

Thomas Cooke, Ph.D.

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Summary

Senior Researcher, Internationally Recognized Scholar, and In-Demand Consultant with 25+ Years at the Forefront of Applied Demography, Spatial Analysis, and Data Analysis.

Areas of Expertise

Knowledge Domains: Demography | Population Studies | Urban Studies | Migration | Population Projections | Quantitative Methods | Census Data | American Community Survey | Panel Data | Administrative Data | Research Design | Spatial Analysis | Econometrics | Online Instruction | Academic Editing | Keynote Presentations

Research Specializations: The Suburbanization of Poverty | Domestic Migration and Its Impact on People, Families, and Communities | Regional, Municipal, and School District Population Projections | The Long-Term Decline in US Domestic Migration

Statistical Software: STATA | R | Tableau | SAS | SPSS

Experience

Executive Director | A Better Connecticut Institute | 2023-Present

Demographic Consultant | 2020-2023

Practice Areas: US Migration Trends | Migration Policy for Local Economic Development and Planning | Regional, Municipal, and School District Population Projections | US Census Data Analysis | Workforce Demographics | Research Design | Expert Testimony | Keynote Presentations

Selected Clients: A Better Connecticut | Cubit Planning | GLG | Connecticut Department of Education | FannieMae | St. Alban's Episcopal Church | Boston University School of Public Health | Rand | Indianapolis Public Transportation

Professor | Department of Geography | University of Connecticut | 1994-2020

- Published ~100 peer-reviewed journal articles in leading international social science journals (Complete List in [Google Scholar](#))
- Research Excellence Award | American Association of Geographers
- U.S. Fulbright Scholar | University of Groningen (Netherlands)
- Visiting Professor at the University of St. Andrews, Queen's University (Belfast), and University of Amsterdam
- Editor | Urban Geography
- The article in The Conversation - [Why Americans Are Staying Put, Instead of Moving to a New City or State](#) - has over 100,000 views.
- Frequently quoted in media such as the New York Times, CNN, Boston Globe, Wall Street Journal, and Hartford Courant.

Director | Connecticut State Data Center | University of Connecticut | 2009-2011

The Connecticut State Data Center is the lead organization in the US Census Bureau's State Data Center Program and is Connecticut's official source for census data.

- Supervised three staff members and coordinated the Center's strategic direction with a dozen affiliated faculty and the university administration.
- Initiated, negotiated, and administered the Center's transition from an academic to a library center.
- Secured transitional funding from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management
- Responded to citizen, government, and media inquiries regarding Census programs and data.

Director | Urban Studies Program | University of Connecticut | 1994-2001 | 2004-2007

An interdisciplinary undergraduate major focused on urbanization, urban affairs, and urban planning.

- Launched and led Urban Studies as the first stand-alone degree program at the University's regional campus in Hartford.
- The program has grown to 100+ majors as a feature of the UConn-Hartford Campus.
- Subsequently appointed as Coordinator of Urban Studies at the main campus (Storrs) to address a low number of majors (~3) and revitalized it into a sustainable program with ~40 majors in three years.

Research Associate | The Polis Center | 1992-1994

The Polis Center at IUPUI in Indianapolis works with partners to define, measure, and actively improve community health, well-being, and resiliency.

- Supported demographic research projects.
- Developed new consulting opportunities for state and local government and social service organizations.
- Initiated the development of SAVI, now the nation's largest and most comprehensive community information system.

Other Experience

- Instructor and Teaching Assistant | Department of Geography | Indiana University
- Soviet Patent Journal Transliterater | Battelle Institute

Education

Indiana University | Ph.D. | 1993 | Geography with Concentrations in Demography and Economics

Indiana University | M.A. | 1988 | Geography with Concentrations in Planning Methods

The Ohio State University | B.A. | 1986 | Geography with Concentrations in Soviet and Russian Studies