

Preface

Completion of this *Handbook* would not have been possible without the generous and dedicated assistance of numerous people. Several years ago Howard Kaplan, Editor of the Kluwer/Plenum *Handbooks of Sociology and Social Research*, asked Dudley Poston to edit a *Handbook of Population*. Poston then asked his long-time collaborator and fellow demographer, Michael Micklin, to join him as co-editor. Poston and Micklin next assembled a list of chapter topics and possible authors. We endeavored to shape the contributions to the *Handbook* in two ways: We wished to parallel in many ways the outline of *The Study of Population*, edited by Philip M. Hauser and Otis Dudley Duncan, and published in 1959. The Hauser and Duncan volume was the key compendium and inventory of the state of demography; one had not been published since. In shaping this *Handbook* we also took into account the increased scope of demography, its development in other social science areas, and its application outside the academy.

In the subsequent development of this *Handbook*, we worked closely with Teresa Kraus, our editor at Springer, and also received advice from Howard Kaplan. Poston and Micklin read and edited each of the *Handbook* chapters and then sent them back to the authors for their revisions. We appreciate their timely responses to our requests for revisions. All the chapters were then copy edited at Texas A&M University by Amanda K. Baumle, who then discussed and reviewed the final changes and edits with Poston.

We dedicate this *Handbook* to our dear friend and fellow demographer, the late William R. Serow, formerly of Florida State University. Bill was to have written one of the chapters of this *Handbook*. Unfortunately, he passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in early November of 2003 at age 57. We will miss his scholarly contributions to this *Handbook*. We already miss his laughter and friendship in our lives.

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