

NEARLY PARALLEL LIVES: BIBLIOMETRIC PERSPECTIVES ON THE FIRST TEN VOLUMES OF HISTORICKÁ DEMOGRAFIE AND PRZESZŁOŚĆ DEMOGRAFICZNA POLSKI^[1]

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Abstract: Using bibliometric analysis, this article compares the first ten volumes of *Historická demografie* and *Przeszość Demograficzna Polski* to investigate the formative trajectories of historical demography in Czechoslovakia and Poland. Drawing on an original database of 135 articles, 69 unique first authors, 1,271 references, and 1,692 citations, it examines authorship patterns, referencing practices, analytical apparatus, and subsequent citation impact. The findings reveal asymmetries beneath the journals' nearly parallel histories. *Przeszość Demograficzna Polski* was associated with an older, predominantly male, and more methodologically consolidated scholarly milieu, with stronger reliance on domestic and German-language literature. *Historická demografie*, by contrast, reflected a younger, more gender-balanced community and a stronger orientation toward French historical demography. Despite these differences, both journals produced a broadly comparable long-term legacy. The findings suggest that in Czechoslovakia historical demography developed more as an emerging new field, whereas in Poland it was more strongly rooted in earlier traditions of population, economic, and social history.

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Introduction

Although population history, as a subdiscipline of the historical sciences, had a tradition dating back at least to the nineteenth century, the creation, definition, and popularization of historical demography as a distinct discipline is almost unanimously attributed to Louis Henry (1911–1991). His development of family reconstitution and other methods for analysing past populations – together with his theoretical and practical work on natural fertility and his publication of field-defining manuals, largely in the 1950s and 1960s – are widely regarded as cornerstones of historical demography (Fauve-Chamoux – Bolovan – Sogner, 2016; Rosental, 2003; Charbonneau, 1995).

Whether we agree that the founding moment of the new discipline was the 1960 ICHS/CISH congress in Stockholm, or that it occurred in the years surrounding that date, it should be noted that the international spread of the new paradigm was rapid and remarkable (Fauve-Chamoux, 2016). Despite Europe's division by the Iron Curtain, national associations and committees soon appeared in the eastern part of the continent as well (Kuklo, 2015). This process included both Czechoslovakia (Komise pro historickou demografii při Historickém ústavu ČSAV, 1967) and Poland (Sekcja Demografii Historycznej Komitetu Nauk Demograficznych PAN, 1964).^[2] In both cases, scholarly communities launched their own journals devoted to the newly emerged discipline, inaugurated in 1967 (*Historická demografie* – henceforth HD; *Przeszłość Demograficzna Polski* – henceforth PDP). Although the French influence on the establishment of these communities in Poland and Czechoslovakia, and on the development of regional research, was evident from the outset and continues to be emphasized (Maur, 1968; Seligová, 2017; Fialová, 2003; Pleskot, 2015; Kuklo, 2016), the starting points of historical demography in the two countries were far from similar. The experience of Polish historiography in population, social, and economic history relied mainly on the existence of well-established schools of economic history (Franciszek Bujak and Jan Rutkowski) and on Marxist approaches to the history of material culture (Topolski, 1966; Nodl, 2003; Wywiał, 2023; Wróblewski, 2018). By contrast, the previous experience of Czech Marxist historiography in economic history was limited and interrupted by WWII. It took the Prague professor Václav Husa two decades to shift his focus away from the history of class struggles and establish working groups on historical demography (Fialová – Maur, 2016; Maur, 2003; Pánek – Pešek – Vorel, 2018). Such a setting – the simultaneous crystallisation of a research community around the historical study of demographic processes and the establishment of historical-demography journals, combined with distinct

[2] The committee however was a direct continuation of *Zespół dla badań historyczno-demograficznych*, created in 1960 under the Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej PAN (see Szczypiorski, 1969).

traditions of socio-economic historiography – offers a promising context for examining the circulation of knowledge, scholars, and research practices in both countries, as well as the journals themselves.

Bibliometric scrutiny of journal outputs allows us not only to gauge the effectiveness and impact of scholarly communication, but also to better understand the rise and decline of paradigms and the life cycles of publication platforms (Frederick – Juif – Meier zu Selhausen, 2024; Liu et al., 2018). Publication practices, beyond revealing the explicit state of knowledge at a given time, also carry information about less visible characteristics of academic groups, for example, their openness, intellectual inspirations, and patterns of age or gender segregation (Hérubel, 1999; Krapf – Kreyenfeld – Wolf, 2016). Finally, attention to the scholarly apparatus employed by authors (e.g., tables, graphs, equations, maps) can yield valuable insights into methodological approaches and their shifts within disciplines (Ruggles, 2021; Poniat – Guzowski, 2013; Kessler – Slocum, 2011).

