

21st International Congress of Historical Sciences/CISH-ICHS  
Amsterdam, 22-28 August, 2010.

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

Sessions organised by the International Commission for Historical Demography/CIDH/ICHHD, affiliated to the International Committee of Historical Sciences

Please, send your proposal (in French or English) directly to a session organizer listed below, with a CC to Antoinette Fauve-Chamoux, ICHD/CIDH Secretariat ([fauve@msh-paris.fr](mailto:fauve@msh-paris.fr))

A paper proposal should provide a title, a summary, full address and current affiliation of author(s).

Inscription to the CISH Congress will be necessary.

More information about the CISH and other sessions of the conference will be available on <http://www.cish.org/>

and the International Commission for Historical Demography sessions planning will be updated on

<http://historicaldemography.net/>

#### **Session 1 Plenary Round Table session:**

#### **Reassessing historical demography: where we are and where we are going**

Organizer: Bruce Fetter, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (US)  
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As we approach the 2010 meeting of the International Congress of Historical Sciences in Amsterdam, the Commission for Historical Demography calls for a reassessment of our field. As historians, we believe that historical demography has promoted great advances in our discipline's contribution to the understanding of the human condition. Our colleagues now benefit from enhanced explanations of birth, marriage, and death based on quantitative procedures grounded in closely analyzed data. These advances, indeed, provide the underpinnings for comparative approaches to the history of parts of the world widely separated in location and in time. Not only do we need to inform our colleagues of advances in our field, but we need to develop new approaches which build on existing strengths.

Before going further, however, we need to take stock of who we are. Historical demography today is practiced in a wide variety of settings. These include: great centers of documentation and graduate education which train the vast majority of practitioners; national and international teams of specialists who embark on substantial research projects; regional and national networks of specialists who co-operate on a broad variety of investigations; and individuals who, while operating in relative isolation, bring fresh insights based on their own individual efforts. Although these components are not always congruent, their collective efforts can affect the future of the historical discipline.

What, then, is the new terrain of historical demography? In the broadest sense, our questions have moved from proximate to distal determinants of the most basic components of life itself—birth, marriage, and death. These determinants are often indirect but are nonetheless

powerful. Our study of the life cycle now extends from conception to the grave. We question the role of health care providers ranging from family nurturers to practitioners of biomedicine and complementary and alternative medicine. We measure the relative impact of public health and private delivery of health services. We question the economic bases of health care within families and in providing or denying access to rich and power. We develop new methods like sibling research for measuring family influences. Enormous databases have been developed like DDB Umeå and IPUMS that gave birth to all kind of new methodologies and theories, etc.

The first step in communicating our work to a broader historical audience is to provide a large discussion on the current state of the field. We also solicit contributions on a wide variety of topics not including in the classical agenda of historical demography: genetics and poverty in fertility and mortality; examination of health insurers ranging from friendly societies to governmental agencies to private companies—as gatekeepers to care; the intersection of individuals, family, and the state in the process of aging. This list is far from complete. We urge those who offer new understandings of historical demography to participate and make their case to the broader community of the historical profession. Send your projects and suggestions to us.

## **Session 2. Micro-data: Making Large and Complex Data Bases Easy to Use**

Organizer: Kees Mandemakers, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam (Netherlands)  
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The historical community is now fortunate to have a growing number of large-scale, public databases of life histories from the past. Some of these databases have been under development for a long time, such as the Demographic Database in Umeå, the Utah genealogical database, the Scania database in Lund and the PRDH and BALSAC in Quebec. Others are relatively recent, such as the Historical Sample of the Netherlands.

Although many of these databases are intended to be public resources and available to any qualified researcher, relatively little work has been conducted with them. Since longitudinal databases are exceptionally rich and address a host of questions not covered by cross-sectional data, the difference is striking. One of the reasons for this relatively low use is the enormous complexity of this kind of data.

The main object of this session is to present ways of making this kind of databases more easy to use, especially for those scholars in the historical and social sciences who have no or few experience in programming. Especially papers on new ways of data retrieval, documentation and data integration are welcome.

