

International seminar on Social Mobility and Demographic Behaviour: A Long Term Perspective

Los Angeles, California, 11-13 December 2009

SEMINAR REPORT

This seminar was organized by the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Historical Demography and hosted by the California Center for Population Research at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The seminar received support from the IUSSP as well as a number of units at UCLA, including the International Institute, the Center for Economic History, the California Center for Population, the Office of the Dean of Social Sciences, and the Irene Flecknoe Ross Lecture Series in the Department of Sociology.

The seminar brought together researchers from a variety of disciplines. Presenters included social demographers, economic historians, economic demographers, and anthropological demographers. Presenters were diverse in terms of rank and region: the roster included senior researchers, junior researchers, and graduate students from Europe, North America, South America, and Asia. Faculty and graduate students associated with the UCLA California Center for Population Research and Center for Economic History attended many of the sessions and participated in the discussions that followed the paper presentations. They were drawn mostly from the Departments of Economics, Sociology, History, and Community Health Sciences.

The fourteen papers presented at the meeting examined bidirectional relationships between demography and social mobility, offering a historical perspective on an issue of contemporary relevance. The papers considered the relationships between demography and social mobility at the individual level, the population level, and in some cases, both levels simultaneously. The papers were distinguished by the application of advanced methods of statistical analysis and/or demographic projection to novel contemporary and historical datasets.

The first session was devoted to fertility and social mobility. The two key themes were the influence of family size, especially the number of siblings, on social and economic attainment in adulthood, and implications of fertility differentials for long-term trends in patterns of socioeconomic and educational inequality. The second session was devoted to marriage and social mobility. The main theme of the papers was the interplay between social origins, partner choice, and subsequent socioeconomic mobility. The third session focused on migration and social mobility. The main theme was the role played by migration in enhancing or limiting opportunities for social mobility in different contexts.

A key general conclusion of the presentations and subsequent discussion was that data sources previously used primarily in historical investigations could be used to address topics in stratification research of great contemporary interest and relevance. Sources used in the papers such as genealogies, population registers, and administrative data have much greater time depth than the recent panel surveys that are the basis for many current investigations into the determinants and implications of patterns of inequality. Such sources differ from panel surveys in that many of them follow individuals prospectively for their entire life, and some follow families across generations, allowing for investigations of how conditions early in the life course or even in previous generations shape socioeconomic outcomes in adulthood.

The presentations and discussion also showcased the potential for linkage of records of the same individuals or families in different historical sources to create databases for the study of complex interactions between stratification and demography. The papers included examples of parish registers linked to probate records to study wealth differences in fertility, genealogies linked to censuses to study the implications of migration for socioeconomic attainment, and parish registers linked to military conscription records to study the effects of health and physical appearance on marriage chances and choices.

Finally, the presentation and discussion confirmed the importance of considering linkages between macro-level context and micro-level differentials to understand the implications of differences in demographic behavior for stratification processes and changes in population composition more generally. Papers that directly addressed relationships between population composition and differentials in demographic behavior were deliberately scheduled early in the conference to inform the discussion of later papers.

The first session was devoted to fertility and social mobility. Three papers examined the influence of family size, especially the number of siblings, on social and economic attainment in adulthood (Ferrari, Bras, Van Bavel et al.). They addressed the ongoing debate about whether observed associations between growing up in a large family and less favorable outcomes in adulthood reflect a casual influence of family size on adult outcomes through resource dilution, or are simply an artifact of a tendency for poorer or less well educated families whose offspring will be disadvantaged to also have larger families. They compared relationships between family size and adult outcomes across different social, economic, and demographic contexts in historical and contemporary populations. Results suggest that the relationships between family size and outcomes in adulthood are not as consistent as they have been from the contemporary developed countries that have dominated the relevant literature until now.

Three papers in the session examined how fertility differentials by socioeconomic status interacted with intergenerational transmission of status to shape patterns of inequality over the long term in three very different contexts: preindustrial England, contemporary Korea, and contemporary Indonesia (Clark, Kye, Mare and Maralani). Making creative use of novel historical data, Clark argued that in preindustrial England, higher fertility among high status males combined with the intergenerational transmission of knowledge, attitudes and other determinants status led over the long term to the spread of individual characteristics conducive to economic growth. The papers by Mare and Maralani and by Kye applied innovative techniques of demographic projection to survey data to assess the implications of fertility differentials by educational status in contemporary Indonesia and Korea for changes over time in the educational attainment of the population.

The two other papers in the session on fertility and social mobility examined fertility in historical populations, making creative use of a traditional source for the study of historical demography, parish records. Cummins revisited a topic of longstanding interest in historical demography: the origins of the fertility decline in nineteenth century France. Based on an analysis of fertility histories compiled from parish registers and then linked to records of wealth at death, he argued that wealthy families led the decline, and that they limited fertility by spacing births, not by stopping after a certain number of births. Nunes Campos made use of parish registers in a community in eighteenth-century Brazil to produce one of the first detailed empirical examinations of the demographic behavior of a slave population in that country.

The second session examined marriage and social mobility. Papers examined the interaction between family origins, marriage and socioeconomic attainment. Once again, they showcased the potential for analysis of longitudinal, individual-level historical demographic data to yield insight into topics of contemporary relevance. Three papers examined how different family and individual characteristics affected marriage chances and marriage choices (Breschi et al., Zijdemans and Maas, Dribe and Lundh). Whereas studies of the determinants of marriage in contemporary societies mostly focus on the influence of the education, occupation, and income of individuals on the timing of marriage, these historical papers considered roles for a wide variety of other factors, including geographic origin and parental socioeconomic status, and looked not only at marriage timing as an outcome, but the characteristics of spouses as well. The paper by Breschi et al. was novel because it linked parish registers to military conscription records in nineteenth century Italy to examine how male height, health status, and even hair color affected their marriage chances. The paper by Zijdemans and Maas focused on changes over the nineteenth century in the prevalence of spatial homogamy in the Netherlands, examining how different aspects of industrialization and economic modernization increased the tendency for people from different villages or even regions to marry.

