

Professor Karol Krotki, In Memoriam (1922-2007)

Born 15 May 1922 in Cieszyn in Poland, Karol Krotki died on July 6, 2007, at age 85, in Edmonton, his home town since 1968, when he joined the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta. He became distinguished university professor in 1982 and retired in 1990, but continued to be professionally active till his death. The passing of Professor Krotki is a great loss to the community of demographers in Canada and beyond. A towering figure, both in the proper sense, by his imposing stature, and in the figurative, by his personality which projected warmth and wisdom. In the many roles he took on in his life — teacher, scholar and administrator — he will be affectionately remembered.

Yet, life was not always kind to him. As many of his generation, he was caught in the spiral of events propelled from the Second World War. His native country, Poland, vanished as a state in 1939 following invasions by Nazi Germany and Stalinist Soviet Union, and the young Karol, 17 at that time, escaped his occupied country by foot. Eventually he ended up in exile. But he did not remain inactive in the face of tragic events; he enrolled in the British Army, took part in the battles of North Africa (1941-1942), before joining the Royal Force in England. He earned many distinctions and decorations for his bravery in the battle field. Upon the cessation of hostilities, he decided not to return to his native Poland, fallen under the Soviet Union domination. He stayed in Great Britain to pursue his university education.

Karol earned a B.A. Honors (1946-1948), and an M.A. in Economics with statistics from Cambridge University (1952), and a Ph. D. in Economics at Princeton University (1960). His Ph.D. dissertation, *Estimating Vital rates from Peculiar and Inadequate Age Distribution*, using data that he collected earlier in Sudan, was completed under the supervision of Ansley Coale, the director of the OPR and the leading demographer of the second half of the 20 th century.

Professional activities in Moslem countries

His first professional assignment was in Sudan (1949-1958), at that time part of the British Dominion, at the Department of Statistics in Khartoum, at which he eventually reached the rank of Deputy-Director. His landmark achievement in Sudan was its first population census carried out between 1956-1958. His next assignment was in Pakistan. From 1960 to 1964, he was Research Adviser at the Institute of Economic Development in Karachi, where he was involved in teaching as well as in research in various fields of economics and demography. Later, in 1971-1972, taking advantage of a sabbatical from the University of Alberta, he went to Morocco to work in the *Centre de recherches et d'études démographiques* in Rabat. With these long term missions and with some short ones in various Moslem countries, Dr. Krotki deservedly earned the reputation of expert in Moslem demography.

Statistics Canada

His Canadian career, which was to be a long one, started in 1964 with Statistics Canada, known at that time as the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. We are better documented on this phase in Dr. Krotki's career owing to Sylvia Wargon's book, *Demography in*

Canada in the Twentieth Century, and the recollections of junior colleagues of the day, M.V. George and Evelyne Lapierre-Adamcyk. As a senior demographer and bureaucrat, Dr. Krotki was in charge of managing demographic research, both substantive and methodological, population estimates and forecasting as well as the preparation towards the 1971 census, its methodology and content determination. In this capacity he brought the ground work to new heights, laid down by his two distinguished predecessors Nathan Keyfitz and Yoshiko Kasahara. He spearheaded, the 1961 Census monograph program, the most ambitious of its kind ever conducted by Statistics Canada. Dr. Krotki's legacy in demography in the government statistical environment is widely recognized.

Professorship at the University of Alberta

In 1968, Dr. Krotki left Statistics Canada to join the University of Alberta, where he spent the rest of his life. He was instrumental in establishing a strong demography program and the Population Research Laboratory at the University. He trained many students, in class and as supervisor to their M.A. and Ph.D. research. He taught them to be truly objective, unprejudiced researchers and teachers. Many have followed in his footsteps, becoming in their turn prominent teachers and researchers. He was one of those professors who continued taking interest, long after they left the university, and often inspired them in their own career paths. With typical eloquence, Susan McDaniel, who had the privilege of having Karol Krotki as a professor, speaks of how he inspired her and his students in the unprejudiced, open-minded approach to looking at social problems. She writes: "Leaving our own beliefs behind trains the mind to see, to animate our sense of belonging to a bigger world, one that extends deep in history and forward into possibility. That is what Karol inspired me to try to do and be as a scholar." . Professor Krotki had his didactic methods, aptly described by another of his former students, Rod Beaujot. "For undergraduates, Dr. Krotki was an ideal professor, giving us the core and the many insightful tangents, connecting us to the vast world of his professional experience. As a graduate advisor, he was exemplary in the ideas and resources he shared, his unfailing supportiveness and his strong respect for timeliness, both for his students and on his own part. For former students, Karol was forever dedicated, involved and the best of colleagues."

Karol Krotki taught a wide range of courses – population, social and economic developments, social statistics, demography of the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, ethnic and minority relations – and supervised a spectrum of MA and Ph.D. in a variety of fields of interest – reflecting in his own multidisciplinary training in demography, economics and statistics, as well his broad world-wide field experience.

In recognition of his high achievements in academia and research, in 1982, the University of Alberta awarded Dr. Krotki with the much aspired distinction of "University Professor".

Publications, scholarships

If the dual duty of the university professor is to transmit knowledge to the next generation and contribute to its advancement, then Karol Krotki lived up to the role to the fullest. His research output is vast and lasting, and could hardly be discussed within the scope of

this article. Karol authored, co-authored or edited 12 books and monographs and more than 100 scholarly articles. “Karol Krotki's research interests were primarily in the areas of fertility and family planning and in the estimation of vital events for countries with inadequate vital registration systems. In 1973, along with P. Krishnan, he conducted the Growth of Alberta Families Survey, from which a number of important publications were produced as well as several graduate dissertations. One of Dr. Krotki's leading scholarly contributions is *Population Growth Estimation: a Handbook of Vital Statistics Measurement*, published in 1974 by the Population Council, with Eli S. Marks and William Seltzer. This book is considered essential reading for advanced students of formal demography. In 1993, Dr. Krotki, along with co-authors T. R. Balakrishnan and Evelyn Lapierre-Adamcyk, issued *Family and Childbearing in Canada: a Demographic Analysis*, (University of Toronto Press), the culmination of almost ten years of research based on the Canada Fertility Survey which Dr. Krotki and his collaborators undertook in 1984. This survey remains the only national fertility survey in Canada.

