



Scientific report of the EHP S-net workshop of Working Group 6 – New Databases, 22 April 2014, Marietta-Blau-Saal, Universität Wien, Austria

Summary

The potential of more longitudinal population studies in the circumpolar north and particularly in Russia was recently documented in two collections of articles: 2011: "Household Structure in the Multiethnic Barents Region: A Local Case Study". D. Anderson (ed.): *The 1926/27 Soviet Polar Census Expeditions*. Berghahn 2001 and P. Skiöld and P. Axelsson (eds.): *Indigenous Peoples and Demography. The Complex Relationship*. Berghahn 2001. The volumes, however, also show that the use of advanced computer techniques in this fields has not advanced very far. The pre-conference in Vienna particularly focused on family patterns, ethnicity and the use of GIS. Network member Mikolaj Szoltysek gave an overview of source materials in East Europe west of the former Soviet Union with a view to find a more concise answer to a long running social history question – the location of the dividing line between western nuclear and extended family systems further east. The contributions on GIS highlighted this further by displaying demographic results, and using map systems as analytical tool. Elena Glavatskaya focused on ethnic differentials in polygamy. In additions to his GIS contributions, professor Leonid Borodkin who heads the Historical Informatics Laboratory at the Lomonosov State University in Moscow commented on most papers, especially with a view to improve their use of statistical methods. For further details, please see program below.

Dr Siegfried Gruber, who works on the building of the Mosaic database with census materials from multiple places in Europe also attended the meeting. Together with dr Szoltysek he launched the idea of a Eurasian project where population samples from places spread across the land mass from France to the Pacific can be used to study family forms and migration during the last two centuries.

Scientific content and discussions at the event

Due to the short time allotted to our theme in the ESSHC program, it was impossible to present and discuss all the papers we want to turn into articles in a special edition of Journal of Family History. Fortunately, funding from the European Science Foundation via the European Historical Population Samples Network (ESPH-Net) helped us to finance the pre-conference seminar. Thus, for the seminar and the journal there are in addition four contributions, which could not be fitted into our single ESSHC session, but papers will be sent out, presented and commented on our seminar day.

The starting point for the special issue of the journal was editor Jan Kok's wish to publish detailed information about census and census-like data from Russia. Therefore, it was a priority to concentrate on this in the ESSHC session. There was necessarily some repetition from the seminar on Tuesday to the session on Wednesday, but the presentations and especially the discussions were quite different. For one thing, there was more time allotted to each paper in the EHP S-net seminar. Also, there was a broader public in the ESSHC session, so more background information was included then. The focus

was census type source materials taken in the northern circumpolar territories, which can be used not only for family history studies but is also relevant for researching other themes within the fields of social history and historical demography. The seminar, the session and the planned journal issue function as an introductory overview into sources, methods and research results. This was illustrated with detailed research findings and complimentary source materials that enhance the value of the censuses which usually cover large parts of the population, but which may not contain all the variables we wish to utilize.

A good start with comments was made during the seminar and the session, and we shall come back with further comments during the next months as we put together the special issue of Jan Kok's journal.

Assessment of the results and impact of the event on the future

Comments on statistical issues were especially valuable. GIS is becoming increasingly important – nearly all the papers need such an element. However, the main scientific progress was made in showing the multitude of sources that can be combined in order to describe more fully the interaction of demographic and social history factors that have been shaping the circumpolar populations. Especially, taxation lists (“revizki skazki”) are found from most eastern territories and compensate for the census manuscripts, which have been discarded in many places. The study of these already shows that no simple dividing line can be fitted to model the family forms in Eastern and Western Europe. There are many cases of complex family households in the west and cultures with special family forms like polygamy in the east – what you would expect in an ethnically diverse territory. Local studies have in addition shown how family forms can change over time in response to economic and legal conditions – necessitating the digitization of series of nominative source materials in order to study and understand these interdependencies.

Programme of the meeting

Tuesday, 22 April 2014

Chair: Per Axelsson

Discussant: Leonid Borodkin

10.00 – 13.00 *Papers on GIS, Russian census and census-related source materials*

Elena Glavatskaya - Family Forms among the Ethnic Groups on the Yamal Peninsula: Polygamy and Extended Kinship according to the 1926-7 Polar Census

Liudmila Mazur and Oleg Gorbachev - Family History in Census-Like and Survey Type Source Materials from Soviet Time

Elena Bryukhanova, Vladimir Vladimirov and Dmitry Sarafanov - Professions and Occupations in Siberia in the late 19th and early 20th century databases

Leonid Borodkin - Peasants' Migrations in Russia/USSR in the First Quarter of the 20th Century: Analysis of the 1926 Census Data Using GIS

13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 – 16.00 *Papers on GIS for studies with nominative, historical data and papers on the Circumpolar North*

Michelle Hamilton and Kris Inwood - The First Nations and the northward movement of the Canadian census

Hilde Jåstad and Gunnar Thorvaldsen - Family Structure and Inheritance Patterns in Multiethnic Northern Norway around 1900

Ólöf Garðarsdóttir - Residence patterns of the elderly in early eighteenth century Iceland

16.00 - 16.30 *Coffee break*

16.30 – 18.00 *Presentations of European population source materials and discussing the idea of basing a project of European and Asian cooperation on them*

Mikolaj Szoltysek and Siegfried Gruber - Looking to the West, leaning toward the East: the past, present and future of the Mosaic Project

Wednesday, 23 April 2014 – ESSHC session

Chair: Per Axelsson

Discussants: Hilde Jåstad and Gunnar Thorvaldsen

Liudmila Mazur and Oleg Gorbachev -

Family History in Census-Like and Survey Type Source Materials from Soviet Time

Elena Glavatskaya - Family Forms among the Ethnic Groups on the Yamal Peninsula: Polygamy and Extended Kinships according to the 1926-7 Polar Census

Elena Bryukhanova, Vladimir Vladimirov and Dmitry Sarafanov - Professions and Occupations in Siberia in the late 19th and early 20th century databases

Timur Valetov and Andrej Volodin - GIS Analysis of the Russian Imperial and Soviet Aggregate Censuses

Leonid Borodkin - Peasants' Migrations in Russia/USSR in the First Quarter of the 20th Century: Analysis of the 1926 Census Data Using GIS

Full list of speakers and participants

Dr. Per Axelsson (male; Sweden), Umeå universitet, per.axelsson@cesam.umu.se
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Dr. Elena Bryukhanova (female; Russia), Altai State University, brelenochka@mail.ru
Prof. Ólöf Garðarsdóttir (female; Iceland), University of Iceland, School of Education, olofgard@hi.is
Prof. Elena Glavatskaya (female; Russia), Urals Federal University, elena.glavatskaya@usu.ru
Prof. Oleg Gorbachev (male; Russia), Urals Pedagogical University, og_06@mail.ru
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