The third session focused on migration and social mobility. The main theme was the role played by migration in enhancing or limiting opportunities for social mobility in historical and contemporary contexts. Kasakoff used linked data from nineteenth-century American genealogies and censuses to compare the socioeconomic outcomes of brothers according to whether they remained at home or migrated out. Helgertz used administrative data from contemporary Sweden to assess whether patterns of gender differences in opportunities for socioeconomic mobility differed between immigrant groups or by occupation.

The output of the seminar will be a special issue of a journal or an edited volume.

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Organized by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)
Scientific Panel on Historical Demography

Hosted by the California Center for Population Research (CCPR)
at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

With financial support from the IUSSP and the following units at UCLA:
the International Institute,
the Center for Economic History,
the Division of Social Sciences Office of the Dean, and
the Department of Sociology Irene Flecknoe Ross Lecture Series.

Final Program

10 December 2008 (Wednesday)

7:00pm Opening reception.

11 December 2008 (Thursday)

9:00am Welcome and opening remarks

Fertility and Social Mobility

9:15am Vida Maralani (Yale) and Robert Mare (UCLA) "Unobserved Heterogeneity, Demographic Mechanisms, and the Intergenerational Effects of Increasing Women's Schooling"

10:15am *Break*

10:30am Neil Cummins (LSE) " Marital Fertility and Wealth in Transition Era France, 1750-1850"

11:30am Gregory Clark (UC Davis) "Demography and Fortune: The Influence of Differential Fertility by Income on Social Mobility, England 1500-1858"

12:30pm *Lunch*

2pm Giulia Ferrari (Rome), Gianpiero Dalla Zuanna (Padua) "Siblings and human capital for the 1920-1980 cohorts. A comparison between Italy and France."

3pm Hilde Bras (VU Amsterdam), Jan Kok (VKS), Kees Mandemakers (IISH) "Sibling Structure and Status Attainment Across Contexts: Evidence from the Dutch past"

4pm *Break*

4:15pm Jan Van Bavel (VUB), Sarah Moreels (KULeuven), Bart Van de Putte (Ghent), Koen Matthijs (KULeuven). "Did family size affect intergenerational social mobility during the demographic transition? An analysis using a multi-generation database of 19th century Antwerp."

7pm *Dinner for participants, Beacon Restaurant, Culver City.*

12 December 2008 (Friday)

- 9:00am Bongoh Kye (UCLA) "Intergenerational Transmission of Women's Educational Attainments in Korea – An Application of Multi-state Projection Model to Social Mobility"
- 10:00am Kátia Maria Nunes Campos (CEDEPLAR/UFMG). "Living and dying at Vila Rica in the XVIIIth Century: the demographic dynamics of a slavocrat society."
- 11:00am *Break*
- Marriage and Social Mobility**
- 11:15am Martin Dribe (Lund), Christer Lundh (Gothenburg) . "Partner selection and intergenerational social mobility: the impact of age, social origin and place of birth on intergenerational social mobility in 19th century Sweden."
- 12:15am *Lunch*
- 1:45pm Marco Breschi (Sassari), Matteo Manfredini (Parma), Stanislau Mazzoni (Parma) "Health and socio-demographic conditions as determinants of marriage and social mobility. Male partner choice in Sardinia, late 19th-early 20th century."
- 2:45pm Wiebke Schulz (Utrecht), Ineke Maas (Utrecht). "Origins of the modern career: The of resources and norms for career success in the Netherlands ca. 1865-1940."
- 3:45pm *Break*
- 4:00pm Richard Zijdeman (Utrecht), Ineke Maas (Utrecht). "Beyond the local marriage market. The influence of social background and modernization on spatial homogamy."
- 7pm *Dinner for participants, 2117 Restaurant, West LA*

13 December 2008 (Saturday)

Migration and Social Mobility

- 8:30am Alice Bee Kasakoff (South Carolina) "Did Inequality within Families lead to Inequality between Families in the Next Generation ? The Role of Migration."
- 9:30am Jonas Helgertz (Lund) "Thou shalt not pass? Examining the existence of an immigrant specific glass ceiling in Sweden, 1968-1990."
- 10:30am *Break*
- 10:45am General discussion, publication plans
- 12pm *Lunch*

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List of Participants

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation	Status
Arenas	Erika	Department of Sociology, UCLA	Student
Barrett	Christopher	Department of Community Health Sciences, UCLA	Student
Boustan	Leah	Department of Economics, UCLA	Faculty
Bras	Hilde	Department of Social Research Methodology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Presenter/author
Breschi	Marco	Dipartimento di Economia, Università di Sassari	Presenter/author
Choi	Kate	Department of Sociology, UCLA	Student
Clark	Gregory	Department of Economics University of California - Davis	Presenter/author
Cummins	Neil	Economics, London School of Economics	Presenter/author
Dalla Zuana	Gianpiero	Dept. of Statistical Sciences, University of Padova	Author
Davis	Dwight	Department of Sociology, UCLA	Student
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Ferrari	Giulia	University of Rome, La sapienza	Presenter/author
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