Professor Krotki was not just an armchair scholar. Throughout his professional life he was involved in fieldwork and managing large scale operations and institutions. Hence he was very conscious of the importance of building up the necessary research tools and logistics, and he possessed the requisite “know-how”. He also appreciated the importance of the outlet for scholarly output in the field of population studies. He was very much behind the launching of the Journal *Canadian Studies in Population*.

Fellow of Royal Society of Canada, and other positions

In recognition of his outstanding scholarly achievements, Karol Krotki was elected as Fellow of the Royal Society, Canada's most prestigious academic body. As president of its Social Science section, he actively promoted the importance of demography in social science research and for public policy in Canada. For us demographers, the high point, “*heure de gloire*”, was when two of our colleagues, Karol Krotki and Jacques Légaré, were elected, respectively, president and secretary of the Humanities and Social Sciences. In Légaré's own words, “in 1986, both of us were elected (the same year) on the Executive Committee of the Royal Society of Canada, he as President of the Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences and me as Honorary Secretary. The probability of seeing two demographers on this board at the same time was – and still is – very low”.

Throughout his long professional career, he was an active participant of many professional and academic conferences, committees, international agencies as consultant, and as visiting professor. Closer to home, mention should be made of his presidency of the Federation of Canadian Demographers (1981-1984). Among many other initiatives in support of demographic research, he was founder of the Society of Edmonton Demographers, an association whose aim is to promote demographic research in Alberta through an endowment fund.

An engaging personality

Professor Balakrishnan captured the essence of our friend and colleague:

“He was bigger than life. He took great interest not only in his work but in his friends,

family and in the world around him. He left an indelible mark on anyone he met. Living and working in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States and finally in Canada has given him a world view and experience which he shared with others. I was always awed by his depth of understanding of other cultures, especially of developing countries. Karol always spoke his mind and was not afraid to question conventional wisdom which sometimes got him into trouble. But then that was his strength”.

Or as stated by another long-time friend of Karol, Anatole Romaniuc:
“It is the totality of his personality that made his greatness – the combination of wisdom, *entregent*, friendliness, and scholarship through which he impacted various areas of our profession, in Canada and beyond”.

Yet another testimony, this from his colleague and friend Susan McDaniel:
“He had a lifelong deep respect for intellect, for ambition, and for engagement with the world of ideas. He didn’t even mind when I disagreed with him rather forcefully, as young people who think they know more than they do tend to!”

Finally, for his personality and his influence across cultural and linguistic boundaries, this excerpt from Sylvia Wargon’s book is significant, *Demography in Canada in the Twentieth Century*:
“Krotki’s European education, his international experience and contacts, and his French communication skills added a certain cachet to the population studies program at the University of Alberta, to which he continued to contribute on an emeritus basis after his retirement in 1990” (p. 180).

Not the least, as a true *polyglot* he could relate to people in their native languages.

Grieving family

Karol left behind Joanna Elzbieta, whom he married when they both were students at Cambridge University. They were about to celebrate their diamond anniversary, 60 years of marriage. He left close-knitted family in sorrow: three sons, seven grandchildren and one great-grandson, as well as a sister in Poland.

Anatole Romaniuk and T.R.Balakrishnan with the help of many of Krotki’s friends and colleagues

Friends and colleagues’ testimony in tribute to Professor Karol Krotki

Susan McDaniel’s article reprinted from *Canadian Journal of Sociology Online*, July 2007, with author’s permission.

Remembering Karol Krotki

*All the world's a stage
And all the men and women merely players
They have their exits and their entrances
And one man in his time plays many parts
As You Like It
William Shakespeare*

Karol Krotki certainly played many roles in his long, productive life, as his obituary in the Edmonton Journal clearly reveals. Over the 37 years I knew him (I can hardly believe it was that long!), he played multiple roles in my life and career. When I first moved to Edmonton in 1970, fresh out of Cornell University's International Population Program with the ink not yet dry on my Masters degree, he was my boss at an innovative think-tank on social policy and social problems called the Human Resources Research Council, created and sustained, surprisingly, by the Social Credit Government of Alberta.

I had been warned about Karol while at Cornell: "Brilliant," I had been told, "but very difficult, very Prussian." Here I was a young woman shaking in my early 70s boots at the thought of working for this difficult Prussian, whose work I already knew to be brilliant. Much to my happy amazement, it worked very well. I discovered that Karol, contrary to what I had been told, was not so difficult, although he was a tad Prussian at times, in his British way. He had a lifelong deep respect for intellect, for ambition, and for engagement with the world of ideas. He didn't even mind when I disagreed with him rather forcefully, as young people who think they know more than they do tend to!

I knew Karol as boss, mentor, colleague, and friend. Karol supervised my Ph.D. during the years 1974-78, when I worked on the Growth of Alberta Families Survey, which Karol co-led with Krishnan. During part of that period, I commuted to take Ph.D. courses at the U of A from where I lived and taught in northern Alberta. Karol and Ania took me in as a houseguest letting me inhabit their basement during several of my commutes. I got to appreciate the lovely aromas of rich soups simmering on the stove in their beautiful Clifton Place home, as well as the deep love Ania and Karol shared. When I completed the Ph.D., they held a party for me where I remember I almost choked on the high voltage vodka toast which they enthusiastically insisted be taken from small, elegant cups in a single gulp!

Karol kept touch with me during my thirteen years at the University of Waterloo, both directly and indirectly. One indirect contact took me completely aback when Tom Bruzstowski, former President of NSERC, who was then Vice-President Academic at the

University of Waterloo, presented me with the University's Distinguished Teacher Award at convocation. As I shook hands with Tom on the stage, and accepted the award, Tom leaned toward my ear, and told me that Karol Krotki had asked him, in Polish, to congratulate me! I didn't know that Karol and Tom even knew each other!

