



**2021
International
Population
Conference**

5-10 December Hyderabad, India

**Virtual 29th International Population
Conference
(originally planned for Hyderabad, India)
5-10 December 2021
organised with the
India Association for the Study of
Population (IASP)**

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population

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Introduction

The 29th International Population Conference of the IUSSP (IPC 2021) was the first fully virtual international population conference ever organised by the IUSSP. It was initially planned to be held as an in-person conference in Hyderabad, India, 5-10 December 2021 at the Hyderabad International Conference Centre. Due to the COVID pandemic, the International and National Organising Committees decided that it would not be possible to convene the conference in Hyderabad as planned and converted the conference to an entirely virtual event taking place on the same dates.

The IUSSP is very grateful to the India National Organising Committee (NOC) and other Indian colleagues for their continued involvement in IPC 2021 and their efforts to organise for instance the India-Day sessions even though in the end it was not possible to host the Conference in Hyderabad.

Approximately 1,288 population scientists, students and policy makers from 90 countries registered for the conference and 1,221 individuals participated in the live sessions which were held around the clock over 20 hours per day to accommodate participants from around the globe. All conference abstracts and/or papers are available on the [Scientific Programme website](#).

IPC 2021 was hosted on the Open Water platform using Zoom. The virtual nature of the conference enabled the collection of detailed information on attendees' participation in sessions. This report provides an overview of attendees' participation, the conference organisation, the scientific programme, and financial information. A summary of the main data for the Conference is presented in Annex 1.

1. Organisation

Conference governance

The International Organising Committee (IOC), chaired by Dr. UV Somayajulu, President of the Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP), was composed of the IUSSP Council, three NOC representatives, two ex-officio United Nations representatives, and the IUSSP Executive Director (*the complete list of IOC and NOC members can be found in Annex 2*). The IUSSP was responsible for the scientific programme and the NOC had responsibility for arranging and paying for the costs of the local venue and logistics. The NOC also organised a set of scientific sessions focusing on population issues in India. Because the conference could not be held in Hyderabad, the IUSSP took charge of and paid for the virtual conference platform and technical support. As much as possible, the theme of India infused the online platform and programme.

The Call for papers was structured around 25 general themes as well as an India Day theme, to which participants could submit their contribution. For each substantive theme, conveners were recruited to build sessions from the submissions to the call. Scheduling sessions for a virtual conference was more difficult than for an in-person conference as the time zones of the submitters had to be taken into consideration in putting together papers for sessions. This limited the possible combinations of papers available for a session. The IUSSP Secretariat produced and disseminated an online Call for Papers; to reduce costs and our ecological footprint, no printed call for papers was sent by post to IUSSP members and past IPC attendees. As usual, the Secretariat managed the submissions to the Scientific Programme and the review of abstracts. With the help of volunteers, the Secretariat also organised the peer review of submissions by a team of 252 reviewers and 26 conveners (see Annex 3 for a complete list) using software provided by Pampa. The secretariat also managed participant registration and assured communication and coordination among session organisers, authors and participants.

2. Call for Papers

The Call for Papers for IPC 2021 received 1,650 submissions to the 26 conference themes. The number of submissions was lower than for IPC 2017 (which had 4,572 submissions) likely because authors could submit only 2 abstracts but also because the COVID pandemic and related uncertainties resulted in a delay in announcing the Call and limiting advertising of the Call to email.

Abstracts were peer-reviewed by two specialists in the topic area (keywords were used to match reviewers to papers), before conveners began selecting papers to build sessions for the scientific programme.

The convener's task was complicated by the need to make sure that paper authors selected for a session would be available to present during the same session timeslot. Conveners thus created sessions for a specific timeslot selecting from the set of papers available for that timeslot based on information authors provided with their submission on their time zone and hours they would be available to present.

The allocation of session slots to themes (see Table 1) considered the number and quality (based on the average reviewer scores) of submissions to each theme.

Drawing on submissions to the Call for Papers, the theme conveners created 176 oral sessions, featuring 792 papers. Another 513 submissions were accepted for presentation in a virtual poster session.

3. Scientific Programme

The final Scientific Programme included 1,305 scientific communications on a broad range of topics grouped under 26 themes. In addition to the 176 paper sessions, 30 invited sessions were organised.

As IPC 2021 was a virtual conference running over multiple time zones, it was decided not to organise plenary sessions. Instead, the IOC and IUSSP Council organised a series of invited sessions of high interest to attendees scheduling them in time slots when many participants would be able to view the sessions (usually between 14:00- 16:00 UTC).

To increase the impact of the conference, all sessions were video recorded; the videos could be viewed immediately after the session for on-demand viewing. These videos will remain available via the IPC2021 platform until December 2022.

Table 1. List of themes on Scientific Programme

Theme	# of submissions	% of submissions	sessions in programme	Session attendance
1. Fertility and Childbearing	168	10%	18	559
2. Older Adults and Intergenerational Relations	29	2%	3	64
3. Gender	88	5%	9	164
4. Culture, Ethnicity, Race, Religion and Language	16	1%	2	29
5. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights	102	6%	10	205
6. International Migration	41	3%	4	135
7. Migrant Populations and Refugees	49	3%	7	180
8. Internal Migration	60	4%	6	168
9. Urban Demography	26	2%	4	103
10. Human Capital & Labour Markets	30	2%	3	123
11. Population and Development and the Demographic Dividend	29	2%	3	69
12. Population Ageing	70	4%	6	134
13. Family Planning and Contraception	108	7%	10	234
14. Population and Environment	64	4%	6	143
15. Data and Methods	107	7%	13	417
16. Spatial Demography and Human Geography	47	3%	6	114
17. Population Policy Challenges	27	2%	2	65
18. Historical Demography	21	1%	2	73
19. Families and Households	67	4%	4	107
20. Union Formation and Dissolution	34	2%	4	86
21. Health and Morbidity	152	9%	14	210
22. Economic Demography	42	3%	5	101
23. Mortality and Longevity	109	7%	12	408
24. Life Course	25	2%	3	46
25. Children and Youth	87	5%	9	164
26. India Day*	41	3%	11	305
Invited Sessions*			30	1097
Total	1639	100%		
* sessions were created by the NOC, IOC with invited speakers				

Regular sessions

Regular sessions lasted 90 minutes with up to 6 simultaneous sessions taking place Monday to Friday from 4:00 to 23:00 UCT. Each session was moderated by a chair and usually included the presentation of 3 to 5 papers, followed by an open discussion, moderated by the chair and sometimes involving a discussant. Presenters were requested to pre-record and upload their presentations to avoid internet connection issues; the presenter and co-authors were expected to be present during the session to join in the discussion of the papers. All sessions were supported by a technician from Open Water to play the videos and handle any technical issues.

All authors were required to register early to secure their paper on the scientific programme. If the presenting author was not registered, the paper was removed from the programme.

Posters

Posters were on permanent display in the online Open Water platform where authors could also upload a short 2-min video presentation. Live virtual poster sessions were also scheduled in 30 thematic sessions during the week of the conference. The Gather.Town platform was used to enable virtual exchanges between poster authors and participants as well as encourage impromptu exchanges between conference attendees. Over 500 authors were invited to present their paper as a poster (all papers accepted as a poster scored at least a 3 on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest score.) A total of 305 poster authors presented their poster in the Gather.Town poster sessions. Each day, one Best Poster was selected by a Jury of IUSSP Council and Panel members (see section 4.4).

Sponsored Research Leader Sessions

At IPC 2021, IUSSP offered research centres and institutions working in the population field the opportunity to organise a so-called Research Leader Session on a topic of special importance to them in exchange for a financial contribution. The funds raised from these sessions were used to support the costs of the conference platform. A total of 8 Research Leader Sessions were included in the programme:

1. Youth Mixed Migration in Gateway Cities (UNFPA)
2. Addressing the Needs of Marginalized Populations Impacted by Climate Change: Evidence Gaps at the Intersection of the Population and Climate Sciences. (Population Council)
3. Launch of Genus Thematic Series on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems - (IUSSP Panel on Strengthening CRVS systems).
4. Les bases de données sur la mortalité et la santé de l'Ined : des ressources précieuses pour les comparaisons internationales, French National Institute for Demographic Research (INED)
5. New Evidence on Urban Fertility and Family Planning in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia (IUSSP Urban Family Planning Panel)
6. Quantifying Uncertain Migration Scenarios (University of Southampton)
7. Modern Approaches to Vital Statistics Production, Dissemination and Usage: Harnessing Civil (UNFPA)
8. UNFPA Special Session: Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Fertility

India Day Sessions

The India National Organising Committee organised 11 sessions, 5 of which were based on submissions to the Call for Papers and 6 research leader sessions that were sponsored and organised by institutions working in India:

1. Challenges Facing the Young in India
2. COVID-19 and Consequences of Lockdowns on Health Outcomes
3. Development Challenges in India: Poverty, Migration and Urbanisation
4. Key Factors Influencing Family Planning and Maternal Health Services in India
5. Research Leader Session: Reaping the Benefit of the Demographic Dividend in India: Challenges, Opportunities and Policy Option (Sponsored by UNFPA)
6. Research Leader Session: Ageing in India: Emerging Issues and Changes Based on LASI (Sponsored by the International Institute for Population Sciences -IIPS)
7. Research Leader Session: Building Trust in India's Data Ecosystem: A Model of Change (Sponsored by the Population Council)
8. Research Leader Session: Family Planning in India during FP2020: Progress and Lessons for FP2030 (Sponsored by the Population Council)
9. Research Leader Session: Good Practices, Innovative Approaches and Challenges in Streamlining and Leveraging Interventions to Respond to the Corona Virus (Sponsored by the Learning for Impact USAID Project)

10. Research Leader Session: National and Subnational Investigation of the Drivers of Success in Maternal and Newborn Mortality Reduction in India; Exemplars in Global Health (Sponsored by India Health Action Trust)
11. What Affects Child Health: Perspectives from India

Invited Sessions and Keynotes

The IOC and the IUSSP Council organised a total of 16 invited sessions on topics of special interest that were not reflected in the sessions created via the call for Papers. These Keynotes and Invited Sessions were popular receiving some of the largest number of views. They include:

1. Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Adolescents in Low- and Middle-Income Countries
2. COVID-19 in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Implications for the Most Disadvantaged
3. Demographic Training for the 21st Century
4. Demography Fast & Slow
5. Digital Demography: Highlights and Future Directions
6. Early Impacts of COVID-19 on Contraceptive and Abortion Services in Low- and Middle-Income Countries
7. Family and Inequality in Asia
8. Flash Talks: Setting a Research Agenda for Political Demography
9. Human Capital and Sustainable Human Wellbeing. A New Focus on Subjective Well-Being
10. Is Rising Inequality Acceptable If It Coincides with Poverty Reduction?
11. Low Fertility: Trends, Policies and Politics
12. Population Change and Identity Politics
13. Registration Data to Advance Population Health and Gender Equality
14. Six Ways Population Change Will Affect Global Economy
15. The Implications of Global Pandemics for International Migration and Migration Research
16. Twentieth Century Famines and Food Availability in South Asia

