

ASA
Section on the Sociology of Population
Volume 31, No. 2
Spring 2008

Chair

Larry Wu
Dept. of Sociology
295 Lafayette St.
Puck Bldg., 4th Fl.
New York University
New York, NY 10012
Tel.:212/992-9565
FAX:212/995-4140

Chair-Elect

Wendy Manning
Dept. of Sociology
Bowling Green State Univ.
Bowling Green, OH
Bowling Green, OH
43402
419/372-2850
419/372-8306

Sec./Treasurer

Nan E. Johnson
Dept. of Sociology
Room 405 Berkey Hall
Michigan State Univ.
East Lansing, MI
48824
517/355-6640
517/432-2856

Past-Chair

Herb Smith, Director
Population Studies Center
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Tel: 215/898-7768
FAX: 215/898-2124

Council

Richard Alba (2008)
Lynne Casper (2008)
Irma Elo (2009)
Pam Smock (2009)
Karin Brewster (2010)
Kelly Raley (2010)

CONTENTS

2008 Annual Meetings of Population Association of America Held in New Orleans, April 16-19, 2008

Plan Now To Attend Meetings of the Section on the Sociology of Population At ASA, Boston, August 1-4, 2008

2008 ANNUAL MEETINGS OF POPULATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA HELD IN NEW ORLEANS, APR. 16-19

For the first time in 12 years, the PAA met in New Orleans from April 16- 19, 2008. It is also the first time the PAA has met in the Crescent City since Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005. PAA acknowledged this milestone with a number of sessions related to the demographic consequences of Hurricane Katrina on the area.

Several papers debated how Hurricane Katrina changed the size of the population in New Orleans due to evacuations with and without returns. Answers centered on the methodologies to estimate and project change in the size of a population in the face of a disaster. The obvious problem is that the standard demographic methods are not based on populations in crisis.

Routine projections by the U.S. Census Bureau are based on direct counts of individuals. However, the United States Postal Service (USPS) bases its routine estimates on mail carriers' reports on the number of households picking up mail delivered to the doorstep. However, the method used by USPS does not count the number of people living within a household getting delivery at the residence nor picking up mail from rented mailboxes at the post office. This limitation typically results in a lower population estimate than what is obtained by the Census Bureau's method. However, one year post-Katrina, the three heaviest-hit parishes showed a higher post-Katrina population estimate through the USPS method than through the US Census method of estimation. For more details, see the paper presented by Allison Plyer and Ken Hodges (cited below).

Another method of estimating the net displacement of the New Orleanians is through analysis of the Louisiana Health and Population Survey, gathered cross-sectionally from June through December, 2006, a lag of nine-to-11 months after Hurricane Katrina struck in late August, 2005. The survey asked whether the respondent lived at a different house now than on August 29, 2005, when the hurricane came ashore in New Orleans. The respondent was also asked whether the reason for living at a different address now was due to damage to the home on August 29 or to the loss of a job within the New Orleans labor market (even if the home remained habitable). The dislocated respondents were asked to supply the zip code or mailing address of their home. For details on the findings, see the paper by Makiko Hori and David Bowman (cited below). Perhaps the most accurate estimates would combine aggregate-level data based on Census enumerations and postal delivery records with voices "on the ground:" from the people who report in surveys whether they evacuated and why.

A third source of data can come from diaries that tell personal, eye-witness accounts. Chris Rose, a columnist for the New Orleans newspaper, the Times-Picayune, published his lived experience of Hurricane Katrina in "Dead in the Attic." The meaning of the title is that when the levees broke, residents fled to their attics. Many broke holes into their roofs to escape the rising flood waters and to seek rescue by helicopters.

The US National Guard was called to search and to rescue or recover (depending on whether people were found alive or dead, respectively, within housing structures). When a National Guard unit entered a residence in the disaster zone, it painted the front entrance to announce the state from which it came and the number of dead people, dead animals, living people, and living animals it found inside.



The Maine National Guard Unit entered this duplex on 09/12/2005 and found no dead bodies.