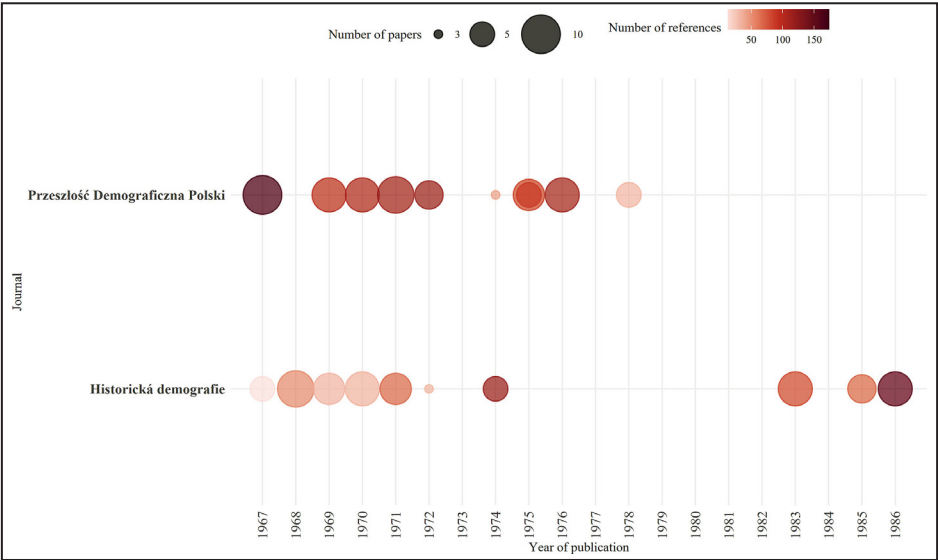
In this paper, we address three related questions: What do bibliographic patterns reveal about the formation of the scholarly communities of historical demographers in Czechoslovakia and Poland? How were the ideas and outputs of French historical demography positioned, in bibliometric terms, in relation to other research traditions? What does citation evidence suggest about the contemporary legacy of the foundational works produced within this new paradigm? To answer these questions, we analyze bibliographic data from the first ten volumes of HD and PDP, together with information on the authors of the articles published in those volumes. Although this approach cannot fully explain the broader social, institutional, and political dynamics through which these communities emerged and developed, it does make it possible to trace patterns of authorship, citation, and intellectual orientation, and on that basis to propose relevant hypotheses about their early formation.

Data and methods

The emergence of a new journal usually accompanies an “extension of scholarly territory” and can mark the beginning of the expansion of a new scientific paradigm. The end of this initial phase, and the approximate transition to a state of “normal science”, is often associated with the publication of the first textbooks and manuals (Burke, 1995, 2020; Kuhn, 2001: 48–49). As noted above, the first volumes of HD and PDP appeared in 1967, which we take as the starting point of this analysis. Defining the *terminus ad quem* is more complicated. Although pioneering Polish and Czechoslovak manuals in historical demography were published in close temporal proximity (*Wstęp do demografii staropolskiej* by Irena Gieysztorowa in 1976; *Základy historické demografie* by Eduard Maur in 1978), the activities of the Czechoslovak Commission for Historical Demography and the publication of HD were suspended for an extended period (1975–1982) due to

political, institutional, and personal circumstances within Czechoslovak Academy (Maur, 2012; Seligová, 2017). To ensure sufficient and comparable material for analyzing the formative years of historical demography in both countries, we therefore limit the dataset to the first ten volumes of each journal. For PDP, this covers issues published between 1967 and 1978; for HD, owing to the disruption noted above, it spans 1967–1986 (Figure 1). Since our primary interest lies in the parallel development of the two journals and their scholarly communities, rather than in a strictly chronological comparison, we analyze corresponding volume positions in each publication sequence (Figures 2–4, 6), treating successive issues as markers of comparable phases in the intellectual and institutional formation of historical demography in both countries, even though the dates of publication are not fully aligned.

FIGURE 1. YEAR OF PUBLICATION, NUMBER OF PAPERS, AND NUMBER OF REFERENCES IN THE FIRST TEN VOLUMES OF HD AND PDP



Source: *Historická demografie*, vol. 1–10, 1967–1986; *Przeszłość Demograficzna Polski*, vol 1–10, 1967–1978; database Ogórek, 2025.

The creation of a database containing primarily basic information on two historical-demographic communities was directly inspired by the foundational work of Jean-Pierre V. M. Hérubel in what he termed historical bibliometrics (Hérubel, 1999). As Hérubel noted, “Authors, article or monograph titles, year of publication, and journal titles are included in a wealth of information which

can then be examined further for salient characteristics. Such phenomena as intellectual influence or interdisciplinarity can be effectively gleaned from such rudimentary data” (Hérubel, 1999: 38; cf. Hérubel, 1990). Since, as demonstrated by Kolasa (2011), the coverage of influential Central and Eastern European scientific journals and monographs in leading bibliographic databases remains very limited, it is crucial to create bespoke data collections that can shed light on the history of science and the circulation of knowledge.

