

ECO 2210Y:

Topic No. 1. Medieval European Demography and the Family: The Origins and Evolution of the European Marriage Pattern.

- * 1. John Hajnal, 'European Marriage Patterns in Perspective,' in D.V. Glass and D. E. C. Eversley, eds., Population in History: Essays in Historical Demography (1965), pp. 101 - 46. See also: John Hajnal, 'Two Kinds of Pre-Industrial Household Formation Systems,' in Richard Wall, ed., Family Forms in Historic Europe (London, 1983), pp. 65-104.
- * 2. Jan De Vries, 'Population,' and Merry E. Wiesner, 'Family, Household, and Community,' in Thomas A. Brady, jr., Heiko O. Oberman, and James D. Tracy, eds., Handbook of European History, 1400-1600: Late Middle Ages, Renaissance and Reformation, Vol. I: Structures and Assertions (Leiden, 1994), pp. 1-78, especially pp. 23-40, 51-70. Though the larger part of both studies concerns the subsequent eras, they remain important for the late-medieval period.
- * 3. Richard M. Smith, 'Some Reflections on the Evidence for the Origins of the 'European Marriage Pattern' in England,' in C. Harris, ed., The Sociology of the Family: New Directions for Britain (Keele, 1979), pp. 74-112.
4. Richard M. Smith, 'Hypothèses sur la nuptialité en Angleterre aux XIIIe - XIVE siècles,' Annales: E.S.C., 38 (1983), 107-36. See also Richard M. Smith, 'Marriage Processes in the English Past: Some Continuities,' in L. Bonfield, K. Wrightson, and R.M. Smith, eds., The World We Have Gained: Histories of Population and Social Structure (Oxford, 1986), pp. 43-99.
- * 5. H.E. Hallam, 'Age at First Marriage and Age at Death in the Lincolnshire Fenland, 1252-1478,' Population Studies, 39 (1985), 55-69. Medieval evidence for the European Marriage Pattern.
6. J. Krause, 'The Medieval Household: Large or Small?' Economic History Review, 2nd ser. 9 (1956-57), 420-32.
7. Zvi Razi, 'The Myth of the Immutable English Family,' Past & Present, no. 140 (August 1993), pp. 3 - 44.
8. L. R. Poos, A Rural Society after the Black Death: Essex, 1350 - 1525 (1991), chapter 7, 'Marriage and Household Formation,' pp. 133-58. See also chapters 5-9 in general.
9. David Weir, 'Rather Never than Late: Celibacy and Age at Marriage,' Journal of Family History, 9:4 (Winter 1984), 340-54. Chiefly for the subsequent period; but important for this era.
10. Roger S. Schofield, 'English Marriage Patterns Revisited,' Journal of Family History, 10:1 (Spring 1985), 2-20. Response to Weir, with important implications for earlier eras.
- *11. David Herlihy and Christiane Klapisch-Zuber, Tuscans and Their Families: A Study of the Florentine Catasto of 1427 (New Haven and London, 1985), chapters 3 - 11: especially chapter 5, 'Men and Women,' pp. 131-58; chapter 7, 'Marriage,' pp. 202-31; chapter 8, 'Births,' pp. 232-56; chapter 9, 'Death,' pp. 257-79; chapter 10, 'The Hearth,' pp. 280-336. See also David Herlihy, Medieval and Renaissance Pistoia, 1200 - 1430 (1967), chapter 3, 'Demography,' pp. 55-71; and pp. 271-82.

12. David Herlihy, Medieval Households (Cambridge, Mass. 1985), chapters 4, 5, and 6 (pp. 79 - 156), for the later Middle Ages (on marriages, parenthood, childhood, etc.).
- * 13. Rebecca Jean Emigh, 'Land Tenure, Household Structure, and Age at Marriage in Fifteenth-Century Tuscany,' Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 27:4 (Spring 1997), 613-36.
- * 14. P. P. A. Biller, 'Birth Control in the West in the Thirteenth and Early Fourteenth Centuries,' Past and Present, no. 94 (1982), 3-26.
- * 15. J.M. Riddle, 'Oral Contraceptives and Early-Term Abortifacients during Classical Antiquity and the Middle Ages,' Past & Present, no. 132 (August 1991), 3-32. See also his more recent monograph: Contraception and Abortion from the Ancient World to the Renaissance (Cambridge, Mass. 1992).
- * 16. Etienne Van de Walle, 'Flowers and Fruits: Two Thousand Years of Menstrual Regulation,' Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 28:2 (Autumn 1997), 183-203. A criticism of the Riddle thesis on fertility controls in ancient and medieval societies.
17. P. Galloway, 'Basic patterns in Annual Variations in Fertility, Nuptiality, Mortality, and Prices in Pre-Industrial Europe,' Population Studies, 42 (1988), 275-304.
18. David Herlihy, 'Biology and History: The Triumph of Monogamy,' Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 25:4 (Spring 1995), 571-83.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the 'European marriage pattern'? What influence did it come to have on European birth and death rates? What are the relationships between the age of first marriage, fertility, birth and net reproduction rates? What was the relationship, if any, between economic circumstances and the age of first marriage?
2. When did the European Marriage Pattern commence -- in the Middle Ages, or later, in the early-modern era? Is there any evidence for a European marriage pattern anywhere in medieval Europe? Where did it probably commence: in Mediterranean or in northern Europe.
3. What constraints were there on birth rates and family sizes? Did Europe's later-medieval population adjust its size to resources? What evidence is there for pre-modern population control within the institution of marriage (as opposed to later marriages).
4. In what social strata does the European marriage pattern first emerge? Does it evolve in a linear fashion?
5. What is the relationship between family structures and the European Marriage Pattern. Did the EMP presuppose a prevalence of the nuclear family household, as opposed to an extended family structure? What role did servants play in the medieval household ('servants in husbandry')?
6. What were the social and economic determinants and demographic consequences of 'nuptiality'? Were the average age of first marriage (for women) and the proportion of women never married necessarily related to each other?