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The Center for Demography and Ecology

Established more than 40 years ago, the Center for Demography and Ecology is dedicated to the study of population issues, both domestic and international. Many of the members of the Center's Faculty Steering Committee are among the leading scholars in their fields.

Faculty affiliated with the Center come from the Departments of Sociology, Economics, Rural Sociology, History, Preventive Medicine, and Family Resources and Consumer Sciences. Many are also affiliated with other research centers such as the Institute for Research on Poverty, the Institute on Aging, the LaFollette Institute of Public Affairs, the Afro-American Studies Department, the Chicano Studies Department, the Department of Biostatistics, and the American Indian Studies Program.

The Center is funded by the University of Wisconsin and by several special research and training grants. A "Population Research Core Grant" from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) supports general Center operations. In addition, the Center for Demography of Health and Aging has been established which will both share and build on the substantial research infrastructure of the Center for Demography and Ecology. Grants (from the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development, National Institute on Aging, and the National Science Foundation) provide funds to support the Center's graduate studies training mission. Finally, affiliate faculty have many research grants from government agencies and foundations.

Research areas and current research projects

Members of the Center for Demography and Ecology are engaged in research in a broad array of population related issues. The following are the most representative areas of research and serve as examples of ongoing research projects in each of these areas:

Aging

- ! Longitudinal Research on Successful Mid-Life Development
- ! Mid-Life Transitions and States: Analyses of the National Survey of Families and Households
- ! Aging and the Family Over the Life Course
- ! Life Course Longitudinal & Historical Study of a Large Cohort

Fertility and Mortality

- ! Fertility Agreement and Conflict Resolution
- ! Psychosocial Influences on Contraceptive Use
- ! Timing and Spacing of Births in Sweden

Formal Models and Statistical Applications

- ! Econometric Analysis of Decision Making
- ! Local Hazard Models with Applications to Life Histories
- ! Modeling the Spread of AIDS in Africa
- ! Estimation of Population in Small Areas

Labor Force and Education

- ! Black-White Differences in Youth Employment
- ! Determinants and Effects of Educational Achievement
- ! Dynamic Choice Analysis of Schooling Behavior
- ! Food Stamp Eligibility, Labor Supply, and Program Participation
- ! Marriage and Dissolution in a Changing Labor Market
- ! Schooling Decisions of Students from Poverty Backgrounds: A Dynamic Choice Analysis
- ! Trends in School Racial Segregation

Migration and Population Redistribution

- ! Analytical Models of Small-Area Population Change
- ! Dynamic Migration Models Applied to U.S. Longitudinal Data
- ! Impacts of Migration on Behavior
- ! Population Change in Nonmetropolitan Areas

Race and Ethnicity

- ! Demography of Minority Underemployment
- ! Spatial Distribution of Race and Poverty: Trends in Urban Residential Structure
- ! Ethnic Populations and Employment
- ! Health Conditions of the Elderly in Latin America
- ! Health Consequences of Mexican Migration, Immigrant Health

Social Stratification

- ! Trends in Socioeconomic Achievement Across the Life Course

U.S. Family Structure and Process

- ! Demographic and Social Issues in Child Support
- ! Demographic Influences on Family and School Transitions
- ! Family Structure, Socialization, and Child Well-Being
- ! Formation and Stability of Marital and Cohabiting Unions
- ! Intergenerational Consequences of Family Disruption
- ! National Survey of Families and Households

Predoctoral training program

The University of Wisconsin offers graduate training in sociology with a specialization in demography. Students working toward a graduate degree in economics, geography, or other social sciences may take demography as their minor field.

The Department of Sociology has received top rankings for its scholarly production and its training program. The reputations of the Department and the Center help attract outstanding students. All Sociology graduate students get excellent training in the methods and perspectives of sociology. Other areas of strength in the Department include sociology of development, sociological methodology, social psychology, complex organization, social stratification, class analysis, family organization, and other specialty areas within sociology.

Upon completing their degrees, many recent graduates of our program have obtained faculty positions at major universities, including Michigan, Stanford, Berkeley, Texas, Pennsylvania State, Indiana, and other institutions both in the U.S. and abroad. Others have pursued non-academic careers at the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and other private and public organizations.