IPC 2021 Countdown Events

Given the virtual nature of the IPC 2021 and competition for viewers it was decided not to organise any side events during the conference. Instead, to whet the appetite of the global population community for the conference, the IUSSP Council in collaboration with the IUSSP Early Career Task Force and IUSSP Panels organised a series of Count Down Events including training workshops, short courses, networking events as well as a debate in the lead up to the conference. These include:

1. Training Workshop: Geoprocessing and Spatial Analysis (Early Career Taskforce), 10 August 2021
2. Webinar: Climate Change and Population Dynamics, (Population and Environment Research Network,) 16 September 2021
3. Debate: “The wife wants no more births, but the husband does. Can one say that her subsequent pregnancy is unwanted?” (Scientific Panel on Couples' Reproductive Health and Fertility) 8 November 2021
4. Networking Event: Your Career after a PhD? Offered as 3 sessions: Asia & Pacific; Europe & Africa; Americas) (Early Career Taskforce) 24 November 2021
5. Training Workshop: Introduction to Multistate Analysis of Population Dynamics (Early Career Taskforce) 3 December 2021
6. Virtual Short Course: Subnational Probabilistic Population Projections Sponsored by IUSSP, University of Washington, UNFPA and NICHD. 3 & 4 December 2021

4. Other Conference Activities

Opening and Closing ceremonies

The Conference did not have a conventional Opening Ceremony. Short welcome videos produced by FaireProd, a professional video production company, featured short messages of welcome by the IOC President U.V. Somayajulu, IUSSP President Tom LeGrand and IUSSP Vice-President Shireen Jejeebhoy, that were posted on the entrance webpage to the conference platform along with welcome messages from UNFPA Executive Director Natalia Kanem and the Indian Minister of Health.

A special promotional video was also produced by Faireprod featuring IUSSP members; it focused on the contributions of demographers to understanding contemporary global issues and challenges. The video “When Demographers Unite” was played as part of the introduction to the pre-recorded IPC 2021 Inaugural Keynote Address by Dr. Saumya Swaminathan (Chief Scientist at WHO) on “Perspectives from the Covid-19 Pandemic and Lessons Learned”, which took place on the first day of the Conference.

The IUSSP organised the Closing Ceremony that featured an address by the incoming IUSSP President Shireen Jejeebhoy and a Keynote by the 2021 Mattei Dogan prize winner Bruno Schoumaker on “Male Fertility around the World and Over Time - On Tapping Untapped Data for Comparative Fertility Research”. During the Closing Ceremony the conveners, reviewers and chairs were recognized for their voluntary contributions; also the 5 Best Poster award winners were announced:

- **Day 1.** Poster Session 3, C-23: “Vulnerability Level of Spatial Units and Adolescent Fertility in Colombia” by Juliana Guerrero, Carlos Ramirez Hernandez, José L Wilches-Gutierrez, and Lelio A. Arias-Vizcaino
- **Day 2.** Poster Session 8, C-51: “Do Income Inequality and Women Empowerment Predict Obesity in Latin American Cities?” by Natalia Tumas, Cecilia Anza Ramírez, Mariana Carvalho de Menezes, Mónica Mazariegos, Kari Moore, Ana Ortigoza, Carolina Pérez Ferrer, Santiago Rodríguez López, Olga Sarmiento, Joan Benach and Mariana Lazo
- **Day 3.** Poster Session 11, B-132: “Trends in Chronic Child Undernutrition in Bangladesh for Small Domains Using Bayesian Hierarchical Time Series Modelling” by Sumonkanti Das, Bernard Baffour and Alice Richardson
- **Day 4.** Poster Session 16, C-78: “Age Gap between Spouses in South And Southeast Asia” by Premchand Dommaraju.
- **Day 5.** Poster Session 23, C-68: “Does urban land expansion affect the village’s development? A geospatial study of 615 peri-urban villages of Gujarat, India” by Ankit Sikarwar, Aparajita Chattopadhyay, and Ritu Rani.

IUSSP General Assembly. To enable as may IUSSP members as possible to join from around the globe and to avoid competition with IPC sessions, the 29th IUSSP General Assembly was held in November before the conference rather than during the conference.

Exhibit booths

The virtual conference platform included 24 virtual exhibit booths featuring science publishers, research institutes and other organisations working in the population field (see Annex 4).

5. Participants

A total of 1307* participants registered online; 1069 were fully registered as a participant with a communication on the programme and an additional 238 registered at a much-reduced attendee-only fee, including chairs of sessions who had no other communication on the programme. Attendee-only participants made up a small portion (7%) of the participants. IUSSP student associates accounted for 32 % of participants, and IUSSP members 37% of participants although there were likely more IUSSP members present as many of the India residents were also IUSSP members.

Table 1: Number of participants by type and fee level

Attendee type	Full fee - required for all authors of a communication on the programme	Attendee - only Fee	Total	%
IUSSP member **	424	54	478	37%
IUSSP student associate (not India)	213	96	309	24%
IUSSP Student associate based in India	110		110	8%
India resident	141		141	11%
Non-member	181	88	269	21%
Total	1069	88	1307*	100%
*This figure likely includes doubles as only 1274 paid the fee.				
** Includes 154 IUSSP members who maintained membership for 4 years and received an additional discount.				

As with previous conferences the NOC and IUSSP provided support for 35 % of participants from a low- income country with a communication on the programme. It was agreed that the NOC would fund IUSSP members based in India who made a request for financial support, while IUSSP would fund requests of those from other low-income countries.

Table 2: IPC2021 Registration fee levels and amounts

Registration fees for those with a communication on the programme (Presenting author is required to register for paper to be on the programme)	euro
Non-Members	€ 600
IUSSP Members	€ 400
IUSSP Members (since 2017)	€ 300
IUSSP Student Associates	€ 150
Indian resident**	€ 170
Indian Student (IUSSP student Assoc.) INR 5,000 /55 €	€ 55
Attendee-only fees (for individuals not presenting a paper on the programme)	
IUSSP student members and IUSSP LMIC members,	€ 20
IUSSP High Income country members,	€ 50
General public (non- IUSSP members)	€ 75

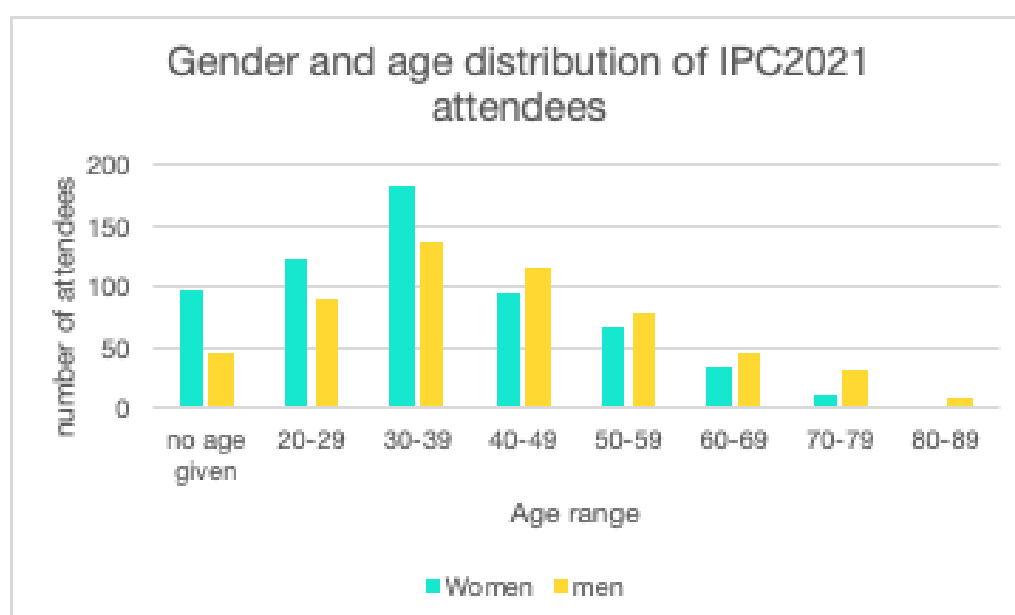
Fifty-five per cent of participants paid their registration fee online with a credit card or sent a check by mail. Another 10% paid the fees through a bank wire transfer – most of these payments were made by institutions for their faculty, students, and staff.

Table 1 Source of registration fee payments

Source of registration fee payments (N=1274)			
Individual Payment		703	55%
	Check	12	
	Credit Card	691	
Transfer - Institution directly paid fee (INED, MPDIR, Cedeplar		128	10%
IPC Organisers		425	33%
	IUSSP	248	
	NOC	177	
	UNFPA	27	
IUSSP project funding		18	1%
	UrbanFP	16	
	CRVS Panel	2	

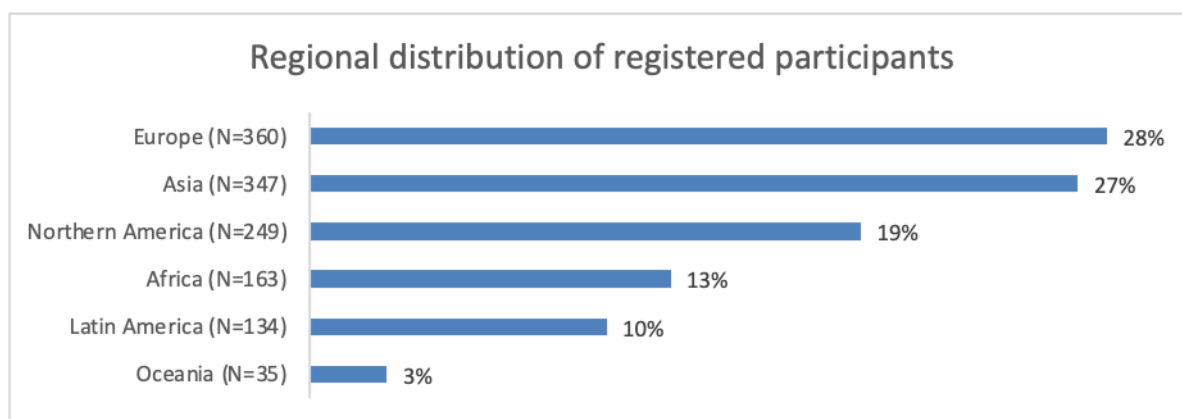
Distribution by gender and age

Participants were relatively young: 50% were below the age of 40. Above the age of 40, the proportion of each age group decreases with age. The gender distribution was fairly balanced: 54% of the registered participants were women with women outnumbering men under the age of 40. It is important to note that many participants did not provide information on their gender and that more men than women provided information on their date of birth.