The papers published in HD and PDP during the selected period provided the framework for constructing the database. The database was built in MS Access and consists of three tables –Paper, Author and Reference. The Paper table, in addition to a unique ID and links to the other tables, records the following information: paper title; journal; year; volume; pages; language; the number of citations according to Google Scholar (as of November 2024); additional authors; and the number of tables, figures, mathematical formulae and maps. Author data include family name, given name, affiliation, nationality, birth year, and the year in which the PhD was completed. Cited references were entered as text in a single field and supplemented with information on source type (monograph, journal article, book chapter) and country of publication. References to scholarly publications, historical sources, and materials without a clearly defined non-institutional author were excluded. Data were entered manually owing to the low quality of OCR reproductions of both journals on the relevant portals; even minor errors in author names or paper titles would have produced inconsistencies in the records. In total, we collected information on 135 papers, 69 unique first authors, and 1271 references, which generated 1692 citations.

The indicators used in this paper take a rather basic form of bibliometric measures, but their aim is to extend our understanding of community and journal development from tacit, non-operationalized, and hardly comparable knowledge about openness, traditions, and intellectual inspirations, towards more explicit knowledge allowing for quantification and direct comparisons (Rousseau – Egghe – Guns, 2018). Following this logic, the age and gender characteristics of authors are taken as a proximate measure of journal and community equality (Krapf et al., 2016). The numbers of references and uses of quantitative apparatus, together with the average age of references in each volume, capture the attachment to historiographical traditions, as well as the crystallization of methodology. Finally, the structure of references according to source type and country of publication reflects the intellectual and geographic horizon of the respective communities (Small – Garfield, 1985).

Results

The comparison of age and gender gaps among authors in both journals reveals a significant discrepancy between the Czechoslovak and Polish communities of historical demographers.

TABLE 1. CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRST AUTHORS AND PAPERS BY NUMBER OF AUTHORS IN HD AND PDP, VOLUMES 1–10

Journal	Mean age of first author	Gender of first author		Papers	
		Male	Female	Co-authored	Single authored
Historická demografie	43.69	38	28	5	61
Przeszość Demograficzna Polski	53.98	61	8	2	67

Note: The difference between mean ages is statistically significant at the 0.001 level; the significance of differences between the journals in terms of authors' gender composition is confirmed by a chi-square test ($\chi^2=16.40^{***}$); the difference in levels of co-authorship is insignificant.

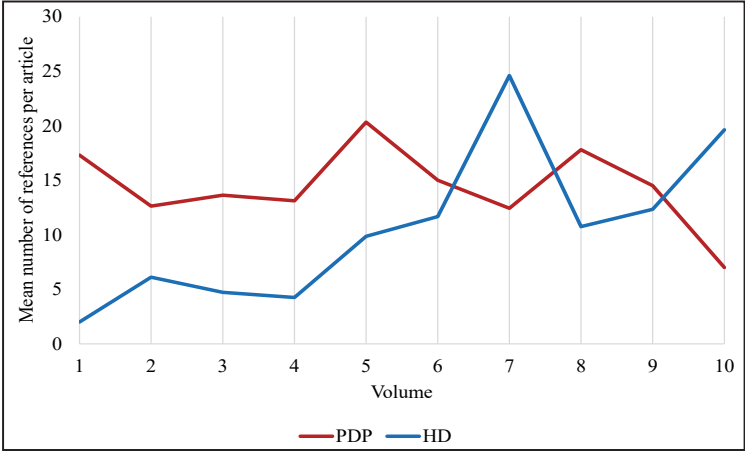
Source: *Historická demografie*, vol. 1–10, 1967–1986; *Przeszość Demograficzna Polski*, vol 1–10, 1967–1978; database Ogórek, 2025.

While in the Polish case the share of female authors in the first ten volumes of the journal was marginal, in HD the sex ratio of authors was almost at parity. Similarly, the Czechoslovak journal appears to be less senior in terms of authors' age. On average, the first author in PDP was almost 10 years older. Both communities displayed a surprising aversion to scientific cooperation resulting in multi-authored publications; only 5% of papers in the sample were written by more than one author (Table 1).

The pattern revealed by changes over time in the number of references, as well as in the analytical apparatus (tables, figures, maps, and mathematical formulae), points to PDP as the platform of a more mature community (Figure 2; Figure 3). It is worth noting, however, that HD, especially in the first several volumes, seemed to be less advanced technologically, including in typesetting and text layout. Regardless of whether the higher frequency of bibliographical entries and quantitative/spatial elements in papers published in PDP is purely scholarly or the outcome of a combination of scholarly and organizational factors, it is clear that the initial advantage of the Polish journal is substantial. This may, once again, reflect a more advanced crystallization of methodology and a more established literature canon in the case of PDP.

