

From the editor's desk ...

The meetings in Québec must be considered a success. The quality of the presentations, the level of discussion and participation and the general ambiance were all conducive to a fruitful and positive professional experience. A summary of the meetings is presented in the opposite column on this page and a selection of pictures by Rajulton are included at the end of the Newsletter.

Rod Beaujot was recognised by the CSAA for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of knowledge about Canada with the John Porter Award. See the "Keeping Posted ..." section of the Newsletter for the details of Rod's accomplishments.

HIV/AIDS continues to plague the developing world with devastating impact on future generations. This has been identified as a "Hot Topic" deserving our attention. Please visit the web site and make a professional contribution towards creating a better understanding of this dreadful disease.

Gustave Goldmann, editor.

CPS 2001

Québec: Laval meetings include good diversity and strong quality

Rod Beaujot

The CPS initiated the process of expanding the focus of the meetings to include a greater diversity of topics by including some joint sessions in Edmonton. The process continued on a larger scale during the meetings in Quebec city. For instance, there were joint sessions not only with Sociology (family transitions over the life course), but also Home-economics (2001 census) and History (round table on North American Population History, Columbia University Press, edited by Haines and Steckel).

The topics in other sessions ranged from demographic techniques ("developments in population estimation and projection"), and teaching demography ("a models-based approach") to fertility, mortality, migration, population growth, distribution and composition. The session on teaching demography (Burch, Wonnacott, Romaniuc, Ledent) presented both good content and

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Deadline for articles for the next issue of the Newsletter : Oct. 19, 2001

Hot Topics ...

- The impact of HIV/AIDS in Africa (<http://www.aegis.com>)
- ...

The Student Corner

No contribution for this issue of the Newsletter.

News from the HFSSC ...

The Humanities and Social Science Federation of Canada announces that a series of 8 Perspectives written by Wane Kondro have been posted on its web site. The address is listed in the section "The WWW ..." in this Newsletter.

Report on the Federation of Canadian Demographers

The next meeting of the Federation of Canadian Demographers (FCD) will be held on December 14 and 15, at Carleton University, Ottawa. The title of the conference is: "Demographic Futures in the Context of Globalization: Public Policy Issues". A call for papers has been issued by the conference organisers. Please contact the chair of the organising committee, Bali Ram (bali.ram@statcan.ca), for further information.

The WWW

ADQ: <http://www.fas.umontreal.ca/DEMO/adq/adq00.htm>

Centre Interuniversitaire de études démographique: <http://www.cied.umontreal.ca/>

CSAA: <http://www.arts.ubc.ca/csaa/>

HSSFC: <http://www.hssfc.ca/english/policyandadvocacy/perspectives/perspectives.html>

PAA: <http://www.popassoc.org/>

Population Research Laboratory: <http://www.ualberta.ca/PRL/>

Population Studies Centre: <http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/sociology/popstudies/index.html>

Research Data Centre – McMaster: <http://socserv.socsci.mcmaster.ca/rdc/>

Research Data Centre – University of Alberta: <http://datalib.library.ualberta.ca/rdc>

Statistics Canada: <http://www.statcan.ca>

The Metropolis Project: <http://canada.metropolis.net/>

Recent Meetings ...

Population Association of America

March 29 – 31, 2001

Washington, DC

ACFAS

May 15 – 19, 2000

Montreal, Quebec

Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities

May 23 – 30, 2001

Québec, Québec

Statistics Canada Economic Conference

June 4 – 5, 2001

Ottawa, Ontario

Annual meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada

June 10 – 14, 2001

Burnaby, British Columbia

The XVIIth World Congress of Gerontology

July 1 – 6, 2001

Vancouver, British Columbia

Forthcoming Conferences

American Sociological Association

August 18 – 21, 2001

Anaheim, California

Population Association of America

May 9 – 11, 2002

Atlanta, Georgia

Second biennial meeting of the International Society for Equity in Health (ISEqH)

June 2002

University of Toronto

ISEqH webpage: <http://www.iseqh.org>

examples of effective methods (e.g. Burch's ten commandments for teaching basic demography). We saw how Statistics Canada arrives at assumptions on inter-provincial migration (Verma) and how the agency is seeking to get a better grip on out-migration through the consideration of returning Canadians and temporary movements (Michalowski).

Population models were used to observe that as long as the fertility of immigrants was 34% of that of the Canadian-born, immigration would have a slowing effect on ageing, but of course ageing will continue in any case since the proportion aged 65 and over would be 26% with no immigration and 24% if immigrants had the same fertility as the Canadian-born (Li). The most recent projections from Statistics Canada show that with a life expectancy of 82 and a total fertility rate of 1.48, and emigration of 65,000, the population peaks in 2040 with an immigration of 225,000, while zero net immigration brings a peak in 2018 and a difference of 10 million by 2051 (Loh). These two alternatives bring an average age of 46.2 and 50.2 in 2051 (compared to 36.8 in 2000) and a proportion over age 65 of 25% and 30% (compared to 13% in 2000). Thus a net immigration of 160,00 can postpone population decline by some 20 years, but it cannot prevent population ageing.

