

## POPULATION AND SOCIETY

### An Introduction to Demography

This comprehensive yet accessible textbook is an ideal resource for undergraduate and graduate students taking their first course in demography. Clearly explaining technical demographic issues without using extensive mathematics, *Population and Society* is sociologically oriented, but incorporates a variety of social sciences in its approach, including economics, political science, geography, and history. It highlights the significant impact of decision-making at the individual level – especially regarding fertility, but also mortality and migration – on population change. The text engages students by providing numerous examples of demography’s practical applications in their lives, and demonstrates the extent of its relevance by examining a wide selection of data from the United States, Africa, Asia, and Europe. This thoroughly revised edition includes four new chapters, covering topics such as race and sexuality, and encourages students to consider the broad implications of population growth and change for global challenges such as environmental degradation.

Dudley L. Poston, Jr., is Professor of Sociology and the George T. and Gladys H. Abell Endowed Professor of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University. He holds adjunct professorships at Renmin (People’s) University, Beijing, China; Fuzhou University, China; and Nanjing Normal University, China. He previously served on the rural sociology and sociology faculties, respectively, of Cornell University and the University of Texas at Austin. Professor Poston has coauthored or edited eighteen books and has authored or coauthored more than 300 journal articles and book chapters on various sociological and demographic topics.

Leon F. Bouvier, at the time of his death in 2011, was Professor of Sociology at Old Dominion University. He was also Adjunct Professor at the Payson Center for International Development at Tulane University. He previously served as Vice President of the Population Reference Bureau, Washington, DC; as a demographic consultant to two congressional committees; and as a consultant to the United States Agency for International Development. He coauthored or edited fifteen books and numerous articles and book reviews.

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POPULATION AND SOCIETY

**An Introduction to  
Demography**

**Dudley L. Poston, Jr.**

Texas A&M University

**Leon F. Bouvier<sup>†</sup>**

Old Dominion University



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## Preface

The first edition of this book had its genesis when I met Leon F. Bouvier for the first time in April 1974 at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, held that year in New York City. When two demographers meet for the first time, they usually want to tell each other about the demographic research they are conducting, along with the interesting and important facts and findings they are producing. Strangely, this was not the case when I first met Leon. We found ourselves talking not about our research, but, instead, about what was then, and for me still is today, our first love: the teaching of demography.

Beginning in 1974 until he died in 2011, Leon and I became very good and dear friends, as did our families. We saw each other once or twice a year and communicated frequently by email. We coauthored a book about the population of Texas and wrote several research articles that dealt with immigration, congressional apportionment, and the relationship between the two. But, over the years, whenever we were together, our conversations would always seem to lead to our talking about teaching demography. For the first three decades of our friendship, we always seemed to be talking about the topics we were covering in our classes, the teaching tools and techniques we were using, the books and readings we were assigning, and the importance and relevance of demography to society and the world. Every now and again in the 1990s, I would say to Leon, or he would say to me, “Some day we need to write our own demography text.” But we never did, at least not for the first thirty years of our friendship. Finally, in the early 2000s, I said one day to Leon, “If we are ever going to write our demography book, we had better do it pretty soon.” Thus, in late 2005, Leon and I prepared a book prospectus and chapter outline for an introductory demography text. In early 2006, we shared it with Ed Parsons of Cambridge University Press, who a few months later gave us a contract to write *Population and Society: An Introduction to Demography*. The first edition of *Population and Society* was published in late spring 2010.

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A lot of people helped us write that first edition. We will forever be indebted to all of them. Each is mentioned by name in the Preface of the first edition.

On January 26, 2011, just nine months after our book was published, Leon Bouvier died of heart failure in Norfolk, Virginia. He was 88 years old. Leon was very proud of our book. He very much enjoyed writing it with me. It took us more than two years to write it. So during that time Leon and I were in constant communication revising and rewriting one chapter after another. Indeed, Sidney Goldstein of Brown University, who was Leon's mentor when he was a graduate student in the 1960s at Brown University, wrote to me a few weeks after Leon's death that the joy that Leon received in writing that demography book likely kept him alive that last year or so.

