



2nd term 2019-2020

Social demography

Given by Juho Härkönen

Register [online](#)

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This course deals with some current debates and research topics in social demography. Social demography deals with questions of population composition and change and how they interact with sociological variables at the individual and contextual levels. Social demography also uses demographic approaches and methods to make sense of social, economic, and political phenomena.

The course is structured into two parts. Part I provides an introduction to some current debates, with the purpose of laying a common background to Part II, in which these topics are deepened by individual presentations of more specific questions.

In Part I, read all the texts assigned to the core readings, plus one from the additional readings. Brief response papers (about 1 page) should identify the core question/debate addressed in the readings and the summarize evidence for/against core arguments. The response papers are due at 17:00 the day before class (on Brightspace). Similarly, the classroom discussions should focus on these topics. The purpose of the additional reading is to offer further insights into the core debate, often through an empirical study. You should bring this insight to the classroom.

Part II consists of individual papers (7-10 pages) and their presentations. You will be asked to design a study related to a current debate in social demography. This can expand and deepen upon the topics discussed in Part I, or you can alternatively choose another debate that was not addressed. Your paper and presentation can—but does not have to—be something that you will yourself study in the future (but it cannot be something that you are already doing). This can offer a chance to develop you ideas; the focus should be on identifying a current debate or research topic, review relevant literature, and ask an empirical question that will contribute to the debate. I will be available for discussing these papers and presentations. Other seminar participants are expected to read the papers, and a discussant will be assigned for each presentation.

Schedule

Part I

Monday, 13 January, 11:00-13:00, Seminar room 3	Introduction
Friday, 17 January, 11:00-13:00, Seminar room 3	Framing questions
Thursday, 23 January, 11:00-13:00, Seminar room 1	Health and mortality
Wednesday, 29 January, 15:00-17:00, Seminar room 3	Family change
Monday, 3 February, 11:00-13:00, Seminar room 3	Migration and migrants
Monday, 10 February, 11:00-13:00, Seminar room 4	Population and policy

Part II

Wednesday, 4 March, 11:00-13:00, Seminar room 2	Presentations
Wednesday, 4 March, 14:00-17:00, Seminar room 1	Presentations
Thursday, 5 March, 10:00-13:00, Seminar room 2	Presentations

PART I

Session 1 Introduction

Demography is a study of human populations. A key question is how populations change in size due to the three fundamental demographic processes of births, deaths, and migration. Social demography studies the social, economic, and political causes and consequences of these processes. This session introduces to some core questions in demography and shows both how these processes can be thought of in relation to social, economic and political variables and how the demographic approach can be used to address other questions in the social sciences.

Response papers: write a response paper on Preston and the additional reading. However, also read Livi-Bacci for background and classroom discussion!

Core readings

Livi-Bacci, M. 2017. *A Concise History of World Population*. 7th edition. Wiley-Blackwell. Chs. 1, 4, 6.

Preston, S. H. 1993. The contours of demography: Estimates and projections. *Demography*, 30(4), 593-606.

Additional readings (pick one)

Bloom, D. E., Canning, D., & Malaney, P. N. 2000. Population dynamics and economic growth in East Asia. *Population and Development Review*, 26 (Supplement: Population and Economic Change in East Asia), 257-90.

Blue, L., & Espenshade, T. J. 2011. Population momentum across the demographic transition. *Population and Development Review*, 37(4), 721-47.

Boertien, D., & Permanyer, I. 2019. Educational assortative mating as a determinant of changing household income inequality: A 21-country study. *European Sociological Review*, 35(4), 522-37.