Predoctoral training is an admixture of classroom work and research apprenticeship designed to facilitate the development of a strong education in general sociology, a firm theoretical and empirical foundation in both demography and human ecology, and experience and skill in conducting research. The program is designed so that it can be completed in four calendar years of full-time work. Examples of advanced courses and seminars taught in the Center for Demography and Ecology:

- ! Sociology of the Family
- ! Demography of Aging and the Life Cycle
- ! Population and Society
- ! Rural Population Trends and Problems
- ! Elementary Demographic Techniques
- ! Applied Demography
- ! Urbanism and Urbanization
- ! Population and Development
- ! Survey Research
- ! Seminar on Race and Ethnic Relations
- ! Seminar on Math. and Stat. Applications
- ! Seminar on Mortality
- ! Seminar on Mathematical Demography
- ! Seminar on Fertility
- ! Seminar on Family and Household Demography
- ! Seminar on Families and Social Change

Research Apprenticeship: The crucial ingredient of a research training program in demography and ecology is a research apprenticeship in which the student participates in the research process under the close supervision of a more experienced person.

By using a mixture of training grant and research grant funds for student support, a research apprenticeship program has been designed that retains the training advantages of the traditional research assistant position but is more flexible, allows the trainee more freedom of choice in research topics, and speeds rather than delays the student's progress toward the doctorate. Typically, the first months of the student's program involve varied participation in the ongoing research of a faculty member. This experience gives way in the second semester and following summer to planning and undertaking the master's thesis. Upon completion of the master's degree the student may return to a period of involvement in a faculty project, this time more in the status of a junior colleague. During the third year, with completion of courses and exams, this participation leads directly to dissertation planning.

Financial Assistance: The Center administers research and training grants that provide stipends for predoctoral study. New students must first be admitted by the Department of Sociology. Information and application forms may be obtained from: Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706-1393. This should be done in the Fall preceding the academic year for which admission is sought. The Center makes most of its offers of financial aid to new students in late March, for studies beginning the following summer or fall. The Center and the Sociology Department seek students who have demonstrated ability to handle social science and quantitative subjects, but a major in sociology is not a prerequisite. To obtain first-year financial aid from the Center, it is not necessary to have had substantial demographic training. What is needed is a willingness to enroll in basic courses and engage in a research apprenticeship.

Postdoctoral and visitors program

The Center offers the opportunity for postdoctoral training to selected scholars whose doctoral degrees were earned elsewhere. Postdoctoral programs are designed individually to meet the needs and interests of each scholar. Postdocs spend most of their time carrying out research, either their own project or part of an ongoing project at the Center. Postdocs may audit advanced courses or seminars. A portion of the postdoctoral trainee's program is usually spent preparing a research grant application to facilitate future work. Each postdoc works closely with one or more designated faculty.

Postdoctoral positions are open to scholars whose specialized needs can be served by the research facilities and intellectual resources of the Center and to scholars trained in any of the social sciences who seek to develop their knowledge and research experience in demography and ecology. The Center currently has support available for scholars with a special interest in the demography of aging and the life course. In addition, the Center has a position to provide support and assist in the development of the research and professional skills of a recent minority Ph.D. in sociology, economics, or complementary disciplines who has little or no training in demography, but who desires exposure to some of the theoretical, methodological, and policy issues of interest to demographers.

Potential candidates should write for information about the availability of these positions. Those interested in a postdoctoral fellowship with the Center for Demography of Health and Aging can find

additional information and contact information at the Center's website (<http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/cdha>). Scholars of any nationality seeking to come to the Center with postdoctoral financial support from foundations or government agencies should consult with the Center Director to design a suitable research program. The Center cannot accommodate unexpected visitors.

Facilities

The Center is located in the Social Science Building on the Madison campus of the University of Wisconsin. Students and invited visitors have access to the resources of a leading research university.

The Center is organized around core units: Data Processing, Data Library, Print Library, and Administration.