While the media have paid much well-deserved attention to the demographic impacts of Hurricane Katrina on the metropolis of New Orleans, Katrina destroyed rural areas along the Gulf Coast, too. In fact, the majority (55%) of Mississippi residents of counties eligible for federal disaster relief were living in nonmetropolitan counties (Saenz and Peacock 2006). Their nonmetro location put them at extra disadvantage because it made them more physically isolated. Roads into nonmetro areas were blocked by debris and flood water; and the airports in those nonmetro locations were closed, as well.

In addition, data from the 2000 U.S. Census show that nonmetro residents of the Katrina-hit counties in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama were more likely than their metro counterparts in the same counties to own their residence and to live in mobile homes but less likely to have homeowners insurance or to live in homes with telephone service. These facts put the nonmetro residents at heightened risk of death and financial disaster. Obviously, home ownership without homeowner's insurance meant the loss of most people's prime equity. Mobile homes were more

easily destroyed by gale-force winds than were non-mobile residences. Lack of telephone service made it hard for people to receive information about the pending storm or to coordinate efforts to evacuate. Blacks in nonmetro counties struck by Katrina suffered more than their white counterparts, since blacks were less likely to have access to private automobiles to use in evacuation. Future demographic studies should pay special attention to the situations of residents of nonmetro counties struck by Hurricane Katrina. Saenz and Peacock pose several recommendations for policies that are worthy of attention.

For more information on the demographic impacts of Hurricane Katrina, see:

Hori, Makiko, and David Bowman. 2008. "Displacement Dynamics in Southern Louisiana After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Population Association of America, New Orleans, April 17. Contact: mhoril@lsu.edu.

Plyer, Allison, and Ken Hodges. 2008. "Using US Postal Service Delivery Systems to Track Population Shifts Following a Major Disaster." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Population Association of America, New Orleans, April 17. Contact: allisonp@gnonkw.org.

Saenz, Rogelio, and Walter G. Peacock,. 2006. "Rural People, Rural Places: The Hidden Costs of Hurricane Katrina." *Rural Realities* 1(2) 1-11. Downloaded from www.ruralsociology.org on June 1, 2008.

Rose, Chris. 2005. "Dead in the Attic: After Katrina." New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF SECTION ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF
POPULATION AT ASA, BOSTON, AUGUST 1 - 4, 2008

Our Section Day is Saturday, August 2, 2008. At this writing, plan to attend the following events:

August 2 "Social and Cultural Determinants of Health and Mortality," 8:30 AM - 10:10 AM
Section Roundtables, 10:30 AM - 12:10 PM

CONTRACEPTIVE USE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Moderator: Kofi Benefo, *Lehman College, City University of New York*

"A Comparative Analysis of the Determinants of Contraceptive Practice in Africa: Evidence from Demographic and Health Survey Data." Md. Nazrul Hoque, *University of Texas at San Antonio*.

Africa, the huge region of vast geographical and cultural diversity is the home of 700 million of the world's population and one of the fastest growing regions with a growth rate of 3.0 percent per annum. Its contraceptive prevalence rates are collectively the worlds' lowest and, unlike the

rates in other developing regions, show no signs of increasing at the fastest rate. Only recently, the contraceptive prevalence rate has increased considerably in Kenya from 7 percent to 33 percent in 1993. According to Demographic and Health Surveys data, the contraceptive prevalence rate varies from 4 percent in Niger to 47 percent in Egypt. In this paper we will examine the comparative determinants of the choice of a contraceptive method among African women, using data primarily from the Demographic and Health Surveys. How people choose contraceptives affect many decisions. It affects which methods are appropriate for various subgroups in a population. It affects the degree of emphasis to be place on increasing service access and on changes for contraceptives and other services. It also affects promotional campaigns and the design of media materials. We will examine the determinants of the choice of a comparative method in Ghana, Kenya, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.

“The Impact of Quality of Care and Population Policy on Contraceptive Use in Kenya.” Michele Steinmetz, *University of Nebraska at Kearney*.

This study examines modern contraceptive use in Kenya in 1989 and 1998 by investigating individual fertility outcomes in Kenya, utilizing multi-level models applied to a unique data set integrating family planning quality of care indicators with nationally representative Demographic and Health Survey data from 1993 and 1998 and clinic-level data from 1989 and 1999 to test both direct and interactive effects of community context on changing fertility behaviors and outcomes. The results of this study illustrate the importance of individual characteristics, particularly a woman’s educational attainment, in influencing her decision to ever use modern contraceptives. Quality of care on its own has almost no effect on the decision to ever use modern contraceptives. However, cross-level interactions of the choice of available oral contraceptives and a woman’s educational attainment illustrated the importance of family planning context on a woman’s decision to ever use modern contraceptives. Thus, although there are only a few significant variables at the contextual level it is important to discuss how they relate to the ongoing debate of what factors influence a fertility decline. The subsequent paper will discuss all the main effects and cross-level interactions in the context of current demographic scholarship.

