

12th CONFERENCE OF THE HISTORICAL DEMOGRAPHY ASSOCIATION
Porto, 4-7 September 2019

THEME: Demography and History: From Catastrophe to Global Risk

The Demographic Transition can be defined as the struggle against catastrophic events which marked population evolution during the Ancien Régime and took the form of the apocalyptic scourges of war, hunger and plague. Nowadays, population evolution (increase or decrease), its structure (ageing), and the components of demographic dynamics (fertility, migrations and mortality) are perceived as global risks when not deemed catastrophes. The aim of this congress is to invite reflection on the problematisation of demographic evolution, and also to provide demographic analysis, from historical and present-day standpoints, of phenomena which can be viewed as global risks or catastrophes.

THEMATIC LINES

1. Population Age and Structure

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If, in the long-term evolution of the population major changes have occurred in its structure, in the short term, the ages make it possible to see the different characteristics of societies, which in turn lead to significant modifications in their life cycles. Over time, the gains and risks faced by populations have undergone changes and, from the standpoint of the issues being analysed, these have opened up a range of problems with different repercussions in the various kinds of territory, owing to the combined effects of population dynamics and structures. In today's global society, contrasting population dynamics are marking agendas and trends. The changes observed also oblige us to provide the concept of age with historicity, projecting it over time to encourage studies in different periods and socio-cultural contexts. This is a call for papers which have a bearing on or reflect problems in the domains of different ages of life and/or different lifecycles: Children and childhood; From young people to adults; and Ageing and increasing longevity.

2. Gender and Population

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The aim of this session is to bring out the gender perspective as one of the important themes in the field of historical demography and the demography of present-day societies. Hence contributions addressing the following subjects will be welcome: 1) Demographic behaviour and gender; 2) The unbalanced sex ratio in the population pyramid; 3) Gender and migratory movements; 4) Gender and the job market; 5) Gender, household structure, and family typologies; 6) Gender, welfare, and provision of social services; 7) Feminisation of poverty; 8) Gender, cities and life cycle; 9) Gender and economic crises; and 10) Gender, and intergenerational transmission and relations.

3 Determinants of Health and Morbimortality: The Dialogue of Past and Present

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This is a call for papers fitting within the conceptual framework of factors determining health and applied in the following areas: 1) Catastrophic mortality: epidemics and armed conflicts; 2) Morbidity and causes of death; and 3) Health and living standards. This approach will allow reflection on the conditions of life which determine mortality, morbidity and the best and worst levels of health in populations. Other focuses of interest are those which contemplate the parameters of the history of the present, since it is considered that, for the purposes of demographic research, this contribution could mean a dialogue between past and present in relation with patterns of morbimortality and health of the population, and also their factors and determinants.

4. Fertility and Reproductive Health

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Nowadays, low or very low fertility levels constitute one of the defining features of demographic behaviour in most societies. However, there are still major differences with regard to number of children and reproductive health in relation with socioeconomic position, educational qualifications, and ethnic origins, among other factors. This is a call for contributions focused on the evolution of fertility over time, the causes and consequences of very low levels of fertility, the disparities existing between social groups, and the impact of new reproductive technologies. Papers adopting comparative perspectives, studies entailing longitudinal approximations, and others presenting new theoretical and methodological material in approaches to fertility and reproductive health are all welcome.

5. Family Formation and Dissolution

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The social, economic, and legal contexts and the political evolution of society explain the means by which, and the ways in which families are formed and dissolved. Family formation entails union between people, which is a key determinant of the processes of biological reproduction and hereditary succession. In this thematic area we propose analysis of both elements of continuity of family formation and dissolution and also present-day factors of transformation and dynamics. With regard to continuity, we are interested in kinship regulation (consanguinity and affinity) in intergenerational terms, the dynamics of choice of spouse in each historical period, and the persistence of *familismo* (strong identification with extended and nuclear families) against the background of state indifference. In the case of transformation, we are concerned with the desacralisation / deinstitutionalisation of unions, the role of the women's movement in family formation, the need for legal regulation of new kinds of families, and the processes of social mobility. Papers dealing with these questions are organised into three main sections: 1) Nuptiality: unions and choice of spouse; 2) Tradition versus state indifference; and 3) Divorce and separation.

6. Migrations

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International migrations have acquired great visibility deriving both from growing migratory flows on a global scale, and the inadequacy of their political management. Meanwhile, internal migrations are given less attention even as they become increasingly complex. In this framework, contributions which contemplate any aspect related with the study of migrations from both historical and present-day standpoints, and whether they are internal or international migrations, or the relationship between the two kinds, will be welcome. For the period predating statistics, voluntary, semi-free (pushed by governments to repopulate territories), and forced (slaves, exiles, refugees) migrations will be taken into account, as will migrations by sex and age, by socio-professional groups, or influenced by religion or political opinion, and attention will be given to specific patterns of behaviour and territorial and temporal contextualisation. For the present-day period, it is hoped to receive contributions analysing both migratory flows and sociodemographic and territorial characteristics of the immigrant population and their descendants.