When I returned to the University of Alberta "all grown up" as a Full Professor in 1988, Karol had tears in his eyes as he welcomed me with a kiss on my hand in his inimitable way. We then developed a new relationship, as colleagues, and shared the promotion of demographic research in Alberta through the Population Research Lab, the Warren Kalbach conferences which Karol faithfully attended (as did Warren himself with Madeline for many years), and the Society of Edmonton Demographers which Karol founded and led. Karol was devoted to the Department of Sociology and came to all events for many years after his multiple retirements. We used to refer to him, in all irony, as the 'perpetually retiring Karol Krotki!'

Karol had a mind – and the personality to match – that provoked. He liked to push and prod people, particularly graduate students, but also colleagues, to defend their ideas, not to accept conventional wisdoms as truth. I remember one time when I was a graduate student, driving in a traffic jam in downtown Edmonton, with Karol in the front seat, heading to some kind of meeting with government people. Unexpectedly, he asked me what I thought about David Ricardo's theories! He wanted to discuss very early 19th century political economy theories of taxation and value while we were stuck in traffic! His mind was a ceaseless wonder and an inspiration. He truly lived a life of the mind, and no idea was uninteresting to him.

The four Fellows of the Royal Society in the Department: Karol, Nico Stehr, Derek Sayer and I, used to meet periodically for what Karol called a Fellows' dinner, which Karol often graciously hosted. These were always engaging, unpredictable, and usually contentious, given the cast of characters involved, and the addition of a little too much wine. Karol was one of the few who could reduce Derek to utter silence. The Fellows' dinners continued even after Nico left the University of Alberta, on the occasions of his return. All four of us are now gone from the U of A.

Karol also had a very human, touching side. Two stories bring tears to my eyes as I recall them. One is captured in a photo taken of Karol, my very good friend, Sharon Abu-Laban, Eric McQuaig (Rutherford's grandson) and me, when I was awarded the University Cup in 2002. When I looked at the photo afterward, Karol, standing at the end next to Eric McQuaig, was scowling. I asked him why since he always took such pride in my achievements and awards. He replied, "because I wasn't standing next to you in the photo!" We remedied that at a celebratory dinner party held afterwards, so there is a second photo of Karol and me holding the University Cup – and no one else in

the frame, and this time, Karol is beaming!

The other story reveals another side of Karol, his capacity to see the humour in difficult situations, even at his own expense. This was a story from the war, of which he seldom spoke. Karol was leading a platoon of Polish ex-patriots fighting with the British somewhere in southern Europe, when the British dropped in some food supplies by airplane. Karol admitted that at the time, his command of English was shaky, but apparently his English was better than that of the others. One tub, Karol jubilantly told the other soldiers contained 'butter', a word Karol understood. Everyone gathered round to open up this welcome gift from the skies... and it was...brown! "Karol," they declared, "the British sent us rancid butter!" And they threw it away. Karol had not yet mastered the English word, "peanut!"

I promised only two stories of Karol's touching side, but I will share a third briefly. Some of you may recall Karol's unfortunate skiing adventure which led to a very complicated broken leg, a long rehabilitation and multiple surgeries. Most of the time he evidenced good cheer about it all, talking animatedly to any and all who would listen about "the sweet young things" who provided physiotherapy. When he faced surgery, however, he became worried. I visited him in hospital and found Ania upset that the orthopedic surgeon had declared that he didn't talk to families, only patients! I tried to talk with Karol and found him very worried that they were going to operate on the wrong leg! My big contribution, which seemed to soothe his worries, was to obtain a big magic marker and let him put a big "X" on the bad leg. He was like Picasso in the satisfaction he took that he had done well with his artistry!

I began with a dramatalurgical image and I would like to close with one. Acting is, to a large extent as the great, recently deceased Canadian actor, William Hutt said, "...leaving our own beliefs to explore and inhabit those of others." Certainly, that is an apt characterization of the best scholarship and research as well. Leaving our own beliefs behind trains the mind to see, to animate our sense of belonging to a bigger world, one that extends deep in history and forward into possibility. That is what Karol inspired me to try to do and be as a scholar. Karol, I thank you for your inspiration, your wisdom, and feel blessed that your life crossed mine in so many fundamental ways. You were one of a kind, a pioneer in demographic research and counting highly mobile populations. You were a mentor who changed my life and in whose very large footsteps I have tried to follow, with my own drumbeats of course, ever since. You will be very much missed by me and many, many others to whom you were quite simply, a phenomenon, unlike any other.

10 July 2007

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&
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T.R. Balakrishnan on Karol Krotki as personality, scholar and friend

I first met Karol Krotki in 1966 at Statistics Canada where he was chief of what was then known as Demographic Analysis and Research Division. Over the more than forty years I have known him in various capacities, the two most important being a co-member of the Demographic Advisory Committee to Statistics Canada for three years and for almost ten years as a co-investigator on the National Fertility Survey. The latter gave me a chance to know Karol well as professional colleague, a friend, wise counsel and the world citizen that he was.

It is a pleasure to say a few words about Karol. He was bigger than life. He took great interest not only in his work but in his friends, family and in the world around him. He left an indelible mark on anyone he met. Living and working in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States and finally in Canada have given him a world view and experience which he shared with others. I was always awed by his depth of understanding of other cultures, especially of developing countries. Karol always spoke his mind and was not afraid to question conventional wisdom which sometimes got him into trouble. But then that was his strength.

Karol was a distinguished demographer even before he came to Canada in early 1960s. His Population Growth Estimation techniques were path breaking and were widely used where demographic data were deficient. His work at Princeton on African demography with Ansley Coale are also well known. Since his publication record speaks for itself, as to his demographic expertise I would rather comment on his impact on Canadian demography. After making his mark in early demographic research in Statistics Canada he moved to University of Alberta, where along with Warren Kalbach, he was instrumental in establishing the demography programme there as an outstanding one not only in Canada but internationally. A large number of doctoral students have been trained in demography at Edmonton and Karol had a large role in it. He was a co-

investigator of the first and only national fertility survey done in Canada. He took an active role in the Review of Demographic research done in early 1980s. Lesser known to demographers is his role in the Royal Society of Canada. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society and President of its Social Science section. During his term he actively promoted the importance of demography in social science research and for public policy.

