

# Call for Sessions - WEHC 2015 [S20141]

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## **Proposed title of the session**

Demographic differentials by wealth and status

## **Abstract**

This session compares patterns of differentials in demographic behavior by wealth and occupational status in 18th, 19th and early 20th century Europe, Asia and North America. Demographic outcomes to be considered include mortality, marriage, reproduction and migration. Wealth measures include landholding and property. Status measures include occupation and hereditary membership in state-imposed population categories. The papers make use of similar quantitative approaches and individual-level data to ensure the comparability of the results. The focus is on identifying common patterns that reflected shared features of economic, political and social context, and distinctive patterns associated with specific features of local context.

We expect submissions from participants in two major comparative projects which are inspired by the Eurasian Population and Family History Project (EAP), but which emphasize detailed comparisons within regions rather than broad comparisons across regions. The EAP compared East and West through detailed analysis of socio-demographic behavior in a variety of communities in southern Sweden, eastern Belgium, northern Italy, northeastern Japan, and northeastern China. The overall conclusions of the EAP, summarized in three volumes published as the MIT Press Eurasian Population and Family History Series challenge current macro historical sociological explanations of East-West convergence and divergence without proposing alternatives. We concluded before we can offer such alternatives, we need to make more detailed comparisons within East and West.

One of the comparative projects inspired by the EAP focuses on East Asia. Participants have held meetings at UCLA, the Hong Kong University of Technology, the Academic Sinica in Taipei, and at various institutions in South Korea. These led to studies that take advantage of newly constructed datasets, which include in total 4 million observations of 700,000 linked life histories in household registers and genealogies in 18th – early-20th century China, Japan, and Korea. Papers on migration have already appeared in a special section of History of the Family, and other studies are ongoing. We expect the studies to shed new light on the implications of patterns of inequality for demographic behavior in historical East Asia, and pave the way for broader comparisons with the included studies of Western historical populations by providing a more detailed picture of local variation and commonality.

A parallel comparative project focuses on Europe and North America. This collaboration began in 2010 and has produced comparative research papers on socioeconomic differences in the fertility and mortality declines in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Some papers on adult mortality were published in a special issue of Explorations in Economic History in 2011, and other papers on the fertility transition were published in Demographic Research in 2014. Current research on this consortium focuses on the urban-rural mortality convergence and the determinants of infant and child mortality decline.

If the session is approved, we will issue an open call for papers. We will encourage participants in these two projects to submit papers, and many have already indicated interest. We will also welcome papers from others working on related topics using similar data and methods.

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## **I. Corresponding Session Organiser**

Mr. Hao Dong (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology [China])

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## **II. Co-Organiser(s)**

1. Corresponding Organiser.
2. Prof. Tommy Bengtsson (Lund University [Sweden])

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## **III. Expected Participant(s)**

1. same as correspondent.
2. Tommy Bengtsson (Lund University [Sweden])
3. Jérôme Bourdieu (INRA/Paris School of Economics [France])
4. Marco Breschi (University of Sassari [Italy])
5. Cameron Campbell (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology [China])
6. Martin Dribe (Lund University [Sweden])
7. Danielle Gauvreau (Concordia University [Canada])
8. Satomi Kurosu (Reitaku University [Japan])
9. Sangkuk Lee (Ajou University [Republic of Korea])
10. Thomas Neil Maloney (University of Utah [United States of America])
11. Matteo Manfredini (University of Parma [Italy])
12. Frans van Poppel (NIDI [Netherlands])
13. Byunggiu Son (Sangkyungkwon University [Republic of Korea])
14. H  l  ne V  zina (University of Quebec at Chicoutimi [Canada])
15. Wenshan Yang (Academia Sinica [Taiwan])