The same is suggested by Figure 4: authors publishing in the Polish journal typically referred to considerably older works, especially in the initial phase of the journals' functioning. The most pronounced discrepancies are visible in issues

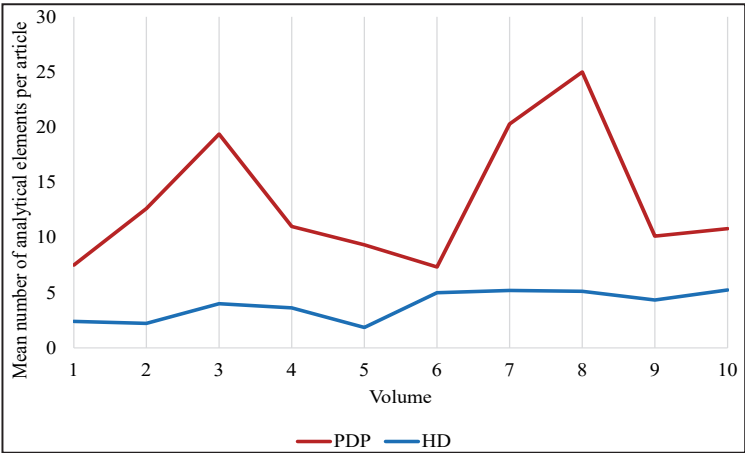
FIGURE 2. AVERAGE NUMBER OF REFERENCES PER ARTICLE IN HD AND PDP, VOLS. 1–10



Note: Comparison by corresponding volume number; publication years do not always coincide. See Figure 1 for the actual chronology.

Source: *Historická demografie*, vol. 1–10, 1967–1986; *Przeszłość Demograficzna Polski*, vol 1–10, 1967–1978; database Ogórek, 2025.

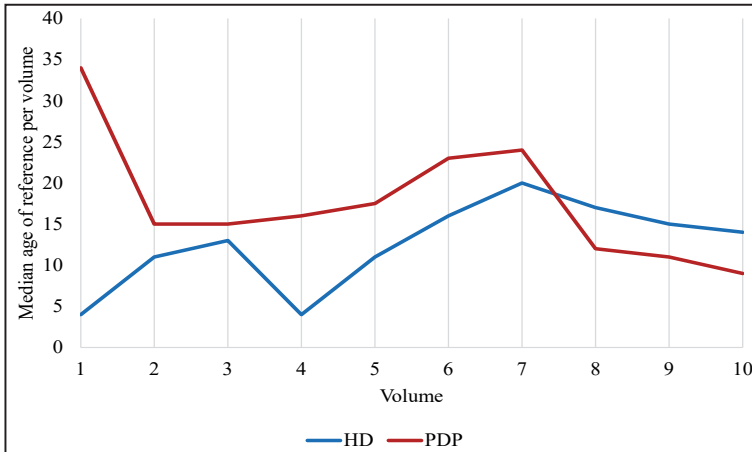
FIGURE 3. AVERAGE USE OF MAPS, PLOTS, TABLES, AND FORMULAS PER ARTICLE IN HD AND PDP, VOLS. 1–10



Note: Comparison by corresponding volume number; publication years do not always coincide. See Figure 1 for the actual chronology.

Sources: *Historická demografie*, vol. 1–10, 1967–1986; *Przeszłość Demograficzna Polski*, vol 1–10, 1967–1978; database Ogórek, 2025.

FIGURE 4 MEDIAN AGE OF REFERENCES IN HD AND PDP, VOLS. 1–10



Note: Comparison by corresponding volume number; publication years do not always coincide. See Figure 1 for the actual chronology.

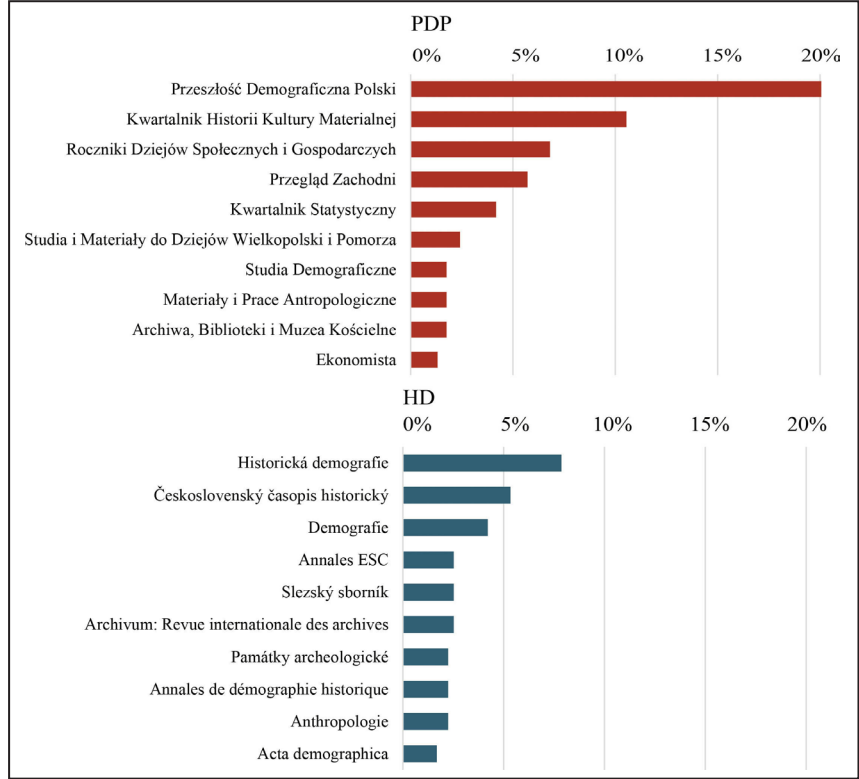
Sources: *Historická demografie*, vol. 1–10, 1967–1986; *Przeszłość Demograficzna Polski*, vol 1–10, 1967–1978; database Ogórek, 2025.

