

4 - Computational approaches

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Agenda

1. Q&A
2. Demographic microsimulation
3. Example 1: Impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on kinship resources
4. Example 2: Projecting older adults without kin
5. Discussion

Q&A

- ▶ Previous days
- ▶ Questions about final assignement
- ▶ Other?

Demographic microsimulation

- ▶ Model individual-level demographic behaviour applying set of rules
- ▶ Make up data where unavailable
- ▶ Science: compare to independent method
- ▶ SOCSIM: Other types of simulation: Agent-based modelling, CAMSIM, etc.

Grow, A and Van Bavel, J. 2018. Agent-Based Modeling of Family Formation and Dissolution. In R. Schoen (Ed.), *Analytical Family Demography* (pp. 125-156). Springer Series on Demographic Methods and Population Analysis, (Vol. 47), Cham: Springer International Publishing.

Creating digital populations

- ▶ A stochastic microsimulation platform, 1970s at UC Berkeley
- ▶ Starting with an initial population, applies age-specific demographic rates
- ▶ Creates kinship structure similar to a full genealogy
- ▶ Now maintained at the MPIDR!

Mason, C. (2016). SOCSIM Oversimplified. UC Berkley.
<https://lab.demog.berkeley.edu/socsim/CurrentDocs/socsimOversimplified.pdf>

A SOCSIM microsimulation of Sweden (1603-2160)

```
# Read sample Familinx data using data.table  
read.csv("../..Assignment/Data/sweden_socsim.csv") %>%  
  slice(1:4) %>%  
  kable()
```

profileid	father	mother	birth_year	death_year
10000	2152	2390	1703	1705
10001	0	4343	1703	1707
10002	4593	5190	1703	1773
10003	0	3252	1703	1703

Zagheni, E. 2017. The Demographic Foundations of the Lived Experience of Kin Death. Working paper.

Historical and projected demographic processes

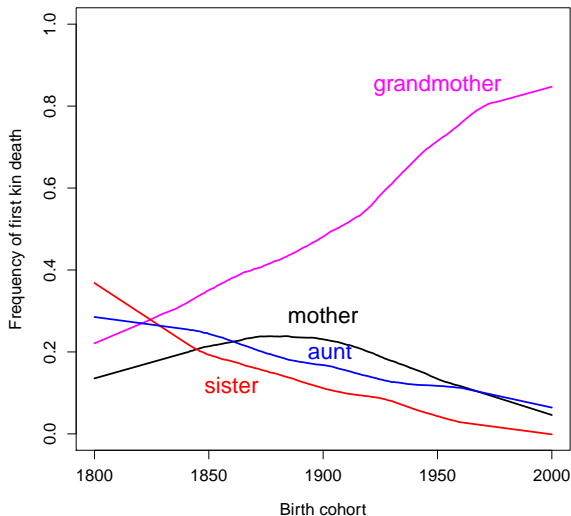


Figure 1: Frequency of different types of kin death, Sweden (SOCSIM)

Example 1: Impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on kinship resources

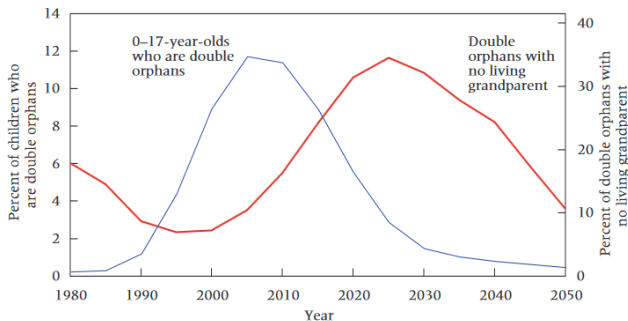
Research at a glance

- ▶ RQ: estimate and project probabilities of orphanhood and evolution of kinship structure in Zimbabwe in context of HIV/AIDS epidemic (1980-2050)
- ▶ Data: SOCSIM, with rates from UN WPP, Demographic and Health Surveys, World Fertility and Marriage Database, UN HIV infection rates
- ▶ Findings:
 - ▶ quantitative assessment of th
 - ▶ increase in double orphans with no living grandparents
 - ▶ shift of responsibilities to aunts and uncles

{Zagheni, E. 2011. The impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on kinship resources for orphans in Zimbabwe, *Population and Development Review* 74(4), 761-783.}

Double-orphans and wouble-orphans without granparents

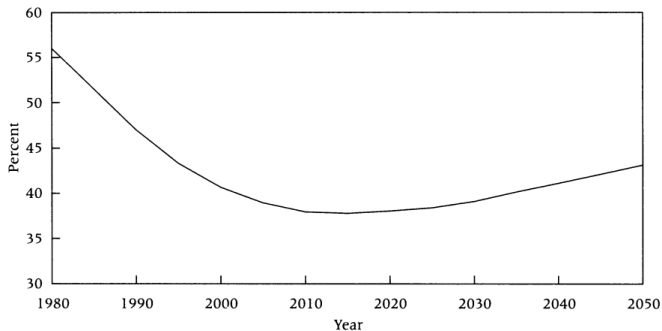
FIGURE 2 Percent of children 0–17 years old who are double orphans (left scale), and percent of these double orphans who have no living grandparent (right scale)



{Zagheni, E. 2011. The impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on kinship resources for orphans in Zimbabwe, *Population and Development Review* 74(4), 761-783.}