Three papers looked at ways in which population composition by ethnic origin need to pay attention to definitions and "ethnic mobility" (Guimond, Robitaille, Vermaeten). It seems that here again the deficiencies of data are encouraging demographers to elaborate more extensive models to better capture the underlying reality. Besides advances in the treatment of data, there were also theoretical papers such as in exploring the ideas of Giddens on risk and reflexivity to demographic decisions (Hall).

The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth was used to determine that children's development is affected more by the family environment (lone-parenthood, poverty) than by being born to a teenage mother (Dryburgh). The 1995 GSS was used to show that fathers have more contact with children the older the child is at separation, and that the level of satisfaction with contact is more important than the type of custody (Juby). There were new ways of exploring co-residence of grand-parents and grand-children on the basis of census data, indicating that some lone-parent families are not identified because the unit used is the older parent-child family rather than the young mother and child; in addition, the presence of a grand-parent reduces the low income probabilities of lone-parents (Norris).

Welcome to new members

It is a pleasure to welcome the following members to our society. We look forward to their active participation and to their contributions.

Yvon Allard	Nan Li
Daniele Belanger	Katerina Maximova
John Belshaw	Viviane Renaud
Francesco Billari	Daniel Sahleyesus
Robert Brown	Vik Singh
Ronald Budinski	Debbie Tan Porter
Michale Haan	

Keeping Posted ...

Personal and Professional Activities:

Roderic Beaujot received the 2001 John Porter Award from the Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association. The award recognises Rod's book *Earning and Caring in Canadian Families* (Broadview Press, 2000) for "outstanding published scholarly contributions within the 'John Porter tradition' to the advancement of sociological and/or anthropological knowledge of Canada." The award was established in 1980, and this is the 14th book to receive it. Rod will give the Porter lecture at next year's meetings of the CSAA in Toronto, and have a session organised around the book.

Copied below are selections from the nomination made by Ellen Gee of Simon Fraser University:

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"Modes of production and division of labour are at the origins of sociology, yet sociologists rarely do justice to the full range of productive activities (both paid and unpaid) or to the role of family relations in this broader division of labour. While lip service is often given to the relations between production and reproduction, these are rarely analysed through the interplay of family and work, at both the macro and micro levels of analysis. As one of the reviewers for *Earning and Caring in Canadian Families* has indicated, the general theoretical orientation based on the tension between caring and earning provides a useful and interesting way to understand much of contemporary family life and family policy.

By defining families as comprised of people who come together in instrumental and expressive activities, specifically in earning a living and caring for each other, Roderic Beaujot provides much insight into the dynamics of gender, family, and work, along

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with much supporting evidence for the stability and change in these dynamics in Canadian society.

In the Porter tradition, Beaujot pays much attention to the various bases for inequality, including inequality by gender. He highlights the ways in which the interplay of family and work, and the division of productive activities, need to be central to our understanding of gender inequalities and stratification. This brings him to policy orientations that seek to establish greater common ground across gender and a more equitable balance of paid and unpaid work between women and men.

The study is heavily based on empirical research, taking advantage especially of various data sets from Statistics Canada. Besides Census and vital statistics data, the monograph uses data from the following surveys: General Social Survey on Family and Friends, Labour Force Survey, Labour Market Activity Survey, National Child Care Survey, National Election Survey, National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, Survey of Consumer Finances, Time-Use Survey, Violence Against Women Survey, and Work Accommodations Survey."

The book may be obtained from Broadview Press at: customerservice@broadviewpress.com
Post Office Box 1243,
Peterborough, Ont K9J 7H5
705-743-8990 (705-743-8353 fax)

Monica Boyd has resigned from her position as the Mildred and Claude Pepper of Sociology at Florida State University and is joining the University of Toronto as the Canada Research Chair in Sociology. She has also been appointed as a Research Associate of the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at the University of California-San Diego. Monica was an invited participant in the Conference on Host Societies and the Reception of Immigrants, Harvard University, May 10-12. She presented a paper on "Immigrant Offspring and Visible Minorities in Canada: Success or Decline/Segmented Assimilation?" Monica has been selected for inclusion in *Who's-Who in America*, 2001. She has also been listed in *Who's-Who in Canada* since 1998..

Eric Fong was elected as a council member of the American Sociological Association's Section on International Migration. He was also invited to be the panelist for a special session at the American Sociological Association on "Suburbs and Exburbs of the New Diversity" organized by John Logan. Other panelists include David Badillo of the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, John Horton of UCLA, Mary Patillo-McCoy of North western University.

Anne H. Gauthier was elected to a Canada research chair (Tier II) in Comparative Public Policy. She is the author of 'The State and the Family; A Comparative Analysis of Family Policies in Industrialized Countries' (Clarendon Press 1996). She is currently working on some projects on the transition to adulthood and on the patterns of time use of young adults.

Ellen Gee was awarded a 2001 Outstanding Contribution Award by the Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association for scholarly and professional contributions to Canadian sociology.