1 and 4, where the median age of references was lower for HD by more than 10 years. In fact, in the early volumes of the Czechoslovak journal, half of the cited literature was most often no older than 10–15 years.

The relatively higher openness of the Czechoslovak community of historical demographers does not seem as evident when comparing the countries in which the cited references were published. In both PDP and HD, the main category of reference origin is the home country (i.e. Poland in the case of PDP and Czechoslovakia in the case of HD), with only slightly higher citation endogeneity in PDP (Table 2). Probably the most important discrepancy here is related to differences in shares by specific countries. The Polish journal is much more German-oriented (16.28%), while in the case of HD the shares of references of foreign origin are more equally distributed between the USSR (9.62%), the German-speaking region (8.43%) and France (7.25%). The mutual cross-citations of Czechoslovak and Polish historical demographers are at a similar level (1.78% and 1.11%, respectively). Given the importance of French research in the emergence of modern historical demography outlined briefly in the introduction, the absence of a larger corpus of French works in PDP is striking.

A slightly more nuanced picture of the spatial aspect of intellectual inspiration is possible in the case of cited monographs, since the place of publication is provided. Publications cited by authors in PDP come mainly from cities located within Poland's post-1945 borders (mainly Warsaw, Wrocław, Poznań and

FIGURE 5. THE TEN MOST CITED JOURNALS IN PDP AND HD, VOLS. 1-10

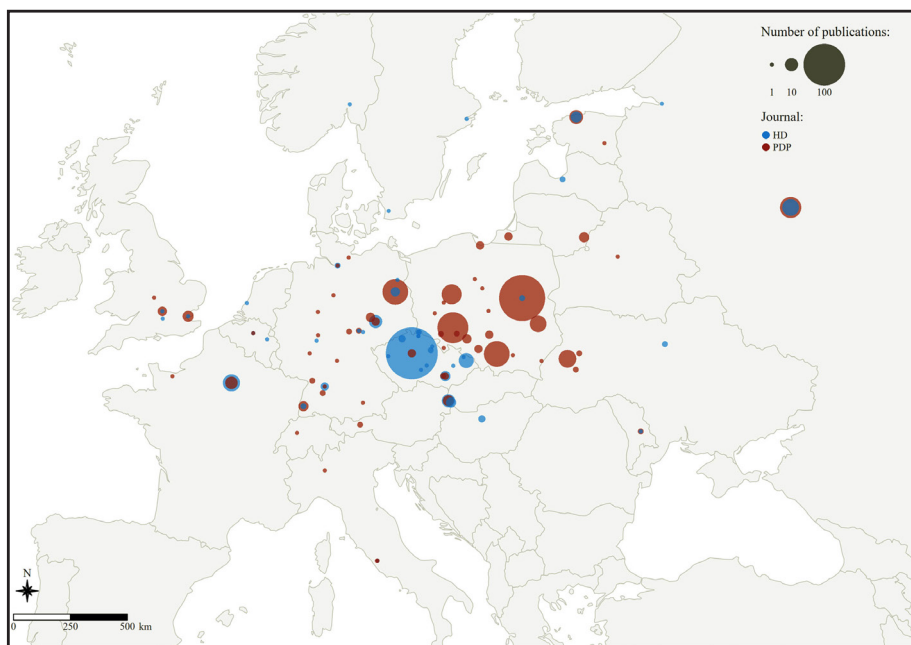


Sources: *Historická demografie*, vol. 1-10, 1967-1986; *Przeszłość Demograficzna Polski*, vol 1-10, 1967-1978; database Ogórek, 2025.

