Historical Demography

Reconstructing Life Course Dynamics

26 June - 4 July 2017
Recent advances in historical demographic research have placed great emphasis on longitudinal micro-level approaches of all important aspects of demographic behaviour. In other words, historical demographic phenomena need to be studied within the context of life course analysis. This approach involves the complex handling of large amounts of dynamic individual-level data; as a result complicated database management techniques have become a crucial component of the tool kit of historical demographers. Moreover, large databases have become available in different countries which beg international comparison.

The Radboud Group for Historical Demography and Family History offers an advanced course in the reconstruction and analysis of historical life course dynamics. This course provides three important features. First of all, the course will offer a theoretical introduction into life course approaches and its central concepts. Second, the course offers a thorough training in the skills required to handle dynamic life course data by making use of the Intermediate Data Structures (IDS) which facilitates the simultaneous analysis of international databases. Third, the course offers an advanced module on event history analysis techniques in which students are invited to set up a small analytical project of their own.

Learning outcome:
1. Construct data files containing historical life course data.
2. Reconstruct life course and household trajectories.
3. Calculate a number of basic demographic measures.
4. Explain results by reference to concepts and theories used within historical demography.

Number of EC:
4 ECTS credits

Fee:
The participation fee is € 100,-. Travel grants may be available upon request.

The course comprises 10 training days. Apart from some introductory lectures on theoretical, conceptual and methodological issues, students will primarily work on hands-on exercises and homework assignments. Training starts from the raw data contained in data entry files right up to the point at which the data are ready to be analysed by complex statistical analyses, such as event history analysis. In this way the course will assist students to build up their own data matrix ready for analysis. In addition, important methodologies for life course reconstructions will be trained, such as the reconstruction of trajectories, calculation of transition rates, modelling of household composition, and the coding of occupations and social class.

Course leaders:
Prof. dr. Jan Kok
Radboud Group for Historical Demography and Family History
Chair group of Economic, Social and Demographic History, Radboud University

Prof. dr. Angélique Janssens
Radboud Group for Historical Demography and Family History
Chair group of Economic, Social and Demographic History, Radboud University
Faculty Arts & Social Sciences, Maastricht University
Scientific director N.W. Posthumus Institute

Applications:
MA, PhD-students, and other young researchers who are motivated to use life course data and have a good command of English (at least B2) may apply for application by sending an email to Valerija Matos-Krezic: summerschoolRG@let.ru.nl containing the following information in one document:
1. Your CV
2. A letter of motivation
3. A brief description of your research plan

Deadline for applications is 1 April 2017.

Questions:
For further information please contact Valerija Matos-Krezic: summerschoolRG@let.ru.nl