

Notes for November 27 Meeting

- **Find the canonical text(s) for demographic transitions in economics**

- *Population Economics:*

- * Understanding Demographic Transitions - Diebolt and Perrin (2017) [Largely a collection of stylized facts, tracking the changes in the demography of France over time. A useful reference to provide historical perspective but no theory.]
- * Population - John R. Weeks (2015) [Forms the basis of an undergraduate population economics course not necessarily aimed at economists.]
- * Population Economics - Razin and Sadka (1995) [An advanced undergrad or graduate course on population economics.]
- * Population Dynamics - Chu (1998) [Quite theoretical, is primarily aimed at researchers in population economics or a PhD field course.]

- *Mathematical Demography:*

- * Modelling Population Dynamics - Newman et al. (2014) [Not necessarily looking at demography, contains a review of state space models for changes in animal populations.]
- * Mathematical Demography - Smith and Keyfitz (2013) [Largely a collection of classical papers (from 1800s-1960s) of reduced-form analysis of demographic transitions - not particularly useful but interesting from a historical perspective.]

Not entirely sure where to start here. It could be useful to read Razin and Sadka (1995) first and then move on to Chu (1998). They are both relatively short, so it wouldn't take too much time.

I have also looked through a few syllabi for both undergraduate and graduate courses in population economics to find references. The Weeks text was used in an undergraduate course (Colorado State) and then the graduate courses (Berkeley and McMaster) were just a reading list of papers – some of which I have included below.

- **Papers on demographic transition:**

- *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*:¹

- * 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., & Fetto, 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.

- **Stylized Facts about Divorce**

- **Consider the simplest model of divorce where we only observe hazard rates, and everyone is of the same type and married.**

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- **See what other data sets are available (not just Canada)**

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- **What happens when a divorce occurs in these data - do they drop out?**

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¹In 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."