TABLE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF CITED PUBLICATIONS BY COUNTRY OF PUBLICATION IN HD AND PDP, VOLS. 1-10

HD		PDP	
Country of publication	Percentage	Country of publication	Percentage
Czechoslovakia	67.31	Poland	71.36
USSR	9.62	German Language Region	16.28
German Language Region	8.43	USSR	6.03
France	7.25	England & USA	3.12
England & USA	2.66	Czechoslovakia	1.11
Poland	1.78	France	1.51
Other	2.96	Other	0.60

MAP 1. PLACES OF PUBLICATION OF BOOKS REFERRED TO BY AUTHORS IN HD AND PDP, VOLS. 1–10



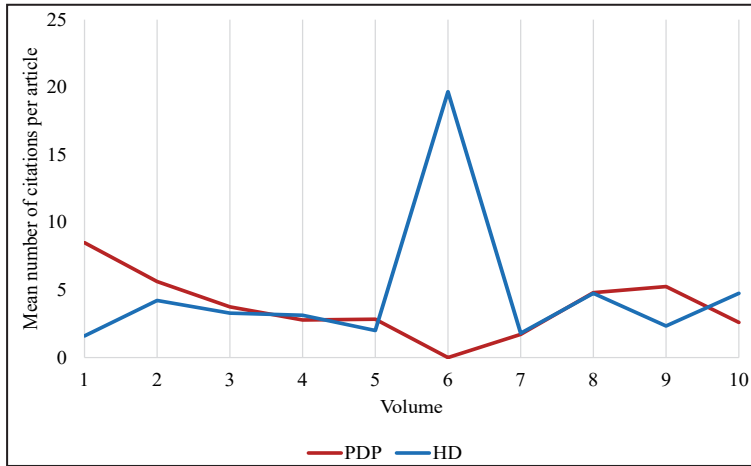
Note: Only European cities are shown.

Sources: *Historická demografie*, vol. 1–10, 1967–1986; *Przeszłość Demograficzna Polski*, vol 1–10, 1967–1978; database Ogórek, 2025.

Kraków). The interwar and earlier traditions that could be reflected by a high frequency of Lviv or Vilnius are much less pronounced than those associated with Berlin or Moscow. The Polish community of historical demographers also referred to monographs published in smaller German cities (Freiburg, Halle, Leipzig), as well as Vienna or Innsbruck, which contributes to the high share of publications from the German-speaking region. Interestingly, in this respect Polish scholars were more likely to use books published in Prague or Brno than their Czechoslovak colleagues were to cite those issued in Warsaw.

The higher impact of French thought on works of Czechoslovak scholars is corroborated by an analysis of the most cited journals in HD and PDP (Figure 5). Again, in-house citations are the most frequent in both cases, with a considerably more evident level of this practice in PDP (20.22% in comparison to 7.87% in HD). Interestingly, the list of journals cited in PDP consists exclusively of Polish journals, with *Kwartalnik Historii Kultury Materialnej* and *Roczniki Dziejów Społecznych i Gospodarczych* being most frequently cited, reflecting the strong

FIGURE 6. MEAN NUMBER OF CITATIONS PER PAPER IN HD AND PDP, VOLS. 1–10



Note: Comparison by corresponding volume number; publication years do not always coincide. See Figure 1 for the actual chronology.

Sources: *Historická demografie*, vol. 1–10, 1967–1986; *Przeszłość Demograficzna Polski*, vol 1–10, 1967–1978; database Ogórek, 2025.

ties of Polish historical demography with Polish economic history and Marxist material culture, encompassing mainly archaeology and ethnology. Apart from *Studia i Materiały do dziejów Wielkopolski i Pomorza*, none of the platforms referred to regularly by Polish authors is purely historical. Instead, we see an interdisciplinary mix of approaches to population studies, drawing on demographic, economic, anthropological and auxiliary sciences. The case of HD is quite distinct for several reasons. First, the ‘top list’ for HD contains two top-tier French journals directly from the circle of the Annales school of thought (*Annales ESC* and *Annales de démographie historique*). Secondly, the position of *Československý časopis historický*, focusing mainly on history, is second only to HD. In addition, the profile of journals related to demography, anthropology or archaeology is similar to that of PDP. Generally, the distribution of journal citations in HD is much more even than in PDP (Gini coefficient of 0.47 compared to 0.63). The citation patterns also reflect the detachment of both communities: PDP is cited only five times by authors of Czechoslovak papers, while Polish authors do not cite HD at all in the first ten volumes.

Despite all the differences found between the communities and journals so far, the long-term legacy of both HD and PDP appears broadly similar. The mean number of citations per paper in most volumes oscillates around five, with an exceptionally high value in volume 6 of HD. The reason behind this surprising outlier is the fact that this volume contains the most cited paper in the whole

database, i.e. *Vývoj matričního zápisu v Čechách* by Eduard Maur (1972), cited 46 times in Google Scholar as of November 2024. Maur also tops the list of the most cited authors in volumes 1–10 of PDP and HD (Table 3), due to the highest number of citations in both absolute and relative terms. Interestingly, the top 10 contains four Czech authors, five Poles and one Polish-born Jewish scholar, which, again, points to a broadly comparable impact of both communities in the initial years of their functioning. The distribution, the upper segment of which is presented in Table 3, is markedly skewed, with a small number of authors accounting for a disproportionate share of the published and cited contributions, a pattern consistent with the classic bibliometric regularity described by Lotka’s law (Nicholls, 1989).

