light of recent strides, interdisciplinary collaboration remains a challenge.

Climate change has emerged as the topic *du jour*, and human population and land-use interactions are both major causes of greenhouse gases and viable avenues for their reduction. At a time when urbanization and aging have replaced rural population growth and youthful population structures as the most-discussed demographic trends of the new millennium, the demands of rural population change and urban consump-ers of land-use change. As research agendas shift towards climate change, human vulnerability, urbanization, and aging, the conversion of forests to agriculture by rural people still leaves the largest human footprint on the Earth's surface, with consequences both injurious and benevolent. The improved understanding of the connection between human activity and environmental concerns demonstrated in *Population, Land Use, and the Environment,* which synthesizes more than a decade of population-land use research, is both exciting and daunting.

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population growth adversely affect development and poverty, and that family planning policies are important tools of development assistance. Recently, however, attention to international population issues has declined alarmingly, stemming from a combination of complacency (due to lower population growth in some countries) and a paucity of effective tools to meet the ongoing twin challenges of poverty reduction and fertility reduction (Cleland et al., 2006; Gwatkin, Wagstaff, & Yazbeck, 2004).

While fertility has declined in many developing countries, and most of the developed world is experiencing stagnant or declining populations, the "population problem" is not solved. In 16 developing countries, total fertility rates

assessment of poor people's rationality, he relies on (quite old) data from the government of Bangladesh, even while noting its poor reliability. He uses the UN Statistics Division for cross-country data, but not the Demographic and Health Surveys for important variables such as unmet need, which is commonly defined as the percentage of women or couples who wish to postpone or avoid pregnancy but who do not use contraception.

What causes high fertility? Sharif calculates both poverty and fertility as functions of independent variables, and then in the second stage estimates each as a function of the predicted value of the other. He finds that fertility and poverty are negatively related. He interprets this finding to mean that children serve as assets for poor, rural families and are therefore desired. Thus, he concludes that high fertility is not only a rational, but also a beneficial choice for poor people.