



International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
Union internationale pour l'étude scientifique de la population

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In this issue: IUSSP Council meets in Paris • FAIR Vocabularies in Population Research • 2023 Mid-term Meeting of ISC Members • IPC2025 registration fees • New directions for Family Planning measurement • Declining mortality and multi-morbidity at death • Rights and Ethics in Biometric Population Registration • Meet the Population, Ethics & Human Rights Fellows • Demographic microsimulations in R using SOCSIM • Inauguration of the Scholarly Migration Database • Assessing climate-conflict impact on population • N-IUSSP e-Book Loneliness and social exclusion among older Europeans before and during the COVID-19 pandemic • Call for 2024 IUSSP Laureate • News from the Members • Regional Population Associations • Other announcements • N-IUSSP • Calls for papers • Training courses and workshops • Career and study opportunities • Calendar

IUSSP Website Upgrade: July-August

An upgraded version of the IUSSP website should go live on 28 June. It may affect the display of the website, including this newsletter. (*Consider reading the [PDF version](#)*). Apologies in advance for any glitches as work continues in July and August to complete the rebuild of the website and ensure everything is working.

IUSSP Council meets in Paris

The IUSSP Council met for the first time at IUSSP's new headquarters at INED on the Condorcet Campus. At the top of the agenda was a discussion of membership trends and how to best attract and retain new members.

[\(Read more\)](#)



FAIR Vocabularies in Population Research

IUSSP and CODATA, the Committee on Data of the International Science Council, held a webinar to launch the publication of « FAIR Vocabularies in Population Research ». This report explains the benefits of making data “Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable” (FAIR) and recommends ways to apply these principles in population research.

[\(Read more\)](#)



International Science Council

2023 Mid-term Meeting of ISC Members: Capitalizing on Synergies in Science

The ISC held its first in-person meeting of members since the founding General Assembly in 2018 held in Paris 10 – 12 May 2023. It was an opportunity to network with other ISC Member representatives, discuss global developments for science and learn about the ISC’s strategic and organizational objectives. ([Read more](#))



International Population Conference

IPC2025 registration fees

Members who have maintained their annual membership since 2021 or who have selected to pay for four years of membership in 2022 or 2023 will get a substantially reduced conference fee rate.

([Read more](#))



IUSSP Webinar Series

Why do we measure what we do?

This first webinar organized by the IUSSP Panel on Rethinking Family Planning Measurement with a Reproductive Rights and Justice Lens, held on 31 March, presented the history of family planning measurement, reproductive rights and reproductive justice and reflected on the utility and limitations of current family planning measures.

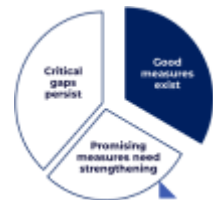
([Watch the recording and access the slides.](#))



New directions for FP measurement

“How should we define and measure demand for and use of family planning? New directions and frameworks for family planning measurement”, held on 21 June, continued the conversation begun during the webinar on “Why do we measure what we do?”

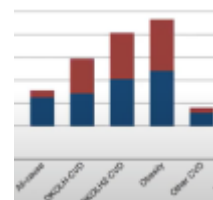
([Watch the recording and access the slides.](#))



Declining mortality and multi-morbidity at death

The IUSSP Panel on Declining Mortality and Multi-morbidity at Death held its kick-off webinar on 30 March, with the aim to draw attention to the role played by multi-morbidity in current epidemiological profiles and mortality dynamics. The next webinar, on 28 September, will focus on social inequalities in multi-morbidity at death.

([Watch the recording and register for the 2nd webinar.](#))



IUSSP Population, Ethics & Human Rights Project

Rights & Ethics in Biometric Population Registration

The IUSSP Panel on Population Registers, Ethics and Human Rights published an article entitled “Rights and Ethics in Biometric Population Registration: Mapping the limits of digital recognition and the drivers of exclusion”, which highlights the key issues driving this project.

[\(Read more\)](#)



Meet the Population, Ethics & Human Rights Fellows:

- **Janaina Costa**

With degrees in Law, Economic and Social Development, and Digital Law from UFMG (Brazil), IEDES-Paris 1 (France), and Rio State University (Brazil) respectively, Janaina Costa focuses on innovative public policies for human rights and involves the ethical and rights dimensions of digitizing population registers.

[\(Read more on her current research\)](#)



- **Georges Macaire Eyenga**

Georges Macaire Eyenga holds a doctorate in sociology from the University of Paris Nanterre (France). His research focuses on technoscapes in Africa, based on case studies of telesurveillance, drones and biometrics. He is currently working on the digitisation of voting registers and on how the Leave No Voter Behind principle is monitored on a daily basis in Cameroon.

[\(Read more on his current research\)](#)



- **Elizabeth Nansubuga**

Elizabeth Nansubuga holds a PhD in Demography/Population Studies & is faculty at Makerere University, Uganda. As an IUSSP Population, Ethics & Human Rights fellow, her focus is on the ethical and human rights insights regarding exclusion of “fatherless” children from birth registration & national identity systems.

[\(Read more on her current research\)](#)



IUSSP Side Events at PAA 2023

Demographic microsimulations in R using SOCSIM

The IUSSP Panel on Digital and Computational Demography organized a workshop on “Demographic microsimulations in R using SOCSIM: Modelling population and kinship dynamics”, on 12 April in New Orleans, as part of the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America (PAA).

[\(Read more\)](#)



Inauguration of the Scholarly Migration Database

The inauguration meeting for the Scholarly Migration Database (SMD) was held on 12 April in New Orleans at PAA2023, organized by the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) with support from the IUSSP Panel on Digital and Computational Demography.