## **Session 3. Intergenerational aspects of demography**

Organizer: Sören Edvinsson, University of Umeå (Sweden).  
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Exploring intergenerational aspects of demography in history is the theme of this session. The world of historical demography has gained a lot from working with individual micro data. An important prerequisite for this has been the creation of large population databases based on different sets of population registers. During recent decades, life course analysis on continuous

life biographies has developed. Demographic patterns and behavior across generations have however rarely been analyzed within historical demography. Data for such studies are usually unavailable. In the last years, interest in this perspective has however increased, partly because it has been made possible by newly created data sources. We now have databases that allow us to study families over several generations, which open up for several interesting questions. For example, do we find similar patterns of reproductive behavior or health and longevity between generations? Was high mortality or high fertility concentrated to certain families? What do we know about how these patterns were transferred? This session intend to bring together some of the research within this field.

Intergenerational aspects have traditionally been developed within the field of genetics, identifying hereditary traits in human populations. It is however possible to study intergenerational aspects from other perspectives. Demographic patterns can be transferred within families through internalization of behavior. Other characteristics could be transferred over generations. The changing conditions for transfer are also of interest. In what circumstances did the transfer change, leading to different patterns in different generations?

The session will primarily be focusing on the following issues, but is open also for other aspects:

- Methodological and theoretical aspects of intergenerational studies
- Reproductive behavior (fertility, marriage patterns)
- Mortality, health, longevity, heights
- Social and educational transmission of behavior.

#### **Session 4. Demography of indigenous populations**

Organizer: Peter Sköld, University of Umeå (Sweden)  
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The demographic history of indigenous populations is often different from the colonizers and the majority society they live in today. The present session aims to problematize the general demographic development among different indigenous peoples, including aspects of mortality, fertility, nuptiality and migration. The health transition is of special interest, and it is a great challenge for research to present analyses that combine quantitative methods with quality perspectives, such as culture, traditional knowledge and post-colonial theory. Comparative studies have high priority.

#### **Session 5. The Effects of Migration on Demographic Indicators**

Organizer: Mary Louise Nagata, Francis Marion University (US)/EHESS (France)  
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The standard demographic indicators for fertility, mortality and nuptiality can be greatly distorted in highly mobile populations or populations that contain many immigrants. There may be no information regarding the past histories of migrants, making even the basic determination of marital status as ever or never married difficult and this difficulty affects the

ability to calculate mean ages at marriage or other standard nuptiality rates. High mobility in populations where adoption, fosterage, child labor, or child abandonment were common also complicate the estimates of fertility. Even calculation of child-woman ratios may be affected since there may be no information regarding former births for migrant women who may have left small children behind or given them to families outside the population under observation. Migration also acts as a competing risk with mortality. Moreover, the officials compiling population registers may be more interested in the *de facto* population than why individuals are no longer present in the population. In such cases, individuals may be removed from or drop off the record without any indication as to whether the individual had moved or died. This circumstance has the potential to distort the calculation of mortality one way or another depending on the interpretation of the unknown exits from the data. What methods have been developed to deal with these problems? How can we work around the problems presented by highly mobile populations?

At the same time, the fact of mobility may directly affect the demographic practice of migrants. The marriage market could be segmented, limiting and reducing the chance to marry. Migration could also make marriages unstable and more prone to divorce. Migrants may show different fertility levels than stable or core populations and migrants may be more vulnerable than natives. At the same time, migrants may represent the healthiest members of a population as the most capable of migrating.

So, the effect of migration upon demographic indicators can be addressed from two main directions. One is a methodological question addressing how the lack of information on migrants may complicate or distort the estimation and calculation of demographic rates. The second addresses the demographic behavior of migrants and how the choice to migrate could select people with particular demographic characteristics. I would like to suggest two panels; one addressing the methodological concern and one addressing demographic behavior.

