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Number 48 of the Demographic Studies Review includes five articles:

- ↪ The role of Urban Green Spaces in the Health and Wel-being of the population
Authors: *Paula Santana; Cláudia Costa; Rita Santos; Adriana Loureiro*
- ↪ Mortality: compression, shifting and causes of death (Portugal:1950-2005)
Author: *Isabel Tiago de Oliveira*
- ↪ First approach to fertility, the work conditions and policies to support childbearing at a regional level
Authors: *Maria Luís Rocha Pinto; Maria Cristina Sousa Gomes*
- ↪ To get married in the nineteenth century Lisbon – two parish in analysis
Authors: *Maria Helena Santos; Maria Isabel Baptista; Sónia Cardoso; Susana Clemente*
- ↪ The Demographic Changes in Portugal
Authors: *Maria José Carrilho; Lurdes Patrício*

Statistics Portugal has just published the number 48 of Demographic Studies Review.

This journal has a long tradition in the field of demographic studies in Portugal. The first number was published in 1945 and since then it became a reference in the field of demographic studies for those who intends to analyze the demographic trends in both national and international levels.

After some years without being edit the Review was re-edited in 2002 and since then has been issued every six months, with the first number based on specific theme, whilst the second issue was of a general nature.

This number of the Demographic Studies Review which is now coming out, publishes five articles of which abstracts are presented down:



THE ROLE OF URBAN GREEN SPACES IN THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE POPULATION

The precise identification of the environmental characteristics that can influence health (or sickness) of the populations and the ways of measuring and monitoring them has become one of the great challenges in the political and academic fields.

The Alma-Ata Declaration, from about 30 years ago, stressed the role of the various institutions and activity sectors in the prevention of sickness and in the promotion of health, especially in the countries with the higher economic and social vulnerability. The point was the need for expansion of the evaluation, planning and public health acting, beyond the strict health sector.

In fact, the features of urban space in its multiple dimensions and the territory planning practices may positively or negatively affect the well-being and the health of the populations, thus being as much or even more important than the characteristics of the individuals in the understanding of health matters.

The offer of safe, clean and comfortable Urban Green Spaces (UGS) has impacts on health, directly through its association with the self assessed health status and the longevity and, indirectly, through the improvement of environmental quality. For example, the proximity of UGS to residential areas contributes for improvement in the quality of the air, it reduces the effect of pollution and the “urban heat island” effect and it also gives residents a physical environment that leads to more physical activity, including walking. Furthermore, the existence of UGS near residences and its use by people improves the concentration and discipline of children (especially girls) in their everyday activities, cutting down urban stress and fatigue, with consequences on the reduction of aggressiveness and violence, thus influencing the ability to get along with your neighbours and the feeling of belonging to a place (neighbourhood, city).

The aim of this article is to evaluate the offer (in terms of quality, security, comfort, etc.) and the use of urban green spaces and its potential influence on the well-being and on the individual and community health, contributing for i) the advance in the knowledge about the association between the offer and the use of green spaces and its impact on urban health; ii) the development of new methodologies of analysis and assessment of the green spaces.

The focus is also made on the potentialities of the Geographical Information Systems (GIS). This tool has allowed the precise and adequate assessment of the offer in terms of the needs of the potentially user community, taking into account the neighbourhood, parish and municipality. Health being a strategic issue for the municipal, regional and national development, it is relevant to develop methodologies that allow decision-makers and civil society to have access to the adequate information for the different scales of intervention.

MORTALITY: COMPRESSION, SHIFTING AND CAUSES OF DEATH (PORTUGAL:1950-2005)

This analysis on Portuguese mortality, between 1950 and 2005, examine two different perspectives about mortality evolution: the idea of concentration-rectangularization and the proposal of the shifting mortality. In Portugal, the increase in life expectancy is associated with the decrease of the dispersion, if all deaths are considered; but, on the other hand, there is stability in the dispersion, if the mortality before 10 years old is excluded.

The death causes effect in the mortality dispersion is also examined by means of a cause elimination life tables, express the diversity of consequences in age mortality distribution draw from each death cause.



FIRST APPROACH TO FERTILITY, THE WORK CONDITIONS AND POLICIES TO SUPPORT CHILDBEARING AT A REGIONAL LEVEL

This paper developed an exploratory exercise, at a local level, analyzing the fertility decline in relation with work conditions and childbearing policies.

Regarding the results and the importance of socioeconomic variables to explain fertility it becomes clear the need to think about the social-demographic reality connected with national and local policies. It is also important to emphasize the need to link family and work policies.

TO GET MARRIED IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY LISBON – TWO PARISH IN ANALYSIS

In the XIX century Lisbon was the capital of a country where problems of economic, social and political order were increasing. In this context the nineteenth century city was developing in an unequal way and it is important to understand some tendencies. This was the method of enquiry we opted for in the study of nuptials in two Lisbon parish councils – Conceição-a-Nova and Santos-o-Velho – during the period from 1864 to 1890. In this analysis, it was possible to distinguish two different forms of systems of access to marriage: one directed to men and the other directed to women. These differences were also related to the specific structures by sex and age of the population.

THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN PORTUGAL

Over the period 2001-2009, Portugal experienced a population growth at a weak and decreasing rate. This growth results almost exclusively of the net migration, since the natural change is very low, becoming, in average, negative in last three years. Fertility remains at levels far below those needed to renew the generations, longevity increases, and both these factors strengthen the process of demographic ageing.

The new family models in Portugal are the result of the significant fall in the number of marriages and the strong rise of the number of wedlock births, the number of divorces and the average age at marriage.

This paper intends to study the patterns of demographic variables responsible for the major changes in both population size and age structure of the population and culminating in its significant ageing.