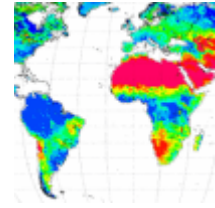
[\(Read more\)](#)



Assessing climate-conflict impact on population

The IUSSP Panel on Population Dynamics under Global Conflict and Climate Change organized a workshop on 12 April at the 2023 PAA annual meeting in New Orleans entitled "Data and modeling approaches to assessing climate-conflict impact on population dynamics".

[\(Read more\)](#)



N-IUSSP e-Book

Loneliness and social exclusion among older Europeans before and during the COVID-19 pandemic

This e-book, edited by Bruno Arpino, is the main output of a knowledge sharing process organized by the Joint Programming Initiative "More Years Better Lives – The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change" (JPI-MYBL). It is the second in this N-IUSSP series devoted to disseminating the results of international research projects. Interested researchers may contact N-IUSSP's chief editor gustavo.desantis@unifi.it.

[Download the e-Book](#) for free.



IUSSP Awards

Call for 2024 IUSSP Laureate

The IUSSP Laureate Award honours exceptional achievements in the population field. Nominate a deserving colleague. The deadline to submit nominations for the 2024 Laureate Award is 1 November 2023.

[\(Read more\)](#)

News from the Members

Members' new publications

- *Mobilité et transports dans l'aire métropolitaine de Port-au-Prince. Volume 1: Regards croisés sur Canapé -Vert et Parc Industriel*, Carline Joseph Duval

[\(Read Summaries\)](#)

In memoriam

- **Ruth Dixon-Mueller** (1937-2023)

Ruth Dixon-Mueller, a long-time IUSSP member whose research focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV, and women's empowerment, died on June 15 at a right-to-die center in Switzerland. Her choice to end her life while she was still capable of doing so on her own terms was to her a joyful affirmation of life.



New IUSSP members

Six new members and 32 new Student Associates joined the IUSSP between 1 March and 31 May 2023. Please encourage your colleagues and students to become members.

[\(See list\)](#)

Regional Population Associations

2024 ALAP Congress in Bogota, Colombia

The 11th Latin American Population Association (ALAP) Congress will be held in Bogota, Colombia in December 2024. Updates will be available on the ALAP website.

[\(Read more\)](#)



2024 APA Conference in Mumbai, India

The 6th Asian Population Association Conference will take place in Mumbai, India, 27-30 November 2024. Read more on the APA website.

[\(Read more\)](#)



2024 PAA Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the American Population Association (PAA) will be held in Columbus, Ohio 17-20 April 2024. The [Applied Demography Conference 2024](#) will be held virtually 6–8 February 2024.

[\(PAA 2024 Website\)](#)



2024 European Population Conference in Edinburgh

The 2024 European Population Conference (EPC 2024) will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland (United Kingdom) 12-15 June 2024. The Call for Papers will be out in September. Save the dates and stay tuned for more information!

[\(Read more\)](#)



2024 African Population Conference in Lilongwe, Malawi

The 9th African Population Conference, organized by the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS), will be held in Lilongwe, Malawi, in May 2024 on the theme: “Road to 2030: Leveraging Africa’s human capital to achieve transformation in a world of uncertainty”.

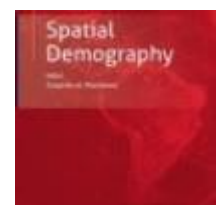
[\(Read more\)](#)



Other Announcements

Spatial Demography Topical Collections

The journal *Spatial Demography* has recently launched “Calls for Papers” for several “Topical Collections”. At this time, the website provides descriptions and additional information for three active Topical Collections. Information on three new Topical Collections will be added within the next month, and others are in development. [\(Read more\)](#)



European Journal of Population now fully open access

The European Association for Population Studies (EAPS) is happy to announce that its flagship *European Journal of Population* is now fully open access! This new status makes it even more attractive to submit your work to this Journal. In addition, in a joint effort with SpringerNature Publishers, EJP guarantees Equal Access Opportunities to ALL potential authors! [\(Read more\)](#)



MSc programmes in Demography and SRH at LSHTM

Applications are still open for 2023 entry for all three programmes: the MSc Demography & Health, the MSc Reproductive & Sexual Health Research and the MSc Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy & Planning. Various scholarship opportunities are available, for 2024 entry.

([Read more](#))



NIH/NIA funding opportunity

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), in collaboration with the National Institute on Aging (NIA) has published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (RFA-AG-24-032) titled Enhancing Use of Harmonized Cognitive Assessment Protocol Data. Its purpose is to further our understanding of how different behavioral, social, cultural, environmental, and institutional factors affect the trajectory of cognitive aging and Alzheimer's disease (AD) and AD-related dementias (ADRD) and the experience of living with or managing AD/ADRD in different national or regional contexts.



Indian Journal of Population and Development

Indian Journal of Population and Development is an open access journal published online twice a year. It seeks to advance the understanding about the interaction between population factors and different dimensions of development in a variety of social, economic, cultural and environmental settings. The most recent issue is available [here](#).

IIPS Memorial Lectures

View videos of recent memorial lectures organized by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS): the 21st Prof. C. Chandrasekaran Memorial Lecture by Dr. Jinkook Lee, on “[Ageing Populations and Dementia: Global Challenge, Local Insights](#)”. The 15th Prof. P. N. Mari Bhat Memorial Lecture by Professor Lalit Dandona, on “[Estimation of Subnational Demographic and Disease Burden Trends in India: Opportunities, Challenges, and Capacity Building](#)”. The 12th Prof. Asha A. Bhende Memorial Lecture by Prof. Angel M. Foster, on “[Abortion, politics, and the pill that promised to change everything: The global journey of mifepristone](#)”.