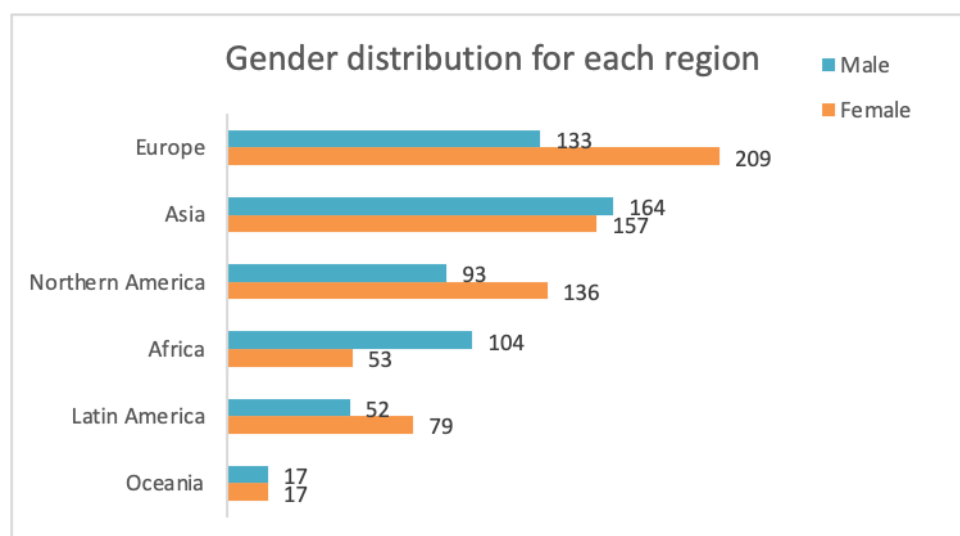


Geographic provenance

Participants represented 94 nationalities residing in 82 countries. The two largest groups of participants were from Europe (28%) and Asia (27%), the latter certainly because the conference was initially scheduled to take place in India and featured India Day sessions. The proportion of participants from North America (19%) was the same as in the previous IPC 2017 in Cape Town. There were less participants from Africa at IPC 2021 than in Cape Town (13% vs. 27%) and more from Latin America (13% vs. 8%).



Women outnumbered men in Europe and North and Latin America. Men were twice as many as women in Africa.



Countries represented by more than 10 participants (by nationality)

22 Countries had more than 10 participants versus 34 at the in-person IPC2017 in Cape Town .

India (266)	Germany (23)	Burkina Faso (12)
United States (121)	South Africa (23)	Colombia (12)
Brazil (48)	Canada (22)	Cameroon (11)
Italy (46)	Spain (20)	Japan (11)
France (45)	Mexico (18)	Netherlands (10)
China (40)	Australia (17)	Uganda (100)
Nigeria (32)	Ghana (16)	
United Kingdom (32)	Belgium (12)	

Countries represented by more than 10 participants (by country of residence)

20 Countries had more than 10 participants versus 32 for IPC2021 in Cape Town.

India (253)	Italy (30)	Belgium (18)
United States (171)	Australia (27)	Netherlands (17)
United Kingdom (63)	Spain (26)	Mexico (15)
Brazil (48)	Canada (23)	Ghana (13)
France (47)	China (22)	Burkina Faso (12)
South Africa (35)	Nigeria (22)	Cameroon (6)
Germany (33)	Austria (21)	

6. IUSSP Conference Expenditures and Income

Between 2018 and 2021 the IUSSP spent a total of € 489.749 euro on the organisation of IPC2021 and received €483.343 in income from conference registration fees, contributions and grants, resulting in a net loss for IUSSP of € 6.406 (see Table 4). Note that table 4 only includes IUSSP expenditures and income sources; costs and revenues incurred by the India National Organising Committee are not included in the table.

The transformation of the Conference to a virtual event greatly reduced costs of the event, especially for the National Organising Committee that did not need to rent the HICC conference venue and audio-visual equipment in Hyderabad and cover staff costs, nor provide funding to participant travel and accommodation as is usually the case in IPCs. These two budget items accounted for two thirds of expenditures at previous IPC conferences. Costs for these items can range from 1 to 2 million euro or more depending on the location of the venue and numbers of participants supported by the NOC and the IUSSP. Local venue costs are generally covered by the NOC while the IUSSP pays for the costs related to promoting the conference and managing the scientific programme. Both the NOC and the IUSSP support the participation of presenters from low-income countries.

The costs of moving IPC 2021 to a virtual venue were fully supported by the IUSSP. IUSSP paid for the virtual conference platform and technical support as well as the costs related to simultaneous interpretation (French-English) for a small number of sessions. Included in the table are IUSSP staff costs devoted to organising the Conference and managing the scientific programme. Though IUSSP had no costs for travel support other than the initial IOC meetings held in India, IUSSP did provide support for registration fee payments to those from low-income countries.

Table 4: IUSSP IPC2025 Budget, Expenditures and Income

	IUSSP Budget*	Realised expenditures and income				
IPC 2021 - IUSSP Expenses and revenues						
Expenses	Euro	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Management of Scientific Programme and Registrations (IUSSP)	€ 299 000	€ 20 310	€ 31 781	€ 34 230	€ 133 959	€ 220 280
IUSSP staff salaries	€ 200 000	€ 19 116	€ 25 457	€ 14 992	€ 88 391	€ 147 956
Fees paid to non-staff	€ 25 000			€ 898	€ 21 307	€ 22 205
Publicity and dissemination of call for papers and conference	€ 38 000	€ 1 194	€ 6 148	€ 1 854	€ 6 581	€ 15 778
Conference abstract submission system (software)	€ 35 000			€ 16 458	€ 17 496	€ 33 954
Miscellaneous expenses	€ 1 000		€ 176	€ 28	€ 183	€ 387
Planning Meetings and Travel (IOC, NOC, Steering Committee)	€ 17 000	€ 6 515	€ 14 092	€ 4 485	€ -	€ 25 093
Council and Secretariat Staff	€ 17 000	€ 6 515	€ 14 092	€ 4 485		€ 25 093
Virtual Conference Venue Costs*	€ 210 000				€ 209 056	€ 209 056
Virtual conference platform and support for virtual and poster sessions	€ 160 000				€ 174 575	€ 174 575
Simultaneous interpretation	€ 25 000				€ 10 595	€ 10 595
Video recording and production	€ 25 000				€ 23 886	€ 23 886
Registration fee support for participants (200 participants - partial support)**	€ 55 000				€ 35 320	€ 35 320
Total expenses	€ 581 000	€ 26 825	€ 45 873	€ 38 715	€ 378 335	€ 489 749
Revenue						
Conference fees and contributions					€ 321 235	€ 321 235
Research Leader contributions					€ 71 708	
Exhibitor Fees					€ 3 489	
Registration Fees					€ 246 038	
Grants					€ 162 108	€ 162 108
UNFPA					€ 144 913	
IASP					€ 17 195	
IUSSP own funds		€ 26 825	€ 45 873	€ 38 715	€ -	€ 111 414
Total revenue		€ 26 825	€ 45 873	€ 38 715	€ 645 450	€ 594 756
* Budget revised August 2021 to account for move to virtual platform						

7. Conference Evaluation

The Secretariat carried out an online survey directly after IPC 2021 of the conference participants who attended “live”.

The survey was conducted online from 10 December 2021 to 21 January 2022, via Survey Monkey. Responses were collected anonymously. The online questionnaire was sent electronically to 1,319 registered participants who had valid email addresses, of which 660 responded (though not necessarily to all the questions). The response rate was 50%, similar to the IPC 2017 conference survey.

The questionnaire was available in English and in French: 88% of respondents (582) chose to answer in English, and 12% responded in French (78). The Conference survey report is available as a separate document but below is a summary of the key findings:

- Overall, survey respondents found the scientific quality of the research presented at IPC2021 to be very high (92% rated it 4 or 5 out of 5) and the conference well organised, with a good virtual platform and good technical support. Ninety-six per cent of the respondents would recommend their colleagues attend the next conference (78% definitely and 19% probably).
- Most participants did not attend many sessions and, as a result, attendance was (very) low in many sessions and presenters received limited feedback. One-third of the respondents who attended live sessions attended 2 sessions at most; another third attended between 3 and 5 sessions; one-third attended more than 5 sessions.
- At the time of the survey 41% of the respondents had not yet viewed any recorded sessions. However, 73% of the respondents planned (most certainly) to return to the website to view more recorded sessions in the months after the conference.
- Attendance at live Poster sessions in Gather.Town was limited: half the respondents did not attend any of these poster sessions.
- A large majority of respondents (71%) approved of the decision to ask presenters to pre-record their presentations although some presenters did not enjoy pre-recording; some viewers felt that the recordings lacked the spontaneity of live presentations.
- Most sessions did not include discussants, a choice approved by 14% of the respondents; 61% would have preferred discussants in the virtual setting of IPC 2021, especially given the limited feedback they received from a small audience.
- Some of the recordings (sound or resolution) were of low quality which made them impossible to watch.
- Many respondents missed the usual in-person conference, with its formal and informal interactions.
- For the next IPC, the 2025 conference in Brisbane, Australia, very few respondents (3%) would prefer an online format. A large proportion would prefer a completely in-person conference (42%) while a majority (55%) would prefer a hybrid format, which would combine some of the benefits of the online format (mainly the ability to attend remotely, for themselves or for those who cannot afford the trip to Brisbane), and the opportunity to watch recordings of the sessions.

8. Insights from Data on Online Participation

A wealth of information on attendants' participation in IPC2021) is available thanks to the data collected on the virtual conference platform that tracked users' activities – clicks and views. Respecting individual privacy, we have used this data, usually unavailable for an in-person conference, to provide details of registered conference attendees participation (grouped by region, sex, and age) in sessions, poster views, exhibitor booth visits, etc. However, it is important to acknowledge its limitations, in particular:

- A small portion of those who accessed the Open Water platform could not be identified, either because they were not formally registered and/or because they accessed the platform with the help of the technical support team, which at times anonymized their activity.
- For posters, only the visits to the Poster Gallery on the Open Water platform are included, whereas posters were supposed to be viewed mainly on the dedicated Gather.Town website, which unfortunately (for this report) does not collect data on visitors. *(The only way to estimate Gather.Town visits is by the clicks on the links to the Gather.Town website from the IPC2021 platform – however, since attendants could also access Gather.Town directly, this information is very partial).*

A. Live Sessions

A total of 6,162 live session “views” were recorded (once duplicates for the same session were removed). After removing support staff and anonymous viewers, there are 5,503 views that can be linked to specific individuals to which we associated data on country and region of residence, as well as age and gender (if the participants provided this information when they registered).