### **Session 6. Family, demography and well-being: historical perspectives on Eastern Europe**

Organizer: Mikolaj Szoltysek, University of Cambridge (UK)

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In contrary to Western Europe, the European East has usually been portrayed as the area par excellence of large and complex households. These supposed differences have been either attributed to more “collectivist” character of the Slavic populations, or were treated as arising from peasants’ survival strategies within the coercive system of serfdom. Such an East-West polarized distinction of family patterns in Europe is a cornerstone of a more general package of ideas, which posits links between the assumed peculiarity of the Eastern European family system and a high-pressure demographic environment of excessive fertility and high mortality, poverty, persistence of anti-modern values, unequal well-being (including constrained female autonomy), and other obstacles to the penetration of capitalism and its individualistic set of values. The aim of this session is to make a first step towards dismantling critically this package of ideas through the investigation of the links between family (e.g. household structure; domestic and individual life cycles; childbearing patterns; fertility strategies), demographic regimes (patterns of marriage; demo-economic hardships; the effects of demographic transition), and people’s emotional, social and physical well-being, and their ability to function in the ordinary tasks of living in the Eastern European context.

Since our intention is to open up a discussion of a rather undeveloped research area, papers are welcome which tackle the problem from various angles and perspectives (be it a historical-demographic, social-economic history or anthropological approaches), but in which particular attention is given to family and population issues broadly defined. The session's geographical scope takes J. Hajnal's division of Europe as the point of departure, and hence its main focus on the territories lying east of the "imaginary line" running from St. Petersburg to Trieste, so to include the Balkan area, historical Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Bohemia, Hungary, as well as the European part of Russia.

### **Session 7. Inheritance systems in comparative perspective**

Organizer: Marie-Pierre Arrizabalaga, Université de Cergy-Pontoise (France)  
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Many researchers specialized on the history of the family, economics, and migration (among other research fields) have been led to study inheritance systems as a way to explain household structures, property transmission practices, and individual equal or unequal treatment within propertied families, especially in areas of small agricultural ownership. This session intends to generate a broad, comparative discussion on the various inheritance practices, on the various types of household structures (with or without coresidence), and on the various ways individuals were treated to draw a larger picture of the different systems across Europe and other continents perhaps, and provide a broad, synthetic overview of all systems, and explain migration patterns.

### **Session 8. Are Family Systems only for Land Owning Families? The Usefulness of the Concept of "Family System"**

Organizer: Alice Bee Kasakoff, University of South Carolina (US)  
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The concept of family systems has been widely used, not only in Europe where the most common typology originated, but virtually in every corner of the world. It is thought that these systems, which refer essentially to household co residence and inheritance patterns, affected many other aspects of society. Thus it became essential to categorize each society unambiguously according to which type of system it exemplified. This session aims to evaluate the utility of the concept. Recently several scholars have shown a de facto resemblance between families in what were supposed to be nuclear family systems and stem family systems because in both the youngest child remained behind in the household with the elderly parents. Are these, then, really two different types of family systems? Since these types are based in inheritance patterns, did they apply to families with little or nothing to inherit? When families moved to urban areas, did they continue the same family system that was supposedly typical of the rural areas from which they came? Was it inheritance or other factors, such as the care of the older generation, that brought these systems about and led to their continuation? Can we devise another set of types that might be more useful for non-agricultural settings or should we abandon typologies altogether?

### **Session 9. Queenship and Kinship: Royal women's agency in family strategies (14th-20th centuries)**

Organizer: Ana Maria Seabra de Almeida Rodrigues, University of Lisbon (Portugal)  
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Queenship research has shown in the last twenty years that royal women were not passive pawns in the power games of men. They could play authoritative and decisive roles in religious, cultural, economic, and even political activities. In this session, we want to address specifically their agency in family strategies: as daughters, sisters, wives and mothers they acted as peacemakers or provoked wars; they educated their children and negotiated their marriages to build alliances; they managed property, supported religious houses, cared for the maintenance of the family's memory and the commemoration of the dead; some of them even ruled in their own right or as regents and lieutenants for their male relatives. Papers on all these issues will be welcome, especially under a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective.

### **Session 10. Looking backward to better understand the future of Historical Demography**

Organizer: Antoinette Fauve-Chamoux, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales

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The creation in 1960 of an International Commission of Historical Demography (ICHD) within the International Committee for Historical Sciences (CISH), at its General Assembly in Stockholm, marked the birth of Historical Demography as a field of inquiry. The 21st International Congress of Historical Sciences in Amsterdam will allow historical demographers to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their discipline !

During this conference, ICHD will organize a Round table "Reassessing historical demography: Where we are and where we are going" which reassesses our current direction. Major new directions in the field will be discussed.

The present panel will aim present the life course of historical demography, its inventors and beginnings.