

## **Opening by IUSSP Vice President Shireen Jejeebhoy**

### **Announcing the next council**

I have the great honour of introducing to you the incoming Council that will join me, with your support, in working for the Union. So, incoming Council members, please turn on your videos and audios!

Vice President: Laura Rodriguez Wong (Peru)

Secretary General and Treasurer: Nico van Nimwegen (Netherlands)

Council members:

- Nkechi Owoo (Ghana)
- Edith Gray (Australia)
- Albert Esteve (Spain)
- Irene Casique (Mexico)
- Ann Moore (United States)
- Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi (Iran)
- Akanni Akinyemi (Nigeria)
- Shelley Clark (Canada)
- Géraldine Duthé (France)

### **Announcing the next IPC**

I am also delighted to announce the location of IPC2025! IPC2025 will be held in Brisbane, Australia. We are hugely grateful to the Australian National Organising Committee for this invitation, and our Council member Edith Gray for facilitating this.

**Here is a short preview of what promises to be an exciting IPC2025! [Video]**

### **Reflections for the next 4 years.**

Like every Council, the new Council will have its hands overflowing.

More than ever before, thanks in no small part to SDGs, the pandemic and the climate crisis, global priorities are evolving. They are evolving among our members and our funders as well – and the IUSSP must change too. In what we do and how we do it.

We have done a lot over the last years, and we need to build off our achievements, while at the same time, adapting to the changing needs that these last few years have necessitated. A few examples:

- Inequality and disadvantage continue to compromise population well-being – gender, youth, aging, migration, immigration, the list is long, and IUSSP has and can do a lot to enhance understanding and improve rigorous methodologies for doing so
- Our Data Revolution work, and other contributions to innovations to data and methods have been commendable, and need to be pursued
- IUSSP members have made major contributions to training – with numerous online courses and training programmes that Nico described in detail, and this too needs to be continued
- Our Urban FP project is a model for efforts to build evidence, support early career researchers, and at the same time, and build links to policy outreach – and this model can be replicated

- But new challenges exist -- COVID-19 has widened inequity across many domains, and IUSSP has a lot to offer in terms of filling gaps in evidence and measurement, and offering direction for building back better. The climate crisis has huge implications for population, and IUSSP needs to be on the forefront of measuring and increasing understanding of these changes for populations.
- Your inputs in establishing and pursuing key thematic priorities will be invaluable. Every new council sends out a call for new (or renewed) scientific panels – please respond as soon as you can, whenever you are ready, so you can contribute to shaping the Union’s research agenda.

These last few years have taught us that times are changing. We have adapted and must continue to adapt our ways of providing services. Our online webinar format will surely continue for some panel seminars, for the laureate award ceremony, the general assembly if you agree, and to some extent council meetings – these are less costly, have a smaller environmental footprint and facilitate wider audience participation. But there is zoom-fatigue and where appropriate, we must ensure the continuation of in-person meetings.

Also, we would like to develop new ways for IUSSP members to become more involved in IUSSP activities, aside from our scientific panels. Opportunities for members to volunteer for some IUSSP activities – stories for the News Bulletin, social media outreach, seeking funding, etc – are some ideas.

For social media outreach, we look to our younger members to help us become more visible. We will also continue to make efforts to improve our website. Your suggestions will be great.

IUSSP must maintain and hopefully expand its membership. Membership fees help our activities, and the strength of our membership demonstrates our value, including to the donor community. So a plea from us to please maintain your membership and encourage your colleagues to join or remain members too!

We are entering into a difficult budgetary period, as noted by Tom and Nico. Many foundations seem to be less inclined to support organisations like ours, preferring to fund national or local groups in low- and middle-income countries – the “decolonialisation of aid.” Government budgets are constrained. An important challenge will be to seek new sources of funds imaginatively. Less core funding, and more project funding may be the way to go, or sadly, finding ways of living with a tighter budget. This will preoccupy the next Council. We are lucky though to have a healthy reserve fund to help see us through. Continued support from INED, including for housing the IUSSP secretariat in Paris is much appreciated.

Tom has already thanked everyone, but let me end with a note of gratitude to our President himself, on behalf of both the Union and myself. Tom is passionate about the Union and has steered it imaginatively and tirelessly through these tough years. Thank you Tom, for guiding the Union, and for what you have taught me personally over these years.

Let me end by repeating -- our strengths are those of our members. We welcome your ideas on how the IUSSP can better serve our members and be more responsive to the times. I hope to “see” you all at IPC2021, in its exciting new format. Do attend!