Karol had implacable manners and was extremely gracious in social situations. Someone referred to him once as a Polish Count, a remark not too much off the mark. He liked the finer things in life. He enjoyed the Opera in full dressed tuxedo. He also enjoyed chamber music, fine food and wines. He was a fine conversationalist and could speak on any topic and add something interesting and useful. We all miss him but are richer for our time with Karol Krotki.

Balakrishnan, University of Western Ontario

Krishnan on Karol Krotki as colleague

Karol J.Krotki(KJK for short) was behind my joining the University of Alberta ,Department of Sociology. This writer was interviewed by him at breakfast in Washington ,D.C., where both of us were attending the PAA Meeting. The net result of this meeting was that this writer received an offer of appointment as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Alberta. The writer joined the University of Alberta in July 1971. KJK had already left for his overseas assignment for one year. Supervising two graduate students working on their doctoral theses was expected of me besides teaching the courses that he (KJK) used to teach.

The visiting position was replaced by a tenure track appointment with the Directorship of the Population Research Laboratory (PRL). KJK gave the writer several ideas to go about expanding the activities of the PRL. The Discussion(now Research Discussion) Papers , Alberta Series and Western Canada Series were the outcomes of this advice. With the Edmonton Area Studies(EAS) now in large numbers, the Alberta and the Western Canada Series were merged with EAS . Population Reprints Series was dropped later as there was little money in the Sociology Department's coffers. Sociology Chair Dr. Charles Hobart was supportive of all these expanded activities of the PRL. Also Population Studies Seminars were introduced in addition to the Sociology Brown Bag meets and other seminars.

One of the major activities associated with the PRL was the creation of in Canadian Studies Population journal with UNESCO funding. This journal is now co-sponsored by the CPS. The PRL also organized Social Indicators Conference (with the support of the University of Alberta) in collaboration with the Alberta Bureau of Statistics. This was part of the Learned Societies held in Edmonton in 1975. The Proceedings of the Social Indicators Meeting was published by the Alberta Bureau of Statistics.

While KJK wanted to build the Departmental Program of Demography, he was not favorable to developing new graduate level courses. His conservative outlook dictated the old Princeton Style model with a limited number of senior level courses. Attempts to introduce new graduate offerings, approved by the Department's Graduate Program and Policy Committee, were shelved indefinitely. These were implemented with the addition of a new member to Sociology faculty, Dr. Frank Trovato.

The Growth of Alberta Families Study (GAFS) was initiated by this writer and KJK, Because of Karol Krotki's experience, most of the research had his imprint. This writer had differences of opinion with him. It was only when some other senior members of the Advisory group of GAFS did not agree to Krotki's approach, the questionnaire etc. were changed. It was mostly the KAP type of questions that dominated the questionnaire. It was only the transfer of culture over generations affecting fertility etc. that was different here. The GAFS gave rise to several doctoral dissertations and Masters theses were done with the help of the data collected. The GAFS was the forerunner to the Canadian Fertility Survey. Ian pool and others were trying to get funding for an all Canada Fertility Survey. Since this writer belonged to that consortium all that transpired in the various meetings were available to KJK from this writer.

In the organization of CPS, KJK did not evince much interest. The FCD was his goal. In Canada, it is quite common to have an Anglophone, a Francophone and a Federation set up for anything. The French ADQ and the Anglophone CPS led to the FCD. KJK was its President and organized a symposium for selected members of the demographic community.

Society of Edmonton Demographers (SED)

With research funds at low ebb, KJK decided to follow Premier Klein's approach-generate funds from private sources, then the Government of Alberta will match the same (later changed to match the income earned). KJK used his house as collateral to borrow money for running a Casino. In spite of opposition from some quarters in a Warren Kalbach Population Conference, KJK went ahead with his project. The Department Chair, Bob Silverman, was supportive of this venture. KJK was assisted by many from the Department of Sociology and elsewhere. The Casino was a success. Thus was born the Alberta Fund for Demographic Research (AFUDR). Several casinos followed and the Fund increased in size. Now two MA Scholarships and one PhD scholarships are being awarded from the income earned by the AFUDR.. This writer thinks that these scholarships should be named Karol Krotki Awards.

After KJK quit as the Director of SED, Henry Borowski and Wayne McVey directed the affairs of the SED in very successfully.. This writer understands that Andy Harrell is the current Director of SED. He is also the Director of PRL.

It is not only the creation of scholarships that AFDUR has done. Many of the activities of the PRL are supported by the funds from AFDUR. The annual Warren Kalbach Population Conference and the Distinguished Canadian Demographer Lecture are run

with the funds provided by AFDUR . It has also donated money to the Grant McEwen Population Center and to the PRL.

Lighter Side of KJK

KJK used to announce competitions through the Week side of Sociology . This is a weekly newsletter of events etc. in Sociology published by the Department. KJK quoted the growth of Canadian GNP from a Statistics Canada publication. The French word for GNP was noted in Krotki' communique. The Week side announced that KJK will take the person who provided the right French wording of GNP for lunch with wine at the Faculty Club . Lezek Kosinski was the first to respond . It was a wrong answer This writer asked Ilze Hobin to present the French wording for GNP. Ilze Hobin submitted the answer as if it was from PRL staff. That answer was the correct one. True to his spirit, KJK invited all members of the PRL (included Les Kennedy, N.Lalu, Cliff Kinzel, Ilze Hobin , I and two other supporting staff) for lunch with wine at the Faculty Club.

KJK believes in a good filing system. His file numbers will catch up the Dewey system in libraries. Copies of his letter were sent to relevant people (depending on the subject matter). With little office support , he could not maintain his filing system properly. Some times ,he used to come to this writer for copies of letters sent to others (but copied to the writer).

When one joins KJK for a beer ,or lunch ,he used to pay for all.. He did not believe in DUTCH TREAT.