SOCIAL MOBILITY AND FERTILITY IN RUSSIA

Moderator: Ted Gerber, *University of Wisconsin*

“Downward Social Mobility and First Births in Russia.” Sunnee Billingsley, *Pompeu Fabra University*.

Using the Russian Gender and Generations Survey as well as the Employment and Education Survey, this study attempts to identify whether social mobility was important to fertility decisions in Russia before and after the transition from communism. Using event history analysis techniques, the analysis separates men and women and notes the variation between the determinants of having a first birth. Specifically, the study analyzes 1) the impact of intergenerational social mobility, measured through parents’ occupational class standing as well

as their educational level, and 2) the impact of intragenerational social mobility, measured through changes in the respondents' own occupational class trajectory. Results indicate conflicting stories, in which both upward and downward intergenerational social mobility decrease the risk of first birth, while both upward and downward intragenerational social mobility increase the risk of first birth. One important result that contradicts findings in other research is that childbearing does not appear to be a solution to unemployment for women.

SEXUAL HISTORY AND MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FERTILITY IN THE U.S.

Moderator: Elizabeth Cooksey, *The Ohio State University*.

“The Role of Sexual Experience in Shaping Men's and Women's Fertility.” Li Zhang, *Virginia Commonwealth University*.

Recent research has documented the trends of sexual activity occurring during early adolescence and high prevalence of having multiple sexual partners in lifetime. These trends have been found playing an important role in family formation and union stability. However, researchers have not given enough attention to the effect of sexual experience on childbearing outcomes. In addition, whether sexual experience has significantly different impacts on men's and women's fertility outcomes has not been addressed in previous literature. Analyzing data from the 2002 NSFG Cycle 6 on age at first sexual intercourse, number of sexual partners in lifetime, and children ever born (CEB) for both men and women, I try to fill the gaps of previous studies. My research results suggest that early sexual activity has a positive effect on childbearing, whereas a fewer number of sexual partners in one's entire life increases people's fertility level. Specifically, people who started their sexual activity in ages 26 and older show a significantly lower level of fertility than those who initiated sexual intercourse earlier. People who have only one sexual partner in lifetime tend to have a greater number of children than those who have experienced multiple sexual partners. Significant fertility differentials by gender are found mainly in the relationship of number of sexual partners in lifetime and fertility when childless respondents are dropped from the analysis. It suggests that male fertility is likely to be increased to a greater extent than female fertility by having only one sexual partner in lifetime, especially for those who have already entered parenthood.

MARRIAGE AND FERTILITY DECLINE IN ASIA

Moderator: Jennifer Barber, *University of Michigan*

“The Role of Cultural Lag in Marriage Decline for Japan's Boom and Bust Cohorts.” Akiko Yoshida, *University of Oklahoma*.

Marriage rates declined rapidly in 1980s Japan when women's economic opportunities expanded due to the economic boom. Existing theories of marriage point out that marriage decline is associated with women's economic independence, increases in college enrollment by females, increased cohabitation, deterioration in male economic prospects, and variations in “gender role differentiation.” However, none of these theories adequately explains the marriage decline of

Japan. Applying William Ogburn's cultural lag theory, I argue that young Japanese women changed their views of gender roles when the boom changed their economic conditions, and that male/female differences in role expectations might have contributed to marriage decline. I test whether gender gaps in gender role expectations are larger for this (boom) cohort than those of the subsequent (bust) cohort. As Ogburn expected culture to adapt, I expect that men and women in the bust cohort are more similar in views compared to those of the boom cohort. This study reveals that gaps are indeed larger for the boom cohort, though college education and gender are better predictors of views of gender roles than cohort. This paper suggests the importance of the inclusion of cultural lag and adaptation in building a theory of marriage.

