

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION****Phillips Cutright****1930-2020**

Phillips Cutright was born in Wooster, Ohio, on March 1, 1930. He obtained his A.B. degree at the College of Wooster in his hometown and took his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in 1960. Phill moved around a good bit early in his academic career. He was assistant professor of sociology at Washington State University and Dartmouth College before working in two positions with the Social Security Administration from 1962-65. After spending three years at Vanderbilt as an associate professor, and another as professor of sociology at Washington University of St. Louis, Phill took a position as senior research associate at the Joint Center for Urban Studies at M.I.T. and Harvard University from 1969-1971. His wanderlust came to an end in 1971 when he came to Bloomington as professor of sociology, and he spent the next 23 years here before retiring as professor emeritus in 1994.

Phillips Cutright was internationally renowned for his research in the areas of political sociology, policy studies, development, and comparative research methods, but he is best remembered as an outstanding demographer. Phill was a prolific scholar. He authored two books and authored or co-authored more than 130 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. Early in his career he was co-author with Robert Dentler of *Hostage America: Human Aspects of a Nuclear Attack and A Program of Prevention* (Beacon Press, 1962). He turned to questions of demography, fertility, and the family and social policy while at Indiana University, and his book *Impact of Family Programs on Fertility: The U.S. Experience* (with F. S. Jaffe) appeared in 1977. He worked extensively with areal data—counties and states in the United States, and nations in cross-national comparative work. Several cross-national studies involved evaluation of the impact of family planning programs on fertility rates in less developed nations. A major study of the U.S. family planning program was the first evaluation of the U.S. program. Phill was well ahead of his time in his research on topics like teenage sex and pregnancy, illegitimacy and poverty, and women's reproductive rights. Cutright was one of the first to present research findings that documented the

importance of improved health conditions for teenage pregnancy. Arguing against what he termed "the myth" of a teenage sex revolution in the 1970s, Cutright argued that improved health conditions contribute to increases in the teenage pregnancy rate in two ways. Better health and nutrition increase the likelihood that out-of-wedlock conceptions are carried to term, and they reduced by one year the average age at which girls are able to reproduce. Given these findings, Cutright pointed to the importance of access to effective medically supervised contraception and legal abortion "to save many people from traumatic out-of-wedlock pregnancies, illegitimate births, botched illegal abortions, and disastrous youthful marriages." His findings and arguments are highly relevant to the still raging debates on these issues.

Phill was a long-term member of the board, Planned Parenthood of Monroe County, and consistently contributed to public discourse and debate on issues of fertility, family planning, and social problems. He was a philanthropist, who in retirement continued to support environmental organizations such as the Nature Conservancy and organizations dedicated to serving others, including Pisgah Legal Services of Asheville, the ACLU, PBS and NPR, and Compassion and Choices. Phillips Cutright died on October 7, 2020. He was honored with a memorial testimonial offered by his student Glenn Firebaugh (professor emeritus in American Institutions and Sociology and Demography, Penn State University) at the 2021 meetings of the Population Association of America.

Karen Cutright

Bill Corsaro

Emeritus Professor, Department of Sociology

Indiana University Bloomington