

ARTICLES, PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS
OF ACTUARIAL INTEREST

POPULATION
51, 3

BEHAR, C. L. *Le Pasteur Jean-Louis Muret (1715–1796)*. A Swiss minister, Muret, published a demographic survey of the Vaud canton in 1766, including the first mortality table for women by marital condition and (with Struyck) a subdivision of the life table into the first weeks and months of life. He also constructed standardised indices of births, marriages and deaths.

POPULATION STUDIES
50, 3

HOBBCRAFT, J. *The first fifty years — a tribute to E. Grebenik*.

GREBENIK, E. *Editor's note*.

CALDWELL, J. C. *Demography and social science*. Considers the changing field and role of demography and its publication in various journals.

KEYFITZ, N. *Population growth, development and the environment*. Fifty years ago the preoccupation was the decline of the British population (a falling birth rate has now spread to most of the world at differing speeds). Emphasis now is on an ageing population, environmental degradation and the effects of migration and the spread of disease.

KIRK, D. *Demographic transition theory*. The change from high fertility/mortality to low fertility/mortality is now universal, but is at different points in different countries.

VAN DE KAA, D. J. *Anchored narratives: the story and findings of half a century of research into the determinants of fertility*. Although all important fertility factors may have been determined, a satisfactory universal explanation is unlikely.

CLELAND, J. *Demographic data collections in less developed countries, 1946–1996*. Civil registration has improved little (except in Central and South America), but censuses and single-round surveys have been successful, particularly in Africa.

BRASS, W. *Demographic data analysis in less developed countries, 1946–1996*. Describes the use of 'own children' and 'relation' methods to find age-specific fertility and mortality rates, the P/F ratio for current fertility, parity progression ratios for changes in family building, and the correction of death rates using 'growth balance'.

COALE, A. & TRUSSELL, J. *The development and use of demographic models*. Empirical schedules of mortality, nuptiality and fertility can be based on conventional life tables and stable population theory. The use of such models in forecasting rates is considered, together with microsimulation techniques.

HOBBCRAFT, J. *Fertility in England and Wales: a fifty year perspective*. A detailed account of levels and trends is set in a longer timescale. Demographers have failed to use measurement tools to adjust period measures and period progression ratios, which allows the writer to offer a reinterpretation and explanation of the baby boom/bust.

PRESTON, S. H. *Population studies of mortality*. The value of *Population Studies* in publishing child mortality research, particularly in data-poor countries, is now turning to adult death rates.

SAITO, O. *Historical demography: achievements and prospects*. Besides a review of published work, attention is drawn to the different source material in Asia which requires different techniques which should broaden studies away from fertility. Demographic research must not be isolated from other historical fields of study.

POPULATION TRENDS

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The demographic situation in Europe. Ten maps (adapted from those in the latest report of the Council of Europe's Population Committee) show 1995 population in millions and 1994 rates of total and net increase and migration, life expectancies at birth by gender, infant mortality, extra-marital births, crude marriage and divorce rates, tinted by countries.

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DREVER, M., WHITEHEAD, M & RODEN M. *Current patterns and trends in male mortality by Social Class (based on occupation).* Examination of deaths between ages 20–64 showed that Social Class V death rates rose in the early 1980s, and by 1991–93 were still above the 1970–72 levels, unlike all other classes. The differential between the classes is widening: the overall rates for Class V are three times (and for Classes IIIM and IV twice) that of Class I.

TICKLE, L. *Mortality trends in the United Kingdom, 1982 to 1992.* The sex differential is narrowing, increases in male mortality through AIDS and violent death being more than offset by increasing female lung and throat cancers. The highest rates of improvement are in the first year of life and at ages over 45, particularly from ischaemic heart disease and respiratory diseases.

ROONEY, C. & DEVIS, T. *Mortality trends by cause of death in England and Wales 1980–94: the impact of introducing automatic cause coding and related changes in 1993.* Automatic coding generally improves consistency and international comparisons, but has failed to deal adequately with external causes of death (certified after a coroner's inquest). This has been partly due to changes in administrative practice, such as abandoning follow-up enquiries and classification by date of death rather than by date of death certificate.