

Gordon DeJong (2005)



Vice President – 2014-2015

President – 2015-2016

Nov 9, 2005: Demographic Trends Affecting Public Policy in Pennsylvania

Oct 8, 2008: Immigration Science, Policy and Politics

Feb 9, 2011: Why We Have, and the Methodology for Conducting, the US Census

Jan 9, 2013: Where is Pennsylvania Going? Ten Demographic Trends

May 11, 2016: Understanding US Immigration Policy & Politics

Jan 10, 2018: Changing Demography of the America Family

Oct 14, 2020: Refugees and Asylees in the Trump Era

Mar 13, 2024: Is Demography Destiny? Ten Master Trends

A native of Kentucky, I received my B.A. in Sociology from Central College, IA., M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Kentucky, and post-graduate studies in Demography at the University of Chicago. I joined the Penn State Sociology Department faculty in 1963 and pursued my entire academic career here. I was promoted to Full Professor in 1972 and named Distinguished Professor in 1992. My scholarship and grant-funded research and publications focused primarily on internal and international migration topics, including developing a motivation-based theory of migration decision-making, and conducting collaborative research projects in the U.S. and international projects in Peru, The Netherlands, Great Britain, Israel, The Philippines, Thailand, Romania, and South Africa. I was co-founder in 1972 of the continuing very research active Penn State Population Research Institute, served as Director in 1974-76, 1983-88, and in 1987 was founder and for 25 years Director of the Penn State Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Demography, which continues to be ranked by U.S. News and World Reports in the top five demography training programs in the U.S. I have served as the principal academic advisor for 31 Masters students and 33 Ph.D. students. As director of the Graduate Program in Demography I wrote and received 10 competitively awarded multi-year training grants, totaling 40 cumulative years of support, from the U.S. National Institutes of Health and from the Hewlett Foundation to provide fellowships for 215 U.S. and international graduate students to pursue their Ph.D. studies in Demography at Penn State. After retiring in 2012, I worked for five years on an NIH funded research grant on the health of children of Mexican immigrants, and on developing an on-line World Campus Master's program in Applied Demography. In 2020 I received the Laureate Award from the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (top world demography association) for career contributions to the discipline of Demography.

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