

REVIEWS

Demographic Analysis: Methods, Results, Applications, by Roland Pressat, translated by Judah Matras (Chicago, Aldine-Atherton, 1972), 498 pages, US\$ 14.50.

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Until very recently finding out about demographic methods wasn't easy. There were library copies of the early U.N. method manuals (Nos. 1-3, all circa mid-fifties and long out of print), and of course there was Barclay's thin but important *Techniques of Demographic Analysis* (1958). Other valuable books were available on demography or population studies, but they were sketchy on methodology, often ignoring altogether the special problems of data analysis in less developed countries.

We have come upon better times, however. Demographic methods are elaborated in several recent volumes, among them: *Methods of Estimating Basic Demographic Measures from Incomplete Data* (1967) by the United Nations, *The Demography of Tropical Africa* (1968) by William Brass, Ansley Coale *et. al.*, and *Population: Facts and Methods of Demography* (1971) by Nathan Keyfitz and Wilhelm Flieger. In addition, a virtual catalogue of demographic nitty-gritty has appeared in *The Methods and Materials of Demography* (1971) by Henry Shryock, Jacob Siegel and others.

Overshadowed by these new volumes is Roland Pressat's fine "old" book, now newly translated and updated by Judah Matras for English audiences. The first edition of *L'analyse*

demographique appeared in 1961; a second expanded version, in 1969. Matras' translation includes the entire content of the first edition, part five of the second and a number of U.S. and British examples (supplied by Matras) as well.

Pressat's material is presented in five parts. The first (chapters 1-3) is the least substantive but conceptually the most important. "Location in Time" (2) is an excellent exposition of time as the fundamental demographic variable. Pressat introduces the Lexis diagram, the cohort life-line, and double (interval *and* cohort) classification of population phenomena. "Rates in Demography" (3) is concerned with techniques of computation and uses the Lexis Grid to locate base populations and events in time.

The second part, "Vital Events" (4-8), includes an introductory section (4) on demographic rates and their limitations, and on cohort versus period analyses, as well as a description of Henry's paradigm for the analysis of vital phenomena. Chapters 5 and 6 cover the study of mortality. There is some descriptive material, mostly European, and an extended discussion of the life table. Chapter 7 is an excellent discussion of nuptiality, a topic often skipped entirely in demography texts. In chapter 8, four approaches to fertility analysis are described in turn: conventional rates, duration of marriage, birth order, and the statistical analysis of the family. The author presents detail on topics which are considered only lightly if at all in other texts, to wit: family histories, natural fertility, complex relationships between cohort and period fertility, and parity progression ratios. His section on the family, however, is disappoint-

ingly narrow; largely, it is a discussion of fecundability and of legitimate (marital) fertility by family size and other family characteristics.

In his part III (9–11) Pressat has done the demographic novice an enormous service. He considers population composition, and develops, with painstaking care, the stationary (life table) and stable population concepts. Somehow, the entire presentation remains intuitive (non-mathematical) and cumulative, always moving smoothly from earlier material. Because he has laid the necessary cornerstones of concept and notation, Pressat's elementary discussion of replacement (renewal) of generations (11) is one of the most lucid available in English – again, no mathematics, just elementary arithmetic.

Part IV (12–15), an overview of demographic projection methods, is a useful presentation of projection methodology, though it is no better than a number of other discussions already available in English.

Pressat's part V (16–17) is rather disjointed from the earlier chapters (recall that this material was added for the second French edition). In the span of eight pages, and with little explanation, the author introduces functions and limits, as well as differential and integral calculus. His discussion assumes prior familiarity with all these topics, but we are never warned of this. Only for readers who have not faltered in chapter 16 will Pressat's discussion (17) of instantaneous rates and of Malthusian, stable, and stationary populations be useful.

Throughout, Pressat's approach is conceptual and his exposition carefully cumulative. For example, when the life table is introduced we are given full computational detail, but the definition and calculation of ${}_nL_x$ is not introduced until we have first understood what is meant by a "stationary population."

The presentation makes extensive use of graphic devices. The Lexis Grid is introduced early and appears repeatedly, always in consistent notation. As a result, computational and conceptual analogies between mortality, fertility and nuptiality processes are readily apparent.

The volume's few deficiencies relate largely to an apparent lack of concern for problems of data quality. Much of the discussion is based on

French events double-classified by age and year of birth. Philippine data – in fact data for most countries – do not appear in this form. There are a few other gaps: migration is barely mentioned, as is family and household composition. And, there is little descriptive material on *world* demographic patterns – the data shown are almost always European. Finally, some of Pressat's (or Matras') terms may prove puzzling: a "quotient," for example, is a probability, but not a rate.

Because it is systematic, lucid and self-contained, I find myself – even in the face of many new books – recommending this "old" one. Pressat offers us a trade-off: somewhat less cookbook detail but much more conceptual clarity. The demographer who has found himself confused by the hodgepodge of disparate methods available to him would do well to settle himself by spending a couple of weeks with this volume. Don't buy it however – it is much too expensive. Have your library acquire a copy, then borrow it and read it through.

For the reader who does wish to invest in an excellent cookbook, unsystematic and not very conceptual, but clearly written, well illustrated and quite complete, we enthusiastically recommend *Methods and Materials of Demography*, available from the U.S. Government Printing Office at a bargain price – 888 pages in two volumes for only U.S. \$7.00 – examples, worksheets, everything.

Philippine Migration: The Settlement of the Digos-Padada Valley, Davao Province, by Paul D. Simkins and Frederick L. Wernstedt, with a note by Karl J. Pelzer (New Haven, Conn., Southeast Asia Studies, Yale University, 1971), 150 pages, tables, US\$5.75, distributed by The Cellar Book Shop, Detroit.

FRANCISCO F. CLAVER
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The book, as the title indicates, is the result of