

Demography 260: Special Topics in Demography

THE ERA OF MODERN POPULATION GROWTH REVISTED

Professor David Reher

The year 1800 marks the beginning of the first period in human history of sustained and simultaneous economic and demographic growth. It is a period in which population growth far surpassed anything experienced previously and has led to a very full world, with 7 billion inhabitants at present and possibly as many as 10 billion by the end of this present century. This course examines the factors that allowed humans to break free from the "Malthusian trap" that characterized all pre-modern human societies. We then trace the arc of economic and population growth into our own time. Our focus will be on the often under-appreciated role of the Demographic Transition in the development first of Europe, then Asia and now Africa. Its pervasive implications for social and economic modernization of the developed and the developing worlds are discussed in detail. We also examine some long-term implications of the Demographic Transition for human populations how these may differ in different world regions during the 21st Century.

We will address each of these themes in the light of recent research and implications for population issues today will be drawn whenever pertinent. This course will help students deepen their understanding of the key role population processes have played in the past for human development. In turn, an awareness of past population dynamics sheds light on many of the issues facing human populations now and in the future. This course should be attractive for students of History, the Social Sciences, Demography, Economics, Biology and Public Health, mainly because of the role population issues play in these disciplines and the importance of the issues central to these disciplines for the history of human populations. The technical demands of the course will be relatively low, though some knowledge of elementary statistics and of demographic analysis is useful.

The reading list for this course will include several recent papers that have done much to re-stimulate debate on many key issues affecting the past two centuries of population history. This material includes chapters from a special issue of *Population and Development Review* dedicated to *The Long Term Implications of the Demographic Transition* (2011), as well as unpublished or soon-to-be published material bearing on different aspects of this topic. The scope of this course will be global, though much of our knowledge comes from developed countries which are further advanced in the process of demographic modernization than much of the rest of the world. The course will end up with sessions on the process of aging, the ultimate implication of the Demographic Transition.

This course is a seminar based on the presentation and discussion of recent research, much of which is included in the bibliography provided by the professor. Students are expected to participate actively in the course seminar both with presentations on different readings and in the discussions and debates held during the course. Students must also write a term paper based on a subject related to the course and approved by the professor. The final grade is based on the quality of seminar participation (including presentations) plus the final term paper. There will be no final exam.

A typical seminar will include a general presentation by the professor based on one or more texts, plus 3-4 presentations by students. These presentations will be based on assigned readings and will include a brief summary of contents (issues addressed, methods, conclusions, etc.) followed by a general discussion among all seminar participants. The duration of these presentations/discussions will be approximately 30 minutes per text. Presentations should make use of PowerPoint or similar software. All seminar participants should be familiar with texts presented in class, thus assuring lively discussion and debate. Each student will make about 4-5 presentations over the course of the semester, depending on the number of students enrolled in the seminar. If time permits, towards the end of the semester some seminar sessions (perhaps 2 or 3) will be dedicated to the presentation and discussion of student projects. The overall reading load for this course is approximately three (or perhaps four) papers per week.

Important note. Seminars will take place on Wednesdays, 2-5pm. The first session will take place on Wednesday, 3 February. This means that over the course of the semester, we will have to make up two sessions (20 and 27 January). The dates and times of these make-up classes will be decided by common agreement once instruction begins.

There will be seminar sessions on the following topics:

1. The origins of modern population growth. The escape from the ‘Malthusian trap’. The research of Robert Fogel on the escape from hunger.

Readings:

Livi Bacci, Massimo (2012) *A History of World Population*, Wiley-Blackwell, chapters 4-6.

Fogel, Robert William (2004) *The Escape from Hunger and Premature Death, 1700-2100. Europe, America and the Third World*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

2. Demographic transition theory. The European fertility project: achievements and limitations.

(1) Notestein F. 1945. Population: the long view. In *Food for the World*, Schultz T (ed.). Chicago; 36–57.

(2) Caldwell, John C. (1976) “Toward A Restatement of Demographic Transition Theory,” *Population and Development Review*, Vol 2, No. 3/4 (Sep – Dec) pp. 321-366.

(3) Coale, Ansley (1986). “The decline of fertility in Europe since the eighteenth century as a chapter in human demographic history,” in A. J. Coale and S. C. Watkins (eds.), *The Decline of Fertility in Europe*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 1–30.

(4) Kirk, D. (1996). “Demographic transition theory,” *Population Studies*, 50(3), 361-387.