Susan McDaniel was elected President of the CSAA. She will be well placed to bridge the gap between the post-modernists and the positivists. We look forward to her tenure in that position.

Anthony Richmond received an "Outstanding Contribution Award" from the Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association at the annual meetings, Laval University, 28 May, 2001.

Russell Wilkins, Edward Ng and Jean-Marie Betholot Trends in mortality by neighbourhood income in urban Canada from 1971 to 1996. Presentation to the Health Canada Intradepartmental Working Group on Equity in Health, 9 May 2001.

Russell Wilkins. Quebec births and feto-infant mortality by maternal mother tongue, 1985-1996. Presentation to meeting of the Fetal and Infant Health Study Group (FIHSG) of the Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System (CPSS), Ottawa, 9 April 2001. (*Results for 1985-1990 and 1991-1996 for Anglophones, Francophones, North American Indians, Inuit, and other Allophones, based on linked births, infant deaths and stillbirths.*)income in urban Canada from 1971 to 1996." during session 410: Causes of death analyses, differentials and trends at the Population Association of America (PAA), Washington DC, 29-31 March 2001.

Recent Publications

Beaujot, Roderic

2000, "Earning and caring: Demographic change and policy implications." Presented as Distinguished Canadian Demographer Lecture, University of Alberta, 17 November 2000.

<http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/sociology/popstudies/dp/dp01-5.pdf>

2001, Review of, Péron et al., Canadian Families at the Approach of the Year 2000. *Population Studies* 55(1): 99-100.

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Beaujot, Roderic and Alain Bélanger

2001, "Perspectives on below replacement fertility in Canada: Trends, desires and accommodations." Presented at IUSSP workshop on International Perspectives on Low Fertility: Trends, Theories and Policies, Tokyo, 21-23 March 2001.

<http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/sociology/popstudies/dp/dp01-6.pdf>

Boyd, Monica

2001, "Gender, Refugee Status and Permanent Settlement." pp. 103-124 in Rita J. Simon (ed.) Immigrant Women. New Brunswick(USA)Transaction Press.

2000, "Ethnicity and Immigrant Offspring". In Madeline Kalbach and Warren Kalbach (eds.) *Race and Ethnicity*. Toronto: Harcourt Brace.

2000, "Gender Inequality". In Robert J. Brym (ed.) *New Society: Sociology for the 21st Century*. 3rd. edition. Toronto: HBJ-Holt Canada.

2000, "Race in the Canadian Census". (Monica Boyd, Gustav Goldman, and Pamela White) In Leo Driedger and Shiva Halli (eds.) *Visible Minorities in Canada*. Montreal and Toronto: McGill, Queens and Carleton University Press.

2000, "Ethnic Variations in Young Adults Living with Parents". *Canadian Studies in Population* 27(1): 135-158.

2000, "Demographic Change and Young Adults Living with Parents", 1981-1996. (Monica Boyd and Doug Norris). *Canadian Studies in Population* 27(2):267-281.

2000, "100 Years of Immigration". (Monica Boyd and Michael Vickers). *Canadian Social Trends*. Autumn, No 58: 2-12.

2000, "Elder-Child Coresidence in the United States: Evidence from the 1990 Census", (Carl Schmertmann, Monica Boyd, William Serow and Douglas White). *Research on Aging* 22, no. 1(January):23-42.

2000, "Canadian, eh? Ethnic Origin Shifts in the Canadian Census". *Canadian Ethnic Studies*. 31 (3): 1-19.

Fong, Eric

2001, (Guest editor) Special Issue on Chinese Ethnic Economy, Asian and Pacific Migration Journal.

2001, "Participating in Ethnic Economy and Psychological Well Being," Asian and Pacific Migration Journal.

forthcoming, "The Social Consequences of Participating in Ethnic Economy," International Migration Review.

Richmond, Anthony

1999. "Citizens, Denizens and Exiles", *Citizenship Studies* vol. 3. no. 1.Feb.1999, pp. 151-154

2000. "Immigration Policy and Research in Canada: pure or applied ?" *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, vol .26. no. 1. January 2000. pp. 109-125

2000. "Wars and Peacekeeping" , *The Canadian Friend*, vol. 96 .no. 1. March 2000. pp. 9-11.

2000. "Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Britan: U.K. Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999". *Refuge*. vol. 19. no. 1. July,2000. pp. 35-42.

2000 . "Global Apartheid: A Postscript". *Refuge*, vol. 19. no. 4. pp. 8-13.

Wilkins, R, Houle C, Bethelot JM, Ross, N.

2000. "The changing health status of children in Canada." *Isuma* Autumn 2000;1(2):58-63. (www.isuma.net).

Weiguo Zhang

2002 (forthcoming). "Changing Nature of Family Relations in a Hebei Village in China," *Journal of Contemporary Asia*.

2001 (forthcoming). "Institutional Reforms, Population Policy, and Adoption of Children: Some Observations in a North China Village," *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*.

2000. "Dynamics of Marriage Change in Chinese Rural Society in Transition: A Study of a Northern Chinese Village," *Population Studies*. 54:57-69.

