



Scientific report of the summer course 'Historical demographic research using register type data', 11-22 August 2014, Lund, Sweden

Summary

The course 'Historical demographic research using register type data', held in Lund in August 11-22, 2014 examined methods and theories of historical demography. It provided theoretical training and a complete hands-on approach to working in historical demography: designing research questions, and creating datasets to test research hypotheses. Students used the Scanian Economic Demographic Database (SEDD) throughout the course.

Scientific content and discussions at the event

The course 'Historical demographic research using register type data', held in Lund in August 11-22, 2014 examined methods and theories of historical demography by focusing on the following topics:

1. Sources and methods. Vital registration (parish or civic registration records), family reconstitution, census-like data.
2. The Scanian Economic Demographic Database (SEDD) and the Intermediate Data Structure (IDS).
3. Life tables.
4. Social stratification and social mobility.
5. Survival analysis.
6. Mortality.
7. Marriage and fertility.
8. Long-term impacts of early life conditions.
9. Short-term impacts of economic stress.
10. Building episodes tables.

The course was organized by Luciana Quaranta and was taught by Tommy Bengtsson, Martin Dribe, Jonas Helgertz and Luciana Quaranta.

Each day focused on a distinct topic and was divided into two parts. Theoretical lessons and discussions were given first on each topic. Lab lectures and exercises on data management and analysis on each topic followed. STATA and SEDD were used during all labs.

Students also engaged in a group project. The goal of the project was to make an empirical historical demographic analysis using micro-level individual data from the SEDD. Using this event oriented data students constructed a dataset suitable for demographic analysis of the outcome variable of their choice. Descriptive tools as well as statistical analysis were used to answer the chosen research question. Each project was presented on the last day and students received comments from other participants as well as the instructors.

Assessments of the results and impact of the event on the future directions of the field

Nineteen students from different countries around the world were recruited to participate in the course. Most of the participants were PhD students, although there were also a couple of master students and a couple of post-docs. Students came from different backgrounds, but all shared common interests in historical demography and working with register type data.

The course was structured into different topics. Within each topic theoretical lessons were first given, and applied labs followed. During the theoretical lessons each topic was introduced and discussed in depth, also discussing the most recent findings of research conducted within our Centre within each topic. The applied labs consisted in providing different data management and analysis skills for conducting statistical studies within each topic. SEDD and STATA were used in all labs. Students were given exercises after each lab.

The structure was viewed as very successful by both the students and the instructors. It allowed to go into depth into each topic and provided both a theoretical overview as well as teachings of how to conduct research studies.

The course was concluded through a group project. Students got the opportunity to develop a research question and construct a dataset to study such question. Groups developed their analysis using survival analysis as well as descriptive methods. Although the amount of time which could be dedicated to the projects was limited given the tight schedule, all projects were very successful and led to interesting results.

Course evaluations were given at the end of the course and they showed that students were very happy with the topics taught, structure and instructors and expressed that they learnt a lot. An effort will be made to provide further networking opportunities for the students. A session will be probably

organized at a future conference to allow the students to present their work as well as to meet again.
A new version of the course will be given in two years.

Annexes

Schedule

Instructors:

TB = Tommy Bengtsson

MD = Martin Dribe

JH = Jonas Helgertz

LQ = Luciana Quaranta

WEEK 1

Monday August 11

9:00 – Get LU access cards

10:00 – TB + LQ, Alfa 1:2003: *Introduction to the course and to historical demography*

14:00 – MD, Alfa 1:2003: *Sources and methods*

Evening: *Reception*

Tuesday August 12

9:00 – JH, EC3:206: *Life tables and other basic demographic calculations*

13:00 – JH, EC3:206: *Introduction to SEDD, IDS and STATA*

Wednesday August 13

9:00 – JH, EC3:206: *Social stratification, social mobility and occupations in SEDD*

13:00 – LQ, Alfa 1:2003: *Survival analysis*

Thursday August 14

9:00 – TB, Alfa 1:2003: *Mortality*

13:00 – LQ, EC3:206: *Mortality studies*

Friday August 15

9:00 – MD, Alfa 1:2003: *Marriage and fertility*

13:00 – LQ, EC3:206: *Discussion of project plans*

14:00 – LQ, EC3:206: *Fertility studies*

WEEK 2

Monday August 18

9:00 – LQ, Alfa 1:2003: *The impact of early life conditions on demographic outcomes*

13:00 – LQ, EC3:206: *The impact of early life conditions on demographic outcomes, lab*

Tuesday August 19

9:00 – TB, Alfa 1:2003: *The impact of short-term economic stress on demographic outcomes*

13:00 – LQ, EC3:206: *The impact of short-term economic stress on demographic outcomes, lab*

Wednesday August 20

9:00 – LQ, EC3:206: *Constructing episodes tables from events I*

13:00 – JH+LQ, EC3:206: *Project work*

Thursday August 21

9:00 – LQ, EC3:206: *Constructing episodes tables from events II*

13:00 – JH+LQ, EC3:206: *Project work*

Friday August 22

9:00 – TB+MD+JH+LQ, Alfa 1:2003: *Project presentations*

Evening: Dinner

Full list of participants

Name	Affiliation
Acosta, Enrique (m)	University of Montreal
Brik, Tymofii (m)	Carlos III University of Madrid
Cardone, Paolo Emilio (m)	Sapienza University Rome
Cilliers, Jeanne (f)	University of Stellenbosch
Depauw, Ewout (m)	Ghent University
Gyimesi, Réka (f)	University of Pécs
Haage, Helena (f)	Umeå University
Holom, Elena-Crinela (f)	University Babes-Bolyai
Jorda' i Sanchez, Joan Pau (m)	Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona
Kragten, Nigel (m)	Utrecht University
Lazuka, Volha (f)	Lund University
Marco Gracia, Francisco Jose' (m)	University of Zaragoza
Matuzak, Benjamin (m)	Martin Luther University of Halle
Ott, Gabriele (f)	University of Salzburg
Riswick, Tim (m)	Radboud University Nijmegen
Sanna, Chiara (f)	University of Sassari
Signoretti, Nicoletta (f)	La Sapienza, Rome
Vinnik, Maria (f)	National Research University, Moscow
Willführ, Kai (m)	MPIDR, Rostock

The following participants received travel funding from the ESF:

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