Carolina Population Center

In 1966, the Carolina Population Center was founded at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. To celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2006, a project was conducted to document the history of the Center. This transcript is an excerpt from an oral history interview.

Interviewee: Dick Udry
Interview conducted by: Grace Camblos
Interview date: December 5, 2005

Dick Udry was CPC Demographic Research Unit Director from 1973 – 1977, CPC Director from 1977 – 1992, and has been a CPC Fellow since 1992.

GC: What kind of a director was Freymann?

DU: He was a – well, I considered him to be a Maoist because he believed in letting a thousand flowers bloom. He never – when you came up with an idea, he never said, “I'll think about it.” Or he never said, “That’s a dumb idea.” He said, “That’s a great idea! Let's do that!” And so he sometimes ended up, it sometimes ended up that we did things that didn’t really, that weren’t really important, but somebody had suggested it. And many people criticized him for being too enthusiastic about new ideas. But hardly ever did a center collapse from too many new ideas.