Literature Review - Research Project

Tiffany Muller Myrdahl

Geography 3381 / Global Studies 3381: Population in an Interacting World

Due Dates**

Annotated Bibliography: February 28, in class

First version of paper: March 25, in class

Final version of paper: April 29, in class

**If you choose to propose your own topic, you must get approval for that by submitting your proposal by February 21.

Description

The aim of this assignment is to provide students with the opportunity to:

* investigate a contemporary population issue or problem,

* demonstrate skills in assembling the relevant data and harnessing explanatory arguments,

* connect course themes to a relevant topic of your choice, and

* practice presenting their findings in a concise written report. The report must be in the form of a formal research paper.

Guidelines

1) Choose one topic from the list below.

I am prepared to consider other topics as alternatives. If you choose to propose your own topic, you must submit a short proposal (250 words) on the topic by Thursday, February 21 via email to me, Dr. Myrdahl (mull0130@umn.edu).

List of topics:
1. Population ageing (increasing numbers and proportions of old people) has been described as one of the most pressing population issues in the 21st century. Which countries of the world are burdened with an ageing population? What are the reasons responsible for this phenomenon? Focusing on ONE country you are asked to answer the following questions: 1) What have been the changes in the age structure in your country of choice during the past 2-3 decades? 2) What have been the impacts of an aging population on the country’s economy, the state and communities? 3) What measures have countries devised to stem the graying of the population?

2. The spread and fight against infectious diseases. The global community faces a resurgence of infectious diseases -including HIV/AIDS. As part of your role within the UN you have been asked to write a report on ONE particular country has been affected by the AIDS pandemic. This report should identify 1) the prevalence and spread of HIV/AIDS in the chosen country during the past two decades; 2) major causes for the spread of HIV/AIDS in your country of choice; 3) programs and measures that have been put in place to control the spread of the virus and their effectiveness; and 4) the availability of life-saving anti-retroviral drugs to AIDS patients.

3. Inequalities in maternal mortality. Maternal mortality rates vary considerably between countries around the world. Similar to other health inequalities, this is another form of social injustice. As part of your role within the UN you have been asked to describe and discuss 1) the amount/degree of international variations in maternal mortality in 2006/07 (or nearest date); 2) reasons/ causes for international variations in maternal mortality; and 3) successful programs put in place in different countries to reduce maternal mortality. After providing an overview of the issue, provide an in-depth analysis of strategies in one country.

4. Pro-natalist policies. During the past 50 years European countries and Canada have faced dramatic declines in fertility. In order to slow down and reverse the decline a number of European countries (and Canadian provinces) have introduced pro-natalist policies that provide incentives for couples to have more children. You are asked to research such policies put in place in ONE European country, or one Canadian province (which you must situate within the national context) of your choice and answer the following questions: 1) What have been the trends in fertility during the past three decades? 2) What government policies have been introduced to slow down or reverse the decline in fertility and why? 3) What have been the effects of these policies on fertility rates, the economic and social well being of couples, and women’s reproductive health?
5. Costs and benefits of trade liberalization in the Global South. Two competing arguments exist under the heading of trade liberalization: one side claims that this economic strategy creates employment opportunities where jobs previously did not exist, while another side claims that these jobs come with overly high costs (e.g., poor labor practices, wages that don’t match the cost of living index). You are asked to evaluate the costs and benefits of trade liberalization by investigating the economy of ONE country, and answering the following questions: 1) How did trade liberalization emerge in this country? (Make sure you determine whether/how structural adjustment programs played a role in the rise of export-driven economy.) 2) What kind of industrial growth occurred? Where? Whom do these industries employ? 3) What is the apparent relationship between trade liberalization and migration?

[Another way to frame this question would be to examine the rise of the “fair trade” movement as a response to trade liberalization. If you’d like to pursue that question, please follow the choose-your-own-topic guidelines above.]

6. Family planning and women’s reproductive health. In an attempt to reduce population growth, and strongly encouraged by the international community, most countries in the Global South have introduced comprehensive family planning programs. As part of your role within an international women’s organization you have been asked to document and discuss the impact of these programs on fertility levels and women’s reproductive health in ONE country of your choice (excluding India, China and Thailand). Specifically you are asked to answer the following questions: 1) What have been the trends in fertility during the past three decades? 2) What government policies/family planning policies have been introduced to reduce fertility levels? 3) What has been the impact of these policies on fertility levels and women’s reproductive health?