7. Settlement and Populations

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The growth and dynamics of urban population have continued as an unceasing process to such an extent that more than half of the world's population now lives in cities. This fast-developing transformation provides insights concerning the nature of human settlement, which has had two sides: concentration in cities, and depopulation. This process would not have been possible without the capacity for adaptation by cities to the new needs of their inhabitants, which has continued to make them increasingly attractive while also increasing population diversity and thus giving rise to new challenges. Urbanisation, with its corollaries of suburbanisation, peri-urban sprawl, and new reurbanisation, together with depopulation not only of rural areas but also cities which are contracting in terms of populations, and population diversity, are indispensable elements for understanding how and why populations and their forms of settlement have evolved over history. These are the main areas of discussion in this session which invites proposals approaching these themes, with single and comparative approaches, on different geographical scales, and from diachronic or synchronic perspectives.

8. Human and Social Capital

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In societies of the past, being able to read and write, and having some knowledge of mathematics, in addition to being able to learn a trade made a difference for many people in terms of being able to earn a living, make social progress, or scrape by in situations of poverty. In today's societies, in the context of the fourth industrial revolution, human capital has taken on even greater significance in society at the same time as there has been a significant change from economic-social classes to cultural-social classes. From these two standpoints (historical and present), the study of any demographic phenomenon which takes the job market into account must also consider the educational variable, acquisition of skills, and social capital, besides studying factors of social inequality in themselves. Nevertheless, it is necessary to verify these hypotheses by inquiring into the working and demographic histories of people in accordance with their qualifications and patterns of social mobility. In this regard, it is important to analyse situations of dependence on social welfare institutions and the effect of public

policies. In brief, this session welcomes papers which study the relations between employment patterns—in accordance with levels of qualification and of human and social capital—and demographic behaviour, and their implications in terms of poverty and inequality.

9. Population Policies

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From their earliest days, population policies have sought to change the size, growth, distribution and composition of populations. Although these policies respond to partial social and economic interests, they are frequently justified by means of references to a catastrophic future for the whole population. In the twenty-first century, the big political questions regarding the paradigm of power and the governance of biopolitics have once again become factors in the management of demographic events and their impact on the population. Immigration, fertility and demographic ageing are some of the supposed causes of future crises in social protection systems, the welfare state and even in the survival of European and western civilisation. Accordingly, there has been a return to the kinds of discourse heard in the early years of the twentieth century, one notable example of which is, Oswald Spengler's *The Decline of the West*.

10. Biodemography

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The aim of this session is to focus on the biological study of populations from an integrating standpoint covering demography, genetics, and anthropometry. Accordingly, contributions along the following thematic lines will be welcome:

1. *Paleodemography*: this will include reconstruction of the demographic characteristics of ancient populations on the basis of skeletal samples.
2. *Population genetics*: an area of research concerned with analysing the genetic composition of populations, how this changes through generations, and the evolutionary factors involved in these changes.
3. *Anthropometry and historical demography*: areas of research dealing with changes in biological wellbeing and the health of populations on the basis of the proportions and measurements of human bodies, and the main vital rates with regard to any particular moment or its evolution.

11. New Data and Demographic Methods

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The early decades of the twenty-first century have seen nothing less than a revolution in the treatment of, and access to demographic data, which might be defined as the *Era of the Microdatum*. This development is occurring when the classical census is about to be phased out and massive exploitation of administrative records is being considered as the main alternative. At the same time, complementary sources are also emerging and these include Twitter, Facebook, iPhones, bank cards or, in other words, what is known as **Big Data**. This session is open to proposals dealing with methodological developments in applications for contemporary and historical demography, the creation and exploitation of new databases, the use of historical

and contemporary census microdata, religious records, administrative files and Big Data in its many facets.

12. Ibero-American Population in the Postcolonial Perspective

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This session invites reflection on the demographic consequences of colonisation, the formation of new states, and the reorganisation of the population in a long process spanning from independence through to present-day demographic challenges in the Ibero-American space. Formation, maintenance and disappearance of migratory systems in this space and how these factors relate with governability will be discussed. The idea is to highlight comparative perspectives among geographic areas, viceroyalties, new nineteenth-century republics, present countries, et cetera, in a wide-ranging chronological framework, and in an attempt to discuss common and shared research problems.

13. Demographic Dynamics in the Mediterranean Space

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Since antiquity, the Mediterranean has permitted cultural, commercial, political, and human exchanges. But it has also represented a border between east and west or between the northern and southern shores. This has then given rise to different Mediterraneans, some almost antithetical in cultural, religious, political, and socioeconomic development terms. Hence, the aim of this session is to bring together contributions which analyse any aspect pertaining to demographic dynamics in the Mediterranean space, from historical and contemporary perspectives. Papers including comparative analysis—on national, regional or local scales—especially when dealing with demographic behaviour, migrations, family models, and health policies are welcome. Special consideration will be given to studies which consider the Mediterranean space from the following perspectives: a) as a place of fracture in the past, present and future; b) as a key zone in exchanges of human movements; and c) as a space with a great diversity of populations and dynamics in a context of socioeconomic, cultural and political inequality.

14. Demographic Utopias and Dystopias

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Throughout history, utopias and dystopias have pondered ideal populations and their governability, taking as a primary reference Plato's *The Republic*. However, at least since the first third of the twentieth century, demographic dystopias have taken into account population growth and the transformation of different demographic phenomena, which are identified as Global Risks or, in the worst cases, as catastrophes. This is a call for historical or contemporary studies concerned with fictional works on utopias or dystopias, in which demography is a main focus.