2000. "Earlier, Denser, but Fewer: Fertility Transition in a North China Village," *Genus*.

Other Publications and Products of Interest

Geocoding software from Statistics Canada

The SAS-based geocoding software application *Health PCCF+ Version 3F* (with postal codes up to November 2000) is now available. It can be obtained through the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) for university-based teaching and research; other licensees of the November 2000 PCCF can get it by calling Statistics Canada's Geography Division help desk (Geohelp) at 1-613-951-3889. For a free copy of the *User's Guide*, contact Russell Wilkins at Statistics Canada's Health Analysis and Modeling Group telephone: 1-613-951-5305
email: wilkrus@statcan.ca

State and Local Population Projections: Methodology and Analysis, Kluwer Academic/Plenum Press, February, 2001, by Stanley K. Smith, Jeff Tayman, and David A. Swanson.

This book focuses on the methodology and analysis of state and local population projections. It describes the most commonly used data sources and application techniques within each of three classes of projection methods (cohort-component, trend extrapolation, and structural models) and covers the components of population growth, the formation of assumptions, the development of evaluation criteria, and the determinants of forecast accuracy. It considers the strengths and weaknesses of various projection methods, paying special attention to the unique problems of making projections for small areas, and closes with an examination of technological and methodological changes affecting the production of small-area population projections.

Hardbound, ISBN 0-306-46492-6
EUR 109.00 / USD 95.00 / GBP 67.00

Paperback, ISBN 0-306-46493-4
EUR 49.00 / USD 42.50 / GBP 29.50

Call for Suggestions, Abstracts, Papers ...

2002 Canadian Population Society Meetings

Toronto, May 29 to 31, University of Toronto and Ryerson Polytechnic University

Dear Colleagues:

Though the 2001 CPS meetings are barely over, we need to think ahead to next year's sessions. I am asking you to submit to me your ideas and suggestions for session themes, special panel sessions, symposia and anything else of relevance toward the effective planning our meetings. I would also appreciate receiving notice of your willingness to organize and chair sessions. Some of you may---even at this early stage---have abstracts or even papers ready for possible submission. Feel free to send these along to me at your earliest convenience. The deadline for submitting suggestions is September 15, 2001. Please include details such as the session title, the names and addresses of suggested organisers / chairs and other relevant information. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Frank Trovato, Vice-President CPS (Ftrovato@ualberta.ca)

The Canadian failure in producing happy children

When Professor Frank Trovato asked me if I would accept to make a speech at our annual meeting, I was confronted with conflicting feelings.

First, I was tempted to give my usual answer: I am very sorry, but I cannot accept, because of the ... feminist wisdom. Let me explain. I have been a member of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women; and the remarkable women Commissioners I worked with, (that is thirty years ago), were so convincing about parental-role sharing that when I became the father of twins at the age of 56, I decided to stop participating in conferences that implied sleeping away from home. This is 19 years ago; but my sedentary life was maintained by the arrival of a girl ten years later. That is 9 years ago.

I must say that during all these years, I have been puzzled by the remarkable strategies of my female colleagues, some of whom are or were mothers of young children, who travelled every month around the world, produced a paper and delivered a conference every week, all that without neglecting their husband!

But my last child is now nine years old, and I thought I could let my second feeling prevail, that is to be quite honoured by your invitation and to accept it with pleasure and gratitude.

But what to tell you? I have to put aside any possible methodological topic, for lack of competence: I am not too sure about what **meso or macro levels of analysis** look like, and I am even unable to use properly the Statistics Canada C-D Rom containing the 1996 census data.

What then can I talk about? Well, I thought I could make some reflections on the subject of a small book I published last autumn; it concerns the category of Canadian citizens who probably are the most neglected by our society as a whole: children. Among all large categories of Canadians, children have the highest proportion of poor. (*Les enfants, la richesse et pauvreté au Canada*, Montréal, Varia, 2000, 190 p.).

We are here a little far from technical demography and much closer to social policies. Perhaps I must tell you right now that my intention is not only to describe situations and policies, but also to take a **critical view about the functioning of our society** and even to suggest some measures to improve the situation of children and their parents.

I presume that most of you are more or less reluctant to that kind of speech. I will ask you to leave for a few minutes your usual purely scientific atmosphere and engage into -- or at least listen to -- what economists do without the slightest hesitation: **politics**.

My main argument here is that Canada is neglecting its children. It is neglecting them quantitatively; and this is a statement that should not surprise demographers, otherwise I hope you would feel a little guilty about it. Canada neglects them also qualitatively, through different ways, the most obvious being that Canada leaves a high proportion of its children (and their parents, of course) in poverty or semi-poverty. My presentation will have three parts:

- Canada does not produce enough children;
- Too many of our children and their parents are poor, semi-poor, or neglected;
- There are remedies that Governments and society could use to improve the situation.