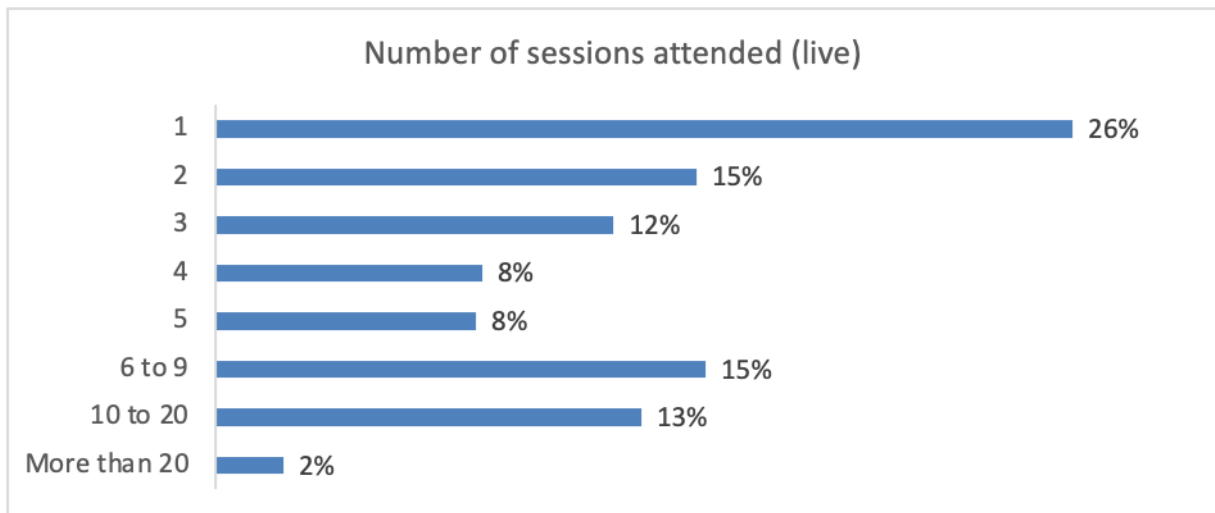
The average participation in each session was 27 (presumably slightly higher because some anonymous participants were excluded).

The 10 sessions with most live participants were:

1. Research Leader Session: Good Practices, Innovative Approaches and Challenges in Streamlining and Leveraging Interventions to Respond to the Corona Virus (Sponsored by the Learning for Impact USAID Project) (89)
2. Invited Session - Low Fertility: Trends, Policies and Politics (87)
3. Closing and Award Ceremony - IUSSP Mattei Dogan Award and Best Poster Awards (81)
4. Inaugural Keynote: Dr Soumya Swaminathan, WHO Chief Scientist, on Perspectives from the COVID-19 Pandemic and Lessons Learned (63)
5. Education, Human Capital and Demography (59)
6. IUSSP Panel Session: The Implications of Global Pandemics for International Migration and Migration Research (58)
7. Demographic Trends: Estimates and Projections (57)
8. Research Leader Session: Contraceptive Transition Theories (Sponsored by IUSSP Panel) (56)
9. Population Shifts and Environmental Change: Past Trends, Current Conditions and Future Scenarios (55)
10. Invited Session: Population Change and Identity Politics (54)

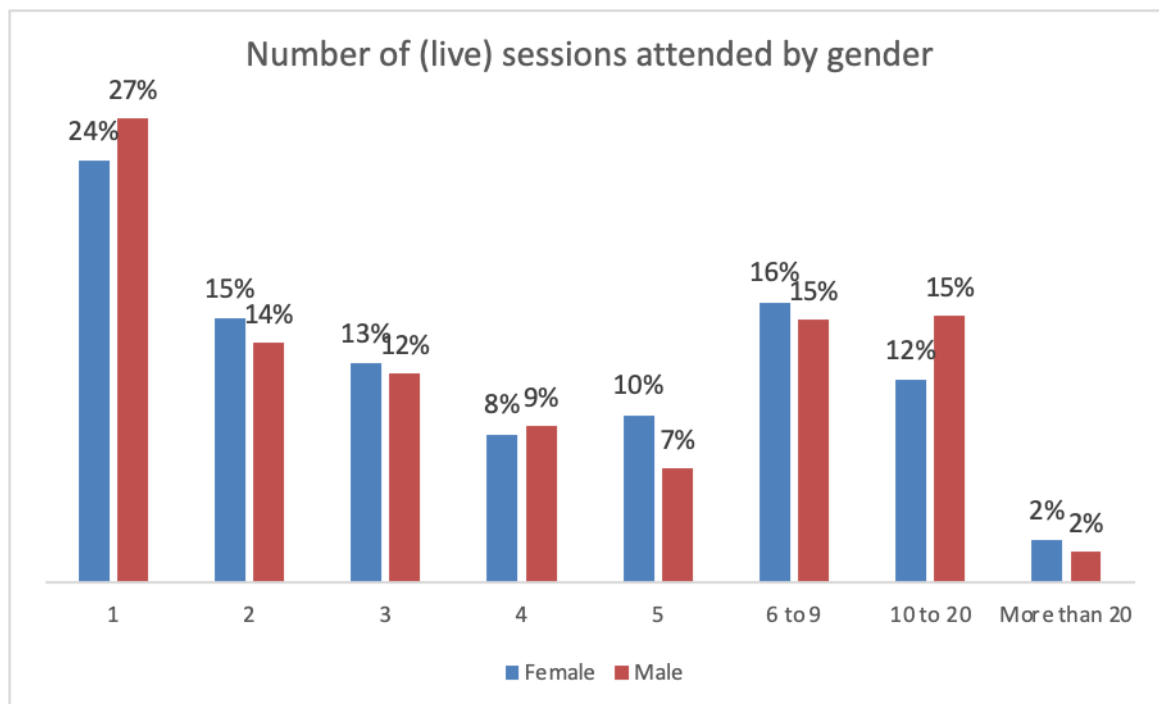
Number of live sessions attended by participants

Based on those participants who attended live sessions ($N=1,060$; of the 1,323 registered participants), we can see that 26% attended only 1 session, 27% attended 2 or 3 sessions, 31% attended between 4 and 9 sessions. Only 15% attended 10 live sessions or more.



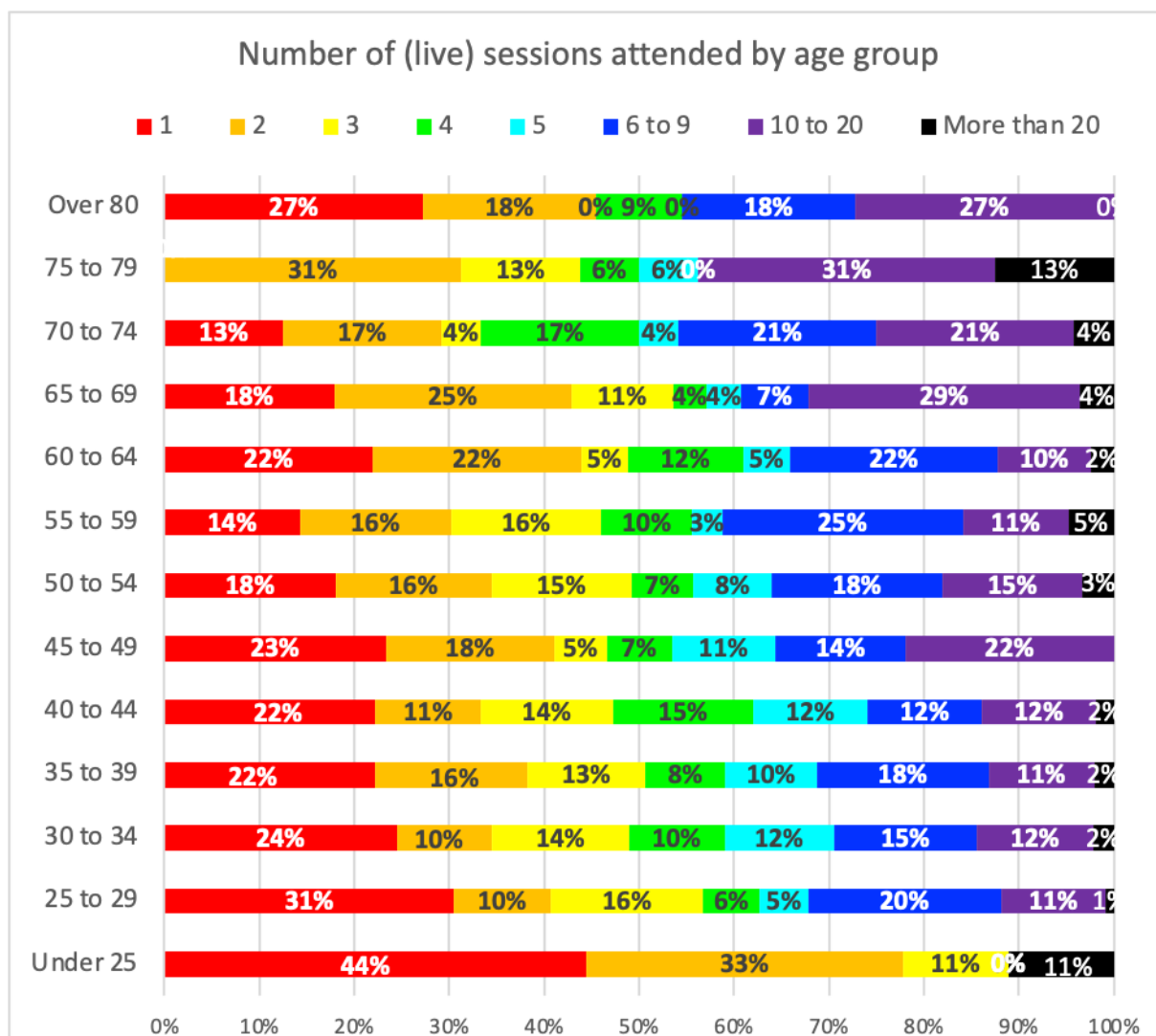
Number of live sessions attended by gender

The number of sessions attended does not seem to vary considerably by gender: 27% of men and 24% of women attended only 1 session.



Number of live sessions attended by age

The number of sessions attended appears to increase with age: 44% of the participants aged under 25 and 31% of those aged 25 to 29 attended only 1 session. Aside from the two youngest age categories, the median number of sessions viewed is close to 4. For the age groups of 65 and over, at least 25% attended 10 sessions or more.