He acted as the local parent when Rita Chow, a student of his, was married to her boy friend in Edmonton.

KJK and Mrs. Krotki always hosted a Christmas party for all members of the PRL and other friends. The party contained good wine , cheese and other goodies. Colleagues and students of KJK presented him with a two volume (covering over 1000 manuscript pages) festschrift at a dinner meeting . Frank Trovato was responsible for the actual presentation. Since the coil binding of this two-volume was not done, Frank presented KJK the festschrift in a large brown envelope. Two days later KJK told this writer that he was surprised to see a collection excellent research paper in the festschrift. All the doyens of Demography and his former colleagues from Statistics Canada and others had contributed to the festschrift. It is still in manuscript form. Even though copies of the festschrift had been sent all over Canada and U.S.A., this writer suggests that the papers be published through SED and CPS. There is no need to do referring of the manuscripts.

Expertise in Demographic Data

KJK knew census data pretty well. His insistence on performing various demographic tests to check for the accuracy of the data . His report on Nepal (with Thakur) speaks volumes for under enumeration females and young people, is a great contribution.

The fact that the sex ratio in Kerala was in favor of females evoked a criticism from him that the data are bad. Even Keyfitz agreed with him. But this writer stuck to his guns and noted that till recently the sex ratio in Kerala was in favor of females.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN DEMOGRAPHIC PEACE

Frank Trovato on Professor Krotki as scholar and teacher

Professor Karol J. Krotki was born in Poland in 1922, and died in Edmonton, Alberta on July 6, 2007, at the age of 85. He taught in the Sociology Department at the University of Alberta for 25 years, beginning in 1975. Before moving to Alberta he was a Statistics Canada, Ottawa. Prior to moving to Canada, Dr. Krotki served as special advisor to the country of Sudan in connection with the preparation of its first census in 1956. In 1958, he obtained the Ph.D. in demography at Princeton. His thesis, supervised by Frank Lorimer, was on *Estimating Vital Rates from Peculiar and Inadequate Age Distributions (Sudanese Experience)*.

Among his many professional accomplishments Dr. Karol Krotki has a long list of outstanding scholars whom he supervised. Some of his former students occupy prestigious academic positions in Canadian universities. Between 1985 and 1988 he served as President of the Royal Society of Canada, Canada's most prestigious academic body. Just before his retirement in 1990, Professor Krotki founded the Society of Edmonton Demographers, an association whose aim is to promote demographic research in Alberta through an endowed fund. From this fund various research activities are supported annually and several scholarships for graduate students are funded in the department of Sociology at the University of Alberta.

Karol Krotki's research interests were primarily in the areas of fertility and family planning and in the estimation of vital events for countries with inadequate vital registration systems. In 1973, along with P. Krishnan, he conducted the Growth of Alberta Families Survey, from which a number of important publications were produced as well as several graduate dissertations. One of Dr. Krotki's leading scholarly contributions is *Population Growth Estimation: a Handbook of Vital Statistics Measurement*, published in 1974 by the Population Council, with Eli S. Marks and William Seltzer. This book is considered essential reading for advanced students of formal demography. In 1993, Dr. Krotki, along with co-authors T. R. Balakrishnan and Evelyn Lapierre-Adamcyk, issued *Family and Childbearing in Canada: a Demographic Analysis*, (University of Toronto Press), the culmination of almost ten years of research based on the Canada Fertility Survey which Dr. Krotki and his collaborators undertook in 1984. This survey remains the only national fertility survey in Canada.

Through his work and accomplishments, Professor Karol Krotki will continue to inspire generations of demographers worldwide. The demographic community in Canada mourns the loss of a truly exceptional scholars and a towering figure in international demography.

Frank Trovato
University of Alberta

Roderic Beaujot

On having Dr. Krotki as professor (1968-1975):

For undergraduates, Dr. Krotki was an ideal professor, giving us the core and the many insightful tangents, connecting us to the vast world of his professional experience. As a graduate advisor, he was exemplary in the ideas and resources he shared, his unfailing supportiveness and his strong respect for timeliness, both for his students and on his own part. For former students, Karol was forever dedicated, involved and the best of colleagues.

Memories of Morocco (1971):

I will always remember the summer of 1971 when I joined Professor Krotki at INSEA, Institut National de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée, in Morocco. He was setting up a system for estimation of vital rates and he also involved me in making field observations of the 1971 census. I particularly admired his ability to set up a research unit and to establish professional relations, taking into account the cultural setting. His strong competence along with his deep and varied interests always made his company most pleasurable, exciting and rewarding.

Roderic Beaujot
University of Western Ontario

M.V. George on Dr. Karol Krotki's path breaking role in Statistics Canada

After completing his Population Council assignment as Demographic Adviser to Pakistan, Dr. Karol J. Krotki moved to Canada in 1964 taking the position of Assistant Director of Resarch in the then Census Division of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics (DBS), as Statistics Canada was then known. With his super management and innovative organizational abilities, he created and built up in a shot time three new Sections:

Demographic analysis and Research (DAR) Methods Research (MR); Population Estimates (PE), and laid the foundation for organized demographic research and studies in Statistics Canada. He also launched an aggressive recruitment program and hired demographers from different parts of the world to carry out the research program and activities under his wing. Dr. Leroy O. Stone, Mrs. Sylvia Wargon, Dr. M.V. George and Dr. Anatole Romaniuc, who all had distinguished careers with Statistics Canada, were among the pioneer demographers recruited by Karol Krotki. Further, in continuation of his organizational effort, he introduced a unique “Krotki filing system” for systematic filing and accessibility of the memoranda and other documents produced by the staff, a Technical Memoranda series for in-house research publications, and the novel “brown bag lunch seminar program” open to all Census Division staff and other invited guests.