“Tempo Changes and Low Fertility in South Korea.” Seulki Choi, University of North Carolina.

South Korea reached below replacement fertility level in 1983. The total fertility rate (TFR) was modestly declined here after. From 2000, it started to plummet and reached 1.08 in 2005. The rapid fertility decline brought many social concerns – aging population with increasing burden of medical and pension resources for the elderly, a shortage of especially young workers and losing international competitiveness.

Previous research on the fertility decline has been conducted with a quantum driven perspective, and little is conducted based on the tempo perspective. Thus, I expect the disentanglement between quantum and tempo changes serves for better understanding of current fertility changes in South Korea. How much have the tempo effect affected a recent fertility decline in South Korea? How have the tempo effects changed? Will it increase or decrease? To answer these questions, I will use decomposition methods. Adjusted TFR introduced by Bongaarts and Feeney (Bongaarts and Feeney 1998) could show a counterfactual period fertility if the tempo effect had not happen. The adjusted TFR is based on the assumption that there is no age-period interaction, which is the shape of the fertility schedule remains constant over time. It is a robust assumption but during the abrupt change of tempo effect, it can be violated. Various methods will be used to test this assumption.

UNION FORMATION AND DISSOLUTION IN NORTH AMERICA

Moderator: Kelly Raley, *University of Texas-Austin*

“The Heterogeneous Diffusion Processes of First Marriage and First Cohabitation,” Jianlin Niu, *University of Western Ontario*.

The individual-level diffusion process of first marriage and that of first cohabitation have not been studied sufficiently in the literature, and important research questions are left behind such as whether the cohabitation diffuses from the socioeconomic elites or the disadvantaged group, and what is the mechanism of the diffusion of first marriage/cohabitation. These questions invite systematic investigations on the diffusion of these processes. In this study, I use the data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979-2004 (NLSY79) in the United States and the Survey of Labor and Income Dynamics 1993-1998 (SLID93) in Canada to examine the comparative diffusion processes of first marriage (without premarital cohabitation) and first

cohabitation. Significant diffusion effects are found in the process of first marriage and that of first cohabitation for both males and females in the US and Canada. And there is evidence that the cohabitation diffusion starts from the socioeconomically disadvantaged group rather than the socioeconomic elites. In addition, it seems plausible that females develops further ahead in the diffusion of partnership transformation as compared with their male counterparts in both the US and Canada.

“Time-Dependent Effect of Education on Marital Dissolution,” Hongyun Han, *University of Wisconsin*

Using a longitudinal data with complete marriage history and fairly long marriage span, this analysis has tested changes in the effect of education on the risk of divorce among the Wisconsin 1957 high school graduates. There are qualitative differences in the risk of divorce across educational strata, and the effect of education can be alleviated across marriage duration. Respondents with master degree in particular face higher risks than high school degree holders even with similar demographic outlooks. Furthermore, this analysis has made effort to identify and quantify the characteristics of historical periods that have led to pervasive effect of historical periods. The crude divorce rates are defined as time-varying variable and positively influence the risk of divorce, in particular in the mid-1970s. Similarly, marriage cohorts who experience their critical years during the mid-1970s suffer from additive period effect. In summary, this analysis finds almost no support for the stability of education across marriage duration in estimating the risk of divorce.

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING

Moderator: Dennis Hogan, *Brown University*.

“Disability Among Internationally Adopted Children in the United States.” Rose Kreider and Philip Cohen, *U.S. Census Bureau and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*.

Despite many studies of children adopted within the United States, there is no nationally representative research on health status for those adopted internationally. We use restricted-access data from the complete long form of Census 2000 to estimate disability rates for internationally adopted children ages 5 to 15 in 2000. Results show that internationally adopted children have disability rates similar to those adopted domestically (11.7 percent versus 12.2 percent respectively), and more than twice the rate for all children in that age range (5.8 percent). Our analysis shows that, in the presence of simple controls for gender, age at adoption, current age, and parental characteristics, the odds of disability relative to domestic adoptees range from one-half or less (Japan, China, Korea) to twice as large (Romania, Bulgaria, Haiti). We also show models including only internationally adopted children. This permits us to test the effects of gender, age at immigration/adoption, current age, and parental characteristics on disability rates specifically for internationally adopted children, by country of origin.

