

17P032

Population Economics

Spring Term - 3 ECTS

Mandatory Course

Prof. Alícia Adserà

Prerequisites to Enroll

None

Overview and Objectives

This course is designed to provide a broad overview of the field of population economics. We will only be able to “sample” a few topics and get acquainted with the types of methods employed in the area.

We will start the class with an introduction to history of population and measurement and review the theory and empirical evidence of the First Demographic transition. We will next focus on the main theories of fertility behavior from less developed to more developed contexts (in which fertility is below replacement level of 2.1). We will go over the main implications of the microeconomic model of fertility of Becker, analyze the impact of changes in family planning and in economic conditions on fertility, how fertility preferences are shaped, and whether policies have been successful in rising fertility.

Next we will look at the transformation of marriage from child brides in some contexts to very late marriage or a rise in long-term cohabitation in others. We will study how changes in fertility, mortality and partnership formation shape the demographic pyramid and what implications this has on the sustainability of welfare policies. As migration has been put forward as a solution for dwindling populations in OECD countries, we will focus on the determinants of migration, revise the debate on the labor market impact of migrants as well as the evidence of migrant integration in many socio-economic outcomes. We will close the class with a general overview of gender issues starting with an analysis of female labor market outcomes and ending the class with some studies of gender discrimination either via sex-selective abortion or via exclusion in the labor market.

Course Outline

1. Overview of historical population trends
2. First Demographic Transition
3. Economic theories of fertility
 - a. Microeconomic models (Becker and others)
 - b. Economic conditions and fertility
 - c. Preferences
 - d. Policies
4. Marriage, divorce and cohabitation

17P032

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5. Changes in demographic structure and their implications
 - a. Demographic dividends
 - b. Dependency ratios and welfare state
6. Migration
 - a. What determines migration flows? Measurement
 - b. Labor market impact of immigrants on destination countries
 - c. Immigrant integration
7. Gender
 - a. Changes in female labor force participation and gender wage gaps
 - b. Missing women and other forms of discrimination

Evaluation

For each topic there will be a list of main readings (and some additional background readings for those interested in furthering a particular topic and constitute some of the material I use to prepare my class). The course will combine lecture time and some discussion (particularly in the second half of the course, around papers read before class time).

The evaluation will consist on:

1. One short paper as detailed below (35%),
2. An open book take home assignment (60%),
3. Class participation (5%).

Each student is required to prepare one reflection paper (around 6 pages double spaced) of either type A or type B about the topic of their choosing. Summaries of readings should be kept to a minimum (no more than one short paragraph). The paper needs to be handed by May 29, 2020.

Type A: A critical analytical review of one of the papers listed in a particular topic (e.g. main ideas in the paper, how they address the topic under discussion, highlight the advantages and drawbacks of the paper on empirical and/or theoretical grounds; suggest avenues for improved research as if you were writing a referee report)

Type B: An overview critical, analytical and original assessment of at least two of the listed papers in one topic (e.g. common themes, conflicting arguments, issues you find missing and strengths of the discussions).

17P032

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For either type A or B you can also choose an alternative paper in the field previous consultation with Prof. Adserà

Competences

- To (be able to) communicate with determination and in the English Language, the results and implications of the required analytical study using a language that the receiver can relate to.
- To work within a heterogeneous team of researchers as economic analyst using specific group techniques.
- To fit in diverse professional environments and varied types of collaborations in different professional projects.
- To possess and understand the knowledge that provides a basis or opportunity to be original in the development and / or application of ideas, often in a research context.
- That students know how to apply the acquired knowledge and their ability to solve problems in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their field of study.
- That the students be able to integrate knowledge and face the complexity of making judgments based on information that, being incomplete or limited, include reflections on the social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgments.
- That the students be able to communicate their conclusions and the knowledge and the ultimate reasons that sustain them to both, specialized and non-specialized publics in a clear and unambiguous way.
- That students possess the learning skills that allow them to continue studying in a way that will be largely self-directed or autonomous.
- To identify and apply the insights of the theory, the models, and the analytical tools of modern economy to its global dimension.
- Understand and apply the Economic Theory and statistical models of the design of the evaluation of public policies.
- Understand and apply the quantitative methods used to solve complex problems of the economy.
- Evaluate, with theoretical and quantitative instruments, complex realities of the economy to understand its functioning.