1. A rather weak fertility

Let us start with the quantitative aspect: the level of fertility. One of the striking aspects of the picture is that we don't really care about it. The total fertility rate in 1997 was 1.6 for Canada, thanks to the Territories and the Prairies. Otherwise, it would have been 1.5 (which is what it was for the wise Ontarians as well as the unpredictable Québécois). **That is nearly 30% less than the replacement level.** Compared to that level, Canada is lacking 110 000 births a year (349 000 were registered in 1997). Apparently, nobody cares.

But after all, why should we care? Let economists get excited when the gross national product is reduced by half of one percent, but let us keep calm when fertility is reduced by half within 20 generations.

I don't pretend that we have good criteria to decide if fertility is high enough or not. I agree that the question is well above the range of what can be proven scientifically. But nevertheless, **we know a bit** about the question:

- We know that such a level of fertility will lead to a proportion of around **28% over the age of 65, within 40 years**. That is more than twice the present proportion.
- We know that doubling the proportion of the aged, everything being equal, will double (approximately) **the cost of health services** that will be financed **by each future tax payer**.
- We know that the **cost of our public pension system** -- which is not very generous, by the way -- will probably double, perhaps triple, for each worker.
- We also know that **some remedies** could be used against these inconveniences -- I say "inconveniences" ; I am **not speaking of catastrophes!** These remedies could reduce the cost of ageing, if they were used. For instance, efforts could be done to keep or reinsert aged workers into the labor force. One doesn't see much of such efforts.
- It is also true that increase of **productivity** could check these negative consequences, at least partially. But there are strong limitations to a possible effect of that sort .

Briefly speaking, the effects of ageing are burdensome enough, so that we get concerned about its main cause: low fertility. A return to the replacement level would bring the proportion of 65 and over to **22%**. That is a reduction of one fifth compared to the 28 % I mentioned earlier.

But there is a **substitute** to producing children: immigrants. The true immigrant substitutes would be newly-born babies without their parents. Immigrants of other ages are partial substitutes:

- a) first, they shall become aged more quickly than babies and are then a poorer remedy for ageing;
- b) second, compared to Canadian born, the geographical distribution of the latter is more diversified than that of immigrants, who tend to settle in large cities.

On the other hand, immigrants present desirable qualities in greater proportion than Canadian born. For instance, the proportion of immigrants who are demographers is certainly much greater than that of Canadian born!

Is there a limit to substituting immigrants to babies? **Norman Ryder** has calculated that with a fertility level of 1.6 children per woman, a stabilisation of the population through the help of immigrants would lead to a population **with 25% of immigrants**. That seems to be quite acceptable. How far can we go in that direction? By interpolation, one finds that with a total fertility of 1 child, the stabilisation of the population by immigrants would lead to a population with about 60% immigrants.

What would be a desirable level of fertility for our country? The right answer to that question is unknown. Nevertheless, I am quite convinced that **the correct answer is not "any level"**. But there exists a so widely extended silence about the question that one has the impression that it does not matter, and that **zero fertility would be quite OK**.

Until recently, in most Western countries, it has been generally accepted that fertility is a private affair, that governments should not interfere in that domain, and that any way, there is no convincing reason to justify the belief that fertility might be too low. Not to mention the astonishing accusation that the idea of a higher level of fertility is to be associated with fascism! ... or to papism, as it happened to me.

This aversion for a possible desirable level of fertility --whatever it might be -- is changing: in 1996, 14 European countries declared to the United Nations survey that their fertility was too low.

2. Children deprived of happiness

Let us switch to the second deficiency. Not only is Canada affected by a scarcity of children. But a great proportion of them are submitted to two serious inconveniences: first, the fragility of their parents conjugal life; second, poverty or semi-poverty.

a) Let us recall the astonishing flexibility of Canadian marriages or other kinds of unions. Three of my colleagues at University of Montréal have done, during the last eight years or so, a remarkable work on that burgeoning phenomenon. Nicole Marcil-Gratton, Evelyne LapierreAdamcyk and Céline Le Bourdais have followed a suggestion of our colleague Sylvia Wargon: they have analysed family phenomena from the point of view of children. Some important findings of their work is now accessible in English, and can be found in the recent census monograph on The Canadian Families. Here are a few facts, revealed by Nicole Marcil-Gratton, through the analysis of the Statistics Canada longitudinal survey of children (1998):

*Among children born in 1971-1973, 12.5% were either born of a single mother or had experienced their parents separation **before the age of 6**. Among children born in 1987-1988, the proportion was **24 %**. (also before 6 years old).*

But some children are submitted more than once to the transformation of their family. Let us go back to the generation 1971-1973, which is a rather calm generation, compared to more recent ones. Among those who have experienced the separation of their parents before the age of **16 (one fifth of the cohort)**, almost 40% had already found a step father or a step mother; one fifth had lost this second father or mother and were back to the precarious life of single-parent family; and one eighth were in a second step-family, which means a third set of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, not to mention the new sets of brothers and sisters.

Some of these episodes are not dramatic, but most probably many of them are. It is not easy to estimate long term effects of such a turmoil in the life of young children. Apparently, they are often negative.