The Data Processing core of the Center for Demography and Ecology is embedded in the Social Science Computing Cooperative (SSCC), which supports, in varying degrees, the research computing of the Center, the Sociology and Rural Sociology Departments, the Institute on Aging, the Institute for Research on Poverty, the Economics Department, and the Political Science Department. A network of servers and timesharing systems, powerful machines which use Alpha processors and run the Unix operating system, is in operation. This network fits in well with other equipment and has proved extremely useful in processing computer-intensive calculations. CDE members have exclusive login rights on one of the machines and share access on two others. The online file storage capacity of the Unix network approaches 600 gigabytes. Software on the Unix timesharing systems includes SAS, SPSS, Stata, and a variety of other statistical packages. CDE members are also part of an extensive Windows NT domain administered by the SSCC. This network interoperates with the Unix network to allow for sharing of disk space and printers among the Unix systems, the NT servers, and Windows desktop machines in private offices. Disk storage hosted by NT servers totals about 400 gigabytes. Users without their own PCs can log into one of the two NT machines running the Windows NT Terminal Server Edition operating system. This facility, called "WinCenter" locally, allows up to thirty users to share the Windows applications installed on these two servers. The applications made available in this way include SPSS, Stata, and Microsoft Office, among others. All machines communicate over a building-wide switched ethernet connected to the campus ATM network and from there to the world at large. There are ethernet ports in every office in the building. In addition, two public use rooms are equipped with X terminals, giving access to both Unix and WinCenter computing, and with a few powerful networked PCs for individual use. Tape drives, CD read-write drives, a document scanner with OCR software, and network printers are all available for hands-on access to users of the Unix and NT networks.

The Center's Data Library has one of the country's finest collections of machine-readable data files in demography. The collection of approximately 1400 data sets, stored on a variety of magnetic, optical, and digital media, is strongest in U.S. census data and large household surveys, fertility, vital statistics, life history, and social mobility studies. The collection of international censuses (China, Latin America) is growing as more countries make their enumerations available in machine-readable format. The Center's public FTP site allows researchers to download a selection of rare data files collected by the Center over the years and public data files converted into SAS Transport format. A description of available data files can be found on the CDE website (<http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/cde/library/cdeftp.htm>).

The Library of the Center for Demography and Ecology is a valuable resource for Center faculty, research affiliates, staff, and students. The collection includes research monographs, working papers, theses, reference materials, and journals on demographic research and related areas. The Library also owns U.S. decennial census reports dating back to 1830, and U.S. vital and health statistics dating back to 1905. The entire collection is searchable from a web based catalog. A variety of electronic bibliographic and statistical resources are available locally as well as access to the UW-Madison campus electronic information system. The staff offers reference and document delivery services, and will assist users in finding and using Internet and other electronic resources.

The Administrative Core of the Center for Demography and Ecology provides overall management, budgeting, editorial, and secretarial support. In addition to these functions, the Administrative Core manages the Center's Working Paper Series, coordinates student activities, and visits to the Center of scholars from other institutions. Information about the Center and requests for working papers may be obtained by sending electronic mail to: cdepubs@ssc.wisc.edu or accessing the Center's webpage at <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/cde>.

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Center for Demography of Health and Aging

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Mission

The Center for Demography of Health and Aging (CDHA) is a P-30 center of the National Institute on Aging, which complements the Center for Demography and Ecology (CDE) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. CDHA both shares and builds on the substantial research infrastructure of CDE. It will create new links between social demography and biomedical and epidemiological research on aging. The overall goal of the CDHA is to build a major research and training program in the demography of health and aging.

Major themes of ongoing and developmental research activities within CDHA include

- Midlife development and aging;
- Economics of population aging;
- Inequalities in health and aging; and
- International comparative studies of population aging.

Postdoctoral Training and Faculty Development

CDE and CDHA provide a research and training environment that is strong in collegiality, computing, geographic information analysis, print/data libraries, and administrative services. Faculty affiliated with the centers come from the Departments of Sociology, Economics, Rural Sociology, Social Work, Psychology, History, Population Health Sciences, Statistics, and Child and Family Studies. CDHA provides support for new faculty development and for faculty, staff, and research assistants engaged in innovative pilot research projects that are likely to lead to major NIA support.

The CDHA Postdoctoral Fellowship program is intended to support and develop the research and professional skills of recent PhDs in sociology, economics, or complementary disciplines and to focus those skills on significant theoretical, methodological, and policy issues in the demography of aging and the life course. Postdoctoral fellowships in the demography of aging and the life course are funded by the National Institute on Aging for a period of one to two years. NIA fellows will be encouraged to affiliate with one of the major research projects in the CDHA or in the Center for Demography and Ecology (CDE), possibly including the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study or the National Survey of Families and Households. Candidates must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States and must have completed all requirements for the doctorate by the time of the initial appointment.