7. Megacities in the Global South. In many countries of the Global South the urban population is rapidly increasing, resulting in the creation of megacities, large cities with between 10 and 15 million residents. Choose ONE city in the Global South and describe and discuss: 1) How fast has the population of this city been growing during the past two decades and how has migration contributed to this growth? 2) What economic, environmental and social problems have been associated with increased migration to this city? 3) What are the measures put in place or considered to address these problems?
8. Refugees in industrialized countries. Only a small proportion of refugees originating in the Global South are able to gain refuge in the industrialized countries of the Global North. Your task is to examine ONE refugee population that has arrived in the United States during the past 30 years, such as refugees from Somalia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Tibet, Russia, and the former Yugoslavia. You are asked to answer the following questions: 1) What forced their migration and where and when did they come from to the US? 2) What are the economic, social, and health issues they face in the US? 3) What is being done by Federal, state, and local governments and host communities to address these issues?

9. The immigration experience – new immigrants to MN, Twin Cities, other places in MN. During the past decade the US and Minnesota have seen dramatic increases in the number of immigrants, both refugees and labor migrants. Choose a particular immigrant group and explore the following questions: 1) How many have come to Minnesota since 1980 and where did they settle? 2) What kind of obstacles and successes have they experienced since settling here? 3) What kinds of perceptions do they have of the place and the people where they settled? You might want to explore the immigrant experience through stories of immigrants found in newspaper articles, on-line, and/or by interviewing someone who has recently immigrated to Minnesota.

10. Large-scale dam projects, population displacement and environmental ramifications. Large-scale dam projects have been an important component of development policies in countries of the Global South, often resulting in the displacement of large numbers of people and far-reaching modifications of the ecological conditions in the area. Choosing a country or specific large-scale dam project in the Global South, describe the effects of the dam project(s) on the population and the environment. Specifically you are asked to answer the following questions: 1) What claims have proponents made about the benefits of the project? 2) Who and how many people have been displaced by the project, and where do they live now? 3) How has the construction of the dam affected the ecological conditions in the area? 4) Whether and how the government has responded to grievances voiced by local residents and international environmental organizations and what alternative measures have been proposed?

11. Hunger in the Global South. Despite the fact that many countries in the Global South produce enough food to feed their population, many go hungry. Choosing ONE country in the Global South where a large number of people go hungry every day you are asked to answer the following questions: 1) Who are the groups who are primarily suffering from hunger? 2) Why
do they go hungry, or in other words what are the economic, political, environmental structures and conditions that are responsible that they suffer from hunger and malnutrition? 3) What kinds of programs and measures are put in place to increase food security in your country? 4) How effective are these programs and measures?

2) Create an annotated bibliography.

An annotated bibliography is not just a list of sources that you intend you use for your paper, but a discussion –for each entry- of how a source will be useful to your discussion. Clearly, this implies that you have a working knowledge of the material and the author’s argument/s. You are not obligated to use every source in your final paper, but your final paper must demonstrate that it emerged from this early research. (In other words, if you feel that you must change your topic following the submission of your annotated bibliography, you must submit a new one. Your final paper must have some resemblance to a bibliography that you had approved.)

Your annotated bibliography should include a full citation in APA format, a synopsis of the author’s argument, and a brief discussion of how you intend to use this source. Here’s an example:


   This article is a commentary on counter-trends in American food production and consumption. Lapping highlights three distinguishing features of the US agricultural sector since WWII: increased globalization, increased consolidation, and increased industrialization. These changes have resulted in a transformed rural landscape and economy as well as modifications in our consumption (buying and eating) habits. Lapping, however, is interested in the rise of alternative food models—the ways consumers have opted out of the dominant agro-industry model and/or opted for additional options. He argues that consumers have grown progressively more interested in alternative models for myriad reasons; health and safety concerns are usually at the top of that list, but the viability of local economies and other place-based concerns are also (increasingly) significant factors.
Discussion: This piece is relevant to my interest in the rise of the local food movement, and in particular, the increasing tendency among urban consumers to support farmers’ markets and CSAs (community supported agriculture). Lapping’s synopsis of agro-industry provides a starting point for me to understand how and why the local food movement emerged as a response/critique of agro-industry.