Looking at these phenomena, probably the most useful preoccupation is not related to the quality of parachutes, that is divorces, separations and family rebuilding; but to the circumstances that have conducted to the takeoff of the main adventure, that is to the decision to have a child. My main question would be: " Why is it that such a proportion of young adults engage in the business of having children with so little chance of raising them without too much familial turbulence?

b) With the second kind of inconveniences, we are on a safer statistical ground, thanks to Stat Can, which provide us with remarkable information on family income and level of living, for different kinds of families and for different categories of Canadian population. I assume that one can use the proportion under the low-income level as an indication of the proportion of poor, whatever definition one adopts for poverty.

In order of decreasing poverty, we find first single-parent families, with 57 % under the low-income level (61% when the parent is the mother). That is in 1996. They represent around 15% of Canadian children. Then come the old persons living alone: 48%. After the lone elderly, one finds another group of children: those who are members of a family of three children or more under six years of age: 32% are under the low-income level. The percentage is only 12 for families without children.

On the whole, 21 % of Canadian children were living under the low-income level in 1996.

There is no reason for being surprised by such a situation. It is the result of two elements: the cost of children and the rather parsimonious financial help of our governments. On the one hand, the cost of an average child of a middle income family is about 8 to 9 thousand dollars a year. Over the 18 years of childhood, it corresponds to 6.5 years of full time work. Mind you: this does not take into account the opportunity cost, that is the loss of income deriving from work reduction. (My estimate is that as an average, opportunity cost must amount to 3.7 full years of work).

On the other hand, the financial help of the federal and provincial governments, although far from negligible, is not very efficient. I shall not enter into the details of the government help. But according to a series of studies done recently by many social scientists (including our colleagues Beaujot and Anne Gauthier), that financial help has two characteristics: a) first, it is rather modest and places Canada in the last third of industrialised countries; b) second, it is very strongly oriented towards poorest families. One can see it as a tool to fight against poverty (which is desirable), but not much as a significant compensation for the cost of children and consequently neither as a tool to reduce the important loss of well-being of families with children.

Let me add that despite the Canadian focus on poor families, it does not succeed very well in getting them out of poverty.

3. Remedies: principles

Remedies exist... in other countries! There is a whole bunch of measures that could be adopted, and I will propose some of them later on. But lists of measures are not very useful if we don't adopt a new view of things, as well as intellectual strategies without which one goes nowhere.

- First of all, I am more and more convinced that the **social nature of children** has changed. I will use, here, the vocabulary of economists. Economists differentiate between two kinds of goods: free goods, those which exist in abundance without almost any effort to use them; and economic goods, which are characterised by scarcity, that is the necessity to make efforts to get them. Well, I think that from the point of view of society, children were more or less free goods until the sixties; they now are economic goods for which society has to pay a much higher price than not long ago.
- Another principle would be to avoid mixture of family policy with other objectives, at least at the time of building the policy. I mean that if one wants to construct an ensemble of measures to improve the children well-being, one would better put aside other objectives, **however important they may be**. I see two kinds of objectives that can destroy or at least paralyse any intellectual effort to build a family policy. The first is the fight against poverty; the second is the pursuit of gender equality or equity. Let me be very clear here: I am convinced that **these objectives are absolutely desirable**; but they are to be dissociated from family policy at least at the stage of intellectual configuration. We can leave the problem of conflicts between objectives to politicians. That is their job.
- Third principle: the decision not to have any child is, of course, a perfectly respectable right.
- Finally, children having become socially scarce, those who decide not to have children or to have only one, should participate to the cost of other children. First by their taxes, and also by accepting inconveniences,... in the functioning of the labour market for instance. Those sub-fertile citizens will profit later on from the existence of these children and they should pay for them. True, they already do that for the public cost of children. They also should pay a part of the private cost.

Policies: objectives

Two main objectives should be pursued: first, a level of fertility close to the replacement level; second, the improvement in the well-being of children.

I would not be tempted to be radical on the necessity to reach the replacement level. One has to keep in mind the fact that up to a point, immigrants can be considered as substitutes to births, with some particular advantages.

Yet, and that will be my last comment on the merits of the 2.1 fertility rate, I cannot take out of my mind the idea that any healthy living population (vegetal, animal or human) should at least reproduce itself. And that there is something deficient in the organisation of a human society where raising children is not fun enough to have an average of two per adult. I admit that this statement is more poetry than science. But why should we leave poetry to ecologists only?

Policies: monetary measures

Let us come to monetary measures. In the small book I have written on Canadian children, I have presented a rough set of financial measures that could be adopted. I will not enter into the arithmetic of them. But let me say that I have estimated the supplementary cost of a system whereby three things would be done:

- The direct cost of children, at a very modest standard of life, would be free of income tax;
- Half of the private cost of children, again at a modest level, would be compensated by universal family allowances;
- A supplementary allowance of about 6000\$ a year would be given to all parents of children under 5 or 6 years of age. That is approximately the price of day care. My idea is that the state does not have to tell parents what kind of education their young children should receive: day care, home education by parents or home education with a baby-sitter. All these should be subsidised the same way.