Current Awareness in Aging Report (CAAR)

CAAR is a weekly email report that helps researchers keep up with the latest developments in the field. The report tracks new developments in the form of data releases and update reports from government and non-governmental sources, working papers, new books, updates in the bibliographies of major aging-related studies, journal tables of contents, conferences, grant announcements, websites and selected employment opportunities. In addition to the weekly report, CDHA distributes a daily notice of relevant newspaper articles with Internet pointers to the full text. An archive of weekly reports is available on the web (<http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/cdha/caar/caar-index.htm>). If you are interested in receiving the weekly or daily reports by email, please contact Jack Solock (jsolock@ssc.wisc.edu).

Public Data Resources

CDHA maintains a web page designed to help researchers find cross-sectional studies, time series, contextual data, and other data relevant to their research. About 55 studies and datasets have been highlighted in order to provide easy access to some of the most well-known and useful studies of the sociological, economic, and medical aspects of aging. Although the resources listed constitute only a small selection of relevant studies, the archives, government agencies and NGOs listed serve as a gateway to hundreds more.

Selected data files are also available directly from the Center via the World Wide Web. CDE and CDHA have opened a public FTP (File Transfer Protocol) site that allows researchers to download a selection of rare data files collected by the Centers over the years (in UNIX compressed .Z ASCII format) and public data files that have been converted to SAS Transport files (UNIX compressed .Z ASCII format). Although many of the public data files are available in other forms (e.g., as ASCII files) from other sources, converting them into SAS Transport makes it easier to download and analyze these files. The files and associated electronic documentation are available free of charge. A description of specific data files can be found on the web (<http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/cde/library/cdeftp.htm>).

For additional assistance in identifying or acquiring aging-related data, contact CDHA's Data Analyst/Archivist, who can assist you to download and analyze large public use files and to locate data appropriate for your study (jeisenha@ssc.wisc.edu).

Secure Data Archive and Computing Facility

The Secure Data Archive and Computing Facility has the capacity to store and analyze epidemiological, demographic, spatial, and other social and economic data related to the aging process. The objective in creating this secure enclave is to provide a safe and confidential data archive while simultaneously assuming the financial and technical burden for researchers and institutions involved in the storage and analysis of relevant data. Non-sensitive public use data acquired by CDHA are maintained on an FTP site (see the section on Public Data Resources above), while sensitive data are stored on the secure archive. Sensitive data may include proprietary materials, confidential medical or financial records, or potentially identifiable individual records. Respondent confidentiality and integrity of sensitive data are maintained by physically isolating these data on a stand-alone computer to which access is restricted.

Researchers gain access to sensitive data by remotely submitting SAS or STATA code for analysis using secure electronic methods. The Analyst inspects the code and resulting output to ensure that the analysis does not lead to a breach in respondent confidentiality. If it does not, then the output is passed on to the researcher. A second copy of the output is maintained in an encrypted file at the enclave. When a researcher submits subsequent statistical jobs, the Analyst/Archivist reviews previous output to ensure that the combined accumulated output does not result in a breach in confidentiality. Researchers sign a contractual obligation stating that they will not seek to uncover any subject's identity and that if they do so inadvertently, they will destroy the information and inform the Analyst/Archivist of the breach and the manner in which it occurred. Researchers who wish to use proprietary data may also be asked to sign a User Agreement developed in cooperation with the data owner.

The Secure Data Archive and Computing Facility provides the following services:

- Secure data archiving designed to protect the integrity of proprietary and sensitive data and respondent confidentiality;
- The development and implementation of customized security and confidentiality protocols designed to meet the needs of data owners who archive their data with the facility;
- Statistical processing for users of confidential data;
- Data acquisition services for rare or expensive data.

The Data Analyst/Archivist can also assist you to:

- Locate data appropriate for your study;
- Download and analyze large public use files (e.g., MEPS, HRS, AHEAD);
- Develop customized security and confidentiality protocols needed for IRB review;
- Develop customized data-user agreements; and
- Develop public user files from confidential archived data.

For additional information, contact the Data Analyst/Archivist (jeisenha@ssc.wisc.edu).