**Call for Papers**

**Ninth Day of Historical Demography**

**Diseases, Causes of Death and the Epidemiological Transition**

Organizers: Angélique Janssens (Radboud University Nijmegen/Maastricht University), Willibrord Rutten (Maastricht University), Isabelle Devos (Ghent University) and Tina Van Rossem (Ghent University/Vrije Universiteit Brussel).

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Over the past three centuries, mortality and morbidity patterns have been changing all over the world, yet with variations in timing and pace. These changes have been referred to as the epidemiological transition. The main features of the transition include an increase in life expectancy and a shift in the leading causes of morbidity and mortality from infectious and parasitic diseases to non-communicable, chronic, and degenerative diseases. Since its original publication by Abdel Omran in 1971, the epidemiological transition theory has been adopted and adapted, revised and criticized. Yet, most of the criticisms apply to the health changes in the developing world, whereas its merits for the description of epidemiological changes and disease patterns in historical populations of Europe and North America have been called into question to a much lesser extent. The Ninth Day of Historical Demography aims at questioning the validity of the epidemiological transition theory in the long run from an interdisciplinary perspective.

This call invites paper proposals pertaining to this broad theme and welcomes contributions from historians, sociologists, demographers, epidemiologists, public health specialists etc. Preferably, paper proposals will be on the following topics: the epidemiological transitions in time and space; disease categorizations; case studies of diseases and epidemiological changes; mortality patterns for one specific cause of death or category of causes of death (e.g. tuberculosis, cholera, smallpox, malaria, coronary diseases, suicide, etc.); social, economic, cultural and/or political aspects of morbidity and cause-specific mortality differentiation; spatial analysis of morbidity and cause-specific mortality; health systems and policies in the past. Obviously, other topics may be suggested as well.

Paper proposals (in English) should be sent to [Tina.VanRossem@ugent.be](mailto:Tina.VanRossem@ugent.be) no later than **31 May 2016**. Notifications of acceptance of papers will be emailed during the month of June. For general inquiries: [a.janssens@let.ru.nl](mailto:a.janssens@let.ru.nl).

The Ninth Day of Historical Demography is an initiative of WOG Historical Demography, N.W. Posthumus Institute and the Centre for the Social History of Limburg.