The supplementary cost of these measures is enormous. Without any intention to serve as a substitute for Mr. Martin's accountants, my estimate is about 25 billion dollars per year. That looks enormous indeed. But I have been comforted by the comparison with the **interests** we pay, every year through our taxes, for the public debt of our governments. These interests amount to about 75 billion dollars, three times the cost of my proposal. So that with time, if Mr. Martin continues to cut these interests by 2 billion dollars a year, it would be possible to finance my proposal, progressively, without a single dollar of supplementary tax. It would take less than 15 years. May be I am ideologically insane, but in my mind, it is much preferable to give that money to our children than to the holders of governments bonds.

Other measures

Of course, all problems are not settled with money, but a good part of them are. It is too easy for people like us, who earn from 50 to 100 thousand dollars a year, to proclaim that there is more than money to be happy. There is indeed many other things to do.

The major field of action is the world of work. Many suggestions have been presented to alleviate the difficulty of merging "Earnings and Caring", as Rod Beaujot calls this difficult association. I have nothing to add on this subject.

It is also evident that schools could do more to adapt themselves to working parents. Canadians are proud of their health care system. Why not including dental care? And why should 19-year-old students pay full fare in the public transport system?

As a final suggestion, I would propose that the CBC public credits depend on its production of educational programs for adolescents.

I guess you find that I have lead you a little too far away from true demography or respectable population problems. I have two arguments to defend myself:

- First, it is refreshing to abandon, once a while, our dear scientific methods for ethics and politics, particularly if that may help some neglected category of our society;
- Second, if social scientists, and particularly the most scientific of them, demographers, don't make political excursions, policies might lack some important ingredients.

These excursions do not go without risks: one can be mistaken and there is no textbook to tell you. Moreover, you might get caught into a dispute. But that can only be beneficial in a country where differences of opinions are quasi sins; where the legislator does not have the courage to set a law on abortion; and where one of the major political parties is named "progressive conservative".

The Research Data Centres: a new era for quantitative social research in Canada

As part of a response to the challenges that confront Canadian policy research, a joint task force assembled by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and Statistics Canada proposed the creation of a series of Research Data Centres (RDCs). The RDCs will be located throughout the country, so researchers will not be obliged to travel to Ottawa to access Statistics Canada data. At the same time, the centres will be administered in accordance with all the confidentiality rules required under the *Statistics Act*. The Research Data Centres will meet, in a single location, both the need to facilitate access to data for crucial social research and the need to protect the confidentiality and security of Canadians' information.

In addition to the benefits to Canadians as a whole, the establishment of the RDCs will also directly benefit the Canadian research community. It is anticipated that the availability of the centres will allow the host universities and affiliated regional universities to attract top quality social scientists, and will assist in the development of strong programs in a number of disciplines. The RDCs could also support the training of Canadian graduate students (through work on research projects) in quantitative research in a number of disciplines, using the latest research techniques and data sources.

Researchers wishing access to the confidential microdata in the Research Data Centres may submit proposals to SSHRC at the following address: <http://www.sshrc.ca>. SSHRC will co-ordinate the adjudication of the program submissions based primarily on the research merit of the proposal, but also taking account of the need to access detailed data and the capacity of the centre. The proposals will be reviewed by a peer committee consisting largely of academic researchers, with representation from other research communities and Statistics Canada. Researchers who are conducting publicly available research on a not-for-profit basis at universities, research institutes, government agencies, and other public research organisations are eligible to submit proposals.

Gustave Goldmann, Program Manager
gustave.goldmann@statcan.ca

A report from Council ...

While the full minutes of the Annual General Meeting are being sent separately, it is useful to note in the newsletter some of the main decisions and discussions of the AGM and two Council meetings held in Quebec city.

Committee Structure

The Canadian Population Society will continue with the same committees for the second year of the current mandate. These committees are as follows:

Program: Frank Trovato (chair), Gustave Goldmann, Doug Norris, K.V. Rao, Judith Rempel

Student paper competition: Shirley Loh (chair), T.R. Balakrishnan, David Hall, Feng Hou, Madeline Kalbach, Margaret Michalowski, Edward Ng, K.V. Rao

Membership: Rajulton Fernando (chair), Therese Abada, Heather Drybrugh, K.V. Rao, Ravi Verma, Richard Wanner, Alison Yacyshyn

National: Eric Fong (chair), David Hall, Judith Rempel, Mark Rosenberg

International: Ravi Verma (chair), Rod Beaujot, G. Edward Ebanks, Fernando Mata, Alan Simmons

Communications: Judith Rempel (chair), Gustave Goldmann, K.V. Rao

It is understood that the chair of these committees is free to add other members, thus all CPS members should feel free to volunteer or offer suggestions to the committees. See the Newsletter of October 2000 for the committee mandates.

Emeritus status

We have adopted a membership category of emeritus: persons aged 65 and over can have this status by paying \$30.00 per year or \$300.00 for lifetime.

