



Scientific Report on EHPS-Net Meeting Working Group 7 - Education 25 November 2014, Center for Economic Demography, Lund, Sweden

Summary

On 25 November the Center for Economic Demography in Lund, Sweden, hosted the workshop of Group 7 – Education – the main purpose of which was to develop a coherent structure for the courses organized by EHPS-Net, to analyse their content in order to avoid overlaps. The participants were members of the EHPS-Net Education Group, representatives of the universities or research centers organising the courses (Umeå, Lund, Nijmegen, Cluj) as well as some professors who were involved in the teaching process. The participants presented the structure, aims, target groups for each course and conclude to prepare a comparative presentation of the courses available on the EHPS-Net website.

Scientific content and discussions at the event

In the first part of the workshop the courses organized in Cluj, Lund and Nijmegen were discussed. The discussions were focused on the main topics: the input and output levels, the course content, and the overlaps between them. Luminița Dumănescu presented the Introductory Course in Historical Demography, organized in 2013 and 2014 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. After a short presentation of the previous editions – goals, targeted students, input and output level, participants, problems and achievements – she expressed the Cluj propositions for 2015.

The proposed period: 24 May–31 May

Aim: General understanding of basic demographic/population processes in historical change and in a global view

Prerequisites: A good knowledge of English – skype interview
A research subject in historical demography
Basic knowledge in statistics and dealing with numbers

Target: PhD students, post-doctoral researches, young researches focused on historical demography and/or family history.

The general conclusion regarding the Cluj Summer School was that it represented the basics on the theoretical level of the courses organized by the network and it was highly oriented to students and researches coming from or working in the South-Eastern part of Europe. The participants agreed that the idea of "transition" had to be the main link between the subjects presented in the course schedule.

Tommy Bengtsson presented the Lund Summer School, organized every second year since 2007, at the Center for Economic Demography. At the beginning it was a course on historical demography and starting with 2014 they focused on their own data – Scanian Economic Demographic Database (SEDD) and IDS. First, Tommy Bengtsson presented a short report on the 2014 edition of the school,

organized around topics such as: sources and methods, vital registration, family reconstitution, census-like data, life-tables and survival analysis, mortality, marriage and fertility, social stratification and social mobility. Then, he presented the main objectives for the future editions of the school: to hold the course every two years during the summer, hold a 2-3 days course geared to SEDD users once a year during the academic year.

As for the applications, the Lund organizers of the school will request a research plan (in addition to a CV and letter of recommendation) and they will be more specific about pre-requisites of basic knowledge (Demography - suggest a text); STATA (suggest manuals/tutorials and to obtain an evaluation copy of STATA).

In 2015 another course will be held in Lund on GIS. They are planning to work on ARCGIS – a commercial program which is the standard today.

Jan Kok presented the Nijmegen/Leuven course *Historical Demography: Reconstructing Life Course Dynamics*, scheduled for 29 June – 10 July 2015. He said that the course provides two important features: first of all, it will offer a theoretical introduction into the life course approach and its central concepts. While general background to various historical demographic issues will be always given during the course, Nijmegen/Leuven propose to focus the course in terms of substantial issues on marriage and fertility behavior. However, the second and major component of the course consists of a thorough training in the skills required to handle dynamic life course data from large historical databases, starting from the raw data contained in data entry files right up to the point at which the data are ready to be analysed by complex statistical tools such as event history analysis. In this way the course will assist students to build up their own data matrix ready for analysis. Students will make use of Dutch and Belgian datasets for training purposes; ACCESS will be used for database management techniques and STATA for analytical routines.

Nijmegen/Leuven summer course aims to target beginner/medium level students (master and early PhD students) who are interested in conducting historical demographic research. Our aim is to bridge the knowledge and expertise of potential students who have participated in EHPS summer school in Cluj (e.g. had introductory courses acquiring readings, first hands on data analysis) and are ready and able to participate in the advanced summer course in Lund and Umeå (e.g. expected to acquire data programming skills combined with geographical analysis).

The main conclusion of the first session was that EHPS-Net course organized in Cluj represented the basic theoretical level, the Lund course was more advanced, both theoretical and practical and the Nijmegen/Leuven course had to be considered as being placed in between due to the fact that the course can be considered at a basic practical level. No overlaps were founded between these courses.

In the second part of the day Geneva, Umeå and Amsterdam courses were evaluated.

