

Demographic Changes and Social Dynamics (20.237)

2016

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Language of instruction: English

Number of ECTS credits: 5 ECTS

Quarter: 1st

1. Overview

The course introduces the key topics on demographic change and social dynamics, both from a macro-level and from a micro-level perspective. A particular emphasis is put on the issues of changing life courses. The students will acquire the capacity to understand the scope and patterns of recent fertility and nuptiality changes in developed countries and the main theoretical contributions made by demographers, sociologists and economists to explain demographic changes. A special attention will be devoted to introducing the tools that are used to study demographic behaviour in the current scientific literature. Contemporary research papers are used to enlighten each of the topics of the course.

2. Prerequisites

Students are assumed to have the basic competences in applied statistics. The course also assumes command of English since readings, class discussions, and final paper must be done in English.

3. Competencies

General competences

- Familiarity with the basic instruments and measures of demography

- Ability to analyze and synthesize different approaches to the study of demographic behaviour, and to have access to contemporary research in social demography
- Ability to write an essay in English on a subject related to social demography.

Specific competences

- Knowledge of key contemporary demographic issues in the demography of postindustrial societies.
- Understanding and application of the life table method.

4. Contents

Session 1. (3 hours lecture)

Outline of the course. Basic concepts of (macro-) demography. Demographic change in a long-run perspective. The notion of demographic transition.

Compulsory reading

JA Mc Falls Jr., 2003, *Population: A Lively Introduction*, 4th Edition, Population Reference Bureau. Downloadable at: <http://www.prb.org/Source/58.4PopulationLivelyIntro.pdf>

Additional reading

Lee, R. D. (2003). The demographic transition: three centuries of fundamental change. *J. Econ. Perspect.* 17, 167–190

Session 2. (1 ½ hours lecture, 1 ½ hours seminar)

Ageing and the economy. Intergenerational transfers. The demographic dividend.

Compulsory reading

Bloom, David E. David Canning, Jaypee Sevilla. The demographic dividend : a new perspective on the economic consequences of population change / RAND: Santa Monica, CA. Chapters 1 & 2 (pp.1-42). Downloadable at: http://www.rand.org/pubs/monograph_reports/MR1274/

Additional reading

J. C. Cuaresma, W. Lutz, W. Sanderson, (2014) Is the Demographic Dividend an Education Dividend?, *Demography* 51:299–315

Session 3. (1 ½ hours lecture, ½ hours seminar)

Fertility measures. The emergence of lowest low fertility and the postponement of fertility. The reversal of cross-country relationships and fertility-related behaviours.

Compulsory reading

Kohler, H.-P., Billari, F. C. & Ortega, J. A. (2002). The emergence of lowest-low fertility in Europe during the 1990s. *Popul. Dev. Rev.* 28, 641–681

Additional reading

Mikko Myrskylä, Hans-Peter Kohler & Francesco C. Billari, Advances in development reverse fertility declines, *Nature* Vol 460|6 August 2009| doi:10.1038/ 08230

Session 4. (1 ½ hours lecture, ½ hours seminar). Institutions and fertility .

Compulsory reading

Ronald R. Rindfuss, Karen B. Guzzo, S. Philip Morgan (2003) The Changing Institutional Context of Low Fertility, *Population Research and Policy Review*, 22 (5-6), 411-438

Additional reading

Baizan P., Arpino B. and Delclós C.E, (2016). “The effect of gender policies on fertility: the moderating role of education and normative context”, [*European Journal of Population*](#) 32(1): 1-30.

Harknett, K., Billari, F.C., Medalia (2014). Do family support environments influence fertility? Evidence from 20 European countries. *European Journal of Population*.

Session 5. (1 ½ hours lecture, ½ hours seminar). The life table method I.

Compulsory reading

Weeks, John R., 2012, *An introduction to population*, Wadsworth Cengage Learning. Chapter 5 “The health and mortality transition”, section “Measuring mortality”: Pages 176-185.

Note: equivalent descriptions of the life table method can be found in most introductory demography textbooks.

