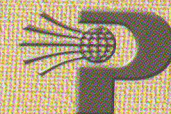




Società Italiana di
Demografia Storica



International Union
for the Scientific Study
of Population (IUSSP)

Conference on: **The History of World Population in the Second Millennium**

with the patronage of
Professor Romano Prodi
President of the European Commission

and of

Università degli Studi di Firenze
Comune di Firenze
Provincia di Firenze
Regione Toscana
European University Institute
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
Giunta Centrale per gli Studi Storici
Fondazione Carlo Marchi
Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze
Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze
Opera di S. Maria del Fiore
Istituto degli Innocenti

Final Programme

Florence, June 28-30, 2001





The second millennium

As the twentieth century is drawing to a close, we are in an unparalleled position to have an overview of the history of population over the entire preceding thousand-year period, which saw a dramatic increase in the number of human beings. Around 1000, the population of the world is estimated to have been below 300 millions; it now stands at over 6 billion. To delineate the course of this change over the entire second millennium is a great challenge to all population historians.

An effort to estimate world population can be traced back to the seventeenth century, especially to the work of Gregory King. Almost all the modern attempts, however, were made after 1960, most useful of which are John Durand's paper, Jean-Noel Biraben's article, Colin McEvedy and Richard Jones's synthesis in book form, and a recent attempt by Angus Maddison for the recent past. Their estimates differ mainly because they put different population totals for Western Europe, India and China. Thanks to the recent advance of research in historically-minded population studies on various parts of the world, however, we are now in a better position to assess changing population totals over the past centuries, not just for those large regions, but also for other smaller areas. The progress of research in this field has also led us to a better understanding of how past populations changed. This is essentially the issue that Malthus addressed, in terms of both positive and preventive checks. It may still be difficult to account for population changes in these Malthusian terms for the entire world during the entire second millennium, but for several regions it is now possible to go back well beyond the start of the so-called modern era.



The first aim of our project

What we want is to bring together all the research achievements by specialists on various geographical areas of the world, in the hope that the whole body of knowledge thus acquired would transcend the conventional chronologies and geographical boundaries of population historians. It is, of course, not quite easy to go back in time, to the centuries before 1500, but the progress of historical demography since the 1950s has enriched enormously our knowledge of how the population changed in that earlier period.

By utilising nominative lists of population, village registers and genealogies of kin groups over a long period, historical demographers have now estimated mortality, fertility and nuptiality variables for past populations, shedding new light into interrelationships between the demographic variables. The knowledge thus obtained, in turn, enables us to better understand macro-level population movements better.

The insight into demographic workings of pre-modern societies is of great help in enabling us to better understand the history of populations in earlier periods more comprehensible on a regional as well as a global scale.

The second aim: related themes in world history

Over the past thousand years, society, politics and economy also changed. The geographical as well as intellectual horizons of human beings expanded, and their relationships with the physical as well as the micro-biological environment underwent fundamental transformations. The population history of the second millennium, therefore, should be tied with global histories of other aspects of the mankind, not confined by the traditional boundaries of academic disciplines. The second aim of our conference, therefore, is how people's demographic behaviour was shaped up by those changing forces, and how the changing population size affected the course of economic, social and institutional histories.



The structure of the conference

The conference is organised jointly by the IUSSP Committee on Historical Demography and the Società Italiana di Demografia Storica (S.I.De.S.), in collaboration with the Department of Statistics, University of Florence.

The meeting is divided in two sessions.

June 28, 15:00 p.m. SESSION I

Population changes by region:

Under the auspices of Fondazione Carlo Marchi

Discussants Massimo Livi Bacci
Angus Maddison

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| • North America | Michael Haines |
| • Central America | Hector Perez Brignoli |
| • South America | Maria Luiza Marcilio |
| • North Africa | Dominique Tabutin |
| • Sub-Saharan Africa | Dennis Cordell |
| • Western Europe | Richard Smith (No paper) |

- Coffee Break**
- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| • Eastern Europe | Andrejs Plakans |
| • Mediterranean | Carlo A. Corsini and Lorenzo Del Panta |
| • Middle East and Central Asia | Philippe Fargues (No paper) |
| • South and Southeast Asia | Sumit Guha |
| • East Asia | James Lee and Osamu Saito |
| • Australia and Micronesia | Jack Caldwell, Jeff Marck and Bruce Missingham |



June 29, 9:00-18:30 SESSION II

Economic, social and institutional changes:

Discussants Tamara Hareven
Tommy Bengtsson

- 9:00 - 13:00
- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| • The epidemiological unification of disease history | Josep Bernabeu Mestre |
| • The demographic transition revisited | David Reher |
| • The global impact of humans on planetary ecology | Hervé Le Bras |

- Coffee Break**
- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| • Malthus revisited | Tony Wrigley (No paper) |
| • The growth of a global economy | Jan de Vries |
| • The disappearance of feudalism and the rise of free labour and mobility | Alan Macfarlane |

- 13:00 - Working Lunch**
- 15.00 - 18:30
- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| • Global political transformation: the disappearance of empires and the rise of nation states | Guillermo Macció |
| • The development of a common world culture | Paul Demeny (No paper) |
| • Urbanisation | Robert Woods |

- Coffee Break**
- | | |
|--|------------|
| • Female emancipation | Alaka Basu |
| • The attenuation of kinship and the rise of individualism | Jack Goody |



June 30, 9:00-13:00

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9:00-13:00 General Discussion

Coffee Break

13:00 Congress Closure

Working Lunch

*In the hope that this conference can serve to foster ever-broader exchanges
and to increase our knowledge of the history of the second millenium,
we give all participants our harmest welcome and our best wishes.*

Carlo A. Corsini
Chair

The Italian Organizing Committee
The University of Florence

Osamu Saito
Chair

IUSSP Committee on
Historical Demography



Conference information

Congress Venue

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