

# Southern Demographic News

Fall 2018



The **Southern Demographic Association** is a scientific and educational corporation operating under the laws of the commonwealth of Virginia. It is comprised of persons with professional interests in demography and population studies.

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@SDA\_Demography

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# RECAP OF THE 2018 SDA MEETING IN DURHAM, NC

## #SDA2018NC

Thank you to **Rebecca M. Tippett** and everyone who worked tirelessly to make the Durham meeting memorable — full of activities, pre-conference workshops, and fun!

Thank you to **Linda Jacobsen** for an excellent program (including all the last minute, weather-related changes)!

Thank you to **Mark Fossett**, **Corey Sparks**, and **Joseph Lariscy** for your service to SDA!



Congratulations to **Matt Hauer**, winner of the E. Walter Terrie award for state and local demography!

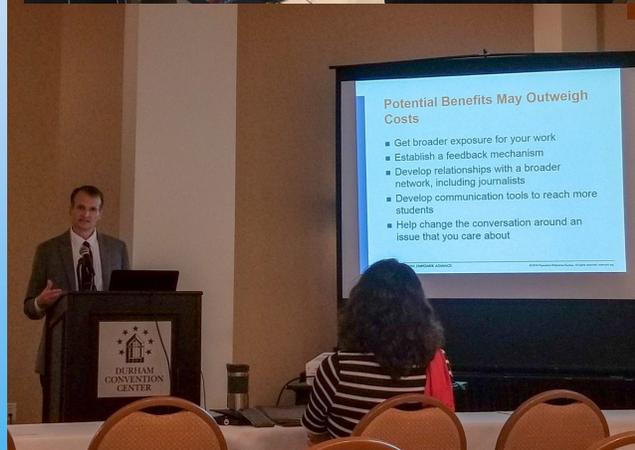
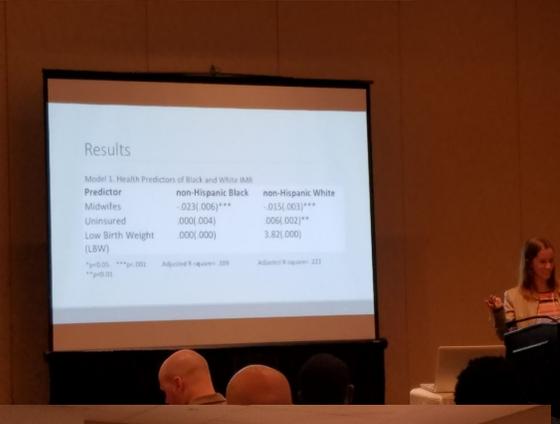
Thank you to everyone who submitted a paper for any of the SDA paper awards. The winners of the 2018 paper awards are:

★ **Mark Griffith** (undergraduate)

★ **Emma Zang** (graduate)



# RECAP OF THE 2018 SDA MEETING IN PICTURES





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Population Research and Policy Review Call for Proposals: Special Issue 2020 **Deadline: December 16, 2018**

*Population Research and Policy Review* (PRPR) welcomes proposals for its Special Issue 8686. PRPR intends to publish one Special Issue (SI) each year. This SI will include around five empirical papers together with an introductory editorial that provides a more overarching (theoretical) synthesis of the individual contributions.

### Submission of Proposals

The proposal for the SI should be made by the expected guest editor(s) and submitted to the editors-in-chief of PRPR (Lynne Cossman: [Lynne.Cossman@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Lynne.Cossman@mail.wvu.edu) and Corey Sparks: [corey.sparks@utsa.edu](mailto:corey.sparks@utsa.edu)). The proposal must include:

- the title of the special issue
- the names and affiliations of the guest editor(s)
- the names and affiliations of the contributing authors
- a one page summary of the theme, overarching aim, timeliness and innovativeness of the SI for publication in PRPR. It should be shown that the different papers fit together as a coherent SI.
- all titles and (half page) abstracts of the SI paper contributions

### Procedure and Responsibilities of the Guest Editor(s)

The SI proposals will be evaluated by the editorial team of PRPR. If the proposal is selected, the process of evaluating the contributions will follow the regular review procedure of PRPR while the guest editor(s) will take the responsibility of editor(s) of the SI manuscripts. Depending on number and quality of the SI proposals that are submitted in this call, the editorial team may decide to accept one proposal (for the 2020 SI), and up to two more for the two sequential years to come. However, in case the editorial team judges that none of the proposals meet the quality standards of the journal, it can also be decided that none of the suggested proposals will be accepted for further development and production.

Once the editorial team of PRPR approves the proposal, the guest editor(s) will be informed of the time line for the production process. The guest editor(s) will from then on be the primary contact person(s) for the contributors to the SI and should inform them about deadlines for submission and further procedures. The full papers for the SI should be uploaded in Editorial Manager (the online submission system) and handled from there by the guest editor(s) who is(are) expected to manage the review process. The editorial office of PRPR will assist if needed.

Each paper for the SI will be evaluated by three anonymous reviewers. The guest editorial will not be sent out to external reviewers, but will be evaluated by the editorial team of PRPR. After the reviewers' reports have been received, the guest editor(s) decide(s) on the manuscript and inform(s) the authors as well as sets the deadlines for the revised papers to be received. It may occur that one or more of the papers is rejected based on reviewer reports. At this stage the editors-in-chief will be informed about the outcome and, if necessary, make a joint decision on how to proceed. The guest editor is responsible for ensuring that all papers are of sufficiently high quality and form a coherent set of papers for the SI.