Your bibliography should include, at a minimum, 3 scholarly (peer-reviewed) publications. You may/should also include policy documents (like the PRB Data Sheet). You are expected to draw widely on research materials available both in conventional form (scholarly books and journal articles, newspaper and magazine articles, government documents, etc.) and from the Internet. You may start with resources listed in the required readings for the course on your chosen topic, to obtain some basic background information and suggestions for further reading. A list of selected journals is provided in Appendix B.

In total, your annotated bibliography should be—at minimum—8 sources. You may certainly include more. You must submit your bibliography in class on February 28.

NOTE: The Internet can be an excellent source of contemporary information, but it also harbors material that is of low quality, unreliable and has no place in scholarly inquiry. Where Internet sources are consulted, you should exercise care to ensure that material is drawn only from reputable sites. All Internet sources should be cited fully and accurately and should include the date on which the site was accessed. In addition, you need to avoid excessive reliance on Internet sources. No more than one third of references used in this research project should be drawn from the Internet. Under “Resource links” on the webvista site for this class you will find numerous links to websites, which provide statistical and other demographic information. The links provided are, of course, not exhaustive, and you should identify other relevant websites.

3) Review empirical research and scholarly arguments, and collect statistical information on your topic.

Data on your topic, including empirical research, scholarly arguments, and statistical information, should be reviewed and utilized as necessary in your paper. Use journal (peer-
reviewed) articles, statistical sources, books, and Internet sources. A list of selected statistical and other data sources is provided in Appendix A. Appendix B provides a listing of population journals and other sources of information.

4) Write your paper: Make a clear argument, and answer all the questions posed under the topic heading.

The paper should be 8-10 typed pages of text (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins) plus any tables, graphs, maps, and bibliography. The bibliography should contain complete citations of all the books, articles and websites (web address, plus date) used in the research. Use APA format consistently for both in-text and bibliographic citation. Each citation in the bibliography must be referenced in the text.

You will submit a first version of the research paper on March 25, and then prepare a final version of the research paper (due April 29), after receiving detailed feedback. Do not think of the first version of the research paper as an incomplete draft. It should represent your best effort to complete the full research paper. For information on the components of an effective short essay see APPENDIX C. Please make sure to read this before you write your paper. You are responsible for understanding academic honesty and university rules on plagiarism, and must hand in a written paper that is entirely your own work. Besides submitting a hard copy of your paper in class, you also need to submit a digital copy of both the first and the final version of your paper on the webct site (Turnitin).

GRADING

The paper will be graded for content, organization, and clarity of writing. The research paper accounts for 30% of total grade for the course. Students will be assessed both on the first draft (10%) and on the final version of the written paper (20%). PLEASE NOTE: Students who do not submit a first draft will not receive a passing grade for the assignment. Late submission of assignments is only accepted in exceptional circumstances, such as documented illness and family emergency. In all other instances you will receive a 5% reduction for every workday past the initial due date. We will also subtract points for papers that do not meet the minimum requirement and for substantially longer papers.
APPENDIX A

STATISTICAL AND OTHER DATA SOURCES

You can find hard copies of some of the sources listed below in the Government Document section of Wilson Library, and Internet links to some of these sources on the webvista site under “Resource links”


* World Resources - Contains data for countries on environmental factors related to quality of life.


* FAO Yearbook

* FAOSTAT - Statistical database of the Food and Agriculture Organization, includes data on agriculture, nutrition, rural/urban population trends, etc.

* Human Development Report - contains development related statistics

* International Data Base (US Census) – computerized data bank

* Statistical Yearbooks. A number of countries produce statistical yearbooks (not always every year).

* UNSTATS: UN Statistics Division Common Database

* Eurostat (Official statistics of the European Union provides information for EU member states as well as sub-national units within member states)
LexisNexis Statistical is an index to published statistical data. Some entries also include the statistical tables themselves. It indexes statistics appearing in sources from the U.S. federal government, international governmental organizations, associations, business organizations, commercial publishers, independent researchers, state governments, and university research centers.

* Index of International Statistics (IIS) - Available in the Government Documents Section in Wilson Library.

* Global Population Policy Database - This publication extracts the answers from a survey of government population policies.