([See list of memorial lectures.](#))

N-IUSSP

Recent articles

- Educational disparities in partnership formation and dissolution in Finland (1990-2019), Linus Andersson and Marika Jalovaara
- Loneliness and social exclusion among older Europeans before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, Bruno Arpino, Giuseppe Gabrielli and Heidrun Mollenkopf
- Is Italy about to disappear? Gianpiero Dalla Zuanna and Marcantonio Caltabiano
- Is morbidity compressing around the globe? Iñaki Permanyer, Francisco Villavicencio and Sergi Trias-Llimós
- Internal migration and the marriage market in China, Wanru Xiong
- Who felt lonely during the COVID-19 pandemic among European older adults? Omar Paccagnella, Veronica Cassarà, Maria Iannario and Cosmo Strozza



- The fertility effect of medically assisted reproduction in Australia, Stephanie KY Choi, Ester Lazzari, Christos Venetis and Georgina Chambers
- Moroccan and Turkish older migrants in the Netherlands before the COVID-19 pandemic: lonely despite social contacts, Tineke Fokkema and Marjolijn Das
- A new Longevity Blue Zone in Martinique (France), Michel Poulain and Anne Herm
- Kinlessness and loneliness before and during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Bruno Arpino, Christine A. Mair, Nekehia T. Quashie and Radoslaw Antczak
- Why and where are deaths under-reported in India? Krishna Kumar and Nandita Saikia
- Differential educational consequences of parental separation in West Germany, Wiebke Schulz
- Income and fertility – a positive relationship? Martin Kolk

[\(Read articles\)](#)

Calls

Calls for papers

- Wittgenstein Centre Conference 2023 (WIC2023): “Exploring population heterogeneities”, Vienna, Austria, 6-7 December 2023. Deadline for submission: 30 June 2023
 - Special issue of the *International Journal for Public Health* on "Ageing in Health in Sub-Saharan Africa". Deadline for abstract submissions: 31 August 2023
 - XXIIème Colloque de l'AIDELF - Aveiro, Portugal 27-30 August 2024. Deadline for abstract submissions: 15 September 2023
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Training

Training courses and workshops

- Winter School on Population Heterogeneities, Vienna, Austria, 4-5 December 2023. Deadline for applications: 30 June 2023
 - SGH Doctoral Summer School of Demography, Warsaw, Poland, 4-8 September 2023. Deadline for applications: 30 June 2023
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Career and Study Opportunities

Jobs/Fellowships/PhD Positions/Post-Docs

- International Visiting Scholar Program at Asian Demographic Research Institute (ADRI) of Shanghai University. Deadline for Applications: 30 June 2023
 - One PhD Student Position at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR), Laboratory of Population Health, in Collaboration with the Institute of Environmental Medicine, Karolinska Institutet. Deadline for applications: 8 September 2023
-

Calendar

Forthcoming IUSSP meetings & other events

- Launch Event of the Environmental and Climate Mobilities Network: Towards a transdisciplinary understanding of migration and im/mobilities in the context of environmental and climate change, Vienna, Austria, 10-12 July 2023
- Fifth Conference of the European Society of Historical Demography, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands, 30 August-September 2023
- 3rd NTA Africa Conference, Saly Portudal, Senegal, 6-8 September 2023

- 50th anniversary of the British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Conference, Keele University, United Kingdom, 11-13 September 2023
- **IUSSP Webinar: Social inequalities in multi-morbidity at death, online, 28 September 2023**
- Wittgenstein Centre Conference 2023 “Exploring Population Heterogeneities”, Vienna, Austria, 6-7 December 2023
- Population Association of America (PAA) 2024 Annual Meeting, Columbus, Ohio, United States, 17-20 April 2024
- European Population Conference 2024 (EPC 2024), Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom, 12-15 June 2024
- 12th International Conference on Population Geographies, Belfast, Northern Ireland (United Kingdom), 1-3 July 2024
- XXIIème Colloque de l'AIDELF - 2024, Aveiro, Portugal, 27-30 August 2024
- 6th Asian Population Association Conference, Mumbai, India, 27-30 November 2024
- **2025 International Population Conference (IPC2025), Brisbane, Australia, 13-18 July 2025**

Submit your announcements

Feel free to share news from your institution and region so that we can keep all IUSSP members informed about recent or forthcoming events and opportunities in the population field. IUSSP members are welcome to submit information on [conferences](#), [calls for papers](#), [training](#), [career or study opportunities](#) as well their [recent publications](#) or [peer-reviewed software](#) for inclusion in the newsletter and IUSSP website. Please send the information to contact@iussp.org and remember to include important dates for application deadlines (and photos when appropriate). Information should be sent by email or in a Word document so that it can be edited. For inclusion in the next Bulletin, please send information **by 1 September 2023**. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

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IUSSP Council meets in Paris

Aubervilliers, France, 22-23 May 2023

The IUSSP Council held its annual council meeting 22-23 May at the IUSSP Secretariat headquarters at the French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED) on the Condorcet Campus in Aubervilliers, just north of Paris. This is first time since before the Covid pandemic started that the IUSSP Council meeting has been held in Paris and the first time at INED's new building.



Council members reviewed 2022 activities and finances and approved the final 2022 accounts which all members can consult in the [2022 Annual Report](#) on the IUSSP website. They also reviewed recent and upcoming activities and approved the IUSSP's working budget for 2023. While no new panels were approved at this meeting, the Panel on International Migration was renewed for a new mandate, and ideas for new panels were discussed. if you have an idea for a new panel, you can submit a proposal anytime for consideration by the Council.