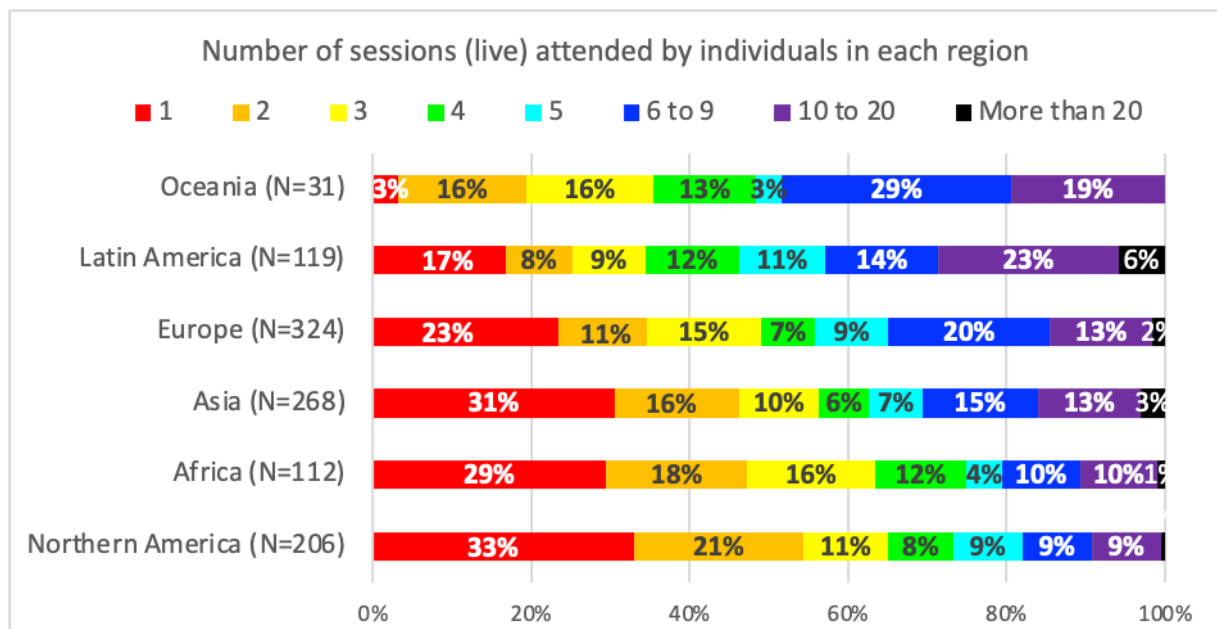


Number of live sessions attended by region

The number of sessions attended varied considerably by region of residence.

- 31% of North Americans and Asians and 29% of Africans attended only 1 session vs 23% of Europeans, 17% of Latin Americans and 3% of Oceanians.
- 29% of the Latin Americans attended 10 sessions or more vs 9% of the North Americans.

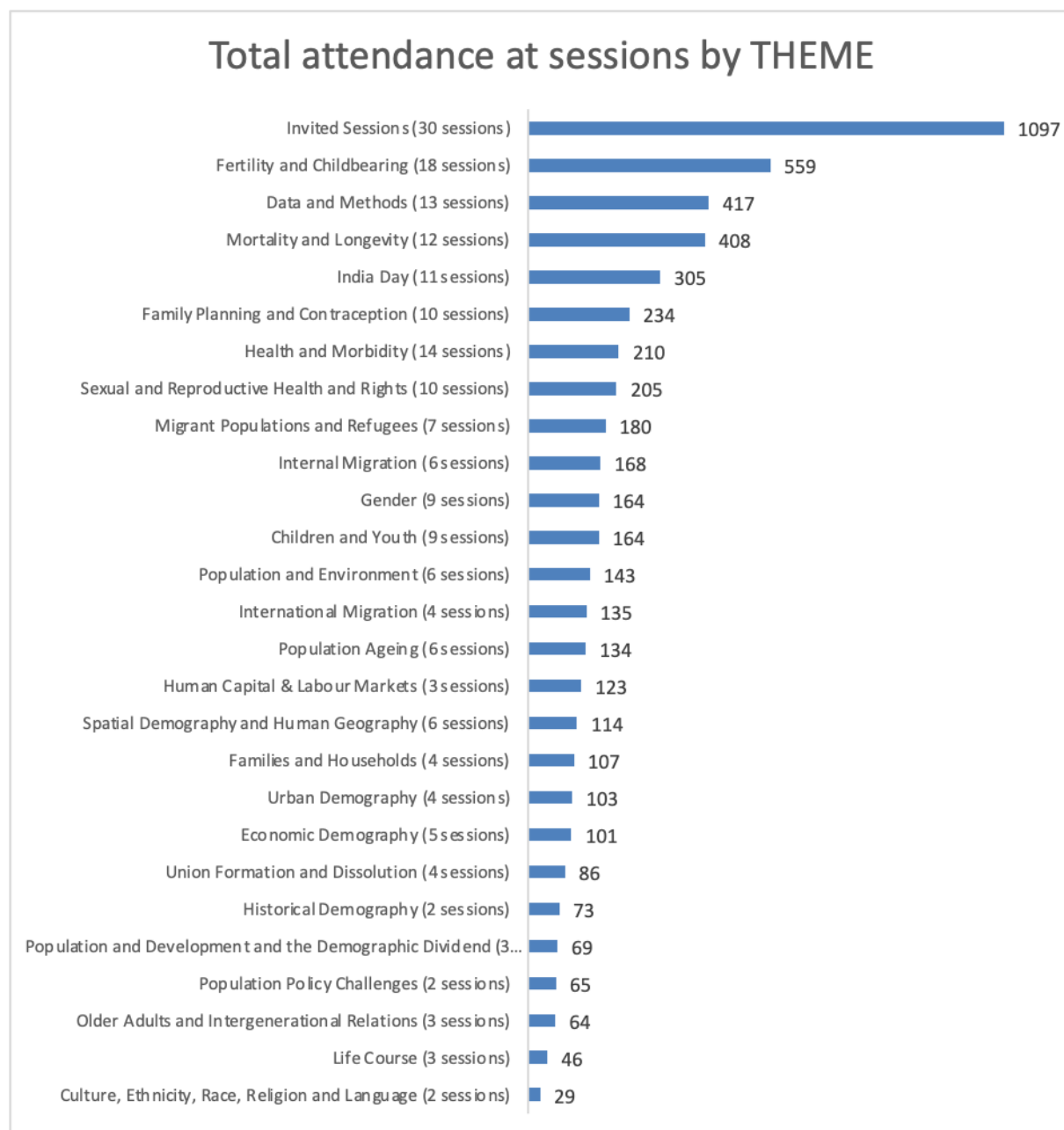
This variation can be explained only partially (if at all) by the time zones given that Oceania was the region that had the smallest number of live sessions available during normal working (and waking) hours, while Europe shares the same time zone as Africa and North America shares a similar set of time zones with Latin America.



Session attendance by theme

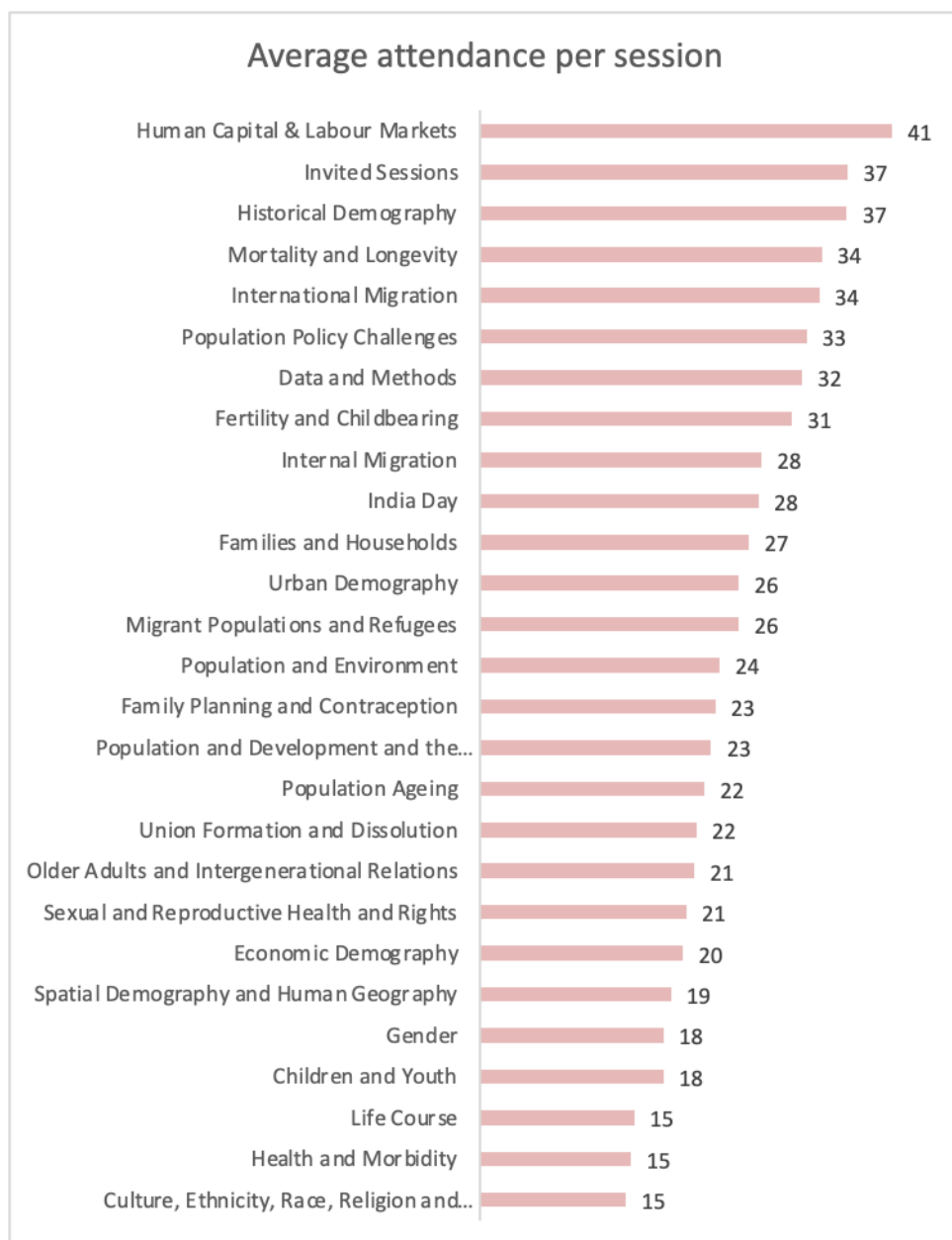
The 602 live sessions were grouped into 26 general themes (including the India Day theme and a 27th group “Invited sessions” including *Keynotes, IUSSP Panel sessions, Opening and Closing sessions, and sponsored Research Leader sessions*).

