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DEMOGRAPHIC RACIAL TRANSITION

By

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The word “race” does not appear in the titles of the sessions listed for the 30th International Population Conference organized by the IUSSP in Brisbane, Australia.

This paper argues that the practice of racial demography divides societies and continues to drive war and conflict between nations. A realignment of sensibilities and controversial issues have moved the body politic, including demographers, towards a conversation about racial demography. Issues such as births, death, migration, population growth, sickness and pandemics, diversity, and multiculturalism are ideas promoted by academics, journalists, politicians, and social movement activist.

By the 19th century the earth was re-organized around our modern systems of racial lines distinguishing citizens from second class citizens, and non-humans. In this context, the racialized category of the citizen has become one of the most contentious components of the foundation of inequality. “The Demography of Race” is a modern white logic that racially proscribed justifications of racial hierarchies nationally and internationally.

The demographic definition of human populations as collections of persons living in a specific place in time who meet a certain criterion of identity is political. This definition differs from how a science of statistics should use the term (i.e. as a collection of balls in an urn). The use of statistical methods themselves are problematic once the issue of human races is introduced, and the issue of human races is introduced with the rise of statistical methods (See Tukufu Zuberi, **Thicker Than Blood: How Racial Statistics Lie**; and Tukufu Zuberi and Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, **White Logic, White Methods: Racism & Methodology**). The criterion of identity definition of human populations has always been at odds with the idea of the populations being in a particular place across time. From the beginning of demographic analysis, some people in the space have been excluded or marginalized in the calculus of the population. This happened with the various persons and nations of non-Europeans in the Americas, and in other parts of the world under European imperial domination. The population of a place not only changes through attrition and accession, but it transitions because of how we define what it means to be a human being. Both the criterion of identity and the population of a space are politically defined and produce the blurriness at the boundaries of the definitions (See Tukufu Zuberi, “Du Bois, Demography, and Eugenics”)

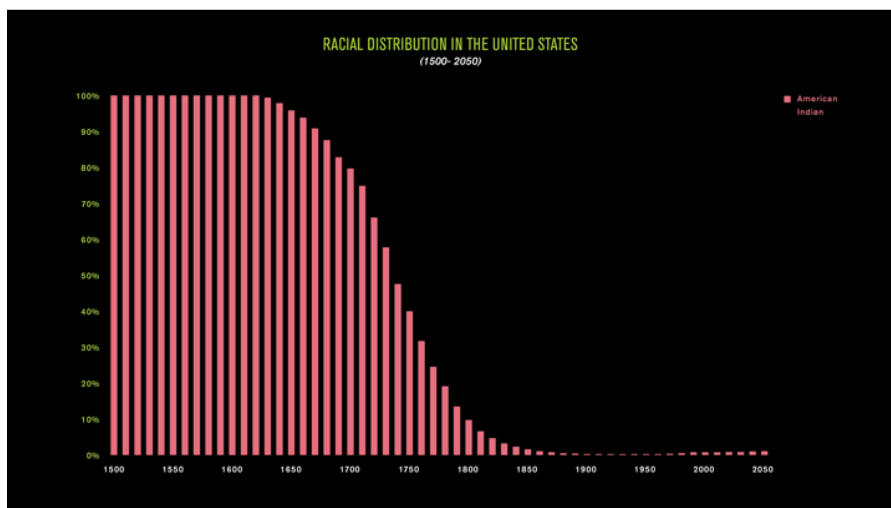
The migrations out of Africa predate the idea of race. In this first wave of migrations out of Africa the only indigenous group were Africans. While natives may have been born in a particular place, they were the descendants of settlers whose origins can be traced back to Africa. Settler colonialism was fundamental for early human populations that resulted in the non-racial colonization of earth. This all changed with the invention of race after 1500 CE; and the development of demography which followed shortly thereafter. I will argue that these demographic ideas were essential for the redefinition of what we consider to be a human being.

Race before the Modern Period established the basis for Demographic Racialization. Before 1500 racism as a system of enslavement and colonization did not determine identity and political rights. In this chapter we counter the National Narratives that racializes people in a revision of history. The idea of the world as being divided between the civilized/humans/citizens and the barbarian/sub-human/slaves became important for some of the earliest Kingdoms in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. These early monarchs used monopolies of violence, control of the narrative, and charisma to exercise their powers. In this chapter we discuss the demographic implications of the formative ideas of race in antiquity as the precondition for redefining the human population in terms of race. We outline the proto-racial period that set the intellectual conditions of the new period of Settler Colonialism and racial enslavement. This period gave birth to the rise and spread of European civilization and the Europeanization of the world.

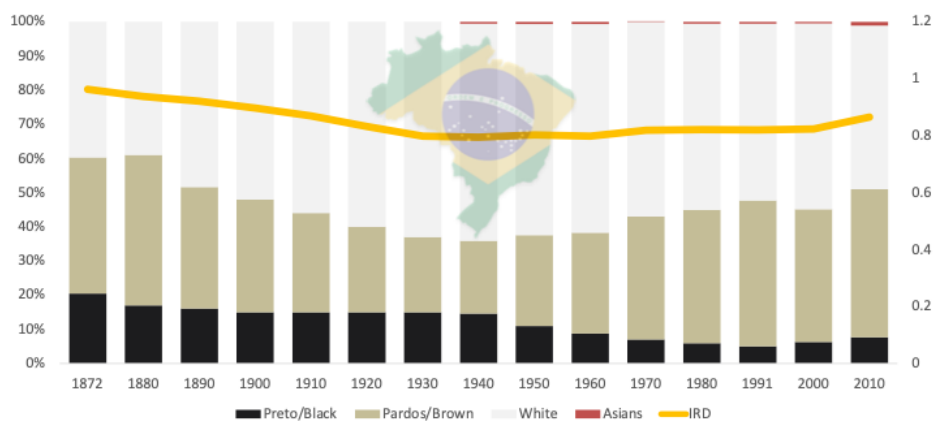
Main Questions of Conclusion: Has demography as a field of study intellectually proscribed race by ignoring the impacts of racism?

Sample Figures:

First African Diaspora



The Racial Index of Diversity in Brazil (1872-2010)



The Racial Index of Diversity in South Africa
(1911-2017)