At the top of the agenda was a discussion of membership trends and how to best attract and retain new members. The cancellation of the in-person IPC2021 in Hyderabad and its conversion to a virtual format resulted in a significant drop in new and returning members who would normally have joined in the year of the conference. Council members will be reaching out to colleagues to encourage them to become members or rejoin the Union.

The Council revisited registration fees for the International Population Conference and decided to set membership fee rates at levels that ensure those who maintain their membership between

conferences pay significantly less overall in dues and conference fees to attend than those who only join in the year of the conference. We remind all members that there is an option to pay for multiple years at a discount and those who decide to renew this year for 4 years will qualify for the reduced conference registration rate for “loyal” members for IPC2025. For all those reading this bulletin, do encourage your colleagues and students (for whom membership is free) to join the Union.

The Council also reviewed developments for the 2025 International Population Conference in Brisbane, started thinking about the 2029 IPC, and discussed more general developments in the field and activities of the regional population associations, and other institutions in the field.

The in-person meeting was also an opportunity for Council members to socialize, network with researchers at INED and do some siteseeing in Paris. While most Council meetings and business are conducted virtually, in-person meetings over several days allow the Council time for more in-depth discussions and an opportunity to get to know their fellow Council members better – all important for furthering the work of IUSSP.



FAIR Vocabularies in Population Research

Report and Webinar - 12 June 2023

On 12 June 2023, IUSSP and CODATA, the Committee on Data of the International Science Council, sponsored a webinar on the publication of **FAIR Vocabularies in Population Research**. This new report explains the benefits of making data “Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable” (FAIR) and recommends ways to apply these principles in population research.

The Working Group

The joint **IUSSP-CODATA Working Group on FAIR Vocabularies** brought together 25 scientists in the fields of demography and data science, who met twice a month for two years to study how population research can apply the rapidly developing standards and technologies associated with the FAIR principles. Co-chaired by George Alter (University of Michigan), Arofan Gregory (DDI Alliance/CODATA) and Steven McEachern (Australian National University), the working group benefited from the strong support of IUSSP leadership and the participation of Simon Hodson, Executive Director of CODATA.

The Report

Demography is an empirically focused field with a long tradition of widely shared, easily accessible, data collections. Although demographers benefit from many excellent sources of data, combining data from multiple sources is often a time-consuming manual task. The FAIR principles (Wilkinson et al., 2016) aim to make data “Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable” by both humans and machines. FAIR vocabularies, which allow machines to associate data with concepts, will save hours of tedious work by automating processes of data discovery and harmonization. **FAIR Vocabularies in Population Research** introduces readers to international standards for documenting data (metadata) that underlie international infrastructures for producing and disseminating demographic data, and it recommends enhancing these services through application of the FAIR principles. The key recommendation for IUSSP is the publication of a FAIR Vocabulary of Demography, an authoritative online vocabulary for population research.

The Webinar

Speakers presented the report and discussed the next steps for implementing its recommendations (see **video** and **presentation files**). Online vocabularies already exist in many disciplines, and many of them define demographic terms in ways incompatible with demography. Population research will be at a disadvantage without an authoritative FAIR vocabulary of its own. Fortunately, a new FAIR Vocabulary of Demography can build upon IUSSP’s long history of support for dictionaries of demography in multiple languages. The webinar also highlighted recommendations for international organizations that collect and publish statistics, like the UN and OECD, and for applying FAIR principles at all stages of data collection in surveys and other data collection projects.

Next Steps

The IUSSP will create a **Standing Committee** to oversee and maintain a FAIR vocabulary for population research, providing authoritative definitions of demographic terms in a form consistent with emerging standards.

In a second stage, the IUSSP will seek partners with the technical capabilities required to create a FAIR online platform for the Vocabulary.

2023 mid-term meeting of ISC members: Capitalizing on synergies in science

Paris, France, 10-12 May 2023

Three hundred delegates representing the global scientific community met in Paris from 10 to 12 May as part of the International Science Council's "**Capitalizing on Synergies in Science**" jamboree to discuss critical issues facing humanity and the role of science in finding solutions to global challenges.

The three-day meeting featured a rich **programme** of plenary and breakout sessions that focused on the ISC's evolving mission and objectives, the evolution of science in a global context, exploring how institutions representing science should – and must– adapt and what capacities and competencies should be built that address these challenges. Though this was not a general assembly, the meeting included discussion of planned changes to the ISC constitution to increase its members and make the organization more responsive to the challenges facing the scientific community.

The ISC has set an ambitious programme to be “the global voice of science” to address a public crisis of confidence in scientific research. To pursue this goal, the ISC is seeking funding to increase its activities, reach and influence. The current ISC council is preparing amendments to the ISC constitution to make it more responsive to current and future challenges and increase the number and diversity of its institutional members.

Several of the scientific unions expressed concerns about proposed changes to the ISC constitution and hoped the ISC would take into consideration the scientific unions that have ECOSOC status at the UN by closely involving the members in their UN-related activities.

The meeting was well attended with representatives from ISC member organizations, donors, and affiliated organizations from around the globe. It included interesting break-out sessions that focused on topics such as communicating research to policy, supporting early career scientists, and transdisciplinary research. The IUSSP Executive Director, Mary Ellen Zuppan, attended the first 2 days of the meeting on behalf of the IUSSP making contact with members of other scientific associations with mutual interests in population and health issues, including the International Statistical Institute and the International Union for the Psychological Sciences. IUSSP currently has a joint project with CODATA, the ISC's Committee on Data, working on FAIR Vocabularies. ISC offers IUSSP and its members opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration.