* International Migration (United Nations Population Division) Country by country data on migrants, migration, refugees, and views of government policies relating to migration.

* SOPEMI Reports (Provide up-to-date reports on international migration in OECD countries)

* U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service - The INS is “responsible for enforcing the laws regulating the admission of foreign-born persons to the U.S. and for administering various immigration benefits, including the naturalization of qualified applicants for U.S. citizenship.” http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/

APPENDIX B

JOURNALS - SELECTION


* Population Today (Population Reference Bureau, Washington D.C. - short, more popular articles)

* Demography (American Journal)

* People (Produced by the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Short, ‘popular’ articles)
* Population (French journal, very comprehensive)

* Population Index (N. American-based but comprehensive international coverage. Annotated biblio)

* Population Studies (Leading British demographic journal)

* International Journal of Population Geography

* Studies in Family Planning (Published by the Population Council (New York).

* International Family Planning Perspectives

* Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health

* Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care

* Journal of Reproduction and Fertility

* International Journal of Fertility

* Reproduction, Fertility and Development

* Population and Development Review (Good review articles)

* Population Ecology

* International Labor Review (theoretical and empirical work, especially useful for LDCs)

* International Migration Review

* Refugees (UN ‘Popular’ monthly. Newsy but up-to-date statistics, articles, etc.)

* Journal of Refugee Studies

* Refugee Survey Quarterly

* Forced Migration Review

* Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies

* International Migration
* Reproduction, Nutrition, Development

* Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition

* Asia-Pacific Population Journal

* The Internet Journal of Infectious Diseases

* Current HIV Research

* HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report

* Ageing and Society

* Ageing International

* International Journal of Urban and Regional Research

* Journal of Urban Planning and Development

* Urban Geography

* Journal of Urban Affairs

* Regional Studies

* Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers

Professional Geographer

* African Development Review

* Asian Development Review

* Development and Change

* Development in Practice, Development Policy Review
APPENDIX C

HOW TO WRITE AN EFFECTIVE SHORT ESSAY

An effective short essay should have the following components:

An introduction, which gets the reader’s attention and leads to a purpose statement (e.g., “This paper examines...”); here, you should explain the purpose and scope of the paper, and conclude with a summary of the logical structure of the argument to come.

The main body of the paper, in which you develop the argument in detail, providing references in the text to secondary sources that provide documentation of your argument or that have influenced your thinking.

* The main body of the paper should contain both factual information on your topic, explanations of the observed patterns and processes, and a critical discussion of major issues and problems.

* It should be divided into sections (each of which has at least three paragraphs), each of which should have its own short, descriptive sub-heading. Sections can help make the logical sequence of the argument clear.

* Any graphs, tables and maps you use in the paper should also be referred to in the text, at the point where you want the reader to be looking at them. The essay should include a sentence or two at this point providing a brief summary of what you think the graphs, tables, and maps show. Do not repeat in your essay the detailed contents of a table, but summarize concisely the main point(s) from the table that you want the reader to be aware of. If appropriate, use maps to depict the geographical distribution of some of the factual information on your topic. You can either use already existing maps or produce your own maps, but they must be legible.

* If the maps, graphs or tables are secondary materials (i.e., you have copied them without change from somewhere else), the original source must be given at the bottom of the figure and in the list of references. If you have prepared them yourself, they should be clear, and you should cite the source of the data you used. All figures, tables and maps should have a title. Graphs should have the axes and units of measurement labeled. Tables should have titles for all the
columns and rows, and units of measurement labeled. Graphics should be large enough to give a good visual impression.

* Only use quotes from your cited sources if they make a point more effectively than you can, or if there is a specific statement that you wish to analyze or comment on. Quotes should be as short as possible, and should reproduce the exact grammar and spelling in the original (even if it is incorrect in the original!). You should give the page numbers where the quote can be found. You may abbreviate a quote by replacing a section of the author’s text with three periods (...), but you should not do this if your abbreviation alters the author’s original meaning. In general, quotes should be less than 5% of your essay. Any quotes that you include without citing the original source are an example of plagiarism: don’t do this!!!!

A conclusion, in which you summarize the main points of your argument and bring your argument to a logical conclusion.

A bibliography listing all the references used, should appear on a separate page(s).