Book Review: Twentieth Century Population Thinking: A Critical Reader of Primary Sources edited by The Population Knowledge Network

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Repository Citation
http://digitalcommons.fairfield.edu/sociologyandanthropology-facultypubs/75

Published Citation

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individual level. Japan’s naturalization procedures are depicted as drawn-out and opaque, admitting in recent years a mere 10–15,000 foreign nationals annually, mostly Koreans and Chinese. The cautionary tale is offered of the Brazilians of Japanese ancestry welcomed in the 1990s but never culturally accepted and whose children now have no clear linguistic identity. Temporary migration is explored in several chapters. One presents a positive assessment of the program that recruits care workers from the Philippines and Indonesia, modest in size and subject to demanding nursing credentials and language facility. Another looks skeptically at the solution to labor shortages exemplified by the helot societies of the Gulf States—some with 60–80 percent of their populations non-citizens, most of them migrant laborers rather than skilled expatriates. A concluding chapter by the editor contrasts the migration integration experiences of Tokyo with Hong Kong and Vancouver—only the last of these seen as a qualified success. The contributors are a mixture of scholars and PhD students, the majority at Japanese universities. The editor is in the Department of Politics, International Christian University, Tokyo and the Japan Immigration Policy Institute. Chapter bibliographies, index.—G.McN.

The Population Knowledge Network (ed.)
Twentieth Century Population Thinking: A Critical Reader of Primary Sources

The Population Knowledge Network consists of thirteen historians and social scientists, eleven of whom are European, whose goal is to study the history of demography in the twentieth century through “the lens of the history of knowledge and science together with the lens of social and political history.” Each of this Reader’s eight chapters contains both assorted “primary source” materials (posters, brochures, census forms, contraceptive advertisements, oral histories, graphs, and occasional passages from books and articles) and a commentary on how they illustrate some aspect of twentieth-century population thinking. For instance, some of the source material in Chapter 1 (“Statistics, Nationhood and the State”) includes the control list used by Prussian census enumerators in 1905, the 1940 US census instructions for determining race, a 1930 German poster tracing historical life expectancy improvements, a 1913 French neo-Malthusian cartoon depicting Death taking away an unwanted infant, and a 1941 German proposal by the Chief of the SS Race and Settlement Office to develop a database of the health and hereditary characteristics of the past decade’s 200,000 SS applicants. The accompanying commentary includes both a history and a historiography of population statistics that highlight Foucault’s vision of population as central to understanding governmentality and issues of economic and political control. The next four chapters offer interesting discussions of some often-overlooked topics. Chapter 2 treats colonial demography, not focusing on cases of overpopulation fears but on instances where colonial officials worried about depopulation caused by disease and low fertility. Chapter 3 examines “organizations and networks of population thinking” arising in the first half of the twentieth century and includes not only discussion of the IUSIPP (predecessor of the IUSSP) and various birth control organizations but also organizations focusing on sexual research such as the Medical Society for Sexual Science, the International Society for Sexual Research, and the World League for Sexual Reform. Chapter 4
“Population in Space” treats migration, urbanization, and overpopulation but always with a geopolitical focus on the relationship between a people and a particular place. Chapter 5 (“Family, Sexuality, and Gender”) looks at government efforts to control moral values connected to the family, from early-twentieth-century attempts to diminish the prevalence of “criminal families” and promote “fitter families” to later-century attempts to make correctly sized “modern” families the norm. The final three chapters treat population thinking more familiar to demographers, focusing on population and development, contraceptive technology, and population and environment. Some significant kinds of twentieth-century population thinking are not discussed. No mention is made that a discipline of demography with population as its core concept was institutionalized during this century. There also is no discussion of the enhanced political significance that accurate population counts assumed with the rise of representative democracy based on universal suffrage as the century’s most legitimate form of government. But overall this volume’s commentaries and primary source materials do a fine job of broadening our vision of what constitutes population thinking.—D.H.

Leila Simona Talani and Simon McMahon (eds.)
Handbook of the International Political Economy of Migration

The focus of this book is on the conditions of entry and exit of economic migrants, both legal and illegal. Its perspective is that of international political economy (IPE). In the context of migration, this encompasses the realist tradition in political science in which migration outcomes are governed by states or by interest groups within them, (neo)liberal institutionalism with its emphasis on regulation of migration by international institutions, and the “globalization thesis” that envisages looser controls on mobility as an inevitable accompaniment of an ongoing weakening of state sovereignty and national ties. The first, theoretical section of the volume, although subtitled “Towards an International Political Economy of Migration,” offers a less than cogent account of this territory. Its chapters cover state regulation of migration, transnational migration and global governance, the requirements of an ethical mobility regime, human trafficking, and migration effects of urban transformations. The IPE approach (and a sub-category, critical IPE) seems to be essentially defined by the migration studies of political scientists. A second part, on the economic dimensions of migration, contains more focused essays on international labor migration, guestworker regimes, migration effects on welfare states, migrant remittances, and migration provisions in trade pacts. Finally, a third section consists of case studies of aspects of the political economy of migration in the European Union, the Middle East, North America, and Southeast Asia, with particular attention to regional integration. An outlier in this part is a paper on Cairo, depicted as a global city with a large migrant-swollen informal labor market entrenching a social hierarchy with varying degrees of citizenship. The editors and most of the contributors are from British and other European universities. Chapter bibliographies, index.—G.McN.