Furthermore, we took steps in preparing new research on health systems in India, conducted research on the consequences of future demographic trends on housing demand in northern Netherlands, and finalized the abortion and contraceptive use research in Kosovo. And for the second half of 2007 we have new plans for research and education. Now that Leo van Wissen is fully recovered, we eagerly look forward to the forthcoming summer holidays and the next academic year.

Wishing you nice summer holidays and renewed energy for the next academic year!

Kind regards,
Fanny Janssen (Chief Editor)
Find below some impressions on our Master's in Population Studies by last year's Master's students. Leila Tussupbayeva and Annemarie Ernsten were kind enough to share their experiences.

Leila Tussupbayeva

I always dreamed to study abroad at one of the well-known universities of Europe. This year my dream came true when I obtained a state scholarship ‘Bolashak’ and I became a Master’s student in Population Studies at the University of Groningen.

My interest in demography originated from my work with UNFPA in Kazakhstan. During that time I got acquainted with many new and interesting things about demography and population. Furthermore, the increasing attention to demographic issues in our country in recent years together with the lack of demographic expertise in the country made me think about education in this field.

During the Master's in Population Studies I learned a lot of interesting and useful things which I believe will help me very much in my further career. The programme was built in a very logical way starting from theories of demographic behaviour through research proposal to demographic methods and analytical techniques to practical application of acquired knowledge in the master's thesis.

What I liked most about the study was the opportunity to meet both academic staff and practitioners which helped to understand both theoretical and practical sides of studying demography. I also liked the interactions between students and lecturers which were very friendly and supportive. Also, the attitude of our teachers and their great enthusiasm and dedication to their job was very motivating. The combination of theoretical classes with practical workshops was really helpful. Also, I especially enjoyed the atmosphere of friendship and cooperation with my classmates, and the time that we spent together. Without their support it would be much more difficult to succeed in studying and socializing.

It was a pity that the programme lasted only for one year, as I would prefer to study the topics in more detail. Also I would have liked more student team work so that to learn more from each other.

With both the theoretical and practical knowledge obtained, I wish to work at a demographic research institute which I believe will be established soon in Kazakhstan.

Annemarie Ernsten

“We are pleased to welcome you in our Master’s in Population Studies next year!”

This was the last sentence of the admission letter I received from Inge Hutter previous summer. Having had quite some troubles finishing my Bachelor in Modern Middle East studies this letter felt like a big hug. And this was not all. From the start of the year I got the feeling that we – the students - were much appreciated.

Now that I am two weeks away from presenting my Master's thesis it is time to reflect on things. During this last year I never regretted my choice for Population Studies. Of course there were hard moments. Especially in the beginning I thought I would never be able to understand all theories. And it was quite a scary moment when during one of the first classes I was asked what my thesis would be about. But after a few weeks I realized that I found myself at home.

What I liked most this year were my fellow students. Being with about ten people we learned to know each other quite quickly, probably also due to the many drinks that were organized. I really enjoyed the class discussions and conversations between courses.

With some of them I prepared almost all exams, which was very helpful. When I have to mention something I did not like that much, I think that would be the small number of regular lecturers. Although all our lecturers were nice and we had many guest lecturers there is not much flexibility when someone is absent.

At this moment, I have no clear plans about what I will do after receiving my diploma. I think I would like to conduct more research. But at first I will go travelling and/or working abroad or do an internship somewhere. Who knows, while being abroad, I might come across an interesting topic for a PhD application.
While quite a lot is known about child spacing and survival chances of children, much less is known about child spacing and women's health.

The book describes the child spacing behaviour of women in rural Karnataka, South India, as embedded in the economic and socio-cultural context in which the women live. Adopting a life-course perspective, child spacing is related to other events in the reproductive career (first menstruation, marriage) and reproductive health issues such as sexuality and contraceptive use.

Women marry early, have their children and then often opt for sterilization. Modern spacing methods are rarely used: women think they have negative effects on their health status which is already low. Women indicate that the most important health problems for women in the villages are related to pregnancy and delivery, white discharge and general weakness.

Different cultural schemas can be identified: heating (ushna kaavu) and cooling (tampu) and pollution and purity, motivating reproductive health behaviour such as during menstruation, the use of the oral pill, the treatment of white discharge.