During Dr. Krotki’s work as head of research in the Census Division, he made significant contributions in demographic research, census methodology and content development, evaluation and analysis of demographic data. He spearheaded the 1961 Census monograph program, the most ambitious of its kind ever conducted by Statistics Canada using special tabulations, and got published eight classic monograph studies focusing on different aspects of the Canadian population by a galaxy of authors. Another notable contribution was to the arduous questionnaire development process for the much enlarged 1971 Census, which introduced self - enumeration for the first time with sampling forming an integral part of the census. Also, as part of the questionnaire development for the 1971 Census with several new questions, Karol Krotki initiated and organized the first major census pre-test in London, Ontario with Professor John Kantener, head of Sociology and Demography, University of Western Ontario, London as the project manager. In 1968 Karol Krotki left DBS and became Professor of Sociology specializing in demography at the University of Alberta, Edmonton.

*Évelyne Lapierre-Adamcyk:
Remebering Karol Krotki*

It was in 1967 while I had a summer job as a student in the Census Division of the then Dominion Bureau of Statistics that I first met Karol J. Krotki. He then asked me to analyse special tabulations that he had requested on the relationships between religion, ethnicity and fertility. I certainly took great care in writing the text, knowing how critical and demanding could Dr. Krotki be. I was generously rewarded, since this article became my first co-authored publication in *Population* (1968, 23-5). This was the beginning of a long lasting professional association and friendship. In particular, I owe him being hired by The Population Council in 1969. I also greatly enjoyed my participation with Dr. Krotki and T.R. Balakrishnan to the Canadian Fertility Survey in 1984; this was a more than 10 year collaboration where Bala and I benefited from his original points of view and critical comments. I will always remember his deep concern and pride about the quality of the Canadian data, his will to promote its widest use, his commitment to demography as a discipline and to Canadian demography as a tool to

influence policy decisions. His devotion to research and to science inspired me in my own work. As a friend, I also keep fond memories of our long conversations about politics and culture, about Canada and Québec, about the French language that he loved so much, about Poland, about our families and our children.

Évelyne Lapierre-Adamcyk
Université de Montréal

Professor Karol Krotki (1922-2007), In Memoriam

With sadness we inform CPS members that our colleague and friend, Karol Krotki, professor emeritus of the University of Alberta, died last July 6th, in Edmonton, at the age of 85. The demographic community in Canada mourns the loss of a dear colleague and friend, a truly exceptional scholar and a towering figure in international demography. Through his work and accomplishments, Professor Karol Krotki will continue to inspire generations of demographers worldwide.

The CPS News will feature in its next issue an extensive article dedicated to the memory of Professor Karol Krotki, his life and accomplishments. You are invited to send your inputs and personal reminiscences.

Canadian Population Society, Board of Directors

Jacques Légaré:

Remembering Karol Krotki as friend and their role in Royal Society of Canada

I meet Karol Krotki for the first time at Statistics Canada in academic year 1965-1966, just after being back from Europe for my doctoral studies. He was already an experienced demographer, I was a beginner: this has emerged from that first meeting!! But it was the beginning of a long cordial professional relation.

Fifteen years later, in 1981, he became President of the FCD and at the end of his term, it was my turn to reach that position. A few years later, in 1986, both of us were elected the same year on the Executive Committee of the Royal Society of Canada, he as President of the Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences and me as Honorary Secretary. The probability of seeing two demographers on this board at the same time was – and still is – very low.

Finally, here is reminiscence with a great historical dimension. In mid-October 1978, KK joined me for breakfast before a meeting in Ottawa and said with great emotion: “Jacques, did you hear the news: a new pope has been elected and he is Polish. Could you

realize how I am honoured and his surname is the same as mine KAROL.” But....., Karol Josef Wojtyla was now called Pope John Paul II.

Jacques Légaré

Montréal, August 8, 2007

Jacques Henripin on his admiration for Karol Krotki as personality
(in his letter to Anatole Romaniuc)

Salut Anatole,

Merci pour ton invitation. J'ai été ému par la nouvelle du décès de Krotki. Malheureusement, malgré l'estime que j'éprouvais pour Krotki, je n'ai jamais eu l'occasion de travailler avec lui et je n'ai rien d'autre à dire que mon admiration pour un homme intelligent, franc, volontaire, qui avait des convictions fermes et les défendait. C'est très peu et tu m'excuseras de ne pas avoir plus à dire. Donc, tu peux m'ignorer dans l'hommage que tu prépares.

Salutations,

Jacques Henripin

Juhee Suwal on Professor Krotki's role in the census population of Nepal

People may not know about Professor Krotki's contribution to Nepal's demography. When Nepal was liberated from an autocratic Rana regime in 1951, it finally got freedom to open schools, hospitals, and build roads and other infrastructures. The new freedom also gave the country an opportunity to conduct a census based on internationally acceptable guidelines (otherwise, the census record of Nepal exists since 1911). But because of its 104 years of dark Rana history and the isolated and backward condition of the country, Nepal lacked efficient people to conduct a scientific census enumeration. As a result, the eastern half of the country was enumerated in 1952 and the western half in 1954. As the existing few Nepalese population scientists were confused after the completion of the census, they contacted the University of Alberta for help to resolve the issue. Professor Krotki stepped up to provide help and went to Nepal to resolve the

problem and he was successful. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Nepal owes a lot to Professor Krotki.

Juhee Suwal personal reminiscence

Although I did not get chance to take courses with Professor Krotki, I had worked with him in the mid-1990s when I was the Member-Secretary of the Society of Edmonton Demographers (SED). What inspired me the most at that time was his dedication to SED. At many occasions, I and Professor Krotki had worked during the weekends. He never got tired of contributing to our Society.

Another memorable event was that Professor Krotki provided me money through SED to buy Nepal DHS 1991 data for my Master's research. That meant a great deal to me at a time when I was barely surviving as a foreign student, especially at a time when I came to Canada all by myself leaving behind my family and my little son.

