

Call for Papers

International Conference on

Space and Time in Historical Demographic Studies - New Methods and Models

Organized by the IUSSP Scientific Committee on Historical Demography

October 30-November 1, 2006

Recent works on historical populations have made use of ever-larger bodies of data that describe the spatial distribution of populations at a moment in time and give comparable information over repeated moments of time. Some of these data represent aggregated information from censuses (based on published or unpublished tabulations), while others are microdata, representing the experiences of a sample or a complete population at some historical moment. Among the microdata there are both representative samples (such as the IPUMS for the U.S. and similar samples for Great Britain, Canada, Norway and Iceland, as well as full-count data (such as the ca. 1880 censuses for the U.S., Canada, and England). Researchers have recently come to combine these rich individual and aggregated data with detailed spatial information by incorporating them into a geographical information system (GIS). The fruits of these combinations are an increasingly informative body of research results that describe the spatial and temporal transformations of populations, especially those of Europe and North America, where the richest data resources and the most developed catalogues of cartographic information exist. Subjects studied include all the classic elements of demographic study such as fertility, mortality, and migration, as well as more complex studies such as the relationship between population and environment, or between population and agriculture.

Most of this increasingly well-developed and successful research has made use of visually descriptive methods to illustrate how population change has taken place, and the factors that have driven that change. This is not surprising, given the relatively recent availability of both the data and the GIS-based methods, and the attractiveness of presenting information graphically in the form of maps. Relatively little work has attempted to find statistical spatial relationships that are dependent on distance or other spatial characteristics, and there has been relatively little work that has made use of statistical techniques that combine spatial and temporal variation.

The goal of this conference is to encourage researchers who have been experimenting with spatial and temporal analyses to combine them using statistical approaches, and to come together to define an emerging body of methodological approaches and a new set of demographic results. We anticipate that we will discuss results at a conference to be held in the United States during the fall of 2006. Because these methods are relatively new, we also propose an informal workshop in Ann Arbor in the spring of 2006 that would allow contributors to discuss and experiment with statistical methods for combining spatial and time series analysis while accounting for temporal and spatial autocorrelation.

This International Conference will bring together historical demographers, geographers, econometricians, and scholars from other disciplines to exchange the latest scientific knowledge on methods and models for the analysis of space and time in historical demographic research. The seminar, be organized by the IUSSP, the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, and the Minnesota Population Center, will take place in the United States (either Ann Arbor, Michigan, or Minneapolis, Minnesota), October 30 - November 1, 2006.

The IUSSP Scientific Committee on Historical Demography invites researchers in the field to submit a 200-word abstract and curriculum vitae before September 30, 2005 to Myron Gutmann (gutmann@umich.edu), with a copy to Bree Gunter (bgunter@icpsr.umich.edu). Participants are encouraged to seek their own funding for travel. The organizers will pay for expenses at the meeting location for all participants, and will have very limited funds to pay for air fares. Those who apply for financial assistance for travel should indicate their intention clearly in the cover letter of their application papers at the time of submission.

The conference will be limited to a maximum of 20 contributed papers. Proceedings or an edited volume will be produced after the seminar.

Scientific Committee:

Myron Gutmann, University of Michigan
Kenneth Sylvester, University of Michigan
Glenn D. Deane, University at Albany
Steven Ruggles, University of Minnesota
Tommy Bengtsson, University of Lund