

CURRICULUM VITAE

DEJUN SU

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Education

2006	Ph.D.	Sociology	University of Chicago
1999	M.A.	Demography	Peking University, China
1996	B.A.	Sociology	Peking University, China

Dissertation

“Old-Age Survival in a Life Course Perspective: Union Army Veterans 1805-1946”

Committee: Linda J. Waite (Chair), Robert W. Fogel, and Patrick Heuveline

This study examines the relation between risk exposures over the life course and hazard of mortality among 12,000 Union Army veterans aged 50 and over in 1900. Early-life conditions such as season and country of birth, occupation, and residential location prior to enlistment are found to have a significant impact on old-age mortality. A sensitivity analysis suggests that these effects are robust regardless of whether or not wartime stress and socioeconomic conditions in later life are taken into account. Occupational immobility for manual labors, and to a less extent for artisans, is associated with an elevated risk of mortality. The survival advantages for married veterans result from the benefits of marriage per se rather than from health selection prior to marriage. These findings suggest that a life course approach can be exceptionally useful in understanding mortality differentials in old age.

Areas of Interest

Demography, Life Course and Aging, Medical Sociology, Social Stratification, and Chinese Studies.

Work Experience

2006- Assistant Professor at Department of Sociology, University of Texas-Pan American.
Senior Fellow at the Institute for Population Health Policy at UTPA.
Starting from fall 2007, Graduate Advisor for the Graduate Program in Sociology.

2003-2006 Research assistant at the Center for Population Economics, Graduate School of Business,
University of Chicago. Advisor: Professor Robert W. Fogel.

2001-2002 Research fellow hired by the World Bank. Finished a research report for “The China
Component in the Burden of Disease among the Global Poor Project.”
Advisor: Dr. Davidson R. Gwatkin.

2000-2001 Research assistant in “The Fiscal Austerity and Urban Innovation Project.” Department of
Sociology, University of Chicago. Advisor: Professor Terry N. Clark.

1997 Research assistant in the project “Population, Consumption, and Land Use in Jitai Basin in China,” directed by Professor Yi Zeng. Institute of Population Research, Peking University.

Peer-reviewed Publications

2007 **Su, D.**, Li, L. and Pagán, J. “Acculturation and the Use of Complementary and Alternative Medicine” Forthcoming in *Social Science and Medicine*.

2005 **Su, D.** “Body Mass Index and Old-Age Survival: A Comparative Study Between the Union Army Records and the NHANES-I Epidemiological Follow-up Sample.” *American Journal of Human Biology*, 17: 341-354.

2005 Linares, D. and **Su, D.** “BMI and Health among Union Army Veterans: 1891-1905.” *Economics and Human Biology* 3: 367-387.

Papers in Progress

“Early-Life Experience and Old-Age Mortality: Evidence from Union Army Veterans”

“School Contexts and Marijuana Use among Adolescents,” invited for submission to *Sociological Inquiry*.

“Occupational Mobility and Old-Age Mortality: Evidence from Union Army Veterans”

“Assessing Assimilation in the Borderlands: How Rapidly Do Mexican Americans Assimilate?” (In collaboration with Dr. Chad Richardson)

Grant Applications

(1) Grants Received

2007 \$300,000 funded by The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Principle Investigator (PI) for the Project “Explaining Cross-Border Utilization of Healthcare: Evidence from the Lower Rio Grande Valley”, as one of the four component projects for the grand proposal “UTPA Health Services Research Initiative” by Dr. José A. Pagán.

UTPA Grant for Basic Training in Cooperative Learning Workshop: \$ 1,000

UTPA Summer Writing Institute Grant: \$2,000

UTPA Undergraduate Research Initiative (in collaboration with Veronica Villarreal): \$ 2,000

(2) Grant Applications Submitted

Co-PI in the UTPA headed project “Population dynamics, migration flows & government services”, as a component of the grand proposal to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security seeking funding support for the establishment of the Center of Excellence for Border Security and Immigration, led by the University of Arizona.

Investigator in the proposed study “Project Borderlands: Building Bi-national Collaborative Research Capacity in the U.S.-Mexico Region” that has been submitted to the BBVA Foundation, with Dr. Espiridion (Al) Borrego as the PI.

Conference Papers and Presentations

- 2007 “Early-Life Experience and Old-Age Mortality: Evidence from Union Army Veterans.” Presented at the 2007 annual meeting of the Population Association of America, New York.
- 2006 “Occupational Mobility and Old-Age Survival: Evidence from Union Army Veterans.” Presented at the session on Early Life Experiences and Mortality at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Los Angeles.
- 2005 “Old-age Survival in a Life Course Perspective: Evidence from Union Army Veterans.” Presented at the workshop on The Economics and Biodemography of Aging and Health Care. Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago.
- 2005 “School Contexts and Marijuana Use among Adolescents.” Presented at the session on Deviance and Social Control at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Philadelphia.
- 2005 “BMI and Health among Union Army Veterans.” (Coauthor with Claudia Linares) Presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America. Philadelphia.
- 2004 “Occupation, Occupational Mobility, and Old Age Survival: Evidence from Union Army Veterans.” Presented at the Center for Population Economics, GSB, University of Chicago.
- 2004 “BMI and Health among Union Army Veterans.” (Coauthor with Claudia Linares) Presented at the NBER Conference on Early Indicators of Later Work Levels, Diseases and Death. Salt Lake City.
- 2004 “BMI and Old-Age Survival: A Comparative Study between Union Army Veterans and the NHANES Follow-up Sample.” Presented at the regular session on Obesity and Inactivity: Trends and Consequences, annual meeting of the Population Association of America. Boston.
- 2003 “Nutritional Status and Mortality among Union Army Veterans.” Presented at the Center for Population Economics, Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago.
- 2002 “Health Inequalities Across Economic Groups in China: A Component of the Global Burden of Disease.” Presented at the Health and Poverty Group of the World Bank, Washington D.C.

Teaching Experience

- 2006- Teaching at the Department of Sociology, UTPA.
- 2003 Guest lecturer for the course “The Social Determinants of Health and Illness.”

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

- 2007 Winner poster at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, New York
- 2006 RAND Scholarship for the 2006 RAND Summer Institute
- 1999-2003 University of Chicago Fellowship
- 1999-2000 International House Residential Fellowship, University of Chicago
- 1998-1999 Excellent Service Award, Institute of Population Research, Peking University

- 1997-1998 Cai Wenmei Fellowship, Institute of Population Research, Peking University
1996 Honors Thesis for B.A. degree, Department of Sociology, Peking University
1994-1995 Yan Jingyao Fellowship, Department of Sociology, Peking University
1993-1994 Excellent Student Award, Peking University
1987 Honors, Tengfei Cup. National Geography Contest, Beijing

Professional Affiliations and Service

Member of American Sociological Association and Population Association of America.

Reviewer of manuscripts submitted to *American Journal of Sociology* and *Economics and Human Biology*.