requiring Sociés to write a book compiling his knowledge, the city government
639 aimed at interceding in the circuit of knowledge transmission ~~and appropriating the~~
640 ~~water city officer knowledge~~. In other words, it aimed at putting oblique knowledge
641 transmission under institutional control. The ~~elaboration~~production of the Book of
642 Fountains shall be contextualised within the emergence of technical and practical
643 manuals to transmit knowledge (Eamon, 1994; Long, 2001; Cifuentes i Comamala,
644 2006). The ~~knowledge recorded~~information stored in these manuals, however, was not
645 meant to be made “public” in the modern sense. In the case of the Book of Fountains,
646 water knowledge could not be disseminated for the sake of the institutions’ own
647 interests and for security reasons. The process of knowledge transmission revealed
648 critical details about the location of water infrastructure, potentially subject to attack or
649 disruption. Secrecy around infrastructure was strategic for the survival of the city, both
650 for external circumstances —the 1630s and 1640s were marked by war and the threat of
651 ~~military~~ siege— and internal struggles with other city institutions such as the Cathedral’s
652 Chapter. The strategic value of this knowledge explains the city government’s
653 instructions, which established that the book should remain perpetually in the city
654 government’s premises. This also showed an explicit intention of appropriating the
655 knowledge inherently associated to the water officer’s job post, restricting the access to
656 it to those authorised by the city government.

657 Writing the Book of Fountains was about compiling the knowledge of the past, but also
658 about creating an object that could ~~collect~~store future information. Francesc Sociés

659 demanded the involvement of his readers –future water city officers– to ensure that the
660 book remained a useful tool. He ~~required~~asked them to record at the margins of the text
661 any intervention in the water network, thus keeping knowledge to date for future
662 generations (AS1:262). By involving future water officers into the authorship, the book
663 aimed at becoming a transgenerational endeavour, a collective heritage under the
664 control of the city government. In this way it became useful for the present as a physical
665 object, but also a perdurable, vital tool for the city’s future. By obtaining a book that
666 transmitted knowledge to future managers, the city government aimed at improving the
667 institutional capacity ~~for adaptation to future environmental stress~~to respond to future
668 environmental stress, while it reduced its dependence on the city water officer.
669 Moreover, armed with the knowledge compiled in the book, the city government was
670 much better equipped to impose control over urban water users.

671

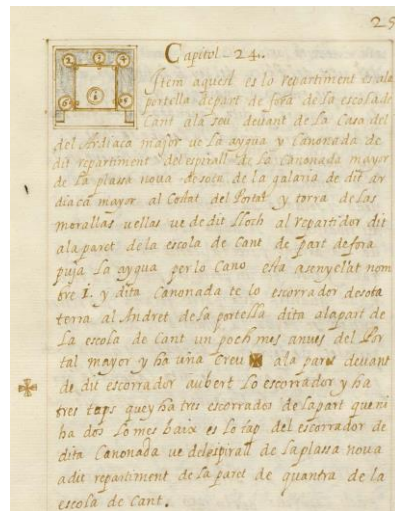
672 4.3 Enforcing control over water infrastructure

673 The scandal of the excommunication of the Consell de Cent and the city water officer
674 after the water cut-off to the Cathedral in 1634 came after some of the driest years
675 remembered in Barcelona (see Figures 4, 5 and 6). The city government ~~emerged~~came
676 out from ~~the~~this conflict with renewed awareness about the importance of enforcing
677 control over water supply, but also of monitoring information about water concessions
678 and water rights, which could help avoiding similar conflicts in the future. In line with
679 the declaration that the city was “master and owner of the waters that flow to its
680 fountains”, ~~during the following years”~~ (AS7), the city government devoted more and
681 more attention to watch out its water resources and remained wary of any violation of
682 its water rights.