To provide an overall picture of the kinds of sessions and relative attendance at IPC2021, the graph below shows the total attendance for each theme and the number of sessions included in each theme (in parentheses).



Average session attendance by theme

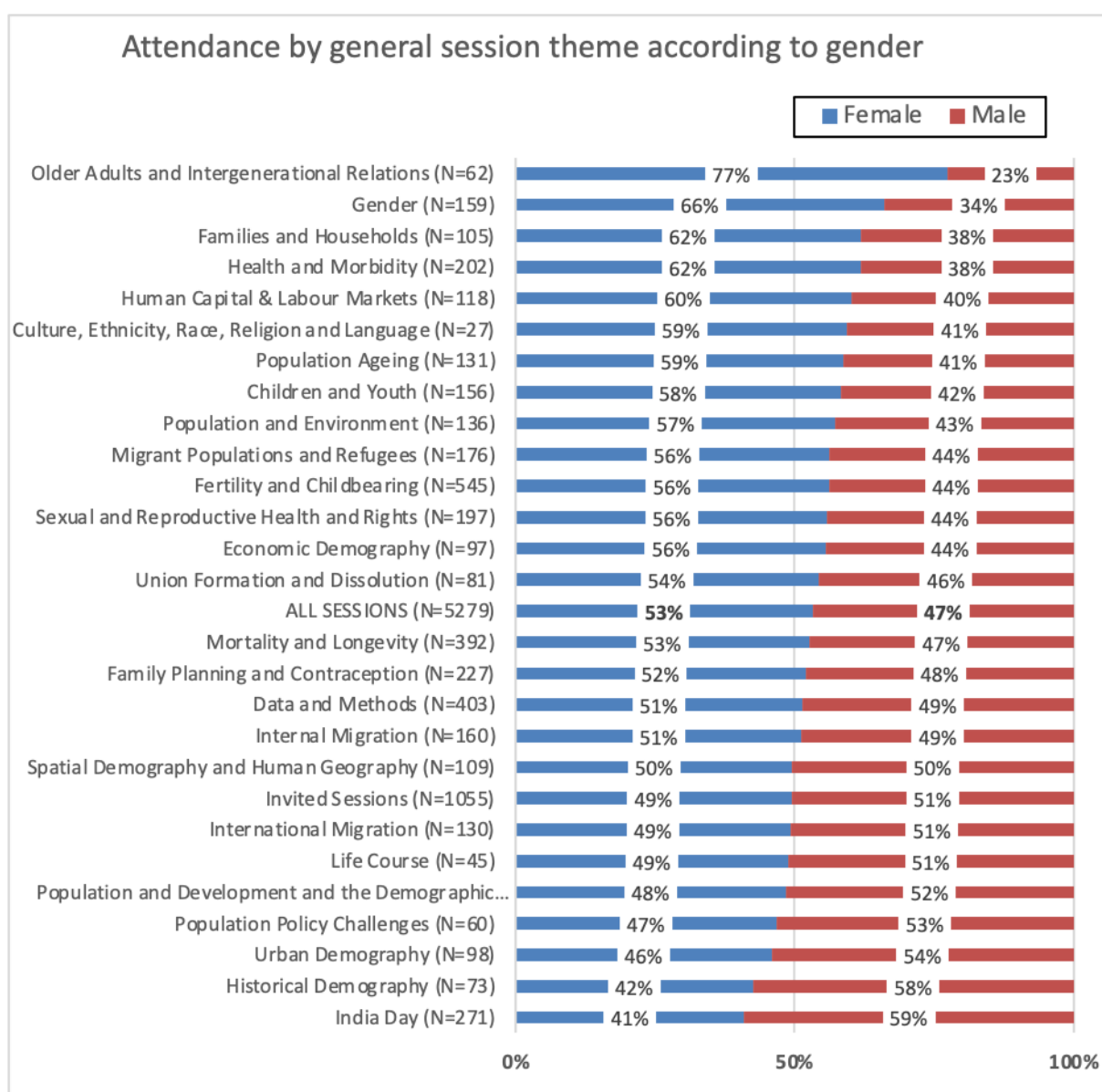
The average attendance per session can be calculated for each theme. It varied from an average of 41 participants per session for the theme on “Human Capital & Labour Markets” (3 sessions) to 15 for the theme on “Culture, Ethnicity, Race, Religion and Language” (2 sessions).



Session attendance by gender for each theme

The proportion of women (based on overall session participation) slightly exceeded that of men (53% vs. 47% -- see "ALL SESSIONS" in the graph below). This proportion varied considerably between the various conference themes.

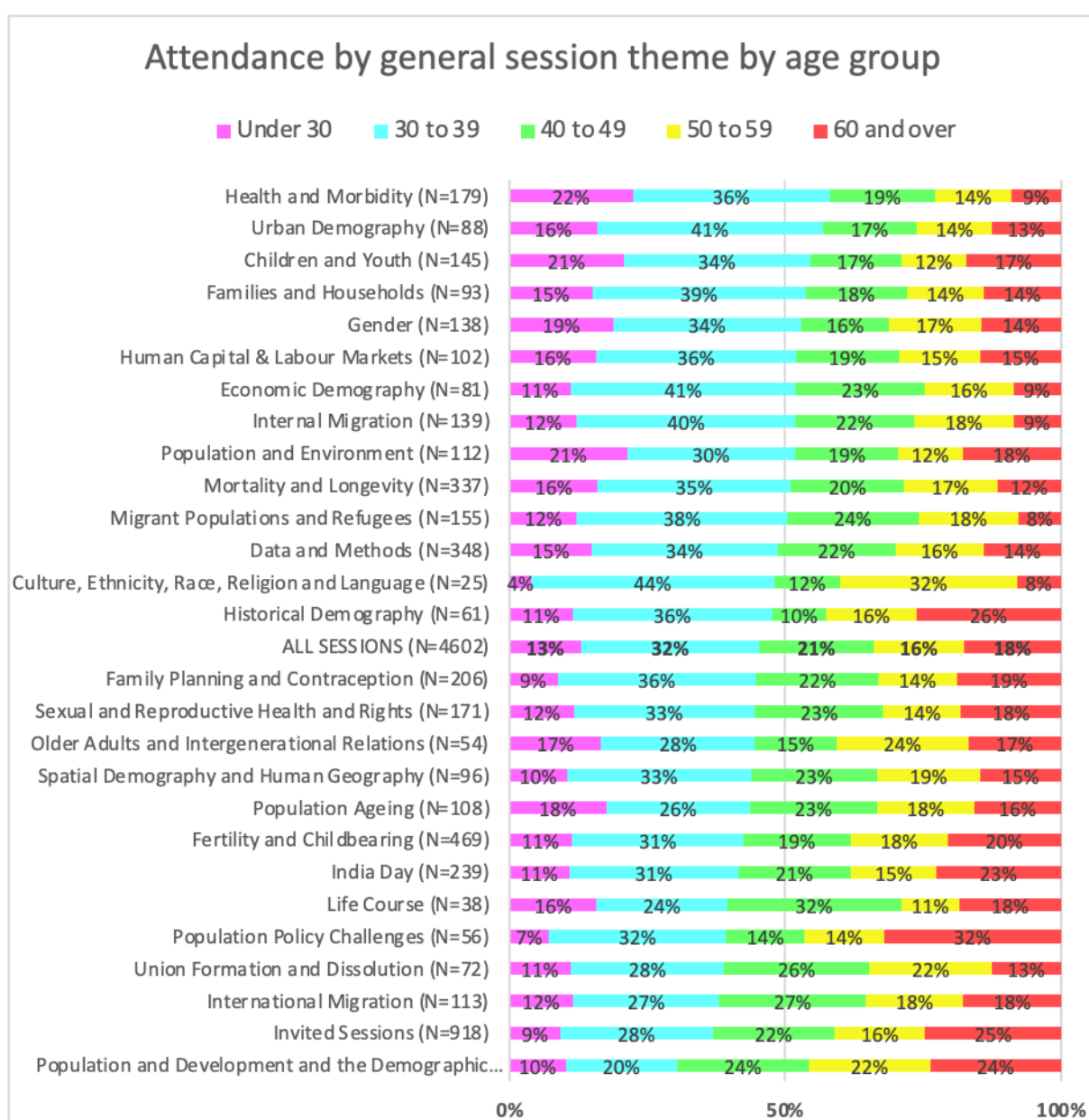
- Sessions that were more likely to draw attendance from women included "Older Adults and Intergenerational Relations" (77%), "Gender" (66%), "Families and Households" (62%), "Health and Morbidity" (62%) and "Human Capital & Labour Markets" (60%).
- Sessions that were more likely to draw attendance from men were "India Day" (59%), "Historical Demography" (58%), "Urban Demography" (54%), "Population Policy Challenges" (53%) and "Population and Development and the Demographic Dividend" (52%).



Session attendance by age for each theme

The graph below shows session attendance by age group for each general theme. The themes are ordered by proportion of “under 40”.

