



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: Amy Tsui

Interview conducted by: Grace Camblos

Interview date: December 10, 2005

Amy Tsui was a CPC Visiting Scholar 1982 – 1983, Research Associate 1983 – 1985, Deputy Director 1987 – 1991, EVALUATION Project Director 1991 – 1997, Measure Evaluation Project Director 1997 – 1999, CPC Fellow 1985 – 2002, and CPC Director 1997 – 2002.

AT: So when Dick became the director, he moved it towards being a research center. And that's what CPC is known for now. It is a very strong population center. The Center in the beginning was also positioned high in the administrative sphere, in terms of administrative levels, and it was under the Vice Chancellor. And that gave it a chance to develop independent of schools and departments. And some people would say that's a liability, but under the right leadership, it's a total strength. There's no question. So that meant that the Center could actually involve people from any part of the campus, depending on what it wanted to do. So in terms of research, it was great, because you could involve anybody from any department as long as they were interested in population.