683 The production of the Book of Fountains was ~~in-line~~consistent with this
684 ~~behaviour~~strategy. The ambition to ~~elaborate~~write a book containing urban water
685 knowledge and the explicit requirement that it should be kept in the city government’s
686 grounds made clear the Consell’s determination to reinforce its position as the
687 institution responsible for water management in the city, and therefore to reaffirm its
688 capacity to use water as a tool to control urban space (AS2:325-326). In other words,
689 enhancing the city government’s control over urban water flows was also one of the
690 goals behind the codification of water knowledge. ~~Elaborating the~~The Book of
691 Fountains was not only a way of storing information and improving adaptation to future
692 climate variability. It also meant creating a valuable tool to enforce control over urban
693 water flows and infrastructure. In terms of water property and rights, writing was an
694 instrumental juridical tool for the city government to ~~reassert itself as the “master and~~
695 ~~owner of the waters that flow to [Barcelona] fountains”, fully in line with the statement~~
696 ~~made during the conflict with the Cathedral’s Chapter in 1634~~ (AS7)reaffirm its
697 political power.

698 ~~With his writing~~Through the pages of the Book of Fountains, the water city officer
699 established the ~~water’s~~itinerary of urban ~~journey~~waters from source to tap, defining who
700 the proprietor of this knowledge was and institutionalizing who had the power to control
701 it. When referring to specific places in the city, he often established a symbolic relation
702 between the written text and the urban fabric. ~~Text and~~To connect the text with the
703 ~~territory~~ become inseparable, and as a connector, the author, Francesc Sociés used a
704 ~~figure~~symbol –the cross– ~~sometimes~~either in the text ~~but more often~~or in its margins,
705 making its location ~~fast~~easier to readers. These crosses written in the book refer to
706 crosses chiselled in the stone walls of ~~the~~ street buildings, indicating specific elements

707 of water infrastructure hidden from view and thus binding the book pages with the
708 urban fabric of the city. In other words: the author inscribed urban water~~urban~~
709 geography into the pages of the Book of Fountains (see Figure 10).
710



711
712 **Figure 10:** Book of Fountains, chapter 24. On the lower left side, a cross marks a reference for the reader.
713 The text refers to the location of the same cross in the urban fabric. Source: *Libre de les Fonts*,
714 Manuscrits, L-15, Arxiu Històric de la Ciutat de Barcelona (AHCB).

715
716 This intention of controlling urban space, based on the need of preserving water supply,
717 was also explicit in Sociés' instructions to future managers. In order to keep a regular
718 water flow running in the city's fountains, the city government needed to be able to
719 detect and solve any incident rapidly, particularly in relation to water thefts. To this end,
720 Sociés explained how he had been remaking the water network that ~~run~~ through
721 internal parts of buildings, moving it pipes to their external sections, ~~in order~~ to hinder
722 any attempt to illegally tap into the water network them. He recommended continuing
723 with these reforms in the future, to put the network so that water infrastructure remained
724 as much as possible under control within reach of the water city officer ~~and make,~~
725 simplifying its surveillance ~~simpler~~ (AS1, chapters 26, 78 and 79).
726
727

728 **5. Conclusions**

729 This article examined past climate variability in the city of Barcelona (Western
730 Mediterranean) ~~engaging~~~~focusing~~ both ~~in~~~~on~~ drought reconstruction and ~~the~~ institutional
731 responses to it. First, drawing on *pro pluvia* rogations as documentary proxy data, we
732 ~~have~~ provided a detailed reconstruction of drought frequency and duration between the
733 years 1521 and 1825. The years 1625-1635 register the highest drought frequency
734 weighted index of the series (Figure 4), while the 1640s stand out in the drought
735 duration index (Figure 5). Second, we ~~have~~ examined the institutional strategies
736 ~~launched~~~~followed~~ by the city government in response to drought ~~during the period~~
737 ~~identified as most relevant (1626 to 1650)~~. Among other ~~strategies~~, these involved
738 ~~new~~~~diversifying the sources of urban~~ water supply ~~infrastructure, enhanced efforts in~~
739 ~~system maintenance, enforcing restrictions over water uses~~ and ~~the elaboration of a~~
740 ~~book~~ ~~compiling urban~~~~the city~~ water officer's knowledge ~~into a book~~. We discussed
741 these ~~measures taking into account~~~~actions considering~~ the complex interlinkages of
742 drought with food supply and ~~political conflicts~~~~social unrest~~.

