

David Ian Pool: 22 November 1936 – 8 April 2022; Emeritus Professor, University of Waikato - Colleague and friend

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Obituaries for Ian Pool have rightly recorded and applauded his academic career and his contribution both to demography (and cognate disciplines) and to Aotearoa New Zealand and the wider world. He was to me, and to others within and beyond the academy, more than a distinguished colleague: he was also a friend and mentor, and in my case (and for others) also a supportive colleague and an effective doctoral supervisor.

I had been at the University of Waikato for a decade, beginning as a junior lecturer, when Ian Pool was appointed a Professor there in 1978. Brian Easton's obituary in the *Waikato Times* (20 May 2022, p. 7) rightly describes this as "an inspired choice ... [which] meant that Waikato University is New Zealand's premier academic centre for population studies". He was welcomed enthusiastically by those who valued and practised more empirical and quantitative disciplines and wanted their disciplines to contribute effectively to public policy.

In the first few years of his tenure at Waikato I came to appreciate, value and benefit from some of Ian's human qualities. He was very willing to engage in teaching from introductory level to doctoral supervision—and to accept a junior colleague's planning of lecture topics and assessment items in the first-year paper for which the junior colleague (yes, me) was responsible! Of course, his passion came through in his demography teaching and supervision, but he was also glad to be active in sociology.

Ian made excellent contributions to the sociology courses I convened, and argued—including in genealogy publications and conferences—for historical demographers, sociologists and family historians/genealogists (practitioners, not academics) to collaborate for their collective advantage.

He put in the time, effort and care needed in the supervision of theses and dissertations—though his handwriting in his copious feedback was sometimes doctoral (in the sense of doctors' handwriting). He criticised and encouraged in equal measure, and both were helpful. It seemed as if every airport stopover overseas resulted in an airmail package of feedback on draft chapters to a student (yes, me again) back at Waikato.

In Ian's earlier years at the University of Waikato the governments of various days were not, in my observation, generally warmly welcoming of input from academics, and perhaps especially social scientists, and most especially when the research and scholarship was impeccably conducted and its results unarguable. Ian was perhaps more highly regarded in the rest of the world, including and perhaps especially in Africa, than here in Aotearoa/New Zealand (beyond Waikato's "inspired" appointment) in those earlier years. Nevertheless, he persisted in giving population studies and its cognate subjects a voice in public affairs and was, in my experience, highly respected by public officials—and, increasingly, eventually, by their political masters. In all the protests and turmoil since the 1970s on issues of colonialism, biculturalism, racism, honouring of Te Tiriti and generational ideological change, Ian Pool and his colleagues provided us with extensive and well-founded documentation and exegesis of what was (and still is) our national experience and our vital characteristics. Well-informed policy formulation and implementation is utterly essential when a society sets out—however diversely—to transform itself. Ian's contributions, whether in introductory

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sociology or doctoral demography, whether in academic publications or engagement with politicians and public officials, were central and essential.

Ian Pool was also an internationalist, and I remember many occasions, both in seminars and in the tea room, when he reminded us of insights into the rest of the world, where he worked, and especially African nations, whose realities as he researched them bore little resemblance to our sometimes unconsidered assumptions and beliefs. He wasn't only a voice for Aotearoa/New Zealand; he was also a voice for a post-colonial world.

Ian Pool had a distinguished career, well recorded in the obituaries that focus on his academic and scholarly life. He was also a good friend and supportive colleague. I will miss him, as I believe many others will, and as his discipline, and Aotearoa/New Zealand, will. It is part of his legacy that there are so many people whose lives he touched and who will continue the work for which the obituaries remember him.

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Brian Easton (2022, May 20). The father of New Zealand demography, *Waikato Times*.

Ian Pool as Social Demographer and Sociologist

Charles Crothers[†]

While accounts of Ian Pool's work cover his contributions to demography, they tend to overlook the wider sociological and social policy frameworks in which his demography was embedded. Ian was a social demographer who contributed to the wider social sciences in Aotearoa New Zealand – and indeed worldwide.

Ian's involvement with Sociology was first of all formal: several of his early appointments in North America were to sociology departments and from 1978 through 1992 he was Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Waikato. Professor Bettison was the department head, leaving Ian to concentrate on his role as Director of the Population Studies Center from 1981 onwards. Indeed, the only formal involvement with sociology I can recall is that at some point in the 1980s Ian did attend a SAANZ conference (organised on the University of Auckland campus by Cluny MacPherson and me) during which the phalanx of sociology professors was paraded as a panel (probably concerning the future of sociology in Aotearoa). But the male, white, middle-aged composition of this professorial group was (unintentionally) provocative to the then emerging feminist concerns and Ian's (quite reasonable) 'cohort aging' explanation (that current day professoriate was the result of earlier male-dominant recruitment patterns) did not go down well.

But Ian contributed intellectually to sociology. After all, empirical sociology is based on demography: examination of the size and composition of a population of a social grouping will give us much understanding about how it is likely to operate and its longer-term development. It is difficult to develop social policy without close attention to population compositional characteristics and trends.

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Ian's Masters thesis at University of New Zealand, Auckland College in the late 1950s was in social geography, exploring the newly available small area data in order to develop an index of the social grading of neighbourhoods (Pool, 1960). This understanding of spatial dimensions of social structure burgeoned in later years, often termed 'social area analysis' – and then somewhat faded away. In the mid-1980s, Ian accorded particular attention to extending the database for social demography in Aotearoa New Zealand by urging the local implementation of a fertility survey, and the consolidation of the then state of knowledge of New Zealand demography in a two-volume compilation for UNESCO. His sharp concern for social justice meant he engaged with many social issues, while his concern for high quality research ensured that his voice on these was well respected.

In a series of projects, mainly in the 1990s, Ian more directly extended his work into more mainstream sociology, deploying concepts/terms such as social morphology, macro-social trends and identity. He pushed into the study of those elusive and complex entities as families/whanau that are so central to both demography and sociology. These studies, often published as working papers of the Population Studies Center, attempted to show how demographic trends (e.g. Ball & Pool 1998; Pool & Bedford, 1996) interacted with values, identity formations and social structural trends. These were useful accomplishments as the social sciences in Aotearoa New Zealand began to develop more extensively. An example of his inter-disciplinary range is that in 2010 he wrote a long review article contextualising some of the then-emerging work on immigration to Aotearoa New Zealand (Pool, 2010). In 2016, as part of a special issue on the history of sociology in Aotearoa New Zealand, he wrote about the relationships between the two areas of study, and recounted some of the local history of this relationship (Pool, 2016).

More generally, Ian always worked with and encouraged others, including sociologists. Further, his keen interest in conceptualisations and the ongoing literature pushed for higher standards of work amongst his colleagues. He also, from time to time, exerted leadership (as an authoritative spokesperson) from a broader social science perspective. In sum, Ian did indeed have a broad 'social demography' perspective.

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