“Comparing Adolescents with and without Siblings: A Chinese Study” Ruth Xiaoru Liu, Wei

Lin, and Zeng-Yin Chen, San Diego, State University, Fujian Medical University, and California State University - San Bernardino.

We assessed similarities and differences between singletons and non-singleton adolescents in China. Using survey reports of over 2,000 teens attending three middle schools in the outskirts of Fuzhou, China, we found interesting patterns related to factors observed in the home, school, peer world, as well as psychological and behavioral adjustments. In general, singletons and non-singletons are quite similar to each other. Where singletons differ, they report more positive parental attention, association with more conventional friends, and better psychological health and behavioral adjustments. However, singletons are also more impulsive/hot-tempered than non-singletons and they perform fewer chores but argue more with their parents. We speculate that some of these differences may have contributed to the persistence of the images of singletons as spoiled and fragile, especially as portrayed in the popular literature.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFLUENCES ON POPULATION COMPOSITION

Moderator: Janet M. Wilmoth, *Syracuse University*

“Aging in Jamaica: An Analysis of Patterns and Trends.” Donneth H. Crooks, Florida International University.

Once seen as a feature of developed countries, population aging is now occurring in many developing countries and is projected to intensify in the future. With just over ten percent of its population over 60 years old Jamaica now joins the ranks of those countries classified as aged societies. While population aging is an achievement it poses several challenges for the structure and functioning of society. This paper uses data from the 2001 census to examine the nature of population aging in Jamaica. The data indicate that population aging is not taking place uniformly across the country. Rural areas are aging faster than urban areas and the oldest old constitute the fastest growing segment of the population. There is also a high proportion of elderly who are not in any type of marital union and a growing number of elderly men living alone, despite the greater longevity of females. However, the large majority of older people live in households of which they are heads. Based on the current and projected trends, population aging is expected to become a major issue with significant implications for public health and pensions spending.

“Is Segmented Assimilation an Explanation for the Increasing Sex Ratio of Chinese in the U.S.?” Thankam Sunil and John Garza, University of Texas at San Antonio.

This paper evaluated the sex ratio among Chinese in the U.S. between 1970 and 2004 and possible factors affecting it. It was found that Chinese in the U.S. have the largest sex ratio of any race/ethnic group at 108 and is increasing. Using Vital Statistics data for 2000 through 2002 we determined: age of the mother, involuntary fetal mortality, birth order, and environmental factors had no effect on the sex ratio. In generating abortion estimates for Chinese in the U.S., we found that voluntary fetal mortality may influence the sex ratio as it does in China. Segmented

assimilation of Chinese immigrants to the U.S. is a likely explanation for this process. The study calls for further investigation into the pattern of increasing SR among Chinese in the US.

POPULATION AND THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Moderator: Scott South, *State University of New York at Albany*.

“The Second Disaster: Demographic Transformation of Disadvantaged Neighborhoods following Major Hurricanes.” James R. Elliott and Jeremy Pais, *University of Oregon*.

In the United States, recovery from major disasters depends greatly on private resources and federal initiatives aimed at restoring business and property rather than local communities. As a consequence of these policies, disadvantaged neighborhoods remain vulnerable not just to environmental hazards but to recovery processes that unfold in their wake—the so-called “second disaster.” To date, however, prior research has provided no systematic analysis of neighborhood vulnerability and associated demographic change following major coastal disasters. We provide such an analysis by integrating biophysical and demographic data to study the transformation of socially unequal neighborhoods after major hurricanes during the early 1990s. Results from spatially lagged regression analyses provide new information about the average extent, direction, and spatial patterning of such change and how it varies by local levels of social disadvantage.

SOCIOECONOMIC INFLUENCES ON HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Moderator: Sara Curran, *University of Washington*

“Microfinance, Financial Development, and Human Development in Less Developed Countries,” Nafisa Halim, *University of New Mexico*.