743 By focusing on the historical analysis of drought in Barcelona, our research
744 corroborates and expands previous work ~~about~~ that had identified a dry period in the
745 Western Mediterranean between 1620-1640 (Martín-Vide and Barriendos, 1995;
746 Nicault *et al.*, 2008). ~~Moreover, by providing insights about the strategies implemented~~
747 ~~by a major city of 40,000 inhabitants to confront a severely dry period, we expand the~~
748 ~~work on human response and adaptation to drought (Grau-Satorras et al., 2018). Among~~
749 ~~these strategies~~~~Moreover, by examining the social impacts of drought in a major city of~~
750 ~~40,000 inhabitants, we contribute to the discussion about the importance of climate~~
751 ~~variability among the factors that contributed to social unrest in Barcelona and~~
752 ~~Catalonia during the years leading to the Catalan Revolt (1640-1652). In addition, our~~
753 ~~analysis of the institutional strategies to cope with drought contribute to the scholarship~~
754 ~~on societal adaptation to climate variability (Degroot, 2018; Grau-Satorras et al., 2021).~~
755 ~~In this regard, among the strategies analysed,~~ the codification of urban water knowledge
756 stands out for its novelty. Finally, by showing how the information collected in the
757 Book of Fountains can be used both for reconstructing past drought events and ~~for~~
758 examining institutional adaptation, we argue that manuals of urban water management
759 are rare but valuable documentary sources to be considered in the field of historical
760 climatology.

761 Written in 1650, right at the end of the most significant drought period identified in
762 Barcelona between 1521 and 1825, the Book of Fountains offers an authoritative voice
763 on the perception of urban water flows: that of the city officer in charge and his thirty
764 years of experience. His assessments of the severity of drought during the years 1626-
765 1627 or the summer of 1650 correspond with ~~the~~~~our~~ results of the analysis of *pro pluvia*
766 rogations. This cross-check reinforces the authority of both documentary sources used
767 in our research. In essence, the Book of Fountains constitutes a mechanism to ~~store and~~
768 ~~transmit and preserve~~ key knowledge to cope better with environmental stress. In a
769 context marked by drought and diminishing urban water flows, the Book of Fountains
770 was a complex form of adaptation directed at improving the efficiency of urban water
771 management systematising historical information about repairs and maintenance,
772 reducing expenditure, and preventing conflicts about water rights. ~~In order to prepare~~
773 ~~for an uncertain future, water knowledge had to be taken from a specific family line or~~
774 ~~profession and codified into a book under the control of the city government.~~

775 From this perspective, the Book of Fountains can be interpreted as an outcome of the
776 institutional learning of three decades of coping with severe water stress. Years of local
777 and regional tensions reinforced the city government's legal claims over the
778 management of urban water supply. A coherent step to reassert the position of the
779 Consell de Cent as the "master and owner of the waters that flow to [Barcelona]
780 fountains" was to codify knowledge about urban water rights, water distribution and
781 maintenance into a book. In times of drought, more than ever, the knowledge about the
782 old *qanats*, pipes, deposits and fountains that formed the water supply network, together
783 with the centenary water rights that regulated it, was key to the exercise of political
784 power. A book containing all this information was a treasure that had to be carefully
785 kept for future generations.

786

787 **Author contribution**

788 Santiago Gorostiza conceived this research with Maria Antònia Martí Escayol and
789 wrote the introduction, ~~conclusion~~conclusions, and ~~section~~sections 2.2, 3.2, 4.1 and 4.3
790 of the text. He made significant contributions to the rest of the ~~text~~article. In addition,
791 he handled the coordination, integration, translation, and revision of texts, as well as the
792 peer-review process.

