

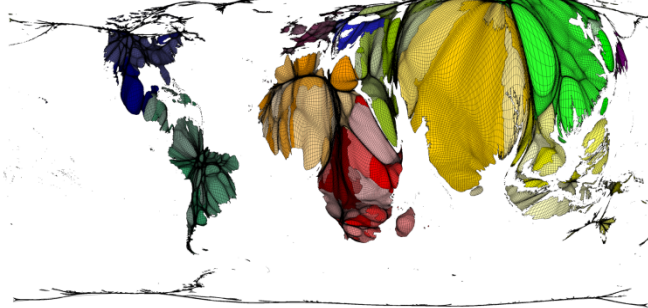
Dorling, D. and Hennig, B. D. (2011). In Focus: Global Population shifts. Political Insight 2, 34, back cover (*draft as sent*).

Future People and Shifting Power

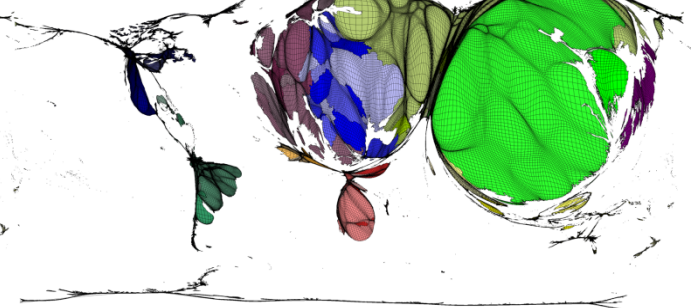
Danny Dorling & Benjamin Hennig

World population is forecast to rise to over 10 billion people by the year 2100 if the future foretold in the most recent United Nations Population estimates come to pass. By the end of this year it is thought that the 7 billion mark will have been exceeded. However, the UN itself suggests that it is reasonable to assume a probability range of error for projections for the century's end which includes population possibly falling by then to be lower even than today, or to our numbers more than doubling in the next 88 years if current falls in fertility are not continued.

Population Growth 1990-2015
Total changes projected on a gridded cartogram



Population Decline 1990-2015
Total changes projected on a gridded cartogram



These three world population cartograms show just the beginnings of that change. The first shows where the extra people assumed to be alive around 2015 will be as compared to those living in each grid cell on the map in 1990. The more extra people expected the larger the areas of each grid. The second map shows where there are expected to be fewer people in the very near future and area on it is proportionate to that population loss. On these two world maps each country is coloured differently, but the colours are consistent between the two maps. On the third map each cell is coloured just one of four shades and the area of each cell is drawn in proportion to current population. Areas shaded blue are declining most quickly in terms of people dying or leaving. Areas shaded the two reds are currently areas of the most births and/or in-migrants.

Many countries contain areas where population is currently falling and other areas where it is growing. This is why different parts of China appear on both the first two cartograms. The third and largest world cartogram shows that there is considerable growth in the Pearl River Delta, the factory of the world, where so many of the iDevices and other essentials of our (post)modern lifestyles are made. Elsewhere in China is found a more mixed pattern of growth and decline. Many other countries are expected to soon show the kinds of patterns exhibited already by China and much of Europe, not least the USA.