**IUSSP is a Category 1 member of the International Science Council, via its longstanding membership in the International Social Science Council, which merged with the International Council of Scientific Unions, in 2018, to create what is now the ISC.*

Information on IPC 2025 registration fees

June 2023

The Steering Committee for the 2025 International Population Conference is currently working on the Call for Papers and the design of the IPC2025 Brisbane website, which will open in October 2023.

In preparing the Call for Papers, the IUSSP Council reviewed the Conference registration fee levels for members with the aim of encouraging IUSSP members and their institutions to cover membership dues between conferences. Members who have maintained their annual membership since 2021 or who have selected to pay for four years of membership in 2022 or 2023 will get a substantially reduced conference fee rate.

IPC 2025 Discount for Members

Members with a continuing membership of 4 years since IPC 2021 are entitled to an IPC rate of Euro 300. To make this “loyal members” rate more attractive, the IPC 2025 rate for new members (including returning members who did not maintain their dues in 2022, 2023, and 2024) will be Euro 600.

IPC 2025 Registration Fee Rates:

| <i>Status</i> | <i>IPC 2025 Fee</i> |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Non-member | €800 |
| Member | €600 |
| Loyal Member* | €300 |
| Student Member | €150 |

**Loyal members are defined as those who continuously paid their dues since the last conference (IPC2021) or who paid for 4 years in 2022 or 2023.*

It is not too late to update your membership!

As this is a new policy, if you have let your membership lapse, you can still qualify for the loyal member fee for IPC 2025 by selecting the option to cover 4 years of membership dues in 2023. The multiple year dues option includes a discount over the regular annual membership dues rate.

Because IUSSP ‘s flagship conference takes place once every 4 years, it is a challenge to retain members between conferences, yet retaining members is critical to the vitality of the Union. Holding conferences more frequently might be one option but would compete directly with regional conferences. Over the years, the Council has implemented several measures to encourage members to maintain their membership between conferences such as instituting discounted multiple-year dues payments and offering “loyal” members an additional reduction on the conference fee.

The new IPC fee structure makes the discount for loyal members much larger than for new or returning members. In 2025, the Council hopes to introduce an attractive IPC 2025 registration/membership package. This will ensure those who attend IPC 2025 have their membership covered in the lead up to IPC 2029.

The Steering Committee is convinced that both measures will make it financially more advantageous for members, and their institutions, to cover membership dues and the IPC fee.

Rights and Ethics in Biometric Population Registration : Mapping the limits of digital recognition and the drivers of exclusion

Under the pressure of the continent's demography and a powerful alliance of donors, technology firms, local banks and governments, many African states have begun to adopt new technologies of identification linked to mobile finance systems. These projects are not all alike, but they are typically organised around the use of biometric identification tools aimed at adult populations. Influential models of digital identification include India's Aadhaar identification; the GhanaCard; Rwanda's single digital identity implementation; Kenya's Huduma Number; and South Africa's Home Affairs National Identification System. There are many more currently underway or under development.

These systems are shaped by the capacities and weaknesses of each state's and society's institutional and political history. Nigeria, for example, has long been attempting to build a biometric identity card system – bedevilled by administrative troubles and conflict between its increasingly powerful and prosperous banks and MTN (the South African mobile network operator). Ethiopia, with its long history of bitter conflict over communal recognition and rights, announced in 2022 that its new Fayda programme will adopt a pure version of Aadhaar's identification-without-citizenship model, coinciding with the issuing of a commercial network licence to Kenya-based Safaricom. Few of these infrastructures work smoothly, but they have already changed the basic features of many states and economies on the continent, and they have ambitions to do much more.

The technologies of digital identification are often startling and promising, supporting new kinds of payments, automated decision making and much more systematic surveillance of financial transactions – but they also carry powerful new dangers. Some of the most knowledgeable and experienced advocates of population science on the African continent (Lehohla, van der Straaten) have argued that these new digital ID projects will actually weaken the infrastructures of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS). Such an impact would have severe consequences - including the inclusiveness of population registration and legal identity systems for children and minors, poor and vulnerable subpopulations, and the sustainability of civil registration as a continuous and viable source of vital statistics. Yet the evidence for these claims is far from settled – and the most influential fora for digital ID always return to the importance of linking legal identity to birth registration^[b].

In addition to the question of whether adult biometric IDs will strengthen or weaken CRVS systems, they prompt many other political, rights and ethical problems. As the notorious case of Cote d'Ivoire shows us^[c], the new identity credentials can draw inflexible, unjust and permanent boundaries through existing communities that may trigger disorder. They can also permanently encode older forms of tribal, ethnic or racial affiliation that fosters ongoing conflicts. The technologies often carry with them new problems of monopolisation and tender lock-in that may harm individuals and governments in the long run. They also tend to encourage destructive forms of government overreach – well demonstrated by the Uganda government's announcements of plans to capture DNA from its citizens in 2025, and the Nigerian central bank's insistence on the abolition of large denomination notes to push its citizens towards more visible forms of mobile banking. Biometric identification systems have triggered disputes over access to and the reliability of election systems in Kenya and, as we speak, Nigeria. Perhaps the most serious risk is that biometric identification and tracking will lead to the extinction of rights of privacy, association and movement on the continent. And, when joined with international

plans to police migration, encourage renewed forms of racialised and geographical oppression aimed at people on this continent.

A key challenge for scholars and practitioners who work on and with population register systems is managing the promises of more inclusive societies via digitized population data against the potential risks of systemic exclusion and discrimination against vulnerable subpopulations, resulting in denial of basic rights and essential services.^[1] Discussions are ongoing in many corners, yet, a major limitation of current efforts to explore and address these challenges is that such efforts are limited by disciplinary boundaries.^[2] Discussions, and ultimately analyses, therefore lack the interdisciplinary approach needed to result in real change by simultaneously integrating perspectives from law, public policy, demography, and public health.