793 Maria Antònia Martí Escayol conceived this research with Santiago Gorostiza and
794 wrote section 4.2 of the text. Martí Escayol transcribed the *Llibre de les Fonts de la*
795 *Ciutat de Barcelona* and made significant contributions to the introduction, section 34.1
796 and conclusions of the text.

797 Mariano Barriendos prepared the drought series for Catalonia and Barcelona, handled
798 the database organization, statistical treatment, graphic production, and preparation of
799 the tables and figures. Barriendos wrote the ~~section 2~~sections 2.1 and 3.1 of the text.

800

801 **Acknowledgments**

802 Santiago Gorostiza acknowledges financial support from the Spanish Ministry of
803 Science, Innovation ~~and Universities~~, through the “María de Maeztu” program for Units
804 of Excellence (MDM-2015-0552CEX2019-000940-M). This article was first conceived
805 during a research stay at the Department of History of Georgetown University in
806 Washington D.C.; Santiago Gorostiza thanks John McNeill and Dagomar Degroot for
807 their encouragement to pursue this work. Santiago Gorostiza presented this research at
808 the European Society of Environmental History in Tallinn (August 2019) and the
809 Watermarks workshop at ICTA-UAB (October ~~2020~~2019). We thank the participants
810 ~~in~~of these events and the reviewers of this article for their constructive comments and
811 criticisms ~~and~~. We are particularly grateful to Xavier Cazeneuve for his collaboration in
812 ~~our support throughout this research. Santiago Gorostiza thanks, and to~~ Ekaterina
813 Chertkovskaya for her careful revisionreading of the text.

814

815 **Competing interests**

816 The authors declare no competing interests.

817

818 **Archival sources**

819

820 [AS1] *Llibre de les Fonts*, Manuscrits, L-15, Arxiu Històric de la Ciutat de Barcelona
821 (AHCB).

822

823 [AS2] AHCB, Deliberacions, Consell de Cent II-159, 1650.

824

825 [AS3] Consell de Cent, Barcelona. “Discurs fet per orde dels... consellers, obrers, y saui
826 Concell de Cent, en lo aniuellar y aportar una sequia de aygua del riu de Lobregat, à la
827 ciutat de Barcelona, als 9 de maig 1627”, Manuscrits Bonsoms, F. Bon. 5410,
828 Biblioteca de Catalunya.

829

830 [AS4] AHCB, Deliberacions, Consell de Cent II-142, 1633, fol. 144-147.

831

832 [AS5] AHCB, *Manual de novells ardots vulgarment apellat Dietari del Antich Consell*
833 *Barceloní*, vol. 11 (1632-1636).

- 834
 835 [AS6] Consell de Cent, Barcelona. “Informacion de la ivsticia qve tiene la civdad de
 836 Barcelona en la cavsa sobre qve aora trae pleyto con el Cabildo de la Santa Iglesia
 837 Catedral de la misma ciudad en el Tribunal y Corte eclesiastica del Illustrissimo Señor
 838 Arçobispo de Tarragona”, 1634. F.Bon. 5402, Biblioteca de Catalunya.
 839
 840 [AS7] “Resolucion theologica en la duda que en esta ciudad de Barcelona ha hauido
 841 sobre sí los que concurrieron en quitar el agua que sale en las fuentes de los claustros de
 842 la Santa Iglesia del Asseo desta ciudad por espacio de algunas horas incurrieron en las
 843 censuras de las constituciones prouinciales tarraconeneses y apostolicas”, 1634. F.Bon.
 844 4873, Biblioteca de Catalunya.
 845
 846 [AS8] Consell de Cent, Barcelona. “Por la civdad de Barcelona y Francisco Sossies,
 847 maestro de las fventes, con el Cabildo de la Iglesia Maior acerca de las censuras
 848 declaradas contra el dicho Sossies”, 1634. F.Bon. 10964, Biblioteca de Catalunya.
 849
 850 [AS9] Capítol de la Catedral de Barcelona. “Per lo Capítol y canonges de la Seu de
 851 Barcelona, en defensa de la sentencia proferida per lo official ecclesiastich a 5 de Ianer
 852 1634, declarant que Fra[n]cesch Socies, mestre de les fonts de la ciutat, y los demes
 853 complices en lleuar la aygua de la font que te dita iglesia eran excomunicats y posant
 854 entredit”, 1634. F.Bon. 11466, Biblioteca de Catalunya.
 855

