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Article submissions are limited to 1,000 words, will be reviewed by the RC41 officers for possible publication, and may be edited for clarity or space.

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EDITORIAL

Dear friends and members of RC41,

The year 2021 started with the Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology, which was held online, February 23-21, 2021. RC41 hosted a series of sessions, which turned out to be a success in terms of vivid discussions and networking on a global scale.

A highlight was the Common Session that RC41 is organized together with RC55 on “The Politics of the Population Census: Key Indicators for Sustainable Development?”. Papers were presented by Ram B. Bhagat (Mumbai), Mara Loveman (Berkeley) and Simon Patrick (Paris), who are outstanding experts in the political sociology of census taking. It is planned to take this discussion a step further by publishing an edited book with Routledge in early 2022, which will contain several contributions on census taking by presenters at the Fourth ISA Forum.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology was postponed to 2023 and will hopefully be held in presence. The postponement implies that the board of RC41 will serve one year more than originally mandated by members.

Recently, we received the sad news that William F. Stinner, a critical figure in the establishment of the Committee on the Sociology of Population and one of the first Presidents of our section passed away. E. Helen Berry, Dudley Poston, Michael B. Toney, and Sojung Lim memorize him in an obituary, which you find at the end of this newsletter.

Hoping that you and your beloved ones have remained largely unaffected by the pandemic I wish you peaceful holidays and all the best for 2022,

Walter Bartl
UPCOMING EVENTS

**2022 POPULATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING (PAA 2022)**
Atlanta, Georgia, 06 Apr 2022 to 09 Apr 2022, organized by: Population Association of America (PAA)

**EUROPEAN POPULATION CONFERENCE (EPC 2022)**
Groningen, 29 Jun 2022 to 02 Jul 2022, organized by: European Association for Population Studies (EAPS)

XX ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY: RESURGENT AUTHORITARIANISM: THE SOCIOLOGY OF NEW ENTANGLEMENTS OF RELIGIONS, POLITICS, AND ECONOMIES.
Melbourne, Australia, June 25-July 1, 2023.

PUBLICATIONS

Just before the pandemic began, Pew Research Center published a large report about living arrangements and religion (https://www.pewforum.org/2019/12/12/religion-and-living-arrangements-around-the-world/). Here's a summary of key findings: https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/12/13/key-findings-how-living-arrangements-vary-by-religious-affiliation-around-the-world/. Many studies of living arrangements report findings at the household level (for example, the UN does so). However, the Pew report describes household characteristics from an individual level. This post explains what difference this makes: https://medium.com/pew-research-center-decoded/the-class-size-paradox-how-individual-and-group-level-perspectives-differ-and-why-it-matters-b62071f4e909.

Conrad Hacket, Pew Research Center, Washington, DC

ARTICLES


EDITED COLLECTION OF ARTICLES (OPEN ACCESS)


OBITUARY

WILLIAM F. STINNER (1938-2021)

William F. Stinner was born in Allentown, PA, to German immigrants to the U.S. Much of his research and life reflected that Allentown beginning. Known as Bill throughout his life, he served in the United States Navy in the late 1950s and later moved onto a successful career as a researcher, mentor, and teacher. After completing his initial coursework in college, he married Carol McKewen in 1961 and they shared life together for 56 years until her passing in 2017.

Bill’s academic career began with an AB at Columbia University, followed by MA and PhD degrees at Pennsylvania State University. He came to Utah State University (USU) in 1973 following several terms teaching at Penn State, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and the University of Chicago’s Population Institute at the University of the Philippines. He maintained a distinguished career at USU and served as the Director of the USU Population Research Laboratory. He was the USU college researcher of the year in 1979 and had many devoted students during his career. Upon his retirement from USU in 2000, he worked for several years at the State of Utah Department of Health.

Over the course of his career Bill played a central role in demographic and human ecological research nationally and internationally. Beginning in graduate school and continuing throughout his illustrious career, his research contributed significantly to the demographic and ecological literatures. The topics he studied were varied, and examined populations and cultures in Asia, Latin America, and the U.S. In many cases, he was among the first to identify issues that subsequently became important lines of demographic inquiry. His first article, published with his mentor, Gordon DeJong in 1969 in Demography, provided significant ecological insights on pushes and pulls for Black migration in the South and became a standard on the subject. His groundbreaking research on parental preferences for sons or daughters, also published in Demography, noted that many parents prefer a balance of female and male children, as opposed to just males. Bill was also among the first to examine the relationship of disability to population factors, and he provided similarly groundbreaking insights in his analyses of population issues in Utah. Indeed, his work on Mormons in Utah provided insights on minority populations throughout the U.S. and the world. His articles on migration and on the migration turnaround of the 1970s are among the most cited works on the topic. His books, Return Migration and Remittances: Developing a Caribbean Perspective; Sociology of the Life Course with Brian Pitcher; and Community, Society and Migration: Noneconomic Migration in America with Patrick Jobes and John Wardwell, each, provided unique insights into community and population issues. His later work on retirement migration also made important contributions. Bill was truly renowned internationally and domestically for his numerous contributions to sociological and human ecological demography.

Bill’s success in preparing grant proposals was essential to the development of the USU Population Research Laboratory (now known as the Yun Kim Population Research Laboratory), and, perhaps more importantly, provided support to many graduate students. In particular, Bill’s role in directing major projects funded by the National Institutes of Health brought national and international attention to the Sociology program at USU. He provided superb leadership to the Population Research Laboratory in times when faculty and financial resources were scant. Further, Bill’s efforts on behalf of graduate students were impressive. He supervised numerous students to successful degree completion. Many achieved their first scholarly publications with Bill Stinner as their mentor. The respect, appreciation, and loyalty shown for him are remarkable. Indeed, in November 2021, upon hearing of Bill’s passing, one student commented, “Dr. Stinner always inspired me to work harder.” Such admiration from students is undoubtedly the most cherished compensation a professor can hope to receive. The knowledge, time, and effort he gave to students are of incalculable worth. The
successes of Bill’s students while pursuing their degrees and the successes they have experienced in their careers attest to his contributions as a mentor.

What is less known is that Bill provided invaluable service to the discipline. For one thing, he was critical in the establishment of the Population Section of the International Sociological Association and served as one of the first Presidents/Chairs of this now illustrious section of the ISA. He served as acting head of USU’s Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology department (now the Department of Sociology and Anthropology). At conferences and professional meetings, Bill was a delightful companion. He would introduce junior colleagues to nearly everyone who was anyone in an organization – thereby assisting the further development of the careers of these junior colleagues.

We noted earlier Bill’s pathbreaking human ecological research beginning with his 1969 classic piece published with his mentor Gordon DeJong. Bill has now joined other human ecologists who have recently passed, including Parker Frisbie, Jack Gibbs, Michael Micklin, Hal Winsborough, and Stanley Lieberson. These giants incorporated human ecological perspectives into demographic research, producing important insights. With the rise of survey research and detailed data on individuals, the foundations of human ecology have been incorporated into many areas of demographic and sociological analysis as researchers incorporate place, environment, social organization, and technology into their research.

William F. Stinner was in all respects an outstanding scholar, distinguished researcher, important teacher and mentor, and a beloved husband and uncle. His colleagues and students missed him on his retirement and, with his family, we mourn the loss of his powerful and collaborative intellect, and his friendship.

Submitted by

E. Helen Berry, Utah State University

Dudley Poston, Texas A&M University

Michael B. Toney, Utah State University

Sojung Lim, Utah State University
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