3. Health and infectious disease during Epidemiological Transition.

- (5) Omran, Abdel (1971) "The epidemiologic transition: a theory of the epidemiology of population change," *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2001, 79 (2) 159-170. Originally published in *The Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly*, 49(4), 509-538.
- (6) Schofield, Roger and David S. Reher (1991) "The decline of mortality in Europe," in *The Decline of Mortality in Europe* (Roger Schofield, David Reher and Alain Bideau, eds.), Oxford, Oxford University Press, pp. 1-17.

4. The Demographic Transition as a global process.

- (7) Reher, David S. (2004) "The Demographic Transition revisited as a global process," *Population, Space and Place*, 10, pp. 19-41.

5. Reassessing the importance of mortality change for the Demographic Transition. The role of human agency during the early transitional period.

- (8) Reher, David S. and Alberto Sanz-Gimeno (2007) "Rethinking historical reproductive change: Longitudinal data for a Spanish town," *Population and Development Review*, 33(4), 703-728.
- (9) van Poppel, Frans, David S. Reher, Alberto Sanz-Gimeno, María Sánchez-Domínguez, Erik Beekink (2012) "Mortality decline and reproductive change during the Dutch demographic transition. Revisiting a traditional debate with new data," *Demographic Research*, 27, article 11, 299-338.
- (10) Reher, David S., Glenn Sandström, Frans van Poppel & Alberto Sanz (under review) "Agency in Fertility Decisions in Western Europe during the Demographic Transition. A comparative perspective".

6. Family systems throughout the world, past and present

- (11) Reher, David S. (1998) "Family ties in Western Europe: Persistent contrasts," *Population and Development Review*, vol. 24, 2, pp. 203-234.

7. The Baby Boom: traditional approaches and renewed interest.

- (12) Van Bavel, Jan & D.S. Reher (2013) "The Baby Boom and Its Causes: What we Know and What We Need to Know," *Population and Development Review* 39 (2), pp. 257-288.
- (13) Reher, David & Miguel Requena (2014) "The mid-twentieth century fertility boom from a global perspective," *The History of the Family*, DOI: 10.1080/1081602X.2014.944553.
- (14) Reher, David S & Miguel Requena (2015) "Was there a mid-20th century fertility boom in Latin America?" *Revista de Historia Económica*, 32, pp 319-350 doi:10.1017/S0212610914000172.
- (15) Reher, David S & Miguel Requena (in press) "Revisiting mid-twentieth century fertility shifts from a global perspective," Paper presented at the Conference *Population Histories in Context: Past achievements and future directions*. A conference to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure. Cambridge, Downing College, September 2014.

8. The Second Demographic Transition.

- (16) Lesthaeghe, Ron. 2010. "The unfolding story of the second demographic transition," *Population and Development Review* 36(2): 211–251.
- (17) Lesthaeghe, Ron J. & Lisa Niedert. (2006) "The Second Demographic Transition in the United States: Exception or Textbook Example?" *Population and Development Review* 32 (4), 669-698.
- (18) Esteve, Albert, Joan García-Román & Ron Lesthaeghe (2012) "The Latin American Cohabitation Boom, 1970-2007," *Population and Development Review* 38 (1), 55-81.
- (19) Esteve, Albert, Joan García-Román & Ron Lesthaeghe (2012) "The Family Context of Cohabitation and Single Motherhood in Latin America," *Population and Development Review* 38 (4), 707-727.

9. The pace of demographic transition in the developing world.

- (20) McNicoll, Geoffrey (2011) "Achievers and Laggards in Demographic Transition: A Comparison of Indonesia and Nigeria," in *Demographic Transition and Its Consequences*, a supplement to Vol 39 (2011) of *Population and Development Review*, New York, Population Council, 191-214.
- (21) Feng, Wang (2011) "The Future of a Demographic Overachiever: Long-Term Implications of the Demographic Transition in China," in *Demographic Transition and Its Consequences*, a supplement to Vol 39 (2011) of *Population and Development Review*, New York, Population Council, 173-190.

10. From Baby Boom to Baby Bust: towards the threshold of aging. Continuities and cleavages in fertility patterns in the developed world.