856

857 References

- 858
 859 Adamson, G. C. D. (2015) ‘Private diaries as information sources in climate research’,
 860 *WIREs Climate Change*, 6(December), pp. 599–611. doi: 10.1002/wcc.365.
 861 Barriandos, M. (1996) ‘El clima historico de Catalunya (siglos XIV-XIX). Fuentes ,
 862 métodos y primeros resultados’, *Revista de Geografía*, 30–31, pp. 69–96.
 863 Barriandos, M. (1997) ‘Climatic variations in the Iberian Peninsula during the late
 864 Maunder minimum (AD 1675-1715): An analysis of data from rogation ceremonies’,
 865 *Holocene*, 7(1), pp. 105–111. doi: 10.1177/095968369700700110.
 866 Barriandos, M. *et al.* (2019) ‘Climatic and social factors behind the Spanish
 867 Mediterranean flood event chronologies from documentary sources (14th – 20th
 868 centuries)’, *Global and Planetary Change*. Elsevier, 182(July), p. 102997. doi:
 869 10.1016/j.gloplacha.2019.102997.
 870 Barriandos, M. and Martin-Vide, J. (1998) ‘Secular climatic oscillations as indicated by
 871 catastrophic floods in the Spanish Mediterranean coastal area (14th-19th centuries)’,
 872 *Climatic Change*, 38(4), pp. 473–491. doi: 10.1023/A:1005343828552.
 873 Burgueño, J. (2008) *El Mapa com a llenguatge geogràfic. Recull de textos històrics (ss.*
 874 *XVII-XX) : Diago, Borsano, Aparici, Canellas, Massanès, Bertran, Cerdà, Papell,*
 875 *Ferrer, Vila.* Barcelona: Societat Catalana de Geografia.
 876 Cifuentes i Comamala, L. (2006) *La ciència en català a l’Edat Mitjana i el*
 877 *Renaixement.* 2a ed. rev. Palma de Mallorca: Universitat de Barcelona.
 878 Creixell i Cabeza, R. M. (2008) ‘L’ofici de fuster a la Barcelona del set-cents. Noves
 879 aportacions documentals, noves mirades’, *Locus Amoenus*, 9(1), pp. 229–247. doi:
 880 10.5565/rev/locus.189.

