

Presentation

The journal *Papeles de POBLACIÓN* has been and will be an ample space to release research results of demographic studies, from the multi-disciplinary, inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary perspectives, which work as converging points where researchers expose their points of view from the most heterogeneous academic formations. Hence demographic processes are observed in their economic, social, cultural and political dimensions.

Heading this issue a section that approaches transformations experienced by Latin American families in the context of global processes and changes in gender system, and the ethnic and cultural diversity existing in our countries, where the large social inequalities are distinguishable; these very inequalities represent great challenges for the political and public institutions. Likewise we integrate a section devoted to the reflection on new approaches to analyze international migration and identity, spatial and temporary processes in this demographic phenomenon. In addition, there are three articles on the broad field of gender studies: from the socio-demographic perspective and on the advancement of the discourse of assuring gender equality which has been consolidated in the core of multi-lateral organisms and from there has been adopted by Mexican legislation, juridical condition that is still insufficient before the persistent extreme violence which is still taking women's lives, as it is documented in this section's third article. Finally, we also propose a couple of works on the study of mortality in two different environments: the metropolitan zones of Brazil and the City of Buenos Aires, the latter with two specificities: the diachronic analysis and infantile population as object of study.

The first section is composed by two articles —by Irma Arriagada and Brígida García, respectively— which update diverse aspects of research on families in Latin America and Mexico. Irma Arriagada, from ECLAC, analyzes the transformations the Latin American families have experienced because of the global processes of modernization and modernity, the transformations in the

gender systems, which are framed in an ethnic and cultural diversity environment between countries and inside them, but mostly, to the large inequalities in terms of welfare. On her own, Brígida García, researcher from El Colegio de México, focus her attention on some of the main transformations in labor division, both extra-domestic and domestic, in Mexican families. In this work one finds the newest and most significant knowledge accumulated during 1990 and 2000 on this topic, the reaches of said advancements are discussed and some directing lines are proposed for future researchers.

The second section corresponds to the new theoretical and epistemological statements to understand population movements. A perspective that, as this issue of *Papeles de POBLACIÓN* shows, has attracted the attention of social scientists of the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, campus Iztapalapa, whence the three works which make this section up come, which refers to the debate on transnationalism, where the diverse forms of global, regional and local opportunities have been integrated to the analysis. Hence, a new intellectual organization has been generated, whose topics are dealt by Daniel Hiernaux, who reflects on the fact that the particular way to define time and space in a society with serious implications in the rest of the social constructions of each social group. On her own, Alicia Lindón analyzes the concepts of spatialities, displacements and transnationalism from the quotidian life's geographies. She reviews the apparently natural and necessary relation between transnationalism and territory, at the time she explores the conception of space which the studies on transnationalism carry. Next article by Cristóbal Mendoza Pérez states the novelty of approaching the transnational phenomenon from the Survey on Migration to the Northern Border of Mexico (*Encuesta sobre Migración en la Frontera Norte de México, EMIF*), a survey that measures the flow not the stock of migrants. The subjacent idea is that, at least from a geographic perspective, the transnational social spaces settled in territories united by migrants' displacement, which can be shaped as migratory circuits. These migratory circuits imprint character to the territories which conform them, similarly as the territory models the migratory flow. In this line the article tries to explore the articulation of the intermediate border space in the construction of a transnational space between Mexico and the United States.

In the third section, Dora Celton and Viviana Masciadri, from the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, analyze some socio-demographic characteristics of the populations that compose the four country members of the Southern Common Market and specially observe the poverty situation of women, they perform an approximation to the poverty issue and to certain topics linked to women. They distinguish some indicators of the demographic situation of the countries in Mercosur so as to identify similarities and differences useful to describe the heterogeneity of the population intended to interact in said environment and analyze the poverty situation of the women in the region. At the time, in a different look at the condition of feminine gender, Elizabeth Maier, from El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, reviews the changes and development of the discourse of gender equity in multi-national institutional environments and their concrete repercussions in the Mexican public discourse and legislation. The authoress indicates that, progressively, said discourse has taken place in the labor, cultural, political and juridical interstices of the structural and ideological reorganization propitiated by the new model of the neoliberal globalization, deeply settled during the recent decade in the core of the State's functioning and the formulation of public policies. Conversely, the collective work, by David F. Fuentes Romero, Margarita Barajas Tinoco, Silvia Figueroa Ramírez from the Universidad de Baja California, shows us the harsh reality of women who are still the object of gender violence to the extreme, from analyzing the information corresponding to deceitful homicides committed against women who reside in Tijuana, Baja California, during the 2000-2005 period. In addition to represent the social profile of victims and murderers, they broaden their analysis toward the motivation and *modus operandi* of such deeds. This is mediated by the richness the gender theory provides.

Last section contains two articles, the first by Mardone Cavalcante França, from the Department of Statistics of the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN), and Neir Antunes Paes, from the Department of Statistics of the Departamento de Estadística de la Universidade Federal da Paraíba (UFPB). They seek to empirically prove the hypotheses of absolute incomes and income inequality for the 16 metropolitan regions of Brazil (RMB), based on the databases from the 2000 Demographic Census and the vital statistics of the

1999-2001 three-year period (casualties by age, gender, and causes of death). In order to prove the hypotheses they adjusted the multiple regression models for each independent variable and verified the statistical significance of the corresponding regression coefficients for each proved hypothesis. The results suggest that the average income is a determinant factor of the health of the population which lives in RMB and not income inequality. In another article, Victoria Mazzeo, from the Universidad de Buenos Aires, presents the results of her historical research on infantile mortality in the City of Buenos Aires, using as basic information data from the births and deceases registrations in that place in the period from 1860 to 2002. Apart from estimating the level and acknowledging the main characteristics according to their composition by age, she researches the causes of death such levels generated, as the study of mortality by causes is a necessary step toward the explanation of mortality in terms of economic, social and cultural terms.

This journal is a collective venture and its consolidation is due to a large extent to the will of the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico and the conjunct work of the researchers from CIEAP-UAEM, but mainly to the trust earned among its researchers and readers. As a social organ, belonging to the interested in the study of population: to the authors who publish their researchers, to those who generously and anonymously are part of the referees who certify the articles' quality and to the readers, who have made this journal a reference point growingly prestigious and required among scientific community. This is what *Papeles de* **POBLACIÓN** is and we want it to keep it so.

Juan Gabino González Becerril
Editor