

**Actuarial Science Department
Faculty of Commerce
University of Cape Town**



DEMOGRAPHY SEMINAR

Date:	Thursday , 9 February 2012
Time:	1pm - 2pm
Venue:	LC2A, The Nedbank Room, Leslie Commerce Building, Upper Campus
Topic:	Fertility decline in South Africa: end of the first transition or beginning of the second transition?

SPEAKER

Dr Michel Garenne, Directeur de Recherche at IRD (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement), France and works at Institut Pasteur, Unité d'Epidémiologie des Maladies Emergentesbal Health, Harvard School of Public Health

TOPIC

Fertility decline in South Africa: end of the first transition or beginning of the second transition?

ABSTRACT

The paper discusses how to characterize the end of the first fertility transition in South Africa. For the country as a whole, fertility decline has been steady since the 1970's and reached a plateau around a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) equal to 2.6 children per woman in the late 1990's. Since then, the level of fertility has been roughly stable nationwide, as it is the case in the Agincourt DSS site. This level of TFR corresponds to replacement fertility in a context of very high mortality due to HIV/AIDS. The TFR can be decomposed into premarital fertility of about 1.4 children per woman and a marital fertility of about 1.2 children per woman. Surprisingly, marital fertility in 2006 was identical among the four population groups, whereas premarital fertility varied by a ratio of 1 to 10 among them. South Africa is in a new situation of fertility at replacement level because of HIV/AIDS, a very low marital fertility corresponding to a second fertility transition, and still a TFR well above 2.1 due to an exceptionally high level of premarital fertility. This very new situation seems to be peculiar to Southern Africa and probably unique in the world.

All welcome

Please distribute to any colleagues you feel may be interested.