- 881 Cubeles, A. (2011) 'El "Llibre de les fonts" del mestre Socies i l'abastament d'aigua de
 882 beure a Barcelona al segle XVII', in Guàrdia i Bassols, M. (ed.) *La Revolució de l'aigua
 883 a Barcelona : de la ciutat preindustrial a la metròpoli moderna, 1867-1967*. Barcelona:
 884 Ajuntament de Barcelona, pp. 45–50.
- 885 Custodio, E. (2012) 'The History of Hydrogeology in Spain', in Howden, N. and
 886 Mather, J. (eds) *History of Hydrogeology*. Boca Raton: Taylor & Francis, pp. 291–316.
- 887 Degroot, D. (2018) *The frigid golden age: climate change, the Little Ice Age, and the
 888 Dutch Republic, 1560-1720*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University
 889 Press (2018) 'Climate change and society in the 15th to 18th centuries', *Wiley
 890 Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 9(3), pp. 1–20. doi: 10.1002/wcc.518.
- 891 Díaz, M. P. (1984) 'Aproximación a la climatología en la Cataluña del siglo XVII
 892 (según fuentes de la época)', in *Primer Congrés d'Història Moderna de Catalunya:
 893 Barcelona, del 17 al 21 de desembre de 1984*, pp. 255–266.
- 894 Eamon, W. (1994) *Science and the secrets of nature : books of secrets in medieval and
 895 early modern culture*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University press.
- 896 Elliott, J. H. (1984) *The revolt of the Catalans: a study in the decline of Spain (1598-
 897 1640)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 898 Grau-Satorras, M. *et al.* (2016) 'Long-term community responses to droughts in the
 899 early modern period: the case study of Terrassa, Spain', *Ecology and Society*, 21(2).
 900 doi: 10.5751/ES-08232-210233.
- 901 Grau-Satorras, M. (2017) *Adaptation before anthropogenic climate change: a historical
 902 perspective on adaptation to droughts in Terrassa (1600-1870s, NE Spain)*. UAB.
 903 Available at: <https://www.tesisenred.net/handle/10803/405252>.
- 904 Grau-Satorras, M. *et al.* (2018) 'Prudent peasantries: Multilevel adaptation to
 905 drought in early modern Spain (1600-1715)', *Environment and History*, 27(1), pp. 3–36.
 906 Available at: <http://www.whpress.co.uk/EH/papers/1375-Grau-Satorras.pdf>.
- 907 Guàrdia, J., Pladevall i Font, A. and Simon i Tarrés, A. (1986) *Guerra i vida pagesa a
 908 la Catalunya del segle XVII : segons el Diari de Joan Guàrdia, pagès de l'Esquirol, i
 909 altres testimonis d'Osona*. Barcelona : Curial.
- 910 Guàrdia, M. (2011) 'L'aigua de les fonts', in *La Revolució de l'aigua a Barcelona : de
 911 la ciutat preindustrial a la metròpoli moderna, 1867-1967*. Barcelona: Ajuntament de
 912 Barcelona, pp. 40–44.
- 913 Leonti, M. (2011) 'The future is written: Impact of scripts on the cognition, selection,
 914 knowledge and transmission of medicinal plant use and its implications for ethnobotany
 915 and ethnopharmacology', *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*. Elsevier Ireland Ltd, 134(3),
 916 pp. 542–555. doi: 10.1016/j.jep.2011.01.017.
- 917 Llasat, M. C. *et al.* (2005) 'Floods in Catalonia (NE Spain) since the 14th century.
 918 Climatological and meteorological aspects from historical documentary sources and old
 919 instrumental records', *Journal of Hydrology*, 313(1–2), pp. 32–47. doi:
 920 10.1016/j.jhydrol.2005.02.004.
- 921 Long, P. O. (2001) *Openness, secrecy, authorship : technical arts and the culture of
 922 knowledge from antiquity to the Renaissance*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University
 923 Press.
- 924 Martí Escayol, M. A. (2019) 'The environmental history of the Catalan-speaking lands',