**If you have any further queries, please contact PRPR editors-in-chief Lynne Cossman and Corey Sparks.**

International Association of Applied  
Demographers presents

# 2019 Population and Public Policy Conference

Feb. 8-9, 2019

Hotel Albuquerque, New Mexico

## Keynotes:

- **Professor Douglas Massey**, “*Doubling Down on a Bad Bet: Immigration Policy Before and After Trump*”
- **Tim Olson, U.S. Census Bureau**, “*What You Can Do To Make Sure the 2020 Census Reflects Who We Are*”

Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your research, technology application or community-based work.

**Oct. 31, 2018** — Submission deadline of abstracts for individual papers, round tables, panels or posters.

<https://gps.unm.edu/conference/>

UNM Geospatial and Population Studies | UNM School of Architecture and Planning Indigenous Design and Planning Institute | UNM Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy | Cropper GIS | McKibben Demographic Research | Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University | The College of Business Administration at the University of Nebraska Omaha | UNM Transdisciplinary Research, Equity and Engagement (TREE) Center for Advancing Behavioral Health



- Health
- Fertility
- Census
- Poverty
- Housing
- Mortality
- Children
- Disparities
- Education
- Immigration
- Redistricting
- And More

# MEMBER NEWS

## David A. Swanson, University of California Riverside

Per an invitation from Dr. Takashi Inoue, who arranged funding and logistics for him, he will be a visiting professor at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo from Oct. 27 to Nov. 12, 2018.

During this time, he will be working with faculty and students at Aoyama Gakuin University and also giving three invited lectures on different applications of the cohort change ratio method at, respectively:

- (1) The National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, *Oct. 31, 2018*
- (2) Kyoto University, *Nov. 5, 2018*
- (3) Aoyama Gakuin University (where Takashi is a professor in the Department of Public and Regional Economics), *Nov. 7, 2018*

## The Short, Tumultuous Working Life of a Major League Baseball Pitcher

**Vancouver, Canada (July 12, 2018):** There are pitchers in Major League Baseball (MLB) who have had 30-year careers, but as UC Riverside demographer David Swanson points out, these are extreme outliers and often the stars of the game who receive most of the media's attention. The reality for most pitchers in baseball is that their professional working lives are surprisingly short—3.99 years on average—according to a new method of calculating working life expectancies.

Estimating working life expectancies, or “life tables,” particularly in sports, is seen as such a labor-intensive, detail-grinding task that demographers and statisticians have tended to avoid doing it. The result is a dearth of information about MLB career length, despite an abundance of historical data. Swanson, Jack Baker, Jeff Tayman, and Lucky Tedrow set to remedy this by showing that calculating life tables is actually quite easy if you use cohort change ratios. And using cohort change ratios allowed them to make forecasts with the same data they used for looking at working life expectancy.

“We used pitchers in the 1980–1981 season because that gave almost everyone enough time to finish their careers,” says Swanson. “But we excluded those who had interrupted careers, such as those who played for a bit but might have been sent back down to the minor leagues for more training or because of injury. We wanted to look only at uninterrupted careers in the MLB, and it turns out that, on average, they're really short.”

“It may be that there's so much competition to get into the Major Leagues that we end up with a lot of injuries,” says Swanson. “A lifetime of baseball has gone into getting to that point. One thing we discovered by testing our analysis of 1980–1981 with a forecast for 1982 is that there is a huge amount of turmoil in a pitcher's first year or two.” We could see this because it was the transition from one or two uninterrupted years in MLB to a second year or third where the forecast was least accurate. Once a pitcher survived the first two or so years, the forecasts were quite accurate.

One valuable feature of the approach used by Swanson and his colleagues is that even though it doesn't directly incorporate salary caps or other potential career factors, it still works well. This opens up the rest of sports to similar analysis.

“We want to look at other fields of sporting activities and do it by position,” says Swanson. “We suspect we can do something similar with the types of positions that are in American football, other types of football, and basketball and see what happens. We suspect that most other Major League sports are not going to be too dissimilar. We don't think there are really long careers in a lot of these sports where there's much more contact than in Major League Baseball.”

**Talk details:** Working Life Expectancy of Major League Pitchers and Forecasting the Number of Them: Tasks Made Easy by Using the Cohort Change Ratio Method

<http://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2018/onlineprogram/AbstractDetails.cfm?abstractid=332532>

# JOB LISTINGS

## Community Data Platforms

Community Data Platforms is a quickly growing collaboration of data scientists, demographers, data visualizers and writers, who help local leaders across the country make evidence-based decisions. See our website at [www.communitydataplatforms.com](http://www.communitydataplatforms.com)

We are a quickly growing company and are looking for experienced professionals to bring on board.

We are currently hiring a **Data Scientist/Demographer** and a **Technical Project Manager**. See job descriptions at <https://www.communitydataplatforms.com/jobs/>

Job listing from: Janet Davis, Administrative Assistant for Community Data Platforms

# COMMENTS FROM THE EDITORS

Hi SDA Members,

We would like to encourage everyone to contact us with any news items worthy of being included in future editions of the newsletter. These items could include professional accomplishments, pictures from SDA events, conferences and workshops, job opportunities, and more!

You can contact us via email at [news@sda-demography.org](mailto:news@sda-demography.org), or contact Wes by phone at (901) 678-1631.

Thanks,

Wes James  
The University of Memphis  
Co-Editor, Southern Demographic News

Julia Kay Wolf  
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Co-Editor, Southern Demographic News

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Run by Beth Jarosz, Population Reference Bureau