Despite improvements in standard of living worldwide (Easterlin, 2000; Kenny, 2005), millions of households still live in poverty without access to formal financial services, and within these poor communities, one child in five will not live to see his or her fifth birthday (Chen and Ravallion, 2004). Considering that financial development is argued to boost economic growth while eliminating the key constraints for human development, namely, poverty and income inequality (Schumpeter 1934; Gerschenkorn, 1962; King and Levine, 1993, Beck et al., 2007; Burgess and Pande, 2006), greater access to finance appears promising for human development. Nonetheless, the link between financial and human development remains an open, important, and empirical question. In efforts to fill out this gap, I a) using cross-country data on the actual number of borrowers of microfinance among the poor show that greater access to finance helps reduce child mortality – a robust indicator of human development, and b) using fixed-effects and first-differences panel data estimation techniques to analysis data from 101 less developed countries for the years 1980 to 2004 show that financial development – measured with the value of credit extended by financial intermediaries to the private sector as a percentage of GDP – is good for human development. The final version of this analysis seeks to explain whether this association can be perceived “causal.”

“Socioeconomic Context of Prime-Age Adult Mortality: Evidence from the Agincourt Health and Demographic Surveillance Site.” Laura Patterson, Lori Hunter, and Wayne Twine, *University of Colorado-Boulder and University of the Witwatersrand*.

There is little empirical research examining the relationship between household socioeconomic status (SES) and prime-age adult mortality in sub-Saharan Africa (Cogneau and Grimm 2006; Hallman 2005; Hargreaves et al. 2002). In the context of the ongoing HIV/AIDS pandemic, such work is important since SES may shape both vulnerability to prime-age adult mortality especially as related to HIV/AIDS (Bachmann and Booyesen 2004; Dunkle et al. 2004; Goyer and Gow 2001; Hallman 2005; Santo and Etheredge 2004; Wojciki 2005), as well as the ability of a household to recover from such mortality (Dorward et al. 2006; Drimie 2003; Knodel et al. 2007; Yamano and Jayne 2004). This paper presents analyses of pre-mortality SES as well as post-mortality change in household’s socioeconomic status in rural South Africa using data from the Agincourt Health and Demographic Surveillance Site (AHDSS). Results show that mortality-affected households – both AIDS-related and non-AIDS-related – are likely to have a higher pre-mortality SES than their unaffected counterparts. On post-mortality changes, although the general trend is toward a decrease in SES following mortality, this change was not found to be statistically significant. Notably, however, the differences observed in this study between mortality-affected households and their unaffected counterparts may be underestimated due to the methodological difficulty of obtaining a truly unaffected, baseline population due to high prevalence levels. Both policy and methodological implications of these findings are explored.

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC INFLUENCES ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Moderator: Irma Elo, *University of Pennsylvania*

“Reconceptualizing Health as Wellness among Older Adults: Conditions, Constellations, and Social Risk Factors from a Nationally Representative Probability Sample of Men and Women 57 to 85 Years of Age.” Edward Laumann, Linda Waite, and Aniruddha Das, *University of Chicago*.

This study explores the social distribution and etiology of health constellations in the general population, using data from the 2005-2006 U.S. National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP), a nationally-representative probability sample of 3,005 community-dwelling women and men ages 57-85. Each constellation is characterized by a profile of conditions from multiple domains of health, with the list of indicators including self reports as well as a uniquely wide range of objective biomeasures. Latent class analysis is used to extract 10 underlying configurations from these observed data. In addition, survey-weighted multinomial logit models are used to estimate the social-structural correlates of these latent health constellations.

“Spousal Educational Attainment and Self Rated Health: Is a Spouse's Education Associated with One's Own Health?” Dustin Brown, *University of Texas-Austin*.

A large body of previous research documents a link between higher levels of educational

attainment and more efficacious health behaviors and improved health outcomes. However, the majority of existing research into education and health approaches the problem at the individual level, failing to take into account the potentially independent influence exerted by the educational attainment of one's spouse. In this paper, pooled cross-sectional data from the National Health Interview Survey are utilized to assess whether one's own health shares an association with the education of his/her partner independently of his/her own education. A series of binary logistic regression equations regressing self-rated health upon one's own and one's spouse's education are estimated separately by gender. The results indicate that spousal education does indeed share association with one's own health independently of one's own education and that the magnitude of the observed association is comparable for both males and females. The results suggest that when it comes to health, education may be a household – rather than solely an individual – resource. The inclusion of spousal SES characteristics in models predicting health outcomes will allow researchers to better understand how stratification processes play-out within the context of the family to influence health outcomes.