Anatole Romaniuc

Crossing paths with Karol Krotki

The passing of my friend and colleague, Karol, brought me to reflect and reminiscence on the various times and places our paths crossed over a span of many, many years. First, was Africa in the 1950s. While Karol was carrying out the first Census of population in Sudan, I was doing the same in neighbouring Congo. Neither of us had any prior preparation for the job. Who knows whether we would have ventured into it, had we known then what we came to know all too well later of the complexity and the scale of a census of population. It was a hard school, baptism by fire, to learn about census and demography in the field. We were both lucky. The census operations were carried out to term satisfactorily, keeping in mind the conditions of underdevelopment and vastness of those countries. While working in neighbouring countries, we didn't know of each other's existence.

The first time we met in person was in the summer of 1958, in Paris, at a workshop on African demography, organized by the late Frank Lorimer, the well-known American demographer. I have vivid memories of that workshop. It was a small gathering on a beautiful sunny day, rare in Paris, in the yard of a stunning historical palace. I remember noticing a tall young man. Frank brought us together. At that time I did not speak English and Karol did not speak French. We could have tried to somehow communicate in a combination of three Slavic languages Polish, Ukrainian or Russian, but we chose, I don't quite remember under which impulse, to speak German in which we both were fluent.

Princeton University was another place where our paths crossed again, but not quite at the same time. Karol entered Princeton for a PhD in demography in 1958-60 under, if I am not mistaken, the supervision of Ansley Coale. A year after Karol left Princeton in

1960, I joined the Office of Population Research (OPR) to work on the *African project*, under the leadership of Ansley Coale. For both of us, Princeton was a decisive milestone in our career as demographers. Princeton gave us formal training and knowledge of demography as a scientific discipline, complementing the experience we had gained in our field work in Africa. This is where we assimilated the so-called non-conventional techniques – the Coale/Demeny models of stable of population and Brass techniques – suitable to deal with incomplete or deficient data we collected in Africa. This is also where we came to know Frank Notestein, Ansley Coale, Dudley Kirk, and Frank Lorimer, who do not need any introduction, and other people who have been associated or visited the OPR and whose reputation was already established like Bill Brass or were to become leading demographers of our time like Jack Caldwell, Charles Westoff, Paul Demeny.

Then came Canada, where our paths crossed so often that they escape any enumeration. I joined the University of Ottawa in August 1964, while Karol was already working as a senior demographer and federal government civil servant at Statistics Canada, or what was called then Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In this adopted country of ours, Karol played an important role in my career – he brought me into Statistics Canada. We didn't really work together, because when I joined the Bureau (first on a part time basis), he was in 1968 on his way out to take the professorship position at the University of Alberta. I still vividly remember the selection committee I had to face to be hired. It included Karol, another person (I don't remember) and Labossiere at that time Director General and later Assistant Chief Statistician of Human Resources. The interview went in two official languages. Labossiere asked most of the questions. After the interview, I recall Karol made this remark. "I noticed, Anatole, that when you speak in French your speaking is fast, and slow when you do it in English". I remember responding to him: "You see, Karol, English is the sixth language I had to learn (and still learning!) at an age when languages no longer come so readily."

Karol reminded me much later of being instrumental in bringing me to Statistics Canada. It was on the occasion of the publication of my book, *Fertility in Canada: from Baby-boom to Baby-bust*, in 1984. Much to my surprise, the book, which in my assessment (and probably others) was an honest professional work, stirred a real fury, wide mass media coverage and even interpellations in Parliament, with parliamentarians suddenly getting worried about Canada's demographic situation. Karol got hold of the book. While preparing this note, I dug into my voluminous and utterly anarchic archives to find something on or from Karol. By chance, I found a letter of 02.03.1985 in which he wrote me this:

"In the meantime I was delighted to be able to read Fertility in Canada: from Baby-boom to Baby-bust. I knew it all, of course, and yet it was educational for me to read it again in the orderly fashion you presented the study. Very well structured and well written. It gives me pleasure to think that I was instrumental in recruiting you to DBS". Then characteristically of Karol, he adds: "Your system of referring is six century, and the italics are reversed in footnotes 77 on page 22". Typically Karol! While focusing on the big picture, he never missed a comma.

While in Canada, over the years we met many times, socially and professionally. These get-togethers are remembered fondly. Karol drew people to him. Some people are attractive due to a particular feature of their personality or achievements. With Karol it was the totality of his personality that made his greatness – the combination of wisdom, *entregent*, friendliness, and scholarship, through which he impacted various areas of our profession, in Canada and beyond. As Paul Demeny put to me in a letter: “*But Karol was more than a scholar: he had a colorful, indeed, exceptionally gripping personal history in his youthful years, starting with an adventurous escape from Poland in 1939 as the Germans invaded*”. Or yet another « *témoignage* », this from our colleague Jacques Henripin, « *...je n'ai rien d'autre à dire que mon admiration pour un homme intelligent, franc, volontaire, qui avait des convictions fermes et les défendait* ». This is quite a tribute coming from a man whom I like to call the Dean of Canadian demography.

Africa marked us both. Once you have lived and toiled there, you are gripped for the rest of your life; you cannot escape the feeling of its mystery, something that cuts deeply into one's consciousness. Karol immortalized his experience in Sudan, the human side, in a book he wrote in his native Polish, entitled “*W kraju białego nosorożca (In the Land of the White Rhinoceros)*, Kraków: Forma, 1995), which I struggled to go through in my limited Polish. There is something fascinating, mystical, and secretive, good and malevolent spirits hiding in an impenetrable landscape. It was poignantly captured by Joseph Korzeniowski – the descendent of Polish gentry in Ukraine, who spent time in central Africa in the late XIX as Capitan of a vessel on the Congo river. He became under the pen-name, Joseph Conrad, one of the greatest writers of English literature (who at the age of 20 had yet to learn a proper English). He depicts the landscape of the Congo, and its grip on him, in his novel, *Heart of Darkness*:

“Going up that river was like travelling back to the earliest beginnings of the world, when vegetation rioted on the earth and the big trees were kings (...) On silvery sand-banks hippos and alligators sunned themselves side by side (...) There were moments when one's past came back (...) in the shape of an unrestful and noisy dream, remembered with wonder amongst the overwhelming realities of this strange world of plants, and water, and silence. And this stillness of life did not at the least resemble a peace. It was the stillness of an implacable force brooding over an inscrutable intention.”