- Breen, R. & Ermisch, J. 2017. Educational reproduction in Great Britain: A prospective approach. *European Sociological Review*, 33(4), 590-603.
- Bruch, E., & Mare, R. D. 2006. Neighborhood choice and neighborhood change. *American Journal of Sociology*, 112(3), 667-709.
- Kolk, M., Crowden, D., & Enquist, M. 2014. Correlations in fertility across generations: Can low fertility persist? *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 281(1779), 20132561.
- Lee, R. 2003. The Demographic Transition: Three centuries of fundamental change. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 17, 167-190.
- Livi-Bacci, M. 2017. *A Concise History of World Population*. 7th edition. Wiley-Blackwell. Ch. 5.
- Lutz, W., Kritzinger, S., & Skirbekk, V. 2006. The demography of growing European identity. *Science*, 314(5798), 425.
- Preston, S.H., & Campbell, C. 1993. Differential fertility and the distribution of traits: The case of IQ. *American Journal of Sociology*, 98(5), 997-1019.
- Western, B., Bloome, D., & Percheski, C. 2008. Inequality among American families with children, 1975 to 2005. *American Sociological Review*, 73(6), 903-20.

Session 2 Health and mortality

Life expectancy has increased globally over several decades, breaking earlier predictions of upper limits to life expectancy. This trend has not, however, been monotonic, with mortality increases in Russia after the fall of the Soviet Union and more recently, in the United States (and possibly elsewhere). Mortality and health are socially patterned: those in lower socioeconomic groups have poorer health and die younger than those in higher socioeconomic groups. At the same time, research on health and mortality have identified different paradoxes. For example, women often have worse health than men, but live longer, and many migrant groups have better health and lower mortality than natives. Social demography investigates social inequalities in and the social determinants of health and mortality, as well as the impacts of health on social status and functioning.

Core readings

- Elo, I. 2009. Social class differences in health and mortality: Patterns and explanations in comparative perspective. *Annual Review of Sociology* 35:553-72.
- Link, B. G. & Phelan, J. 1995. Social conditions as fundamental causes of disease. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 35 (Extra issue): 80-94.
- Palloni, A. 2006. Reproducing inequalities: Luck, wallets and the enduring effects of childhood health. *Demography*, 43(4): 587-615.

Oeppen, J. & Vaupel, J. W. 2002. Broken limits to life expectancy. *Science*, 296, 1029-1031.

Additional readings (pick one)

Van Raalte, A., Sasson, I., & Martikainen, P. 2018. The case for monitoring life-span inequality. *Science*, 362(6418), 1002-04.

Case, A. & Deaton, A. 2015. Rising morbidity and mortality in midlife among white non-Hispanic Americans in the 21st century. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 112(49): 15078-83.

Dahlin, J. & Härkönen, J. 2013. Cross-national differences in the gender gap in subjective health in Europe: Does country-level gender equality matter? *Social Science and Medicine*, 98, 24-28.

Dong, X., B. Milholland, and J. Vijg. 2016. Evidence for a limit to human lifespan. *Nature*, 538, 257-259.

Dupre, M.E. 2007. Educational differences in age-related patterns of disease: Reconsidering the cumulative disadvantage and age-as-leveler hypotheses. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 48(1): 1-15.

Härkönen, J. Kaymakcalan, H., Mäki, P., & Taanila. A. 2012. Prenatal health, educational attainment, and intergenerational inequality. *Demography*, 49(2): 525-552.

Palloni, A. and E. Arias. 2004. Paradox lost: explaining the Hispanic adult mortality advantage. *Demography*, 41, 385–415.

Sasson, I. 2016. Trends in life expectancy and lifespan variation by educational attainment: United States, 1990-2010. *Demography*, 53(2), 269-93.

Smith, K. P. & Christakis, N. A. 2008. Social networks and health. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 34, 405-29.

Smits, J. & Monden, C. 2009. Length of life inequality around the Globe. *Social Science and Medicine*, 68(6), 1114-23.

Session 3 Family change

In high-income countries, fertility continued to decline after the Demographic Transition was considered completed. This fertility decline was coupled by other comprehensive changes in families, such as a delay and foregoing of marriage, and increases in cohabitation, divorce, and family complexity, a trend often referred to as the “second demographic transition”. Demographers continue to debate to what extent these trends have cut across different societies or whether countries and regions follow idiosyncratic paths, with possibly deep historical roots. Another debate has concerned the social patterning of this change: have families changed more in some social groups than others? Finally, the implications of this change have been debated.