Despite strong interest and activity on the part of young scholars and activists in low- and middle-income countries, current global policy efforts do not sufficiently prioritize opportunities for them to contribute to shaping and scaling-up efforts in this area.^[3] This is a major weakness of current global debates, research and emerging practice. A new generation of researchers and practitioners, with an interdisciplinary perspective, appreciation of the role of institutions and a rights-based perspective, is desperately needed. Strengthening the inclusion of young researchers and practitioners from low-/middle-income countries is key to improving the quality, efficacy and sustainability of interdisciplinary efforts to address the challenges of digitized population data systems.

To advance scholarship and practice at the intersection of population register systems, ethics and human rights, the IUSSP, the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER, South Africa), the Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER, Uganda) and the USC Institute on Inequalities on Global Health (USC IIGH, USA) have launched a year-long research collaboration and fellowship program. This initiative convenes interdisciplinary dialogues and facilitates policy-relevant research that cuts across disciplinary boundaries, integrates young scholars and practitioners and advances human rights considerations in the field of population register systems. The IUSSP is the largest and oldest professional global network of population scientists in the world, it is an independent organization that promotes open, scientific exchange on population and development issues; WiSER is the pre-eminent interdisciplinary research institute in the humanities and social sciences in South Africa, has a distinguished track record in training new generations of scholars and public thinkers and maintains strong linkages with local socio-economic rights litigation, advocacy and research organizations; ISER is a well-established human rights non-governmental organization that promotes effective understanding, implementation and realization of economic and social rights in Uganda; IIGH USC is a pan-university institute, with local and global reach, and a strong track record of advancing research, education and policy engagement to improve health policy and reduce health inequalities. This collaboration seeks to shift the role of international networks and institutions in the global north to better support strong, visible and authoritative research, advocacy and policy guidance from early-career research and practitioners in the global South.

This initiative is designed to nurture a new generation of scholars and practitioners via direct mentoring from senior scholars and experienced practitioners in the field, immersion into academic, policy and practitioner networks, debates and institutions, exposure and visibility through publications, and communication channels largely based in the Global South. It is also designed to support active collaboration between fellows themselves in addition to collaboration with and between IUSSP, WiSER, ISER and IIGH-USC. Our intent is also to host fellows who by working individually and collectively will challenge experienced practitioners, senior scholars and established systems to consider new perspectives, rethink established assumptions and question dominant paradigms for population register systems.

In the past, population scientists and demographers have reviewed the uses of population registers systems in historical settings (Szreter and Breckenridge, 2012), and have also retrospectively documented misuses of population data systems that have led to mass human rights abuses in the 20th century (Seltzer, 1998; Seltzer and Anderson, 2001).^[4] However, they have been less engaged in contemporary debates about rights protections in contemporary national identity systems that are increasingly underpinned by biometric information and linked to other administrative registers. This lack of engagement represents missed opportunities for contemporary debates to benefit from the experience and technical insights of demographers and also for demographers to keep abreast of these new developments in the field. This initiative seeks to facilitate stronger engagement by population scientists on these contemporary issues and support interdisciplinary collaboration with established scholars from other disciplines and early career researchers and practitioners.

This new initiative will be multi-faceted. It will

- (i) facilitate individual research projects of three IUSSP Population, Ethics and Human Rights Fellows,
- (ii) collectively produce interdisciplinary pedagogical materials that highlight ethics and human rights opportunities and challenges emerging from the modernization of population register systems; and
- (iii) share essays and podcasts that highlight new research and debates from scholars and practitioners of population registers.

Regular updates will be published on the IUSSP Population, Ethics and Human Rights project site providing updates on new activities, outputs and materials from this initiative. For further information about this initiative, please contact Paul Monet (monet@iussp.org) at the IUSSP Secretariat.

[1] Davis, S. (2020). *The Uncounted: Politics of Data in Global Health* (Cambridge Studies in Law and Society). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781108649544

Amiya Bhatia & Jacqueline Bhabha (2017) India's Aadhaar scheme and the promise of inclusive social protection, *Oxford Development Studies*, 45:1, 64-79, DOI: [10.1080/13600818.2016.1263726](https://doi.org/10.1080/13600818.2016.1263726)

[2] Rao U. Response to "The Aadhaar debate: Where are the sociologists?" *Contributions to Indian Sociology*. 2019;53(3):431-440. doi:10.1177/0069966719861759;

Khera R. The Aadhaar debate: Where are the sociologists? *Contributions to Indian Sociology*. 2018;52(3):336-342. doi:[10.1177/0069966718787029](https://doi.org/10.1177/0069966718787029)

[3] Networks of researchers examining these problems include the ANR-funded project into "The Social and Political Life of Identity documents in Africa – PIAF" directed by Richard Banegas and Severine Dalberto; Amanda Hammer's Certizens; the Ursula Rao's MPI project into "Techno-Optimism"; the Empires of the Digital Network organised by Marine al Dahdah and Mathieu Quets; and the Bhalisa Network. All of these projects trace their origins to the Identinet that was established by Jane Caplan and Eddy Higgs in 2008.

[4] Breckenridge, K., & Szreter, S. (2012). *Registration and recognition: Documenting the person in world history*. Oxford: Published for the British Academy by Oxford University Press; Seltzer, William and Margo Anderson. 2001. "The Dark Side of Numbers: The Role of Population Data Systems in Human Rights Abuses." *Social Research* 68: 481-513; Seltzer, William. 1998. "Population Statistics, the Holocaust, and the Nuremberg Trials." *Population and Development Review* 24(3): 511-552.

