



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: Barry M. Popkin

Interview conducted by: Grace Camblos

Interview date: December 16, 2005

Barry M. Popkin became a CPC Fellow in 1978.

BP: I think one of the most important moments was Dick Udry becoming the director with the mandate to build the research program here, and to focus on serving the University and the University departments in a research way. Prior to that, the Center stood the risk of being a stand alone world that was so focused on AID and other work, wasn't integrated into the research programs and training of the departments, and was a very different kind of beast. That's clearly a seminal moment for the Center. And I think everything else pales. The Center today was made as it is today during that period of the Udry period. Nothing qualitatively has really changed since then. We shift the cores around a little bit, but the idea of service - that the approach of the programmers, the library group, all the other groups is to serve the research of the Center, to serve the training and research missions which became established then.