New sources for historical demographic research

During the last thirty years, a large number of historical databases have been developed which feature a substantial range and amount of personal data. Such databases include the Swedish databases of Lund, Stockholm and Umea, the Canadian census and parish register databases of Victoria, Toronto, Chicoutimi and Montréal, the IPUMS database of the U.S. census in Minneapolis (Integrated Public Use Micro-data Series), the Historical Sample of the Netherlands, and the Verviers-database of Belgium. This list is not complete and still new databases are being developed.

A relatively new development in this field is the archiving of digital microdata sets of modern censuses. Since the 1960s, all modern censuses have been stored on magnetic tapes or in digital form. The condition of these digital archives vary per country. Unique is the effort of IPUMS-International to inventory, preserve, harmonize, and disseminate samples from census digital microdata from around the world.

In this session we will concentrate on two issues: a) the availability and contents of microdata sets and what can we investigate with these data in a global sense and b) some more general research subjects which have been addressed through the use of population microdata.

A Reconstructing data into other formats or levels of analysis

Chair: Kees Mandemakers, Intern. Institute of Social History, Amsterdam
Commentator: Gunnar Thorvaldsen, University of Tromso

1 Luuk Schreven, NIWI-KNAW (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences), Amsterdam.
   Peter Doorn, NIWI-KNAW, Amsterdam.
   Explorations of multi-level methods and ecological inference techniques in the analysis of “Life Courses in Context”

2 Suzanne Ander-Peciva, University of Umea
Construction of longitudinal databases

3 Robert McCaa, University of Minnesota
   Steven Ruggles, Minnesota Population Center
   Matthew Sobek, Minnesota Population Center

The IPUMS-International, IPUMS-USA and the North Atlantic Population Project: Challenges of Harmonizing Census Microdata across Time and Place

B Confidentiality, public policy and electronic micro-datasets

Chair: Lisa Dillon, Université de Montréal
Commentator: Frank Jones, University of Queensland (Australia)

1 Bob McCaa, University of Minnesota
   Agnes Odinga, Dept. of History, Hamline University


2 Eric Schulte Nordholt, Statistics Netherlands, The Hague

   A New Approach by Combining Different Sources

3 Chad Gaffield, University of Ottawa

   Ethics, Technology, and Confidential Research Data: The case of the Canadian Century Research Infrastructure Project

C Micro-data and new developments in historical demographic research

Chair: Bob McCaa, University of Minnesota
Commentator: Peter Sköld, University of Umea

1 Lisa Dillon, Université de Montréal

   The evolution of households in nineteenth-century Québec and Canada

2 Sören Edvinsson, University of Umea
The history of health and mortality. What can micro-data tell us?

3 Kees Mandemakers, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam

New kinds of research with the Historical Sample of the Netherlands

4 Glenda Strachan, Griffith University, Australia

Reconstructing a Rural Community: the Use of Civil Registration Data

D Micro-data database and new developments in GIS-applications

Chair: Sören Edvinsson, University of Umea

Commentators: Peter Doorn & Luuk Schreven, NIWI-KNAW (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences), Amsterdam.

1 Gunnar Thorvaldsen, University of Tromso

Place as a focal point for census data

2 Isabelle Séguy, Université de Nice Sophia Antipolis
   M. Signoli, Université de la Méditerranée Marseille
   Stephan Tzortzis, service archéologique, Ville de Martigues

La diffusion spatiale des épidémies (peste, variole) dans la ville de Martigues (France, Bouches-du-Rhône) dans le 1er quart du XVIIIe siècle

3 Xaviera Torres Joerges, University of Oulu, Finland
   Milton Núñez, University of Oulu, Finland

Morbidity and mortality in Finland based on parish death-cause registers from 1750-1850.

4 Humphrey Southall, Department of Geography, University of Portsmouth

Adding geography to micro-data without "GIS": approaches using British historical data.