Session 6. (1 ½ hours lecture, 1 ½ hours computer session). The life table method II.

Compulsory reading

Bernardi, Fabrizio (2003). *Introduction to Event History Analysis Using STATA*. Lessons 1 & 3. Nonparametric Descriptive Methods, pp. 1-10, & 24-32. See Aula Global.

Additional reading

Blossfeld, H.-P. & Rohwer, G. (2001). *Techniques of Event History Modeling. New Approaches to Causal Analysis*. Mahwah: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates (2nd Edition). Non parametric descriptive methods. (This chapter is reprinted in Blossfeld, H.-P., Golsh K. & Rohwer, G. (2007). *Event history analysis with Stata*. Psychology Press, pp 58-86).

Session 7. (1 ½ hours lecture, ½ hours seminar). The transition to adulthood.

Compulsory reading

Mills, Melinda and Hans-Peter Blossfeld (2005), „Globalization, uncertainty and the early life course A theoretical framework”. In Hans-Peter Blossfeld, Melinda Mills, Eric Klijzing and Karin Kurz Globalization, Uncertainty and Youth in Society. London & New York: Routledge.

Additional reading

Mills, Melinda, Hans-Peter Blossfeld and Erik Klijzing (2005), „Becoming an adult in uncertain times: a 14-country comparison of the losers of globalization”. In Hans-Peter Blossfeld, Melinda Mills, Eric Klijzing and Karin Kurz Globalization, Uncertainty and Youth in Society. London & New York: Routledge.

Buchmann M. C. and Kriesi, I. (2011). Transition to Adulthood in Europe. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 37:481-503.

Session 8. (1½ hours lecture, ½ hours seminar). Theories of fertility.

Compulsory reading

de Bruijn, B. (1999), Disciplinary perspectives on fertility behaviour (Chapter 3), *Foundations of demographic theory*, pp. 37-82.

Additional reading

Hotz et al. The economics of fertility in developed countries, Section 3: “Static models of fertility behaviour”, pp. 292-308. In *Handbook of Population and Family Economics*, vol. 1A. Eds. Rozenzweig M.R. and Stark O., Amsterdam: Elsevier.

Lesthaeghe, R. 1995. “The second demographic transition in Western countries: An interpretation.” In K. O. Mason and A. M. Jensen (eds.) *Gender and Family Change in Industrialized Countries*. Oxford, Clarendon, pp. 17-62.

McDonald, Peter (2013). “Societal foundations for explaining fertility: Gender equity,” *Demographic Research* 28(34): 981–994.

Session 9. (1 ½ hours lecture, 1 ½ hours seminar)

The life course approach.

Compulsory reading

Mayer, Karl Ulrich (2001): "The paradox of global social change and national path dependencies: life course patterns in advanced societies." In: Alison E. Woodward and Martin Kohli (eds.), *Inclusions and Exclusions in European Societies* (pp. 89-110). London: Routledge. URL: <http://www.mpib-berlin.mpg.de/dok/full/Mayer/theparad/index.htm>

Additional reading

Dykstra Pearl A. and van Wissen Leo J. G., 1999. Introduction: the life course approach as an interdisciplinary framework for population studies, *in*: Leo J. G. van Wissen and Pearl A. Dykstra (eds.), *Population issues. An interdisciplinary focus*, p. 1–22. New York, Kluwer Academic and Plenum Publishers, 287 p.

Session 10.

Student's presentations.

5. Teaching Methodology

Lectures by the professor and seminar.

6. Assessment

The final mark will depend on four components:

- 1) Active participation in class: 25%
- 2) Presentations by students: 25%
- 3) Final paper: 50%

Participation in class will be encouraged and highly valued. The quality of interventions will increase if the student covers not only the core reading but also the optional one.

7. General Bibliography

- Poston, Dudley L, Jr. And Bouvier, Leon F., 2010, *Population and society. An introduction to demography*, Cambridge University Press New York.
- Weeks, John R., 2012, *An introduction to population*, Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
- Livi-Bacci, Massimo. 2007. *A Concise History of World Population*. Fourth edition. Oxford: Blackwell Publisher.