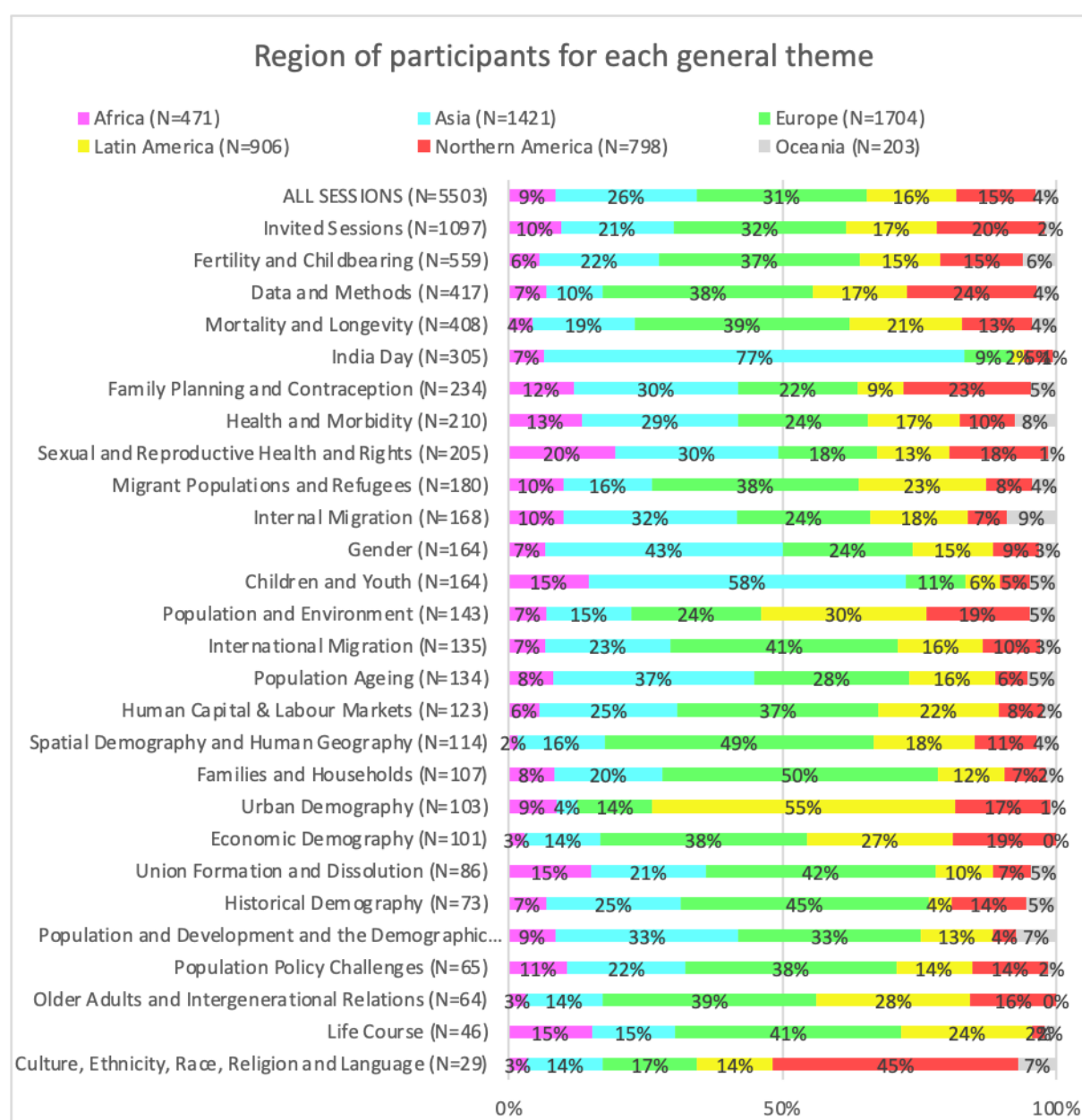
- The themes that drew the younger age groups (under 40) were “Health and Morbidity” (58%), “Urban Demography” (57%) and “Children and Youth” (54%).
- The themes that drew the older age groups (over 40) were “Population and Development and the Demographic Dividend” (69%), “Invited Sessions” (63%) and “International Migration” (62%).
- The theme that had the largest proportion of the middle age group (40 to 49) was “Life Course” (32%) while the session that had the largest proportion of the oldest age group (60 and over) was “Population Policy Challenges” (32%).



Session attendance by region for each theme

The overall distribution of participants in all live sessions was the following: Europe (31%), Asia (26%), Latin America (16%), North America (15%), Africa (9%) and Oceania (4%). This distribution differs from the distribution of registered participants because participants from certain regions (e.g. Latin America) attended more sessions than others (e.g. North America and Africa). *[Registered participants: Europe (28%), Asia (27%), North America (19%), Africa (13%), Latin America (10%), Oceania (3%)].*

Certain themes drew more participants from certain regions. Unsurprisingly, the “India Day” sessions were attended mostly by participants from Asia (77%). Sessions in the “Children and Youth” theme also drew a large proportion of Asian participants (58%). Sessions on “Families” and “Spatial Demography” drew large proportions of Europeans (50% and 49% respectively). Urban Demography drew many Latin Americans (55%) while “Culture, Ethnicity, Race, Religion and Language” drew many North Americans (45%).



B. Recorded Sessions

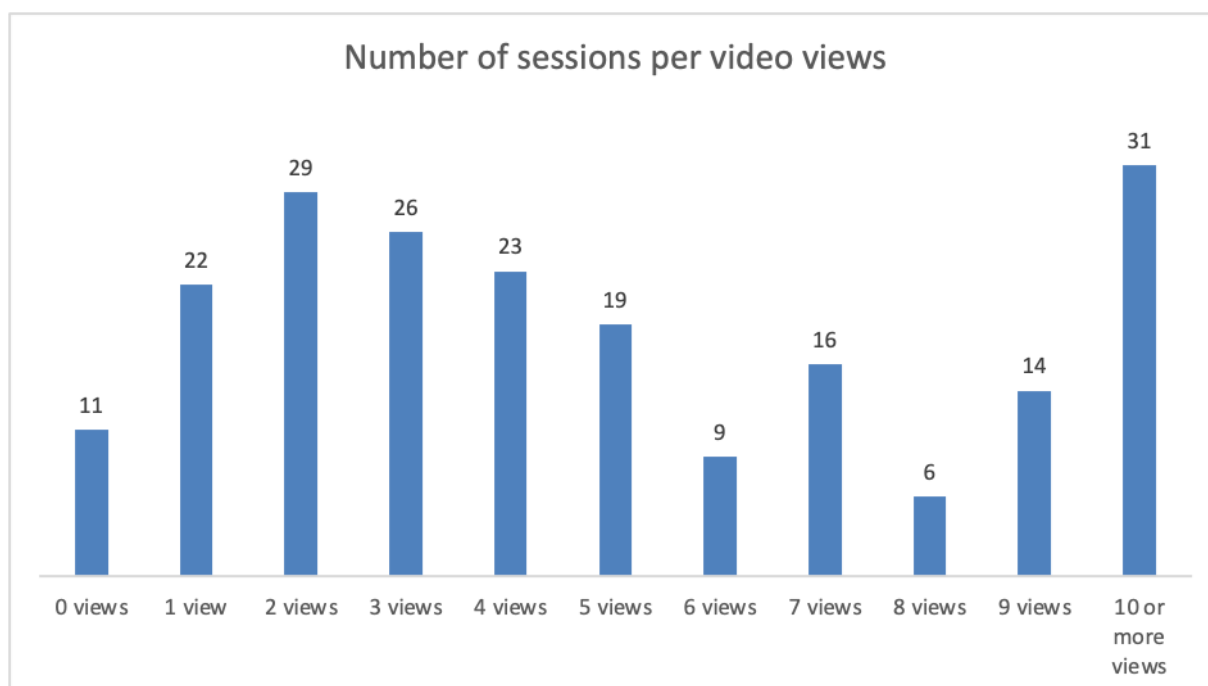
From the beginning of the conference in December 2021 to early February 2022, 434 conference participants viewed session videos, almost half of whom viewed 1 recorded session (46%); 29% viewed 2 or 3 sessions; 23% viewed between 4 and 9 sessions; and 3% viewed 10 sessions or more (11 participants).

The total number of sessions viewed as recordings was 1,185.

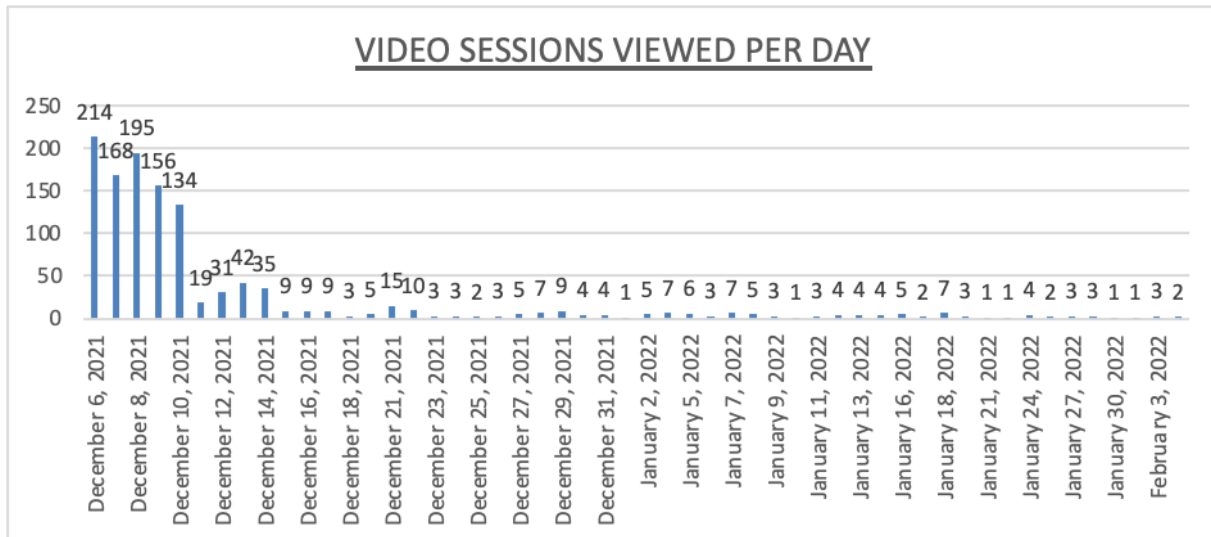
The top 10 most viewed session recordings were:

1. Migration, Living Arrangements and Family Wellbeing (46)
2. Closing and Award Ceremony - IUSSP Mattei Dogan Award and Best Poster Awards (38)
3. Keynote: Six Ways Population Change Will Affect Global Economy (27)
4. Formal Models and Methods for the Analysis of Mortality and Causes of Death (22)
5. Inaugural Keynote: Dr Soumya Swaminathan, WHO Chief Scientist on Perspectives from the COVID-19 Pandemic and Lessons Learned (22)
6. Demographic Trends: Estimates and Projections (20)
7. Education, Human Capital and Demography (18)
8. Demand and Unmet Need for Contraception (17)
9. Socioeconomic Inequality, Differentials and Mortality (17)
10. Health and Fertility (17)

Of the 206 sessions, 31 were viewed by 10 people or more; 64 were viewed by 5 to 9 people; 78 were viewed by 2 to 4 people; 22 were viewed only once and 11 sessions were not viewed as recordings at all.



One of the benefits of an online conference is that those who cannot attend a session “live” can watch a video of the session shortly afterwards or up to one year after the conference. This opportunity does not appear to be as attractive for conference participants as it seemed since few returned to watch recorded sessions after the conference. Most viewed the session recordings during or shortly after the conference. It should be noted that session videos can also be viewed by people who did not attend the conference.



ANNEXES

Annex 1: IPC 2021 at a glance

- 1,650 submissions to the Call for Papers
- 1,305 papers accepted on the programme
- 792 papers accepted for presentation in 176 regular sessions
- 30 invited and special sessions created by the IOC
- 513 papers accepted to present as posters and approximately 300 presented in Poster sessions
- 1,307 participants joining from 82 countries and representing 94 nationalities
- 6 pre-conference events: webinars, training workshops and mentoring activities
- 24 exhibitors

Annex 2: Conference Governance

International Organising Committee (IOC)

Chair: U.V. Somayajulu* (IASP President, India)

Vice-Chair: Tom LeGrand* (IUSSP President, Canada)

IUSSP Council: Shireen Jejeebhoy* (IUSSP Vice-President, India), Nico van Nimwegen* (Secretary General & Treasurer, Netherlands), Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi* (Iran), Suzana Cavenaghi* (Brazil), Sam Clark (United States), Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue (Cameroon), Edith Gray* (Australia), Jean-François Kobiané* (Burkina Faso), David Lam (United States), France Meslé (France), Clémentine Rossier (Switzerland).