- 925 [Catalan Historical Review, 12, pp. 43–55. doi: 10.2436/20.1000.01.155.](#)
- 926 Martín-Vide, J. and Barriendos, M. (1995) ‘The use of rogation ceremony records in
927 climatic reconstruction: a case study from Catalonia (Spain)’, *Climatic Change*, 30(2),
928 pp. 201–221. doi: 10.1007/BF01091842.
- 929 Montaner i Martorell, J. M. (1990) *La Modernització de l’utillatge mental de*
930 *l’arquitectura a Catalunya: 1714-1859*. Barcelona: Institut d’Estudis Catalans.
- 931 Nicault, A. *et al.* (2008) ‘Mediterranean drought fluctuation during the last 500 years
932 based on tree-ring data’, *Climate Dynamics*, 31(2–3), pp. 227–245. doi:
933 10.1007/s00382-007-0349-3.
- 934 Ogilvie, A. E. J. and Jónsson, T. (2001) ‘“Little Ice Age” Research: A Perspective from
935 Iceland’, *Climatic Change*, 48, pp. 9–52.
- 936 Oliva, M. *et al.* (2018) ‘The Little Ice Age in Iberian mountains’, *Earth-Science*
937 *Reviews*, 177(October 2017), pp. 175–208. doi: 10.1016/j.earscirev.2017.11.010.
- 938 Parker, G. (2013) *Global Crisis: War, Climate Change & Catastrophe in the*
939 *Seventeenth Century*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- 940 Perelló Ferrer, A. M. (1996) *L’arquitectura civil del segle XVII a Barcelona*.
941 Barcelona : Publicacions de l’Abadia de Montserrat.
- 942 Pfister, C. *et al.* (1998) ‘Winter air temperature variations in western Europe during the
943 Early and High Middle Ages (AD 750-1300)’, *The Holocene*, 8(1), pp. 535–552.
- 944 Pfister, C., Brázdil, R. and Glaser, R. (eds) (1999) *Climatic Variability in Sixteenth-*
945 *Century Europe and Its Social Dimension*. Dordrecht: Springer Science.
- 946 Pfister, C., Schwarz-Zanetti, G. and Wegmann, M. (1996) ‘Winter severity in Europe:
947 The fourteenth century’, *Climatic Change*, 34(1), pp. 91–108. doi:
948 10.1007/BF00139255.
- 949 Rodrigo, F. S. and Barriendos, M. (2008) ‘Reconstruction of seasonal and annual
950 rainfall variability in the Iberian peninsula (16th-20th centuries) from documentary
951 data’, *Global and Planetary Change*, 63(2–3), pp. 243–257. doi:
952 10.1016/j.gloplacha.2007.09.004.
- 953 Saurí, D., March, H. and Gorostiza, S. (2014) ‘Des ressources conventionnelles aux
954 ressources non conventionnelles: l’approvisionnement moderne en eau de la ville de
955 Barcelone’, *Flux*, 97–98(4), pp. 101–109.
- 956 Serra i Puig, E. and Ardit, M. (2008) *Història Agrària dels Països Catalans. Volum 3:*
957 *Edat Moderna*. Barcelona : Fundació Catalana per a la Recerca.
- 958 Simon i Tarrés, A. (1981) ‘Catalunya en el siglo XVII. La revuelta campesina y popular
959 de 1640’, *Estudi general : Revista de la Facultat de Lletres de la Universitat de Girona*,
960 pp. 137–147.
- 961 Simon i Tarrés, A. (1992) ‘Els anys 1627-32 i la crisi del segle XVII a Catalunya’,
962 *Estudis d’Historia Agraria*, 9, pp. 157–180.
- 963 Solá, A. (2008) ‘Impressores i llibreteres a la Barcelona dels segles XVIII i XIX’,
964 *Recerques: Història, economia i cultura*, 56, pp. 91–129.
- 965 Sowina, U. (2016) *Water, Towns and People*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang.
- 966 Tello, E. and Ostos, J. R. (2012) ‘Water consumption in Barcelona and its regional

- 967 environmental imprint: A long-term history (1717-2008)', *Regional Environmental*
968 *Change*, 12(2), pp. 347–361.
- 969 ~~Torres i Sans, X. (2000) *Els llibres de família de pagès. Segles XVI-XVIII: memòries de*
970 *pagès, memòries de mas*. Girona: Institut de Llengua i Cultura Catalanes de la
971 *Universitat de Girona*. Available at: http://ccuc.csuc.cat/record=b2546311~S23*cat
972 (Accessed: 23 January 2021).~~
- 973 Veale, L. *et al.* (2017) 'Dealing with the deluge of historical weather data : the example
974 of the TEMPEST database', *Geo: Geography and Environment*, 4(2). doi:
975 10.1002/geo2.39.
- 976 Voltes Bou, P. (1967) *Historia del abastecimiento de agua de Barcelona*. Barcelona :
977 Sociedad General de Aguas de Barcelona.
- 978 ~~White, S. (2011) *The Climate of Rebellion in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire*.
979 Cambridge University Press.~~
- 980 ~~White, S.~~ (2014) 'The Real Little Ice Age', *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*,
981 XLIV(3), pp. 327–352. doi: 10.1162/JINH.

982
983

Con formato: Catalán