

Population Studies

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CHaRMS

1 Population Studies

Population Studies

- Population Studies seeks to examine processes and patterns of population change and their local and global impacts
- Interdisciplinary subject which covers several areas related to economics, demography, anthropology, sociology, etc.
- Examples:
 - Health and Social Inequalities (i.e., Nutrition, education, income, gender, racial inequalities)
 - Population Health and Well-being (i.e., development and well-being of children, crime)
 - Families, Fertility, and Children (i.e., marriage, divorce, and cohabitation)
 - Population Dynamics and Demography (i.e., fertility, mortality, and migration)
 - Human Resource Endowment (i.e., genetic diversity)
 - Individual and group behaviour (i.e., experimental economics)

CHaRMS - Population Studies

- Goal: educates, conducts research, and engages in public outreach concerning population issues
- Working with universities, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to expand knowledge about current population issues
- Areas covered at Queens:
 - Demography (i.e., migration, marriage, fertility) and Demographic Transition
 - Nutrition and Wellbeing
 - Mortality and Fertility Modeling
 - Environment Disease
 - Racial and Ehtnic Inequilty
 - Crime
 - Individual Behaviour and Social Learning

Intergenerational Conflict and Policy

- Western countries are facing a population ageing
- As a result the share of the budget allocated to public welfare is increasing while the share allocated to young generations (i.e. education) is decreasing
- At the same time young voters are becoming more disengaged (i.e. turnout rate for 18-24 voters is the lowest)
- We try to evaluate what happens if the turnout of young voters increases causing a change in the composition of the turnout by looking at the effect of the preregistration
- The preregistration for 16 years old increases the turnout among young voters (18-24) by almost 4%
- As a result there is an increase in education (mainly high education who are potential voters) by almost 6%

Population Shocks, Marriage, and HIV

- What are the effects of population shocks which cause a gender imbalance?
- We look at the effect of slave trade in Africa which caused a skewed distribution of the population
- We evaluate the effect on marriage structure and HIV
- Regions more exposed to the shock tends to have a higher rate of polygyny
- Because of that in these regions there is a higher probability of co-wives not living under the same roof with the husband and a higher share of single men
- The large pool of bachelors together with women living alone (and not economically independent) causes a higher probability of women cheating and therefore a high probability of contracting HIV

Research by other members

- Matthias Blum has focused on the role of nutrition and health on living standards focusing mainly on the effect of malnutrition, black markets and food shortage in Germany during WW1 on individual development
- Matthias Fluckigerh and Mark McGovern have done some work related to the impact of the disease environment on urbanization and development
- Chris Colvin and Matthias Blum are working on prisoners data from Kilmainham Gaol (Dublin), Clonmel Gaol (Co. Tipperary), and Crumlin Road Gaol (Belfast) to get a better picture of Ireland during the Famine period

Research by other members

- Anthony Ziegelmeyer works on economic behaviour looking at the effect of private information on individual and group behaviour, social learning, and altruistic behaviour
- Declan French has done some work on fertility and mortality modelling
- Alan Fernihough works on migration, marriage and demographic transition focusing on Ireland and other European countries
- I have also done some work on racial inequality in the US and ethnic inequality in Africa

Population Studies Fellows

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