- (22) Bongaarts, John and Griffith Feeney (1998) "On the Quantum and Tempo of Fertility," *Population and Development Review*, 24(2): 271-291.
- (23) Goldstein, Joshua R., Tomáš Sobotka and Aiva Jasilioniene (2009) "The End of "Lowest-Low" Fertility?" *Population and Development Review*, 35(4):663-699.
- (24) Bongaarts, John & Sobotka, Tomáš (2012) A Demographic Explanation for the Recent Rise in European Fertility," *Population and Development Review* 38 (1): 83-120
- (25) Sobotka, Tomáš, Vegard Skirbekk and Dimiter Philipov (2011) "Economic Recession and Fertility in the Developed World," *Population and Development Review*, 37 (2):267-306.
- (26) Sobotka, Tomáš & Éva Beaujouan (2014) "Two Is Best? The Persistence of a Two-Child Family Ideal in Europe," *Population and Development Review* 40(3): 391-419.
- (27) Reher, David S. (2015) "Baby booms, busts, and population ageing in the developed world," *Population Studies: A Journal of Demography*, 69:sup1, S57-S68, DOI: 10.1080/00324728.2014.963421.

11. Recent trends in mortality

- (28) Riley, James C. (2006) “The timing and pace of health transitions around the world,” *Population and Development Review* 31 (4), 741-764.
- (29) Ouellette, Nadine Magali Barbieri & John R. Wilmoth (2014) “Period-Based Mortality Change: Turning Points in Trends since 1950,” *Population and Development Review* 40 (1), 77-106.
- (30) Bongaarts, John (2014) “Trends in Causes of Death in Low-Mortality Countries: Implications for Mortality Projections,” *Population and Development Review* 40 (2): 189-212.

12. Long-term implications of the Demographic Transition.

- (31) Lee, Ronald D. and David S. Reher (2011) ‘The Landscape of Demographic Transition and Its Aftermath’ in *Demographic Transition and Its Consequences*, a supplement to Vol 39 (2011) of *Population and Development Review*, New York, Population Council, 1-7.
- (32) Thornton, Arland. 2001. “The developmental paradigm, reading history sideways, and family change,” *Demography* 38(4): 449–465.
- (33) Reher, David S. (2011) “Economic and Social Implications of the Demographic Transition,” in *Demographic Transition and Its Consequences*, a supplement to Vol 39 (2011) of *Population and Development Review*, New York, Population Council, 11-33.
- (34) Lee, R. and A. Mason (2010) “Fertility, human capital, and economic growth over the demographic transition,” *European Journal of Population* 26(2): 159–182.
- (35) Murphy, Michael (2011) “Long-term effects of the demographic transition on family and kinship networks in Britain,” in *Demographic Transition and Its Consequences*, a supplement to Vol 39 (2011) of *Population and Development Review*, New York, Population Council, 55-80.

13. The age of aging. Recent trends and implications for the future. Managing the aging process. Challenges and possibilities.

- (36) Bengtsson, Tommy & Kirk Scott (2011) “Population aging and the future of the welfare state: The example of Sweden,” in *Demographic Transition and Its Consequences*, a supplement to Vol 39 (2011) of *Population and Development Review*, New York, Population Council, 158-172.
- (37) Lee, Ronald D. & Andrew Mason (2011) “Generational Economics in a Changing World,” in *Demographic Transition and Its Consequences*, a supplement to Vol 39 (2011) of *Population and Development Review*, New York, Population Council, 115-142.
- (38) Rosero-Bixby, Luis (2011) “Generational transfers and population aging in Latin America,” in *Demographic Transition and Its Consequences*, a supplement to Vol 39 (2011) of *Population and Development Review*, New York, Population Council, 143-157.

14. Future perspectives for world population.

- (39) Coleman, David (2006) "Immigration and Ethnic Change in Low-Fertility Countries: A Third Demographic Transition," *Population and Development Review* 32(3), 401-446.
- (40) Coleman, David & Robert Rowthorn (2011) "Who's afraid of population decline? A critical examination of its consequences," in *Demographic Transition and Its Consequences*, a supplement to Vol 39 (2011) of *Population and Development Review*, New York, Population Council, 217-248.
- (41) Demeny, Paul (2011) "Population policy and demographic transition: Performance, prospects, and options," in *Demographic Transition and Its Consequences*, a supplement to Vol 39 (2011) of *Population and Development Review*, New York, Population Council, 249-274.
- (42) Reher, David S. (2007) "Towards long-term population decline: a discussion of relevant issues," *European Journal of Population* 23, 189-207.