THE DEMOGRAPHY OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Moderator: William C. Cockerham, *University of Alabama at Birmingham*.

“Education and Race/Ethnic Differences in Physical Activity Profiles in the U.S.”

Jarron Saint Onge and Patrick M. Krueger. *University of Houston and University of Texas School of Public Health*

While the relationship between physical activity and social position is well established, the underlying mechanisms that shape physical activity are less well known. To this end, the aim of this research is two-fold, to investigate the relationships between physical activities and to determine whether social positions such as race/ethnicity and education are associated with different types of physical activity profiles. Using the 1998 NHIS Sample Adult Prevention File, we find unique health profiles comprised of Individual, Team, and Club activities. We find important associations between race/ethnicity and education with each of these activity profiles that may have implications for U.S. health disparities.

“Prevalence of Physical Activity of Indigenous People-Comparison between Taiwan Aborigines and American Indians.” Shu-Chuan Wang, *Chung-Shan Medical University*.

Physical activity can both prevent and protect against various conditions and diseases, including obesity, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and non-Insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus. However, it is understudied among aboriginal population in both Taiwan and the U.S. The purposes of this study are 1) to understand the physical activity disparities between aborigines and the general population in Taiwan and those between Native Americans and non-Hispanic Whites; 2) to examine the age effect on racial differences of physical activity; and 3) to explore how social determinants confound the prevalence of physical activity. This study will employ data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) in Taiwan and the U.S. respectively

DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES ON WEIGHT AND OBESITY

Moderator: Patrick M. Krueger, *University of Texas School of Public Health*

“Dynamic Effects of Childhood Household Income on Young Adult Weight Status.”

Kammi Schmeer, *The Ohio State University*.

Understanding the origins of health disparities requires investigation into how childhood circumstances influence individuals' health into adulthood. This paper focuses on how and when childhood household income affects underweight and overweight status among individuals transitioning to adulthood in the Philippines (a country with relatively large underweight and growing overweight populations). I use prospective, longitudinal data from the Cebu Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey and multinomial logistic regression to assess the effects of household income at multiple stages of childhood on underweight and overweight status at age 19. The results inform the growing body of health disparities literature by suggesting the lasting impact of childhood income on the risk of being over- or under-nourished at age 19; and, different effects by when income is experienced and the weight status (underweight versus overweight) considered.

“The Projected Burden of Overweight and Obesity in Texas through 2040.” Nazrul Hoque, Steve Murdock, and Margaret E. McCusker. *University of Texas at San Antonio and U.S. Bureau of the Census*.

Overweight and obesity is the number one health problem facing America. This increase is a great concern because of the health risks associated with overweight and obesity. Overweight and obesity is related to the risk for heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and a host of other diseases. Approximately 400,000 deaths each year in the United States might be attributable to overweight and obesity. Among Texas adults, overweight and obesity prevalence rate rose from 43% in 1990 to 63% in 2002. The economic burden associated with overweight and obesity in Texas is substantial. Overweight and obesity associated direct and indirect costs an estimated \$10.0 billion in 2000. In this paper we examine the impact of overweight and obesity on Texas economy. Total number of obese in Texas will increase from 3.6 million in 2000 to 5.2, or 7.2 or 10.9 million in 2040 depending on the migration scenario. The annual cost of obesity is expected to rise from 10.5 billion in 2000 to between \$18.8 billion to \$39.0 billion in 2000 constant dollars in 2040.

CLASSIFICATION AND MEASUREMENT ISSUES IN DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

Moderator: Lawrence Wu, *New York University*

“A Science of ‘Suicide’: Classifications and Circumstances of Violent Poisonings.” Brian Ward and Amber Nelson, *University of Maryland*.

In the following paper we explore the problem of violent poisoning deaths in an effort to better understand the circumstances surrounding different types of poisonings and how they become

classified. An integration of literatures from a variety of disciplines is used to provide a basis for conceptualizing the classification of suicide among violent poisonings in alternative ways, including analyses through the varying perspectives of intent and lethality. Using data from the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) for Maryland in the years of 2003-2005, we create new measures of intent and lethality alongside social circumstance and demographic explanatory variables to explore relationships and patterns across death poisonings and their likelihood of being classified as “suicides”. We find that this classification appears to be moderately explained by measures of intent, while lethality produces a small significant illumination as to these deaths not being classified as suicides but rather as a manner of undetermined intent. Also, similar patterns are found between classification and intent, for the explanatory variables, but no similarities appear apparent among classification and lethality. These findings and the use of a new dataset result in both theoretical and empirical implications which should be addressed by future research to gain a better understanding and construction of both suicide itself, and of the characteristics of violent poison deaths.

