

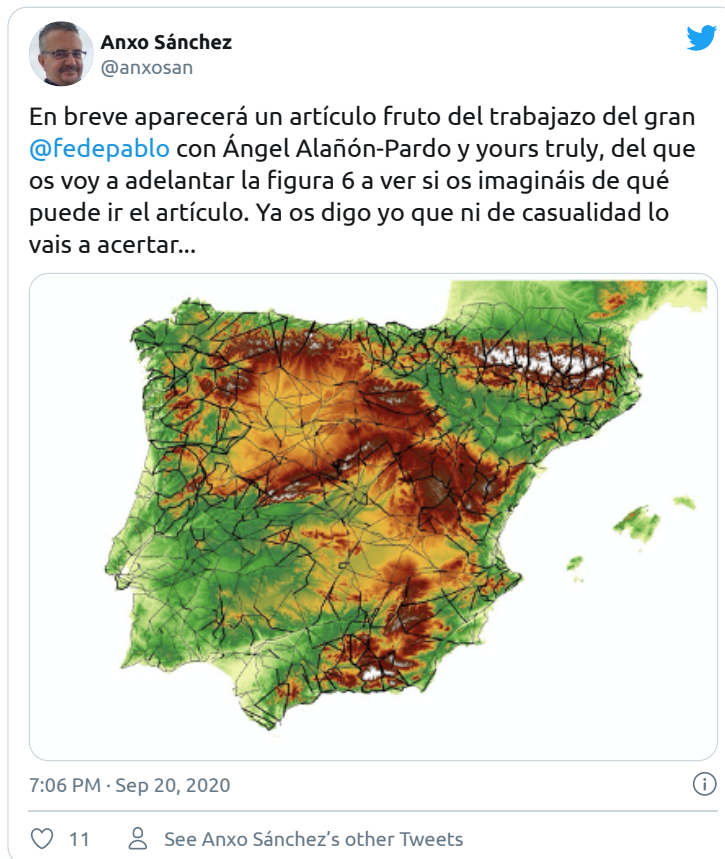


Anxo Sánchez @anxosan

7 Oct · 9 tweets · [anxosan/status/1313816656200773633](#)



A couple weeks ago I used this tweet to announce that along with [@fedepablo](#) and Angel Alañón-Pardo a new paper was coming out. Now I can tell you what is it about: "Complex networks to understand the past: the case of roads in Bourbon Spain", just out on [#Cliometrica](#) (1/ )



Upon a stupendous amount of work analyzing historical sources and digitizing maps and itineraries done by [@fedepablo](#), we have been able to reach a few interesting conclusions on the evolution of the roads in Spain from 1600 to 1900: (2/ )

It has been claimed that upon accession to the Spanish throne, the Bourbons implemented a radial design of roads superseding a pre-existing, less centralist. We show that they largely adopted the radial design they found in 1700, which had already a marked radial character (3/ )

Another commonly held view assumes that the new monarchy introduced changes in the road network that altered the development of the different territories of Spain, promoting the capital and forgetting peripheral regions. However... (4/ )

...we find that the Bourbon infrastructure policy neither generated significant changes in the transport network nor induced major alterations in territorial balance or privileged the region where the capital was located (5/ )

Agent-based simulations with different criteria show that the design followed in the network of post roads and in the newly paved roads was carried out with reasonable economic criteria, both from the transport of mail and the mobility of people and the transport of goods (6/ )

Our network science analysis based on centralities points to different contexts, in a multilevel structure, where the consequences of decisions can lead to unexpected results, including towns better positioned for commerce while their regions see their options curtailed (7/ )

Our methodology provides a guide to take many arguments out of the political arena and into socioeconomic reality in a manner that can be used to benefit society at large, and was made possible by an extraordinary work of collecting historic sources (10 pages of refs!) (8/ )

I can't thank enough both [@fedepablo](#) and Ángel for allowing me to be a part of this endeavour and for all I learned in the process. Now go and read the (admittedly longish, well, quite long) paper! (9/9)



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