

It would be beneficial to the field if cooperation between demographers and population geographers was enhanced

Une meilleure coopération entre démographes et démo-géographes serait avantageuse pour le champ d'étude

A concerted effort trying to define population geography more specifically is very welcome. The labels population geography, spatial demography, geo-demography and demo-geography are used to address the same field of scientific inquiry. To characterize populations and to study spatial population dynamics, geographers use concepts, methods and models developed in demography. Demographers studying subnational (regional, multiregional, local) populations use the research of geographers on spatial interaction models and on the determinants and consequences of migration. Increasingly, use is made of cartographic and GIS techniques.

Geographers and demographers have been working together for many years. The subfield of multiregional demography or spatial population analysis was developed in close cooperation between scholars from both disciplines. The joint effort has resulted in increased analytical capabilities of population geographers and a better appreciation by demographers of the significance of location and distance (as proxies for availability and accessibility). It would be very beneficial to the field if further cooperation was enhanced.

At this stage, cooperation might be most productive in the following areas (the list is not exhaustive) :

Curriculum development : What should a spatial demographer know about population geography and how much and what demographers should a population geographer know ?

Household demography (or, if you prefer, housing demography) : the study of the formation, evolution and dissolution of the household and the associated needs for goods and services (e.g. housing, job, educational and recreational facilities, etc.).

GIS and DIS (demographic information systems) : GIS focuses on the location of the population in relation to various facilities. DIS focuses on the evolution (location in time) of the population because of ageing (life cycle effects), the substitution of old cohorts for new ones (generation effects) and differential response to exogenous events and policy measures (period effects). DIS adds to GIS the analytical capabilities that a population geographer expects from an information system (in principle, anyway).

Migration analysis and multiregional population forecasting : The continuing globalization and the growing significance of international migration call for more attention to the interdependence among countries. The experience of population geographers in studying border regions and international migration is expected to be helpful. Demographers may contribute techniques to develop for estimating international migration (and illegal migration) from limited and defective data.

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