Broadening the focus of CPS meetings

Considerable interest was expressed toward broadening the attendance at the meetings. We would like to follow the model of the PAA that manages to incorporate a good diversity of sessions while maintaining the focus on population. That is, besides the traditional topics of fertility, mortality, migration, population growth, distribution and composition, we would like to include questions related to such areas as family, minority groups, health, mobility, socio-economic status, education, work, the life course, etc. We would like to see ourselves as a home for empirical research, both quantitative and qualitative, that somehow relates to population. Please feel free to send any topic of research that you would like to have considered for forthcoming meetings.

Besides people in related academic settings, we would like to encourage more attendance from Health Canada, Human Resources Development Canada, Citizenship and Immigration, Metropolis, and provincial agencies associated with population estimates, projections, and vital statistics.

Please pass the word to persons who might be interested, inviting them to send suggestions for topics that would interest them at the meetings. If you want the president to send a letter, just send a note to Rbeaujot@uwo.ca.

Training sessions preceding meeting

We are exploring the possibility of having a day or two of training sessions preceding the meetings in Toronto. This could include questions like applied demography, new data, longitudinal methods. Ravi Verma and Gustave Goldmann have volunteered to investigate the feasibility and interest, and organize this training. Please make your interests know and forward any suggestions: vermarav@statcan.ca, gustave.goldmann@statcan.ca

Meetings next year

The meetings next year are in Toronto (Ryerson), and our dates are 28-30 May. The general sense was that we should have a repeat performance in terms of the call for suggestions, various deadlines and organization. We would like to have two or three joint sessions, there is strong interest not to have parallel sessions, there is interest to have more on international demography, social indicators, possibly local level estimates and projections. We will also have a presidential address. Please send any suggestions to Frank.Trovato@ualberta.ca

National Committee

Eric Fong has proposed that we work toward a volume based on the 2001 census, to showcase the extensiveness and comprehensiveness of demographic research in Canada. Please send any suggestions to: fong@chass.utoronto.ca.

International Committee

More exchanges with Action Canada for Population and Development and Canadian Society for International Health are encouraged. The ACPD web site is <http://www.acpd.ca>, from there one can subscribe to Friday Facts. Please send any suggestions to Ravi Verma: vermarav@statcan.ca.

Federation of Canadian Demographers

Both the CPS and the Association des Demographes du Quebec are making financial contributions to the conference on "Demographic Futures in the Context of Globalization: Public Policy Issues" to be held in Ottawa on 14-15 December 2001. The deadline for submissions has been changed to 15 July 2001. People who do not have the necessary material should contact Bali Ram: rambali@statcan.ca.

Student Paper Competition

It has been decided that winners of this competition would be eligible for subsequent competitions, and that all abstracts submitted will be considered, as long as the full paper has been sent by the required deadline.

Canadian Studies in Population

As indicated in the report from Wayne McVey, the journal benefits from considerable support from SSHRC, the University of Alberta and the Department of Sociology at the U of A. Several special issues are in progress with guest editors: migration and globalization (K.A. Gupta), longitudinal methodology (R. Fernando), issue in honour of Anatole Romaniuc (P. Krishnan). Vol 28(1) is in press, and a 25-year cumulative index is to be completed by the end of 2001. The editor encourages the submission of quality manuscripts.

Newsletter

The newsletter will be posted on the web site, with a notification through canpopsoc@yahoogroups.com. All persons who indicated on the membership renewal form that they want a hard copy will continue to receive paper copy by regular mail.

Communication

In order not to abuse of the e-distribution list, all messages will go out from J. Rempel or R. Beaujot, please contact: rempej@jrsolutions.net or rbeaujot@uwo.ca

Electronic Possibilities for Canadian Studies in Population

The Council has had an initial discussion of the possibility of publishing CSP on-line. This is very much an initial discussion that now needs to be extended to the University of Alberta and the membership of CPS. The discussion needs to include whether to consider this further, whether there would be both paper and electronic formats, and the format that would be used for an e-journal (e.g. PDF, HTML, MS Word). Recall that the Humanities and Social Science Federation of Canada did a consultation in the various societies which concluded that peer-reviewed electronic journals would have the same status as traditional journals. Clearly the advantages of online format regards the speed and extent of distribution, and thus a number of journals are moving in this direction. A disadvantage may be that some people need a paper copy on their desk in order to pay attention to a journal. In this regard, it was proposed that each article include a two-page executive summary that would be outside of the fire-wall and that would be very easy to access and print. In many cases, such as for teaching or general reference, the executive summary would be sufficient. Current technology include the securing of text so it is no more easily hacked/modified after publication than the paper product. Indexing of the material becomes an automatic function, with more search possibilities.

Persons with little experience in this area may want to take a look at Demographic Research which is published only on-line and is free to all interested persons.

See <http://www.demographic-research.org/>.

Judith Rempel has set up a proto-type on our web site that uses a fire-wall. To access this example go to:

<http://www.canpopsoc.org/journal/>

userid: beaujot

password: puzzle

As indicated, we would like to discuss this further. Please feel free to contact members of Council or Judith Rempel: rempej@jrsolutions.net.



