The Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology supports education, research and scholarly exchange in population studies at the University of Washington. The Center focuses on interdisciplinary research, with an emphasis on understanding the mechanisms that link individual behavior to population level outcomes.

STUDENTS (AUTUMN 2004)
253  Student affiliates
4  National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Fellows
3  Hewlett Foundation Fellows
2  Shanahan Endowment Fellows

RECENT MAJOR STUDENT AWARDS
1  National Institutes of Health National Research Service Award
2  National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grants
1  National Science Foundation Scholars Award
1  Population Council Dissertation Fellowship
1  Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship
2  Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships
1  Howard Martin Grant in Geography
1  Mary Gates Undergraduate Research Endowment
1  VIGRE Undergraduate Summer Internship

Highlights
- The Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology (CSDE) is one of only 10 centers in the country to have both research and training center grants from the National Institutes of Health.
- CSDE has one of three biodemography laboratories in the country. The lab specializes in developing, optimizing, and carrying out hormone assays for large-scale research projects.
- With an emphasis on interdisciplinary research, CSDE brings together more than more than 70 affiliates from the UW and other Pacific Northwest institutions in disciplines ranging from sociology to economics to public health, and has connections to the UW’s Center for AIDS Research and Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences.

Education
The Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, founded in 1947, provides students with a unique opportunity to study demography in an interdisciplinary environment and access to the computing, information, and support infrastructure of an NIH-funded population research center. Graduate students specialize in demography as part of an MA or PhD program in a social science discipline—typically anthropology, economics, geography, or sociology, but also as part of a program of study in statistics or social welfare.

Demography students participate in a weekly seminar series offered by CSDE. The series attracts distinguished scholars from within the University and around the world to speak about their current research on a wide range of demographic issues. Select seminars are followed by didactic talks, in which faculty meet with students to discuss the methodology behind their research.

CSDE offers about 10 fellowships each year for highly qualified students who specialize in demography and population studies as part of their doctoral programs of study. The fellowships are funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Hewlett Foundation, and a special University endowment fund. Fellows are nominated by their home departments, and receive professional training through direct involvement with research projects of affiliated faculty.
Center Affiliates

CSDE supports more than 50 research affiliates at the University of Washington, with the majority holding appointments in the College of Arts and Sciences in Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, Economics, and Statistics; the remainder (about 20 percent) are drawn from the School of Social Work, School of Public Affairs, and School of Public Health and Community Medicine. In addition, a growing number of affiliates are being drawn from other institutions in the Pacific Northwest, including Battelle, Western Washington University, and the University of Victoria, BC, Canada.

Many affiliates are leaders in their field, serving as president of the Population Association of America, president of the Association of American Geographers, director of the UW Center for Research on Families, and director of the Population Leadership Program at the UW.

Research and Scholarship

CSDE is becoming the regional center for population research in the Pacific Northwest. Our faculty and student research teams are addressing many of society’s most challenging problems related to population, educational achievement, housing, and quality of life. Recent projects include:

- The HIV Network Modeling Project, an interdisciplinary collaboration focused on HIV prevention, is developing new statistical methods for studying how HIV spreads through partnership networks, which may help to explain dramatic differences in HIV prevalence across countries in the world and among races in the US. The work was featured in Discover magazine in 2003.

- The University of Washington Beyond High School project, a local study of the careers of young adults after their high school graduation in Tacoma, seeks to understand how high school education, family, and peers influence the choices students make about their futures, with particular focus on how the availability of financial aid affects the likelihood of going to college.

- A Festival of Violence: An Analysis of Southern Lynchings, 1882-1930, an award-winning book, is based on a two-decade study of the history of lynching in the southern United States. The project is being extended into a search for undocumented victims of lynching based on original census records and notes from 1880 to 1920.

- A study of residential choices of interracial partners aims to understand the effect of household location on the identity of children in interracial couples, and the role that interraciality plays in remaking urban racial geography.

Fiscal Information (fiscal year ending June 30, 2004)

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