Michel Oris was not able to attend to the workshop but he sent the presentation to the chair. The course which are going to be organized in Geneva will be focused on mobility and family trajectory and represent a very advanced course in statistics (as well as the other one organized by Umeå).

Göran Broström presented the intention of the Umeå University concerning the EHPS-Net course in statistics. This course is organized around 'progression', in two dimensions: in historical demography and in statistics. The main topics will be: the Cox regression, censoring and truncation, parametric proportional hazard methods, accelerated failure time models, discrete-time models for register data, multivariate survival data, group in sequence, time scales, Grouped data. As for the statistical topics, they will insist on stratification, frailty and selection, mediation and matching. The course is scheduled between 1-12 June 2015. There is no overlap between this course and all the other.

Finally, Kees Mandemakers presented his intentions with IDS courses in Amsterdam. The first course, on IDS building, is scheduled for the early January 2015 and the other one, on IDS extraction software, for the end of 2015 or early 2016.

The Building IDS course is scheduled for three days and is organized as follows: in the first day the applicants will learn about database design, entity relationship diagramming and designing their own sources. The second day will be divided between working with Access (data entry and data querying) on the students' sources and working with HSN Datasets. The last day is for introducing the IDS and

for mapping the IDS from the database structures of the sources that the students brought with them and querying from the HSN-IDS database.

The Extraction IDS course will concentrate on how to build new datasets from the IDS basic structures, how to use extraction software and how to develop new extraction software.

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

There are eight different courses organized in the EHPS-Net programme:

Two at basic level: Amsterdam (IDS), Cluj (on theoretical aspects in historical demography);

Two more advanced courses: Lund HD and Nijmegen/Leuven (focused both on theoretical and practical aspects of historical demography)

Two advanced courses: Amsterdam (IDS extraction) and Lund (focused on GIS)

Two statistical courses – Geneva and Umeå.

The participants agreed to send 10-15 lines with the course description in order to be posted on the EHPS-Net website. They establish the prerequisites, the programmes involved, level, data level and the substance for each course.

The following scheme presents in a more systematical way the differences between the courses:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	IDS BUILDING	IDS EXTRACTION	CLUJ	NIJMEGEN/LEUVEN	LUND HD	LUND GIS	UMEÅ	GENEVE
Entrance level	Data source	IDS software	Proven interest in numbers (without require a research plan)	Interest in quantitative research (working with numbers)	Research plan, numbers	Research plan, regression	RP? regression	? Reg?
Programme	Access	Access Java	Excel Access? R?	Stata Access	R Stata	Stata	R	R
Level	B	A	B	B+	B+	BA	BA	B-A
Data level	micro	micro	T	micro	micro	micro	T+M	micro
Content	IDS	IDS	Demographic transition	Marriage and fertility	Mortality and geography	all	Event history analyses	Mobility and family trajectory

Programme of the meeting

Tuesday, 25 November 2014

09:45 Opening by Kees Mandemakers and Luminița Dumănescu – Goals of the meeting, Agenda

10:00 Presentation and discussion start terms and end terms of Cluj course (Luminița Dumănescu)

10:25 Presentation and discussion start terms and end terms of Lund course (Tommy Bengtsson)

10:50 Presentation and discussion start terms and end terms of Nijmegen course (Jan Kok)

11:20 Short break

- 11:30 Integration of end terms Cluj and start terms Lund/Nijmegen (Luminița Dumănescu, Jan Kok)
- Are there gaps between end terms Cluj and starts terms Nijmegen and Lund?
 - Are Nijmegen and Lund to be considered as courses on the same level with different subjects?
 - Are there overlaps in the course programs?
- 12:30 Lunch break
- 13:30 Presentation and discussion start terms and end terms of Geneva course (Kees Mandemakers)
- Are there differences with Lund or Nijmegen (level, subjects)?
- 13:55 Presentation and discussion start terms and end terms of Umeå course (Göran Broström)
- 14:20 Integration of end terms Lund/Nijmegen/Geneva and start terms (Tommy Bengtsson, Jan Kok, Göran Broström, Michel Oris)
- Are there gaps between end terms Nijmegen/Lund and start terms Umeå?
Are there overlaps in Nijmegen/Lund with Umeå course program?
- 15:00 Presentation and discussion of the IDS courses (Kees Mandemakers)
- 15:30 Short break
- 15:50 Conclusions:
- Are we able to make a coherent structure of the different courses? (General)
- 16:30 Organizing courses in 2016
- 17:00 Closure

Full list of speakers and participants

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