Not the least that brought us together was the war experience of our youth. We were forced out by two opposing totalitarian regimes, uprooted, our families and properties destroyed. Karol fought valiantly back; he volunteered in the British army, ending up fighting in Tobruk (Libya), resisting with bravery the onslaught of the German *Africa Korps*, and turning the tide in favour of Allied armies. Karol survived the war and earned many distinctions for bravery. I escaped the war as a non-combatant (but not its ordeal), on account of my age (I was Karol's junior by two years), and on account of being legally a “non-person”, not identifiable with any particular country or nation. Importantly, we both survived: Karol to undertake the great deeds he did; and I to befriend him along the way, and to remember him as a friend and colleague in these modest lines. Karol was

very much attached to his country of origin, Poland, but no less thankful to his adopted country. He used to say to me: “Canada was good to us.” I couldn’t agree more.

I stop here, saying, simply, that I am left with a great memory of you, Karol.

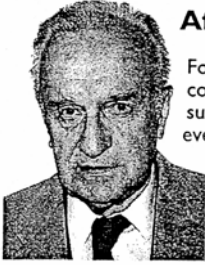
Anatole Romaniuc
Adjunct Professor, University of Alberta

Photo: Professor Karol Krotki with colleagues demographers in Ottawa, 1998, graciously made available by Juhee Suwal









After 65, WHAT?

For the first 4 years the decision to retire was taken out of my hands. The university invited me to continue to teach, do research and dissertation supervision as I had done in previous years. By 69 I had submitted my resignation and started to ease out, but before I could effectively do so several unplanned events intervened.

First came additions to a book that I had written 40 years ago under contract with a publisher in Poland. The book titled, *W kraju białego nosorożca (In the land of the white rhinoceros)* described my work, travels and adventures during the nine years that I worked in Sudan, mainly as a director of the first Population Census in 1956. The contract was signed under Gomulka-the-liberal straight out of prison, and the book was shredded under Gomulka-the-reactionary. The publisher made the contractual payment and my mother in Poland was well provided for, but I grieved the loss of the book. The collapse of the Berlin wall and the emergence of Lech Walesa made it possible for the book to reappear. Fortunately, the editor of the previous publisher had saved carbons of his exchanges with the Central Committee of the Party which I summarized in an opening chapter, "Why the Delay?" and quoted Party reasons for shredding the book: too much praise of the British colonial system, too many naked women (the book contained a total of 140 photos; albeit they are not quite of a Leni Riefenstahl's quality but subject-wise are quite unique), and "if Krotki reached such a high position in the British administration, it must have been because he was an American spy". I also added a closing chapter titled, "Sudan, rhinoceros and the author after 35 years" and am now preparing an English version.

Then came the UN population (and development) conference in Cairo. One of my favourite graduate students was hired from academia as a member of the Canadian diplomatic delegation and I became a member of the support staff. The conference required much preparation and called for continuation of interest to ensure that the achievements of the conference were not lost to the world. At the time of the conference an American journalist produced a television tape of a pharaonic circumcision ceremony in a suburb of Cairo. The girl cried and begged in vain for her father's intervention while the womenfolk performed the operation. In my experience, girls either do not understand what is happening to them or undergo the procedure with clenched teeth in the belief that it is a socially desirable rite. A recent UN survey found that 97% of women in Egypt have been circumcised; the same survey in which 86% of married women agreed that husbands are sometime justified in beating their wives. The Cairo tape reminded me of a 1949 statement made by 3 knighted religious leaders in Sudan. After much arm twisting by British administrators they spoke out against the procedure on the grounds that it reduces the male sexual pleasure (not that it is an insult to the dignity of women, their health and their pleasure). Recalling my struggle with the Arabic text also reminded me that in the intervening 40 years, while feminism swept the world, there has been no improvement in the fate of women in that part of the world.

Other commitments were the participation in Ethnic Organizations and Veterans' Associations. These included taking over various social and organizational events and invitations to speak at national and international functions and anniversaries. There also was a need to collect my eleven military medals and decorations to be worn on a blazer to show respect when celebrating the 55th anniversary of the battle of Gazala (Western Desert 1941); an event which was sponsored by the Warsaw government. It was a small battle: 26 dead and less 100 wounded on our side, but it was an important break-through after several months in the besieged fortress of Tobruk. The attack was spread over several kilometres and there was no question of running or shouting 'hurray'; crawling or short jumps followed by rolling over several metres threw the enemy sharpshooters off target. Our infantrymen were limited in the amount of ammunition they could carry but compensated by their superior training. They rarely fired and only when the target was certain. The enemy was overwhelmed and surprised by its losses despite the virtual absence of our fire and withdrew to the next line of ditches just as we were nearing the ditches that they occupied. I went to the ceremonies in Warsaw: 4,600 took part in the battle, 370 are still around, but only 79 were able to attend. A rural school was named Tobruk in honour of the heroes and a nearby Municipal Council made us honorary citizens. I will add this to my entry in the Canadian Who's Who.

On the pure research side, new Canadian census data, which was previously inaccessible for political reasons, have become available and show the impact of immigration and the importance of ethnic composition. These details have been recently made available in some eight book chapters (Carleton University Press, University of Toronto Press, etc.) and journal articles. While the 1991 census revealed a Canadian population of 27 million, new procedures for analyzing the census data for ethnicity, in which offspring of ethnic intermarriages are included in both of the parents ethnic group(s); 8 million additional ethnic entries have arisen due to intermarriage. Such intermarriage, when one comes to think about it, is a closer indication of integration, than, say, residential integration.

I was instrumental in creating the Society of Edmonton Demographers and served as president during its first six years. The Society has collected close to \$70,000 as an endowment for innovative initiatives at the U of A Population Research Laboratory, but are still some distance from the \$100,000 target.

—Karol Krotki

Karol Krotki FRSC is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Sociology with a specialty in Demography. He taught for 25 years at the University of Alberta.

From: Epilogue (Newsletter, Association of Professors Emeriti, U of A) 5/2, June 1997. 5