Since young married women are fully dependent upon their husband's family, the role of the mother-in-law becomes quite important. While women think that men have an important influence on their reproductive health behaviour, men turn out to have hardly any knowledge about these reproductive health issues.

The research has provided evidence for the formulation of a health educational campaign, called Spandana, which is a collaboration of the researchers with FPAI Dharwad. Spandana was implemented in the period 2000-2006.

Migration is expected to become the most important growth component, with natural growth stagnating in most regions. Foreign migration especially, is expected to improve relative to a rather modest trend in domestic migration.

The authors recommend that relevant local shareholders should be included in the process of population projections, and that national projections should be used as a benchmark for these expectations. This improves awareness of relevant population processes, and the uncertainties surrounding them.

This is a Dutch publication: “Demografische trends en de ontwikkeling van kwantitatieve en kwalitatieve woningbehoeftes; een verkenning voor de noordelijke provincies”.

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Visitors to the PRC

- January 19, Prof. Irudaya Rajan from the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, Kerala (India) visited the PRC to discuss possible collaborations. His current research areas are ‘Migration’ and ‘Ageing’.
- In May, Madina Rashidova from Uzbekistan visited the PRC to talk about a possible PhD. Madina is in the European Doctoral School of Demography, at the Max Planck Institute in Rostock.
- June 7, Dr. Ram Gambhir, Associate Professor Anthropology at Pune University gave a seminar on “Sardar Sarovar Dam: Rehabilitation project – A case study in applied anthropology”.

Recent publications (see also page 2&3)


Short courses

- Leo van Wissen and Fanny Janssen provided a short course “Introduction to demographic methods” at Statistics Netherlands.
- Inge Hutter and Jacques Zeelen (Fac. of Behavioural and Social Sciences) provided a 10 day training workshop on qualitative research methods at Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) in Kampala.

Conferences/Workshops

- At the Annual Conference of the PAA, New York, March 29-31, Karen Haandrikman presented a paper on spatial homogamy in the Netherlands, and Ajay Bailey presented a poster on linked trajectory of method triangulation regarding HIV/AIDS in India.
- Ajay Bailey gave a lecture on “Migration and HIV/AIDS” at the Center for Development Studies, Trivandrum, India, February 8.
- April 3, Leo van Wissen gave a presentation on population and housing projections in Northern Netherlands, for ODWAEDES, a Foundation of Housing Corporations.
- Leo van Wissen was convener of the session *Demography and Social Trends*, during the symposium “Noordvleugel 2040” about future population trends, organized by the Province of North-Holland and the largest municipalities of the North-wing of the Randstad.
- Aagje Papineau Salm participated in February and March as guest lecturer in the course *Christian Response to HIV/AIDS* at St. Paul’s University in Limuru, Kenya.
- February 18, Aagje Papineau Salm presented her research proposal on the role of health workers in quality of care in a seminar on quality of care at the Great Lakes University Kisumu (GLUK), Kenya.
- Inge Hutter co-chaired a session on reproductive health at the 5th European Congress on *Tropical Medicine and International Health*, 24-28 May, Amsterdam.
- February, Inge Hutter and Fanny Janssen visited India to prepare new research on health systems in India.
- June 25, Ajay Bailey and Aagje Papineau Salm presented their PhD work at the CERES Summerschool 2007 (Utrecht) within the panel “Health, Disease and Livelihood”.
- Inge Hutter participated twice, within the 100 day dialogue of the new Dutch government with society, in dialogues with the Dutch Minister of Development Cooperation, Bert Koenders.
- May 22, Fanny Janssen was discussant at a workshop on “New perspectives on family formation and household structures in the past” organised by N.W. Posthumus Institute Groningen.

PRC News

- Erka Caro started her PhD research on migration in Albania as a Ubo Emmius bursary under the guidance of Leo van Wissen.
- January, Nadja Jacubowski left the PRC to work as a consultant.
- Candice Dias started her PhD research on faith based organizations at the Faculty. Inge Hutter is one of her promoters.
- January, PRC was informed about the sad demise of Prof. Vasant Raichoor, former Registrar at Karnataka University Dharwad. Prof. Raichoor has been highly instrumental in the establishment and implementation of the International Diploma Course on Reproductive Health Management in Dharwad.
- January 23, Fanny Janssen was interviewed by TV Noord on ageing in Eastern Groningen.
- February 25, Leo van Wissen was interviewed by Omroep Friesland about future demographic trends in Friesland.