Percent of double orphans

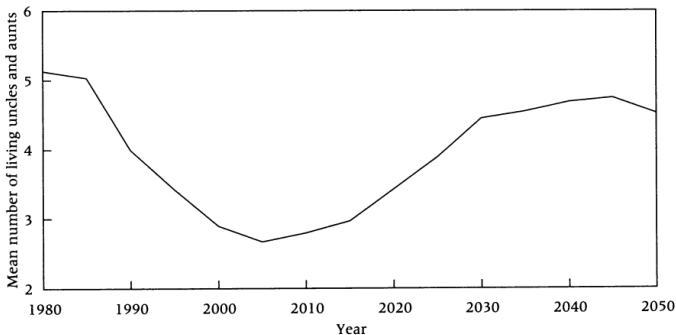
FIGURE 4 Estimates and projections of the percent of double orphans younger than 10 years who have at least one living sibling older than 15 years, Zimbabwe 1980–2050



{Zagheni, E. 2011. The impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on kinship resources for orphans in Zimbabwe, *Population and Development Review* 74(4), 761-783.}

Availability of aunts and uncles

FIGURE 3 Estimates and projections of the average number of living uncles and aunts of double orphans 0–17 years old, Zimbabwe 1980–2050



{Zagheni, E. 2011. The impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on kinship resources for orphans in Zimbabwe, *Population and Development Review* 74(4), 761-783.}

Example 2: Projecting older adults without kin

Research at a glance

- ▶ RQ: Examine the changing population of kinless individuals in American society over the coming decades
- ▶ Data: Rates from US census, Human Fertility Database, official statistics
- ▶ Findings:
 - ▶ impending increase of kinless older adults, especially amongst Black
 - ▶ Declines in marriage, one-child families, mortality

Verdery, A.M. and Margolis, R. (2017). Projections of white and black older adults without living kin in the United States, 2015 to 2060. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 114(42):11109–11114.

Kinlessness by gender and ethnicity in the US

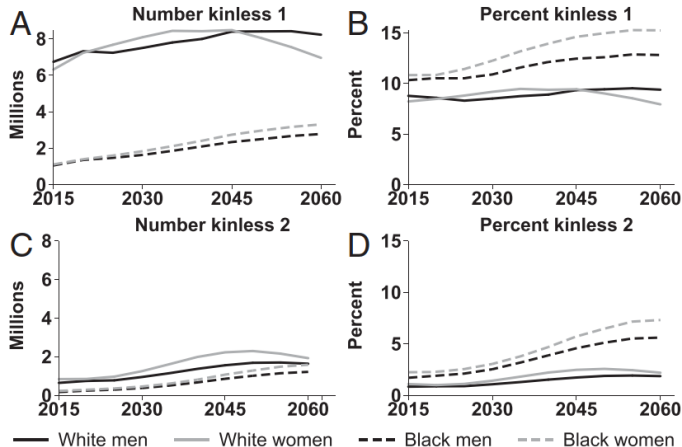


Fig. 1. Projected numbers kinless 1 (A), percent kinless 1 (B), numbers kinless 2 (C), and percent kinless 2 (D), people age 50 and older, by year, sex, and race.

Verdery, A.M. and Margolis, R. (2017). Projections of white and black older adults without living kin in the United States, 2015 to 2060. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 114(42):11109–11114.

Discussion

Strengths and weaknesses of simulated data

- ▶ Impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic
 - ▶ Pro: No alternative data source
 - ▶ Pro: accounts for clustering of mortality
 - ▶ Con: comparison to ground-truth?
 - ▶ Con: high uncertainty of projected rates used as input in this context
- ▶ Projecting older adults without kin
 - ▶ Pro: Projection based on real rates
 - ▶ Pro: unpacks demographic dynamics leading to outcome
 - ▶ Con: model assumptions about marriage market
 - ▶ Con: comparison to ground-truth?
 - ▶ Con: does not account for future mortality shocks

When should we use real and simulated populations?

- ▶ Use real data whenever possible
- ▶ Improve the interval validity of simulations
 - ▶ Calibration
 - ▶ Methodological triangulation
 - ▶ Comparing simulations to ground-truth

A quick example of such a comparison

- ▶ Cumulative number of child deaths for a woman surviving to a given age
 - ▶ Estimate from SOCISM-generated genealogy
 - ▶ Estimate formally:

$$\underbrace{CD_{(a,c,p)}}_{\text{Child deaths}} = \underbrace{\sum_{x=15}^{x=a} {}_1F_{(x,c,p)}}_{\text{Children born}} - \underbrace{\sum_{x=15}^{x=a} {}_1F_{(x,c,p)} l_{(a-x,c+x,p)}}_{\text{Children surviving or } CS_{(a,c,p)}} \quad (1)$$

Methological triangulation: model and formal estimates

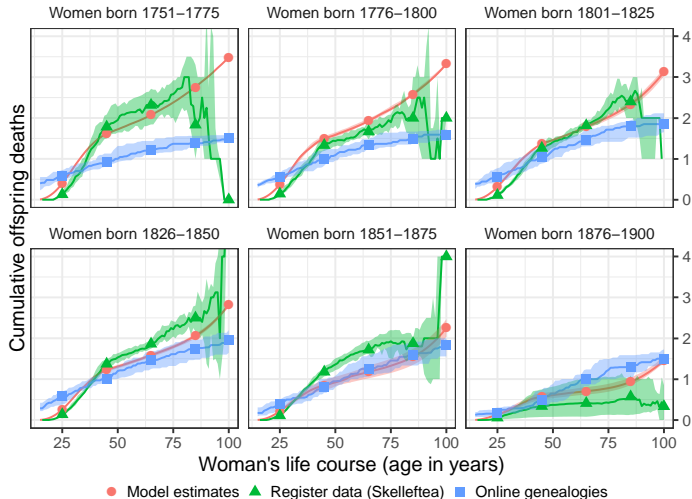


Figure 2: Expected number of child deaths in Sweden

Conclusion

Wrapping up

- ▶ Final thoughts?
- ▶ Project ideas?