In early 2014, Robert Dreesen of Cambridge University Press asked me to consider writing a second edition of *Population and Society*. I knew well that our book needed an updating. But I wondered how I could write a new edition without Leon. I thought about Robert's request for several months and finally decided to take on the task of writing the new edition, realizing full well that it would be a different experience without Leon as my co-author. Robert gave me a contract in 2014. I spent the next several months preparing a new outline, dropping some chapters and outlining new ones (the second edition has sixteen chapters, two more than the first edition), and gathering new data and materials. I did the bulk of the writing in the spring, summer and fall of 2015. I delivered preliminary drafts of the sixteen chapters to Robert in late August and December 2015, and then a final draft of the book in April 2016.

I learned a great deal writing this edition. It is a second edition, but it is really pretty much a brand new book. I certainly missed having Leon help me with the writing. There is a little bit of him still in a couple of the chapters. But the bulk of the book, around 95 percent or so, is mine. Nevertheless, I decided to keep Leon listed as my coauthor. He and I began this project several decades ago. I want him on as a coauthor.

The writing of the second edition of *Population and Society* would not have been possible without the help and patience of many people. First, I thank my editor at Cambridge University Press, Robert Dreesen, for his many suggestions and encouragement and patience.

I asked many of my former and current graduate students, and several of my undergraduate students, to read, edit, and critique chapters, to check references, and to help me assemble tables. Also, work I published with some of these students has been adapted and referenced in various chapters of the book. I thank all these conscientious and helpful and ever so faithful students, listed here alphabetically: Taylor Bates,

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Amanda Baumle, Yuting Chang, Christopher Cherry, D’Lane Compton, Eugenia Conde, Rachel Traut Cortes, Cristina Cruz, Mary Ann Davis, Danielle Xiaodan Deng, Bethany DeSalvo, Haijun Dong, Ceylan Engin, Nicole Farris, Layton Field, Ginny Garcia, Nayoung Heo, Lindsay Howden, Heather Kincannon, Hannah Elisabeth Klein, Michael Koets, Sherri Lander, Danny Malone, Guadalupe Marquez-Velarde, Angelica Menchaca, Misael Obregon, Jeffrey Passel, Brittany Rico, Richard Rogers, Cheryl Rollman-Tinajero, Fabian Romero, Chris Russell, Juyin Helen Wong, Qian Kate Xiong, Dan Yin, and Huanjun June Zhang.

I also thank friends and colleagues who read one or more chapters and provided feedback, suggested improvements, and alerted me to the work of others. Some answered questions I raised about chapter topics, geography, and page referencing. Others listened and sometimes reacted to my discussions about one or more of the chapters and themes. Some listened to a lot of my discussions and comments, possibly more than they wanted to. These friends and colleagues, listed alphabetically, are Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, John Boies, David Carlson, Elwood Carlson, Stephanie Coontz, Alex Dessler, Joe Feagin, Nadia Flores, Mark Fossett, William Frey, Geoffrey Gilbert, Melanie Hawthorne, Daniel Lichter, John Macionis, Keith Maggert, Kyriakos Markides, Ramiro Martinez, Peter Morrison, Nancy Riley, Rogelio Saenz, Sophie H. Savage, Jane Sell, Nancy Zaro Shaw, Jackson Shultz, Diego von Vacano, and James Weatherby.

My long and time-consuming efforts in writing this edition were assisted by the support, understanding, patience, and love of my family. I thank my children, Nancy and Dudley III, and my son-in-law, Rick Espey, and my grandchildren, David, Kara, and Daniel Espey (David and Kara deserve special praise; each of them read all sixteen chapters and sent their grandfather over the course of several months the comments and reactions of a recent college graduate and a current college sophomore, neither of whom had completed an undergraduate demography course).

Last, but certainly not least, I thank my wife and best friend, Patricia, my marriage partner of fifty-three years, who also has never completed a demography course, but knows more about demography and demographers than do most people. She has lived with a demographer for more than half a century, and she deserves five Purple Hearts for doing so. I dedicate this edition of *Population and Society* to Pat.

Dudley L. Poston, Jr.