Ex Officio Members: John Wilmoth (United Nations Population Division), Klaus Beck/Rachel Snow (UNFPA).

Steering Committee Members of the Indian National Organising Committee (NOC):

Conference Secretary: Mary Ellen Zuppan* (IUSSP Secretariat) International Organising Committee (IOC)

Annex 3: List of conference themes and conveners, session organisers, and reviewers

IPC 2021: Conference Themes and Conveners

1. Fertility and Childbearing, Wang Feng (University of California, Irvine and Fudan University,)
2. Family Planning and Contraception, Leela Visaria (Gujarat Institute of Development Research)

3. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Ilene Speizer (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
4. Families and Households, Albert Esteve (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)
5. Union Formation and Dissolution, Dana Hamplová (Czech Academy of Sciences)
6. Health and Morbidity, Nyovani Madise (African Institute for Development Policy-AFIDEP)
7. Mortality and Longevity, Bernardo Lanza Queiroz (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais)
8. Life Course, Ann Evans (Australian National University)
9. Children and Youth, K.G. Santhya (Population Council-India)
10. Older Adults and Intergenerational Relations, Jane Falkingham (University of Southampton)
11. Gender, Zeba Sathar (Population Council-Islamabad)
12. Culture, Ethnicity, Race, Religion and Language, Alaka Basu (Cornell University)
13. Population Ageing, Bussarawan Puk Teerawichitchainan (National University of Singapore)
14. International Migration, Fernando Lozano, (CRIM-UNAM, Mexico)
15. Migrant Populations and Refugees, Helga De Valk (Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute/University of Groningen)
16. Internal Migration, Donatien Beguy (UN-Habitat)
17. Urban Demography, Mark Montgomery (Population Council-USA)
18. Human Capital & Labour Markets, Anne Goujon (Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital)
19. Population and Development and the Demographic Dividend, Latif Dramani (CREG-CREFAT Université de Thies)
20. Economic Demography, David Canning (Harvard University)
21. Historical Demography, Lionel Kesztenbaum (Institut National d'Études Démographiques-INED/Paris School of Economics-PSE)
22. Population and Environment, Susana Beatriz Adamo (CIESIN-Columbia University)
23. Data and Methods, Bruno Schoumaker (Université Catholique de Louvain)
24. Spatial Demography and Human Geography, James Raymer (Australian National University)
25. Population Policy Challenges, Cheikh Mbacke (Centre de Recherche en Economie et Finance Appliquée de Thiès-CREFAT)
26. India Day, India National Organising Committee

IPC 2021 Reviewers

Aart Liefbroer	Alice Reid	Angelique Janssens
Abhijit Visaria	Alphonse MacDonald	Ann Biddlecom
Adrien Remund	Alyson Van Raalte	Anna Zajacova
Agnieszka Chlon-Dominczak	Anastasia Gage	Anne Gauthier
Aksarapak Lucktong	Andrew "Amos" Channon	Aris Ananta
Alexia Fuernkranz-Prskawetz	Andrew Mason	Aswini Kumar Nanda
	Andrzej Kulczycki	Aude Bernard

Ayman Zohry
 Bal KC
 Baochang Gu
 Ben Wilson
 Bernardo Queiroz
 Bilal Barakat
 Bilampoa Gnoumou
 Thiombiano
 Billie de Haas
 Blair Darney
 Brian Houle
 Bruno Masquelier
 Cameron Campbell
 Caner Özdemir
 Carlo Giovanni Camarda
 Caroline Kabiru
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 Chulhee Lee
 Claudia Reiter
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 Daniela Ghio
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 David Lindstrom
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 Dennis Feehan
 Diego Ramiro Fariñas
 Dilek Yildiz
 Dipti Govil
 Dirgha Ghimire
 Domantas Jasilionis
 Douglas Gurak
 E Acosta
 Edith Gray
 Eileen Crimmins
 Ekawati Sri Wahyuni
 Elizabeth Costenbader
 Elke Loichinger
 Ellen Percy Kraly
 Elma Laguna
 Eloisa Norman Mora
 Emerson Baptista
 Emilio Zagheni
 Emily Treleaven
 Erin Hye-Won KimEvi Evi
 Arifin
 Ewa - Zofia Fratzak
 Fabian Drixler
 Farhat Yusuf

Fernando Neira Orjuela
 France Meslé
 Francesco Scalone
 Françoise Dureau
 Frans Willekens
 Gavin Jones
 Gay Victor
 George Alter
 Géraldine Duthé
 Gianpiero Dalla Zuanna
 Gilbert Brenes-Camacho
 Gilles Pison
 Giorgio Di Gessa
 Giuseppe Gabrielli
 Göran Broström
 Gouranga Dasvarma
 Grace Cruz
 Graziella Caselli
 Guillaume Marois
 Gustavo De Santis
 Gustavo Givisiez
 Guy Abel
 Hajiieh Bibi Razeghi
 Nasrabad
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 Hector Perez-Brignoli
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 Jacques Emina
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 Jamaica Corker
 Jan Saarela
 Jane Menken
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 Jennifer Glick
 Jennifer Johnson-Hanks
 Jenny Trinitapoli
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 Jeroen Spijker
 Jirina Kocourkova
 Joana Maria Pujades Mora

Jocelyn Finlay
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 Jonathan Bearak
 Joshua Wilde
 Julia Calazans
 Julia Jennings
 Justin Bucciferro
 Kaizo Beltrao
 Karen Haandrikman
 Karen Hardee
 Kat Tumlinson
 Kaushalendra Singh
 Kazuyo Machiyama
 Kesaia Seniloli
 Kevin Martinez-Folgar
 Kim Korinek
 Kirti Gaur
 Kris Inwood
 Krishnamurthy Srinivasan
 Laszlo Nemeth
 Laxmi Kant Dwivedi
 Leiwen Jiang
 Leticia Marteieto
 Letizia Mencarini
 Livia Olah
 Luciana Gandini
 Madeleine Wayack Pambe
 Madhumita Das
 Mahadevappa Megeri
 Mahesh Karra
 Manab Deka
 Manasi Bawdekar
 Marc Luy
 Marc Pilon
 Marcela Cerrutti
 Marcin Stonawski
 Marcos Gonzaga
 Maria Eugenia Cosio Zavala
 Maria Letizia Tantarri
 María Marta Santillan
 Pizarro
 Marika Jalovaara
 Marília Nepomuceno
 Marion Borderon
 Martin Dribe
 Mary Kritz
 Matthew Noellert
 Michael Cameron
 Michaela Kreyenfeld
 Michel Oris
 Michel Poulain

Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi	Stephen Matthews
Mohammad Mainul Islam	Stuart Gietel-Basten
Muhammad Wazir	Subramaniam
Nandita Saikia	Chandrasekhar
Naresh Kumar	Sureeporn Punpuing
Nathalie Mondain	Susan De Vos
Nathalie Sawadogo	Suzana Cavenaghi
Nico Keilman	Tapan Chakrabarty
Nico Van Nimwegen	Terence Hull
Nicola Tynan	Thomas LeGrand
Nicolás Sacco Zeballos	Ties Boerma
Nimfa Ogena	Tim Adair
Noriko Tsuya	Tim Riswick
Oliveira Elzira	Timothy Guinnane
Patama Vapattanawong	Tiziana Leone
Pau Baizan-Munoz	Tom Moultrie
Paul Puschmann	Tony Champion
Paulo Teodoro de Matos	Tracy Dennison
Pei-Chun Ko	Ugo Filippo Basellini
Perianayagam Arokiasamy	Valérie Golaz
Peter Matanle	Venkat Nadella
Peter McDonald	Víctor García-Guerrero
Philippe Bocquier	Victoria Prieto Rosas
Philippe Fargues	Violeda Umali
Pranitha Maharaj	Volha Lazuka
Premchand Dommaraju	Wanda Cabella
Quanbao Jiang	Wei Chen
Rachel Bennett	Wendy Sigle
Ragui Assaad	Yen-hsin Alice Cheng
Ram Aryal	Yu Zhu
Raquel Coutinho	Yuliya Hilevych
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Roderic Beaujot	
Rogelio Fernandez Castilla	
Salahudin Muhidin	
Sandra Brée	
Sangeetha Madhavan	
Saswata Ghosh	
Senhu Wang	
Sergei Zakharov	
Sergey Ryazantsev	
Shannon Ang	
Shelley Clark	
Sibabrata Das	
Simon Gregson	
Sivakami Muthusamy	
Solène Lardoux	
Souleymane Garba	
Stefano Mazzuco	

Annex 4. List of Exhibitors

1. African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)
2. Asian Population Association
3. China Population and Development Studies
4. Département de Démographie - Université de Montréal (and other Canadian academic programs/research centers in population studies)
5. Department of Social Development of South Africa - Demography and COVID-19 in Africa Webinar Series Report
6. European Association for Population Studies
7. Institut National des Etudes Démographiques - The French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED)
8. International Science Council (ISC)
9. International Union for the Scientific Study of Population IUSSP
10. IPC 2025
11. IPUMS
12. Latin American Population Association (ALAP)
13. Learning4impact, Swasti
14. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research
15. Population Association of America
16. Population Council
17. Population Europe, University of Southampton and the ERC project "Bayesian Agent-based Population Studies"
18. QuantMig - Quantifying Migration Scenarios for Better Policies
19. Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
20. Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters (SRHM)
21. The International Conference on Family Planning
22. UNFPA
23. Union for African Population Studies / Union pour l'Etude de la Population Africaine
24. Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital (IIASA, ÖAW, University of Vienna)

Annex 5. List of Sponsors

We are grateful to the institutions listed below for their support to make IPC2021 a success. These organisations provided direct or in-kind support for the organisation of the conference and the national and international organising committee, contributed funds for the virtual platforms, participant registration fees, and /or sponsored a research leader session.

Main sponsors:

UNFPA

India Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

India Association for the Study of Population (IASP)

International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)

Other Sponsors

African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP)

CEDEPLAR, Federal University of Minas Gerais

India Health Action Trust (IHAT)

Institut National des Etudes Démographiques - The French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED)

IPUMS

Learning4impact, Swasti

Population Council

Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters (SRHM)

Université de Montréal

USAID-India