TABLE 3. MOST CITED AUTHORS OF WORKS PUBLISHED IN HD AND PDP, VOLS. 1–10

Author	Number of papers in HD/PDP	Number of citations	Average citations per paper	Average citations per paper per year	Average citations per year
Eduard Maur	9	125	13.89	0.29	2.63
Stanisław Borowski	11	99	9.00	0.18	1.94
Bolesław Kumor	12	56	4.67	0.09	1.11
Eliška Čáňová	5	26	5.20	0.11	0.56
Tadeusz Ładogórski	5	22	4.40	0.08	0.41
Ludmila Fialová	2	16	8.00	0.21	0.41
Josef Křivka	3	17	5.67	0.10	0.31
Ewa Brodnicka	2	16	8.00	0.15	0.30
Rafał Mahler	1	14	14.00	0.25	0.25
Julian Janczak	2	12	6.00	0.12	0.23

Note: Citations according to Google Scholar as of November 2024.
 Sources: *Historická demografie*, vol. 1–10, 1967–1986; *Przeszłość Demograficzna Polski*, vol 1–10, 1967–1978; database Ogórek, 2025.

Discussion and conclusions

The discussion of the results based on the extensive bibliographic database and presented above must necessarily be limited to a summary of the main findings and recommendations for further research. A fuller understanding of the most striking similarities and differences between the Czechoslovak and Polish communities of historical demographers would undoubtedly require additional archival research on both the individuals and the institutions involved. Nevertheless, initial

works summarizing the development of the sub-discipline in both countries, and in a global context, allow us to formulate cautious conclusions and hypotheses.

First and foremost, the results confirm the intuitive expectation that, despite the nearly parallel histories of the journals themselves, the traditions of Polish and Czechoslovak historical demography were markedly uneven. This asymmetry is also apparent in the synthetic descriptions of the field presented in the *Global History of Historical Demography* volume. While the interwar period saw the first books on the population history of the Czech Lands and some local estimates of population change, Polish scholars such as Zofia Daszyńska Golińska and Franciszek Bujak were already well established in Poland and beyond, proposing ambitious research programs in the field (Fialová – Maur, 2016; Kuklo, 2016). In addition, *Przeszłość Demograficzna Polski* was not the first journal to publish numerous studies in population history, as foundational work in early historical demography in Poland had already been articulated in *Kwartalnik Historii Kultury Materialnej*. This reflects the earlier (by at least one generation) interest of Polish historians in population history, and helps to explain the substantial age differences among authors publishing in HD and PDP. The interpretation is also broadly consistent with the higher average number of analytical elements per article in PDP than in HD (Figure 3). Although this indicator should not be overinterpreted, since it captures formalized features of presentation as much as analytical practice, it nevertheless suggests that Polish historical demography operated within a somewhat more established and methodologically consolidated research tradition. In the Czechoslovak case, Maur's historical demography research group consisted largely of students and young scholars (Horský, 1997). Some of them continued to collaborate actively with HD even after taking positions in archives, where doctoral training (scientific aspirantura) was not a formal requirement, whereas the Polish community appears to have been more closely tied to academic institutions.

Another example of this chronological mismatch concerns early source studies and methodological papers on the use of parish registers in the context of historical-demographic inquiries. In the Polish case, these were the highly cited works by Zbigniew Sułowski (1962) and Irena Gieysztorowa (1962), whereas in Czechoslovakia comparable work appeared later, after HD had already been established (Maur, 1969; 1970; 1972). This, in turn, helps to account for differences in the mean age of cited references between the two journals. Moreover, the divergent geographic patterns in HD and PDP revealed above (Table 2, Map 1) harmonize with the chronological shift in references. The Polish journal reflects greater author interest in formerly German territories (both the German partition and the “regained lands”), and references to materials published in the German Language Region are, in fact, the oldest ones. The average age of such references was 73 years in the case of Germany, 76 for Austria and 83 for Switzerland, compared to 20 in the case of England and just 9 in the case of France.

German scholarship supplied mainly statistical works that could be used either as sources of information or as methodological manuals. For example, Bohdan Puczyński (1972) referred to the classical *Die göttliche Ordnung* by Süssmilch (1761); Alena Šubrtová (1985) used works by Joseph Anton Riegger (1794); while Eva Semotanová (1986) and Rafał Mahler (1967) cited Karl Bücher (1886). The overrepresentation of German research in the case of PDP was closely related to studies of Silesia, primarily by scholars based in Wrocław. Whether this constituted a scholarly-cultural “Reconquista” of the “Regained Lands”, or simply reflected a convenient research focus given the location of archives and the high quality of the surviving materials, remains to be investigated (Szczepańska-Dudziak, 2015: 227; Chojecki – Giza, 2014; Kuklo, 2017).