“Measurement Ad Absurdum in the Overcrowded North.” Nathanael Lauster, Risako Ota, and Frank Tester, *University of British Columbia*.

We interpret the role of public sociologist as meaning we are called to document glaring social inequality, and to explain the pernicious effects of inequities on health and well-being. Establishing comparative measurements of social inequality seems crucial to these tasks. Yet, the relationship between inequality and culture makes it difficult to justify comparative measurements. We outline two problems. The first is that comparative measurements of inequality often become transformed into policies used to discipline cultural minorities. The second is that comparative measurements of inequality tend to ignore the role of culture, obscuring the important ways in which it mediates the link between inequality and health or well-being. We illustrate and develop these points with reference to measurements of overcrowding and their application to Inuit communities of the Canadian Arctic.

CRITICAL, CONSTRUCTIONIST, AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS APPROACHES TO STUDYING FERTILITY

Moderator: Christine H. Morton, Repronetwork.Org

“‘Using’ Women and the Reproductive Body: Creating Disorder in the Somatic Society.” Elizabeth Ettore, *University of Liverpool*.

This paper focuses on a type of embodiment that is on offer to drug using women, the reproducing body and draws attention to the regulatory regime of reproduction in which a variety of powerful disciplinary practices determine what sorts of bodies should be reproductive. Cultural representations of pregnancy and drug use with regards to our 'bodily obsessed' society are examined. Pregnant bodies are envisaged as ‘real’ material sites (i.e. gendered bodies) upon which the chaos and disorder of drug use are inscribed. Four inter-related issues are discussed in the paper. Firstly, the author examines reproductive bodies, both drug using and non-drug using,

within 'the somatic society'. Secondly, how 'normal' or 'deviant' and non-drug using or drug using pregnant bodies become visible and indeed visualised through the 'scopic drive', a characteristic of this somatic society is discussed. Thirdly, related to the somatic society with its scopic drive is the regulatory regime of reproduction which is explored with regards its disciplinary practices directed towards drug using pregnant bodies. Lastly, notions on women, drugs and pregnancy are analysed with reference to pregnant drug using bodies as 'disordered bodies'. The idea of resistance to the dominant ideology of reproduction emerges.

“Meaningful Exchanges: Recapturing and Restricting Procreative Power in Frozen Embryo Donations.” Kristin Wilson, *Georgia State University*.

Some in vitro fertilization (IVF) patients seek recipients for their leftover embryos on website bulletin boards. The donor-recipient discourse posted online reveals ways in which the two groups resist the stigmatization and medicalization of their infertility. By relying on political narratives of eugenics, class distinction, and the personhood of embryos, they mutually construct embryo donation as a better way to make (better) babies, in part by collectively imagining other, unfit, undeserving parents. On the one hand, the donors and recipients' praxis makes their actions more personally meaningful and yields a novel biosociality that broadens existing kinship arrangements and may engender greater procreative agency. On the other, the exclusionary processes by which donors and recipients negotiate may, in fact, damage their freedom to engage in the very unregulated, unsurveilled trade in frozen embryos that empowers them.

August 3 Section Reception, 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM.

Please plan to attend this reception, which will be co-sponsored by the Section on the Sociology of Population and the Section of the Sociology of the Family. This will be the venue where our Section will make two awards:

Best Paper Award: Committee consists of Michael Hout (Chair), Sonalde Desai, and Dennis Hogan.

Best Graduate Student Paper Award: Committee consists of Kelly Raley (Chair), Elizabeth Frankenberg, and Jeffrey Morenoff

The 2008 ASA Program is complete and is available online. You can pre-register online for an ASA badge and for hotel accommodations. Go to www.asanet.org. For discounts, you must pre-register before July 1. The registration fee is \$145 for members and associate members and \$75 for students before July 1. Afterwards, the fees will rise to \$195 and \$115, respectively.

See you in Boston!