17P032

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Learning Outcomes

- Knows rigorously the economic theory of design and evaluation of public policies.
- Applies the empirical tools of economic analysis to evaluate public policies.
- Knows the institutional frameworks in which public policies are designed and implemented.

Materials

This is a list of basic references. Additional references will be provided during the course:

Adserà, A. (2005). "Vanishing Children: From high Unemployment to Low Fertility in Developed Countries," *American Economic Review* 95 (2): 198-193, May.

Ambrus, A. and E. Field (2008), "Early Marriage, Age of Menarche, and Female Schooling Attainment in Bangladesh," *Journal of Political Economy* 116(5): 881-930

Almond, D. and L. Edlund (2008), "Son Biased Sex Ratios in the U.S. 2000 Census," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* 105(15): 5681-5682.

Siwan Anderson. 2007. The Economics of Dowry and Brideprice. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 21:151-174.

Angrist, J., V. Lavy, and A. Schlosser. (2010). "Multiple Experiments for the Causal Link between the Quantity and Quality of Children," *Journal of Labor Economics* 28(4):773–823

Autor, D., D. Dorn and G. H. Hanson (2015). "The Labor Market and the Marriage Market: How Adverse Employment Shocks Affect Marriage, Fertility, and Children's Living Circumstances," MIT Working Paper, July 2015.

Francine D. Blau & Lawrence M. Kahn, 2017. "The Gender Wage Gap: Extent, Trends, and Explanations," *Journal of Economic Literature*, vol 55(3), pages 789-865.

David E. Bloom, David Canning, Günther Fink, Implications of Population Aging for Economic Growth, NBER Working Paper No. 16705, January 2011

John Bongaarts. 2004. Population Aging and the Rising Cost of Public Pensions. *Population and Development Review*, 30:1-23.

17P032

Population Economics

Spring Term - 3 ECTS

Mandatory Course

Prof. Alícia Adserà

Michael A. Clemens. 2011. Economics and Emigration: Trillion-Dollar Bills on the Sidewalk? *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 25(3): 83-106.

Deaton, A. (2008) Height, healthy and inequality: The distribution of adult heights in India, *American Economic Review*, May; 98 (2): 468-474.

Goldin C. A Grand Gender Convergence: Its Last Chapter. *American Economic Review*. 2014;104 (4) :1091-1119

Goldin, C. and L. Katz (2002), "The Power of the Pill: Oral Contraceptives and Women's Career and Marriage Decisions," *Journal of Political Economy* 110(4): 730-770.

Goldin, Claudia, and Cecilia Rouse, "Orchestrating Impartiality: the Impact of Blind Auditions on Female Musicians," *American Economic Review*, LXXX (2000), 715–742.

Guinnane, T. W. (2011). "The Historical Fertility Transition: A Guide for Economists," *Journal of Economic Literature*, 49(3): 589-614

Ronald Lee. 2003. The demographic transition: Three centuries of fundamental change. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 17:167-190

Lee, R., and A. Mason (2010), "Some Macroeconomic Aspects of Global Population Aging," In a Special Supplement to *Demography*, 47 (Suppl.), S151–S172.

Lundberg, S., R. A. Pollak and J. Stearns, (2016). "Family Inequality: Diverging Patterns in Marriage, Cohabitation, and Childbearing," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 30(2): 79-102.

Kristin Mammen; Christina Paxson (2000) Women's Work and Economic Development *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 14, No. 4. (Autumn, 2000), pp. 141-164.

McLanahan, S.F. and W.C. Jacobsen (2015) "Diverging Destinies Revisited" In *Families in an Era of Increasing Inequality* Amato, P.R., Booth, A., McHale, S.M., Van Hook, J. (Eds.), New York : Springer.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2016). *The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. doi: 10.17226/23550. (some sections)

Schaller, J. (2016) "Booms, Busts, and Fertility: Testing the Becker Model Using Gender-Specific Labor Demand," *Journal of Human Resources*, 51(1): 1-29

17P032

Population Economics

Spring Term - 3 ECTS

Mandatory Course

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Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers. 2007. Marriage and Divorce: Changes and their Driving Forces. Journal of Economic Perspectives. 21(2): 27-52.