Janaina Costa



Janaina Costa has a bachelor's degree in Law from the Federal University of Minas Gerais UFMG, a Master's degree in Economic and Social Development from IEDES - Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, and a postgraduate degree in Digital Law from the State University of Rio de Janeiro. Her main focus of interest lies in innovative public policies that contribute to the satisfaction, promotion and protection of human rights. In recent years she has been particularly interested in ethics and rights issues embedded in the digitization of population register systems, acting as a senior researcher in Law and Technology at ITS Rio, participant in the Fall 2022 Research Sprint on "Digital Identity in Time of Crisis: Designing for Better Futures" hosted by the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University, and currently as a full time research fellow on "Population, Ethics, and Human Rights" an IUSSP initiative carried out in collaboration with WiSER, ISER & IIGH with the aid of a grant from IDRC.

- **What is your professional and education background? How did you get interested in policy and research at the intersection of population registers, ethics and human rights?**

I'm Janaina Costa, a law graduate from Federal University of Minas Gerais-UFMG, with a Master's in Economic and Social Development from IEDES - Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and a postgraduate degree in Digital Law from Rio de Janeiro State University. Since 2018 my career since 2018 focuses on identification systems, particularly eradicating under-registration while safeguarding people's rights. As a senior researcher at Institute for Technology & Society (ITS Rio), I have studied the **ethical implications of these systems**. My background in human rights and emerging technologies led me to lead projects on the **social impact of digital identification**. I've also contributed to Harvard's Berkman Klein Center's research on "**Digital Identity in Times of Crisis**". Currently, I'm a research fellow on "Population, Ethics, and Human Rights". My interest at the intersection of population registers, ethics, and human rights emerged from the digitization of government records. Balancing administrative efficiency, privacy, and human rights in this digital era is a challenge I'm committed to as a lawyer.

- **Through the IUSSP Fellowship on Population registers, ethics and human rights, you are undertaking an individual research project while resident at WiSER and ISER. Can you give us some background on that research project and explain how the fellowship is helping you to advance your project?**

My IUSSP Fellowship research focuses specifically on birth registration incentives in Brazil, Mozambique, South Africa, and Uganda. The study explores the impact of policies on birth registration rates, ethical implications, and differing approaches across countries. The fellowship provides crucial resources, funding, and access to WiSER, ISER, and IIGH, enabling comprehensive research. Residency at WiSER facilitates intellectual exchange with field experts, enhancing the project's depth. The fellowship also provides platforms for wider dissemination of my research through workshops, seminars, and conferences, fostering collaborative efforts and feedback. Mentorship from experts across law, public policy, demography, public health, and practicalities of working with population registers further enriches my project and contributes significantly to academic discourse and policy-making.

- **You are already 2+ months into the fellowship. How's it going? What are you learning from your mentors and fellowship cohort colleagues?**

My fellowship experience has been rewarding and enlightening. The orientation week sparked insightful conversations with colleagues from law, history, social sciences, demography, and public health. This interdisciplinary interaction emphasised the need for a holistic approach to

modernising population register systems, expanding my legal perspective to understand the broader implications.

The program's strength lies in its diverse approach, offering a nuanced perspective on the intersection of population, ethics, and human rights. Collaborating with mentors and peers from diverse fields broadens my understanding and encourages innovative thinking. This exchange of ideas is fostering a dynamic learning environment that transcends individual disciplines, leading to a more integrated approach to population registry systems.

Moreover, the fellowship encourages collaboration and communication, vital for our professional growth and the development of effective strategies in population, ethics, and human rights. The first two months have been immensely insightful, with the unique perspectives of each specialty enriching my work and the cohort's collective understanding.

- **Has there been anything unexpected that has come up during your fellowship to-date (e.g. an interesting area of the field that you are getting exposed to during a chance seminar or conversation, or some new insights from interactions from researchers at WiSER or consultations with South African civil society groups and researchers)?**

Interactions with colleagues across disciplines have enriched my understanding of population register systems' societal impact. Notably, discussions on administrative obstructionism and exclusionary policies, such as those presented in Wendy Hunter's article on denationalisation in the Dominican Republic, have been insightful.

I've also recognized technology's dual role in modernising population registers, providing efficiency but also posing risks. Practical cases, like Cameroon's voter registration issues with inaccurate facial recognition technology, highlight these challenges.

My experience at Wits University illuminated key ethical and human rights concerns, like access to services and personal data protection. The need for students and staff to provide personal and biometric data to access facilities, without comprehensive disclosure about potential third-party sharing, raises privacy concerns. This underscores the importance of transparency and accountability in the era of digital data collection.

- **What are you hoping to achieve by the end of this 1-year fellowship? Are there specific research outputs that you will produce through this fellowship? Can you brief us on your expected research outputs and where you see your work fitting into the broader research and praxis at the intersection of population registers, ethics and human rights?**

My objective is to use this experience to contribute to the exchange of experiences between academia, civil society, public, and private entities in the majority world in identity projects that pragmatically pursue the enhancement of people's rights. I hope that my research findings can help to the advancement of voices that are dedicated to proposing recommendations for policymakers to achieve human rights grounded public policies that effectively encourage population registration under the axiom of leaving no one behind.

By comparing birth registration policies in Brazil, Mozambique, South Africa, and Uganda, my study aims to identify potential factors contributing to the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of these policies, as well as ethical and human rights implications, and to inform policy making in these countries and beyond.

