

## IUSSP General Assembly

### Report of the Scientific Panel International Migration: Strengthening the Knowledge Base for Policy (2018-2021)

#### **Members**

[Ellen Percy Kraly](#) (Colgate University), Chair  
[Guy Abel](#) (Asian Demographic Research Institute, Shanghai University)  
[Mariama Awumbila](#) (University of Ghana)  
[Marcela Cerrutti](#) (Centro de Estudios de Población (CENEP))  
[Philippe Fargues](#) (European University Institute)  
[Marie McAuliffe](#) (International Organization for Migration (IOM))  
[Bela Hovy](#) (United Nations)

#### **Council Liaison**

[Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi](#) (The University of Tehran)

#### **Terms of Reference:**

This panel's general goal is to inform policy and programmatic responses to migration and migrants by bringing scientific theory and evidence to the analysis of current and future trends and patterns of international migration, the causes and consequences of population movements, and policy response. The activities of the Panel will include convenings of population scientists around issues of international migration, including the organization of a major scientific conference on international migration, integration of evidence into international migration governance, and engagement and training of future generations of population scholars in the study of international migration and mobility.

#### **Report to the General Assembly:**

The activities of the Panel on International Migration: Strengthening the Knowledge Base for Policy have been largely consistent with the terms of reference. The Panel has both organized and contributed to scientific meetings addressing population. While several of the conferences in which the panel was to participate were disrupted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Panel has been present at one international conference (2<sup>nd</sup> International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS)) and five regional population conferences (Union for African Population Studies, Latin American Population Association, Asian Population Association, Asian Population Forum, Argentinian Population Conference and International Congress of the Southern Cone). Activities at these conferences have included roundtable discussions, session participation, training sessions (implemented by Panel member Guy Abel) and working luncheons for IUSSP members (IFMS, Cairo).

In collaboration with the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), the Panel has co-hosted an online seminar, 'Estimating international migration flows: Past, present and future.' To benefit the IUSSP community, the Panel implemented a webinar addressing Priorities in research on international migration and mobilities: Implications of the COVID pandemic and its legacies. The Panel will continue these themes by organizing a Roundtable discussion at the IPC 2021; the session, "The implications of global pandemics for international migration and migration research," includes a geographically diverse group of scholars who will consider pandemics in relationship to each stage of the demographic research process regarding migration: theory and models, measurement, data collection and analysis, and interpretation and policy relevance.

Panel members produced two Policy & Research Papers: [\*PRP24 - Advancing Knowledge on International Migration: Data and Research Needs\*](#), by Philippe Fargues (2018) and [\*PRP25 - The Case for a World Migration Survey\*](#), by Marcela Cerrutti, Philippe Fargues and Mariama Awumbila (2021). These panel members continue to develop the technical dimensions of this project by deepening the discussion of survey instrument and sampling designs. A proposal for funding of a pilot world migration survey in Africa is currently in preparation. The IUSSP Panel would contribute by potentially providing technical oversight of survey development and sampling design. Progress on this project is forthcoming.

The Panel has participated in international and regional initiatives in migration policy, research and capacity building, for example, ongoing meetings throughout 2020-2021 with the Special Technical Group – Migration of the African Union, and the Online African Migration (sponsored by IOM GMDAC, African Union Commission, Statistics Sweden and the Government of Germany). Using the training workshops (Asian Population Forum, IFMS, Statistics Korea-UNFPA) Guy Abel, in collaboration with James Raymer, Australian National University, is preparing a training manual on migration measurement and estimation for broad distribution and thus capacity building in international migration research and analysis.