

IUSSP PANEL ON CONTRACEPTIVE TRANSITION THEORIES

Report to IUSSP General Assembly

15 September 2025

This panel assembled a group of scholars to address the question of what drives contemporary contraception transitions. At issue is the well-documented empirical phenomenon of modern contraceptive use increasing from low to high rates in Asian, African, and Latin American populations. The panel's work was deliberately an exercise in theory development, informed by the enormous number of empirical studies published during the past six decades. In concrete terms, the aim was to produce an edited volume of articles that synthesize and critique theories of contraceptive transition and that, in addition, propose extensions to these existing theories. A variety of disciplinary perspectives were to be represented, and the goal was publication of the collection as a special issue of a top-tier journal.

This goal was achieved. A special issue of *Population and Development Review* was published "open access" in December 2024. The special issue consists of eight articles and a foreword.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/17284457/2024/50/S2>

The *PDR* volume was the product of five years of effort on the part of the panel, with key activities as follows:

- November 2019: first planning meeting in Entebbe (Uganda)
- October 2020: expert group meeting (virtual)
- June 2021: a "short report" authored by the panel, derived from October 2020 expert group meeting (available on the IUSSP webpage for the panel)
- July 2022: participation in three-panel "mini-conference" in Madeira, Portugal
- November 2022: invited panel at International Conference on Family Planning, Pattaya City, Thailand
- January – August 2023: submission of revised drafts of papers
- August 2023 – September 2024: external review conducted by *PDR*, manuscript revisions, additional review
- December 2024: publication of *PDR* special issue
- March 2025: Lundis de l'INED presentation

Fuller description of the activities of the panel is available at

<https://iussp.org/en/contraceptive-transition-theories-models-contemporary-patterns-use>

Panel Members (with main affiliation during their membership on the panel)

John Casterline (Ohio State University), Chair

Ann Biddlecom (Guttmacher Institute)

Irene Casique (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), IUSSP Council Liaison 2021-24

Jamaica Corker (The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)

Nathalie Sawadogo (ISSP, Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo)

Allen Kabagenyi (School of Statistics & Planning, Makerere University)

Chander Shekhar (International Institute for Population Sciences [IIPS])

Suzana Cavenaghi (Independent Researcher), IUSSP Council Liaison 2019-21