



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.

DU: One of the signal and continuingly significant decisions that he made originally was –

GC: This is Moye?

DU: Yeah, this is Moye Freymann - was that he was very, he considered it very important that the Center be interdisciplinary. And that's distinct from demographic or sociological or psychological or economic. And so he tried to see that the composition of the Center's researchers reflected an interdisciplinary perspective. And this was really not the original tradition of population centers, in which the original population centers that already existed before the modern version, which began in the '60s, were almost all demographic centers. And they were usually either in a center that was called a demographic center or they were in a sociology department. And so our Center was distinctive in its interdisciplinary span. Not everybody considered - especially people who were in the original type of center - not everybody considered that a brilliant new idea.