

Notes for November 27 Meeting

- **Find the canonical text(s) for demographic transitions in economics**
 - *Population Economics - Razin and Sadka (1995)*: An advanced undergrad or graduate course on population economics.
 - *Population Dynamics - Chu (1998)*: A curated volume of papers in population economics focusing on macro impact of micro decisions - aimed at researchers.
 - The Chu book should be quite useful, but Razin and Sadka is quite short so I will read it as well.
 - Also found a few syllabi for graduate courses in population economics. No textbooks but some papers I added to my reading list.
- **Look for demographic research in economics**
 - A handful of papers in the top journals: AER, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Political Economy. Also a collection of field journals: Journal of Population Economics, Demography, Journal of Demographic Economics. Journal of Economic Perspectives also has a few interesting survey papers.
 - Sociologists tend to produce the most demographic research - these papers provide useful context.
 - Demographic research in economics largely appears to be trying to structure the descriptive analyses found in the sociology research.
 - Demographers tend to see there being two distinct transitions: from pre-industrial to developed, and then developed to what we are observing today in marriage and fertility trends.
 - This “second” demographic transition is the motivation for what I am interested in doing.
 - In 2015 the political economist Nicholas Eberstadt said in a NYT article: “Long stable marriages are out, and divorce or separation are in, along with serial cohabitation and increasingly contingent liaisons.”
 - We observe significantly more cohabitation relative to the past, and thus, while divorce rates are dropping, separation rates among all types of coresidential pairings are likely making up this difference, but it is hard to measure.
 - I’m putting together a short lit review on demographic transition, still haven’t gotten to divorce.
- **Stylized facts about divorce**
 - Canada: Divorce rate steadily declining since 1991, linked to aging population and increased cohabitation (6% in 1981 to 21% in 2016). Nearly all of the decline is attributed to people aged 15-34, who now mostly cohabitate. There is also covid-related “noise” around the pandemic years
 - Need to look at other countries too, will focus on countries in similar stage of transition.
- **Consider the simplest model of divorce where we only observe hazard rates**
 - Here we could model divorce in a similar way to how one models default in credit risk. That is, instead of the ‘value of the firm’ model, we would have the ‘value of the marriage’ model.
- **What happens when a divorce occurs in these data - do they drop out?**
 - Still not sure, I need to see a sample of one of these data sets, which I don’t have yet.
 - Based on my reading I’m now also curious about how we could identify separation in a cohabitation setting.
- **See what other data sets are available (not just Canada)**
 - Still to do.

Some of the papers I read:

- *Historical Context/First Demographic Transition:*
 - Coale, A. J. (1989). Demographic transition. In *Social Economics* (pp. 16-23). London: Palgrave Macmillan UK.
 - Kirk, D. (1996). Demographic transition theory. *Population Studies*, 50(3), 361-387.
 - Galor, O., & Weil, D. N. (1999). From Malthusian stagnation to modern growth. *American Economic Review*, 89(2), 150-154.
 - Lee, R. (2002). The demographic transition: three centuries of fundamental change. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 17(4), 167-190.
 - Greenwood, J., & Seshadri, A. (2002). The US demographic transition. *American Economic Review*, 92(2), 153-159.
 - Lam, D. (2011). How the world survived the population bomb: Lessons from 50 years of extraordinary demographic history. *Demography*, 48(4), 1231-1262.
 - Herzer, D., Strulik, H., & Vollmer, S. (2012). The long-run determinants of fertility: one century of demographic change 1900–1999. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 17, 357-385.
 - Diebolt, C., & Perrin, F. (2013). From stagnation to sustained growth: the role of female empowerment. *American Economic Review*, 103(3), 545-549.
 - Lee, R. (2015). Becker and the demographic transition. *Journal of Demographic Economics*, 81(1), 67-74.
 - Madsen, J. B., Robertson, P. E., & Ye, L. (2019). Malthus was right: Explaining a millennium of stagnation. *European Economic Review*, 118, 51-68.
- *Second demographic transition*
 - Lesthaeghe, R. (1995). The second demographic transition in Western countries: An interpretation. *Gender and Family Change in Industrialized Countries*, 17-62.
 - Lesthaeghe, R. (2010). The unfolding story of the second demographic transition. *Population and Development Review*, 36(2), 211-251.
 - Bailey, M. J., Guldi, M. E., & Hershbein, B. J. (2013). Is there a case for a "Second Demographic Transition"? Three distinctive features of the post-1960 US fertility decline (No. w19599). *National Bureau of Economic Research*.
 - Zaidi, B., & Morgan, S. P. (2017). The second demographic transition theory: A review and appraisal. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 43, 473-492.
 - Manning, W. D., Smock, P. J., & Fetro, M. N. (2019). Cohabitation and marital expectations among single millennials in the US. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 38(3), 327-346.
 - Sassler, S., & Lichter, D. T. (2020). Cohabitation and marriage: Complexity and diversity in union-formation patterns. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 82(1), 35-61.
 - Kearney, M. S., Levine, P. B., & Pardue, L. (2022). The puzzle of falling US birth rates since the Great Recession. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 36(1), 151-176.