Core readings

Lesthaeghe, R. 2010. The unfolding story of the second demographic transition. *Population and Development Review*, 36(2), 211-251.

McLanahan, Sara S. 2004. Diverging destinies: how children are faring under the second demographic transition? *Demography*, 41(4): 607-627.

Pesando, L.M., & GFC Team. 2019. Global family change: Persistent diversity with development. *Population and Development Review*, 45(1), 133-68.

Additional readings (pick one)

Balbo, N., Billari, F. C., & Mills, M. 2013. Fertility in advanced societies: A review of research. *European Journal of Population*, 29(1), 1-38.

Cherlin, A. 2012. Goode's *World Revolution and Family Patterns*: A reconsideration at fifty years. *Population and Development Review*, 38(4), 577-607.

Frejka, T., & Sobotka, T. 2008. Fertility in Europe: Diverse, delayed, and below replacement. *Demographic Research*, 19(3): 15-46.

Goldscheider, F., Bernhardt, E., & Lappegård, T. 2015. The gender revolution: A framework for understanding changing family and demographic behavior. *Population and Development Review*, 41, 207-239.

Hajnal, J. 1982. Two kinds of pre-industrial household formation system. *Population and Development Review*, 8(3), 449-94.

Härkönen, J., Bernardi, F., & Boertien, D. 2017. Family dynamics and child outcomes: An overview of research and open questions. *European Journal of Population*, 33(2): 163-84.

Härkönen, J. & Dronkers, J. 2006. Stability and change in the educational gradient of divorce. A comparison of 17 countries. *European Sociological Review*, 22(5). 501-17.

Mills, M. & Tropf, F. 2015. The biodemography of fertility: A review and future research directions. *Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie*, 67(Supplement 1), 397-424.

Perelli-Harris, B., et al. 2014. Towards a deeper understanding of cohabitation: insights from focus group research across Europe and Australia. *Demographic Research*, 31(34), 1043-78.

Sobotka, T., Skirbekk, V., & Philipov, D. 2011. Economic recession and fertility in the developed world. *Population and Development Review*, 37(2), 267-306.

Van Winkle, Z. 2018. Family trajectories across time and space: increasing complexity in family life courses in Europe? *Demography*, 55(1), 135-64.

Zaidi, B. & Morgan, S.P. 2017. The second demographic transition theory: A review and appraisal. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 43:473-92.

Session 4 Migration and migrants

Migration is changing the face of populations as well as their social, economic, and political dynamics. Social demography analyzes the dynamics of migration and how migrants shape the demography of receiving and sending countries. Social demography also studies how the migrant populations change in size and character and whether they integrate and assimilate to host populations, and which social and demographic factors affect these processes.

Core readings

Coleman, David. 2006. Immigration and ethnic change in low-fertility countries: a third demographic transition. *Population and Development Review*, 32(3): 401-446.

Drouhot, L. G., & Nee, V. 2019. Assimilation and the second generation in Europe and America: Blending and segregating social dynamics between immigrants and natives. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 45, 177-99.

Massey, D.S., J. Arango, G. Hugo, A. Kouaouci, A. Pellegrino & J.E. Taylor 1993. Theories of international migration: A review and appraisal. *Population and Development Review*, 19, 431-466.

Additional readings (pick one)

Abel, G. J., & Sander, N. 2014. Quantifying global international migration flows. *Science*, 343, 1520-1522.

Crawley, H., & Skleparis, D. 2018. Refugees, migrants, neither, both: categorical fetishism and the politics of bounding in Europe's 'migration crisis'. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 44(1), 48-64.

