EHPS-Net/LONGPOP Winter Course
'Intermediate Data Structure and Extraction Software'

28-30 November 2016
Scheltema room, International Institute of Social History,
Cruquiusweg 31, 1019 AT Amsterdam

Teachers: **Anders Brändström**
              Göran Broström
              Luciana Quaranta
              Kees Mandemakers

The last thirty years more and more researchers have transformed routinely-generated primary sources into machine-readable data. Especially in the field of historical demography more and more datasets were developed. These datasets were not only constructed for individual research reasons, some of them turned into rather big institutionalised databases which data are used by a growing number of researchers for various topics such as fertility, mortality, social mobility, family studies etc.
This three day course is meant for researchers who want to learn how to exploit their historical sources in a structured, systematic and sustainable way. General goal is teaching students best practices of handling historical longitudinal data by way of the Intermediate Data Structure (IDS). Firstly the IDS will be introduced and explained; secondly the course will concentrate on the ways how data are converted into datasets for analysis by way of extraction software. Thirdly recent experiences in the use of extraction software will be presented and evaluated.

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Monday 28 November

Teacher Kees Mandemakers

09:00   Welcome with coffee

09:15   Introduction round students (who, where, why, experience databases)

09:45   Outline course programme

10:00	The Intermediate Data Structure I
11:00	Coffee break
11:15	The Intermediate Data Structure II
12:15	Introduction assignment: Design of an IDS structure (on paper), in groups of two students. This may be done with a database of the students themselves, or (simple) non IDS versions of the databases of the SEDD database of Lund, Demographic Database Umea or the HSN.
12:30	Lunch break
13:30	Start assignment
15:00	Tea break

Teachers Kees Mandemakers and Anders Brändström

15:15	Presentation/discussion of the designs made by students, focusing on the problems encountered converting data into to IDS
17:45	Closure day 1

Tuesday 29 November

Teachers Kees Mandemakers and Anders Brändström

09:00	Evaluation day I; Discussion/more explanation problematic issues IDS
10:00	Webinar by George Alter (full screen)
10:45	Coffee break

Teacher Anders Brändström

11:00	Role and function of extraction software for IDS data
12:30	Lunch break

Teacher Luciana Quaranta

13:30	Extraction software: Construction of new variables
14:00	Extraction software: Construction of episode and rectangular files
15:15	Tea break
15:30	Questions/discussions about extraction software (discussion will be structured by questions)
17:30	Closure day 2

Wednesday 30 November

09:00	Evaluation day 2: Discussion/explanation problematic issues extraction software

For the Leuven ESHD conference 2016 a common extraction program was built for the analysis of infant mortality with data from five different databases.

Teacher Göran Broström

10:00	Construction of extraction software on infant mortality: Problems and challenges in the construction
11:00	Coffee break

Teacher Luciana Quaranta

11:15	Construction of extraction software on infant mortality: Experiences from the researcher point of view
12:15	Introduction assignment: Design of extraction software (on paper), in groups of two students. This will be done with a research question of the students themselves.
12:30	Lunch break

Teacher Luciana Quaranta, Göran Broström, Anders Brändström

13:30	Start Assignment
15:00	Tea break
15:15	Presentation/discussion of the designs made by students, focusing on the problems encountered converting data into to IDS
16:50	Break

Teacher Kees Mandemakers

17:00	Formal Evaluation course (by way of forms)
17:20	Informal evaluation, impressions winter school
17:45	Closure winter school
19:00	Dinner