

EDITORIAL

Editorial — First Issue International Journal of Population Studies

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.18063/IJPS.2015.01.010>

I am proud to present the first issue of the *International Journal of Population Studies* (IJPS) published by Whioce Publishing Pte Ltd. One might ask what is the need of yet another journal in demography and population studies? I argue that IJPS comes at the right time with the right purpose. It is a multidisciplinary journal (more details in Danan Gu's editorial note) on demography and population studies, it is also an open access journal, aiming to reach a broad range of researchers.

IJPS is timely because demography and population issues have taken the center stage in understanding social and economic change across the world. These issues pose challenges to society and individuals and should be looked carefully by researchers and policy makers; many are discussed in this issue. The first one is the rapid change in population age structure and its consequences to economic growth, living conditions, social support and health care provision to the elderly. The second issue, related to rapid changes in population aging, regards the health conditions of the elderly in different parts of the world and the prospects of future health conditions. The third issue is related migration flows that are driven both by economic changes affected by climate change and migration flows related to labor markets and social networks. One paper in this volume also discusses the implications of migration to economic growth in the era of population aging. Finally, one paper discusses fertility behavior and decisions.

This first issue of the journal highlights a broad range of research. The content of the eight papers can be grouped into four large thematic groups: aging, health, migration and fertility. The scope of the papers ranges from more methodological to more theoretical discussions, and each paper focuses on a different region of the world. In common, they investigate important and current demographic and population problems we are facing today. It was encouraging to receive such diverse and high quality papers. I would like to, therefore, thank our contributing authors.

Our first paper is by Zimmer and colleagues about how the compression of disability changes disability-free life expectancy in the rapid aging population of China. They show a heterogeneous process of the compression of disability in China that is more favorable for females and residents of urban areas.

In the second paper, Saito and colleagues examine differences in hypertensive states and the levels of blood pressure among older persons in Japan and the United States. Investigating the two countries is interesting because of differences in life expectancy and health

care systems. They show that hypertension prevalence is higher in Japan, but diagnosis and control is more prevalent in the U.S.

The third paper, by Gu, investigates how the concordance and discordance between subjective and objective measures to identify subtype risk groups are related to subsequent mortality. The results indicate significant predictive power of the subtype measure that should be considered in public health programs for successful aging.

Salinari and de Santis, authors of our fourth paper, examine the acceleration of mortality rates at older ages. They show a progressively earlier onset, and a steeper rise, in the rate of aging in recent cohorts and argue that changes in the dietary regime might have a relation to the evolution of the mortality schedules.

The fifth paper, by Nawrotzki and colleagues, investigates whether climate change more strongly impacts undocumented or documented migration from Mexico to the U.S. during the 1980 s and 1990 s. They show that climate-related international migration from rural Mexico was predominantly undocumented.

In the sixth paper, Denton and Spencer provide a simulation analysis of the long-term effects of immigration on income. Their simulation results show that immigration, concentrated in working-age individuals, might be required to keep per capita income from declining. They also show that sustainable economic growth and growth in per capita income could be obtained by rapid productivity growth and delayed retirement.

The seventh paper, by Chang, investigates the job search process in the dynamic labor market of China. More specifically, the paper examines the job search patterns of rural migrants with those of urban natives. The results indicate that the job search process is different for rural and urban workers, but the importance of networks is decreasing over time.

The last paper, by Väisänen and Jones, examines whether and how women's attempts to get pregnant and their desire to avoid pregnancy changed over six months' time as well as which characteristics and circumstances were associated with these changes. They show that transitions to more serious relationships are related to weaker pregnancy avoidance. The results also indicate that some changes in employment situation were not related to behavioral changes. Interestingly, they show that women in their late 20 s transition to weaker pregnancy avoidance, suggesting that those ages are preferred for childbearing.

Finally, I would like to add that the journal is committed to rapid and high-quality refereeing processes for all research that is submitted to the journal. I would like to encourage researchers from different countries to consider IJPS as a venue to present their research, and encourage researchers to keep the open access spirit by sharing with IJPS readers all necessary information to replicate and reproduce research.