Duncan, B., & Trejo, S. J. 2011. Tracking intergenerational progress for immigrant groups: The problem of ethnic attrition. *American Economic Review*, 101(3): 603-08.

Kalmijn, M., & van Tubergen, F. 2006. Ethnic intermarriage in the Netherlands: confirmations and refutations of accepted insights. *European Journal of Population*, 22(4), 371-97.

Kruse, H. & Kronenberg, C. 2019. More than a sorting machine: Ethnic boundary making in a stratified school system. *American Journal of Sociology*, 125(2), 431-84.

Kulu, H., & González-Ferrer, A. 2014. Family dynamics among immigrants and their descendants in Europe: Current research and opportunities. *European Journal of Population*, 30, 411-35.

Messias, J., Benevenuto, F., Weber, I., & Zagheni, E. 2016. From migration corridors to clusters: The value of Google+ data for migration studies. *ASONAM '16. Proceedings of the 2016 IEEE/ACM International Conference on Advances in Social Networks Analysis and Mining*, 421-28.

Musterd, S. 2005. Social and ethnic segregation in Europe: Levels, causes and effects. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 27(3): 331-48.

Portes, A., & Zhou, M. 1993. The new second generation: Segmented assimilation and its variants. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 530(1), 74-96.

Sobotka, T. 2008. The rising importance of migrants for childbearing in Europe. *Demographic Research*, 19(9), 225-48.

Session 5 Population and policy

Population processes are of interest to many policy-makers, who may want to limit or boost fertility, improve population health, or curtail migration. The intended and unintended consequences of these policies have thus caught the attention of demographers and other social scientists. Population processes can also be affected by other policies that do not directly aim to influence them.

Core readings

Gauthier A.H. 2007. The impact of family policies on fertility in industrialized countries: a review of the literature. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 26: 323-346.

Lutz, W. 2014. A population policy rationale for the twenty-first century. *Population and Development Review*, 40, 527-544.

Massey, D. S., Durand, J., & Pren, K. A. 2015. Border enforcement and return migration by documented and undocumented Mexicans. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 41(7), 1015-1040.

Additional readings (pick one)

Adjei, N. K., & Billingsley, S. 2017. Childbearing behavior before and after the 1994 population policies in Ghana. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 36(2), 251-71.

Aksoy, O., & Billari, F.C. 2018. Political Islam, marriage, and fertility: Evidence from a natural experiment. *American Journal of Sociology*, 123(5), 1296-1340.

Bellou, A. 2015. The impact of internet diffusion on marriage rates: evidence from the broadband market. *Journal of Population Economics*, 28(2), 265-97.

Boertien, D., & Vignoli, D. Forthcoming. Legalizing same-sex marriage matters for the subjective well-being of individuals in same-sex unions. *Demography*

Costello EJ, Compton SN, Keeler G, Angold A. 2003. Relationships between poverty and psychopathology: a natural experiment. *Journal of the American Medical Association*.290(15):2023-2029.

Donohue, J.J. & Levitt, S.D. 2001. The impact of legalized abortion on crime. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 116(2), 379-420.

Goodkind, D. 2017. The astonishing population averted by China's birth restrictions: Estimates, nightmares, and reprogrammed ambitions. *Demography*, 54(4), 375-1400.

Li, H., Yi, J., & Zhang, J. 2011. Estimating the effect of the one-child policy on the sex ratio imbalance in China: Identification based on the difference-in-differences. *Demography*, 48(4), 1535-57.

Morosow, K., Jalovaara, M., & Härkönen, J. Forthcoming. Cash-for-care use and union dissolution in Finland. *Journal of Marriage and Family*

Neyer, G., & Andersson, G. 2008. Consequences of family policies on childbearing behavior: Effects or artefacts? *Population and Development Review*, 34(4), 699-724.

Stuckler, D., King, L. P., & Basu, S. 2008. International Monetary Fund programs and tuberculosis outcomes in post-communist countries. *PLoS Medicine*, 5(7), e143
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.0050143>