Less clear is the origin of the disproportionately larger gender gap in the Polish community. In both countries, women were crucial to the establishment and development of the relevant communities, journals, and research schools. In Czechoslovakia, figures such as Pavla Horská, Eliška Čáňová, and Ludmila Fialová played an important role in shaping historical demography, while in Poland Irena Gieysztorowa was among the central figures in the field. Horská and Gieysztorowa were particularly prominent, not only in terms of research output and institutional affiliations, but also through their active and exceptional international contacts. Both also played an important role in introducing and popularizing the family reconstitution method in their respective countries (Falniowska-Gradowska, 1999; Seligová, 2017). Yet the incidence of female authors in PDP was almost four times lower than in HD. Without more detailed studies, it is not possible to determine whether this pattern was specific to the sub-discipline, reflected historiography as a whole in the 1960s and 1970s, or stemmed from broader structural differences between Polish and Czechoslovak Academy.

Similarly, more research is needed on scientific cooperation, both within and across national communities. Although historical demography is often associated with network formation (Fauve-Chamoux, 2016), there were very few co-authored papers in the analyzed sample, and no direct Czechoslovak–Polish cooperation, both of which call for closer scrutiny. For the moment, the likely explanation for such isolation may lie in the strict rationing of cultural and scientific cooperation between Poland and Czechoslovakia until at least the late 1950s (Szczepańska-Dudziak, 2015). Since the 1960s, however, opportunities for study stays abroad were no longer limited to quotas for reciprocal visits by professors but also became available to young scholars (Surman – Pavlíček, 2024). Moreover, the analysis of literature reviews in both journals suggests that at least some members of these communities had access to a broad body of international scholarship, including publications from both Western countries and the Soviet bloc. The academic societies themselves also sought to establish contacts across the Iron Curtain; in this context, some articles in HD were published in French in order to foster wider international cooperation. The strategies through which scholars gained

access to current research, as well as the ways in which they attempted to reach international audiences, therefore require further investigation (see, for example, Maur, 2012: 115–116). Existing evidence also suggests that mutual contacts were not always institutionally supported; for example, the meeting between Irena Gieysztorowa, Pavla Horská, and Eduard Maur in Prague in the early 1980s had to take place unofficially outside the institute (Maur, 2012: 116–117).

Even less clear is the scarcity of mutual citations between HD and PDP, despite the fact that both journals acknowledged and advertised one another's content from the early volumes (Borowski, 1969; Horská, 1968). Pavla Horská pointed out that "the new collection of studies in Polish historical demography [PDP, vol. 1] is undoubtedly a contribution to Czech historiography as well, because leading Polish demographers address the issues of the Czech–Polish border regions in Silesia. For Czech historical demography, the volume offers a welcome opportunity to compare and confront views on population development in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the 19th century", and yet across ten volumes of HD, PDP was cited only five times. It is possible that, given the richer tradition of historical demography in Polish historiography, Polish scholars may have regarded work published in HD as less central. As Adam Szczypiorski (1969: 217–218) noted in the second volume of PDP: "Over the past several years, Czechoslovak researchers have wished to draw on our experience, although we were still far from the level of development reached by the countries mentioned above [Hungary, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Great Britain]. Today we can state that although, at the institutional level, we were the first among the people's democracies to initiate and coordinate historical-demographic research, Czechoslovak researchers not only followed our example, but thanks above all to their financial resources and the support of the Institute of History with which they are affiliated will soon surpass us in their research achievements and in the publications they make available." This view also suggests a potential direction for further research: Polish scholars believed that their Czechoslovak colleagues were more organized and institutionally supported (and thus more closely aligned with Western practices in this respect), whereas their own efforts were perceived as less coordinated and more individualistic (Kuklo, 2015: 16).

The analysis suggests that HD may have been slightly closer to modern historical demography, particularly in its French variant. The importance of this French orientation for Czechoslovak scholars, as reflected in references, is corroborated by the fact that the seventh volume of HD was published in 1974 in French. At the same time, the high frequency of references originating in the USSR is misleading. Most of the citations from this direction come from two lengthy review papers with disproportionately large reference lists surveying Soviet historical demography (in HD: Bekmachanovová – Palli, 1986; in PDP: Pullat, 1976). If those papers are excluded, references to Soviet works drop from 65 to 1 in HD and from 60 to 2 in PDP (sic!). This may be a sign that, as in some other scientific

domains, references to communist classics and to Soviet researchers were treated more as an incidental quota to fulfil than as a significant source of intellectual inspiration (Kulczycki – Kolasa – Szadkowski, 2021).

Overall, the picture that emerges from this study suggests that, in several respects – such as the age and gender distribution of authors, and referencing patterns in space and time – HD was closer to the dynamics of a genuine (even if imported) scientific revolution and to the emergence of a new research field. In the case of PDP, by contrast, the arrival of “modern” historical demography appears more as an adaptation of earlier currents to new intellectual trends than as a full break with previous approaches. These differences, however, despite being pronounced, have not so far produced a significant divergence in terms of impact or long-lasting legacy.

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