The fellowship has been such a transformative journey so far. It has provided me with the opportunity to learn from a diverse group of experts, collaborate with them, and collectively work towards understanding and addressing some of the most pressing issues in the field of population, ethics, and human rights. I am excited to continue drawing on interdisciplinary perspectives that

can help us navigate these complexities, and ensure that modernization aligns with ethical and human rights principles, and does not leave anyone behind. I look forward to the learning and growth that the remaining duration of the fellowship promises.

• Would you like to share a fun fact about yourself or your time so far as an IUSSP Population Ethics, Human Rights Fellow?

I recently discovered profound meanings of the isiZulu words "Sawubona" and "Ubuntu" and it has truly revitalised my approach to collaborative work in population register systems. "Sawubona", which translates to "I see you", reminds me of the significance of acknowledging every individual. In population register systems, this translates to the commitment to accurately represent and include every person, recognizing their unique experiences and identities.

The concept of "Ubuntu", on the other hand, meaning "I am because we are", reinforces the importance of community and interconnectedness. It underlines the realisation that our work isn't isolated but linked with numerous other individuals and communities. Through the lens of Ubuntu, our task becomes a collective endeavour where every data point is not just a statistic, but a story, a part of the collective human tapestry. This perspective has brought a deeper level of empathy and connection to my work, reminding me that we are all part of a larger whole, each contributing in our own unique way.

These two concepts have thus instilled a more humane, compassionate perspective into my work, guiding me towards a more inclusive and meaningful practice in population register systems.

Georges Eyenga

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Georges Macaire Eyenga holds a doctorate in sociology from the University of Paris Nanterre. His research focuses on technoscapes in Africa, based on case studies of telesurveillance, drones and biometrics. He is currently working on the digitisation of voting registers and on how the Leave No Voter Behind principle is monitored on a daily basis in Cameroon. He is the author of several scientific articles.

• What is your professional and education background? How did you get interested in policy and research at the intersection of population registers, ethics and human rights?

My name is Georges Eyenga and I did my education at the University of Yaoundé II where I obtained a Master's degree in Political Science in 2014. In 2015, thanks to the Erasmus Mundus scholarship, I went to France where I did an M.A in Public Law at the University of Rouen and a PhD in Sociology at the University Paris Nanterre. My **Ph.D** focused on the **function of prison** in the management of the state in Cameroon and led me to observe the issue from a human rights perspective. After my PhD in 2020, I taught political science at the University of Dschang in Cameroon. In 2021, I started postdoctoral research at Wits University, in South Africa on African technoscapes and their effects on spatial transformations and governance regimes. I was interested in the introduction of **drone** into the supply chain of the healthcare system in Ghana. I show how drones reconfigure space and nourish imaginaries of better healthcare. This research also led me to produce studies on **CCTV in cities** and **biometric identification**. The latest was the beginning of my interest in population registers and their implications for human rights and ethics, and led me to become an IUSSP Fellow in 2023.

- **Through the IUSSP Fellowship on Population registers, ethics and human rights, you are undertaking an individual research project while resident at WiSER and ISER. Can you give us some background on that research project and explain how the fellowship is helping you to advance your project?**

My participation in the IUSSP programme is an opportunity to pursue my reflections on population registers and what digital technologies such as biometrics do to registration practices. The research I am carrying out in this programme aims to capture the transformations of voting registers in Cameroon under the effect of biometric technologies, paying attention to the implications in terms of human rights and ethics. More concretely, my study focuses on the work of the experts, namely the technology provider and the technocrats of the electoral management body, in producing a more inclusive and less discriminatory voting register. The funding of this programme allows me to access a vast literature on population registers worldwide, to conduct fieldwork to collect empirical data, to participate in scientific meetings at the national and international level to cross-check my field intuitions with a larger epistemic community. This programme also allows me to meet other researchers who, like me, are working on these issues in Brazil, South Africa, Uganda, Europe, and the USA.

- **You are already 2+ months into the fellowship. How's it going? What are you learning from your mentors and fellowship cohort colleagues?**

I started this program in February 2023. Since, many things have been accomplished. We had a workshop, from 11 to 19 February, to do an initial framing and potential results to be expected. We have regular meetings to share our ideas, compare our approaches and exchanges to enrich our research. I learn a lot during these working sessions about what others are doing, about the available and little-known literature on population registers. There is an interdisciplinary group that enriches the way we look at our research. The research carried out by my colleagues indirectly feeds into the questions that I ask myself. I benefit from the exchanges with the mentors who have a significant experience on these issues and who always try to whet our appetite by encouraging us to ask interesting questions on population registers and the issue of human rights and ethics. The most interesting thing is the possibility of crossing the research experiences of colleagues, their different fields and the debates that arise differently according to the disciplines. The mentors, who have equally varied profiles (academics and practitioners), also help us to understand current issues around population registers and principles such as "Leave No One Behind".

- **Has there been anything unexpected that has come up during your fellowship to-date (e.g. an interesting area of the field that you are getting exposed to during a chance seminar or conversation, or some new insights from interactions from researchers at WiSER or consultations with South African civil society groups and researchers)?**

There are some surprises I would like to share about my research in this programme. The first is my discovery of the universality of identification problems. In the past, I thought that identification problems concerned a well-defined category of individuals in poor countries of the South where the State is sometimes non-existent. However, my research reveals the extent of the phenomenon and the existence of global programmes dealing with this problem. I discovered that the problems of identification vary according to societies and contexts. The other surprising fact is the awareness of the sometimes counterproductive character of registration projects by means of digital technologies, as shown by the biometry. I thought that digitisation was a solution always beneficial for individuals. The exchanges allowed me to understand that sometimes, the digitalisation of a registration can go against the interests of certain populations. Finally, the other surprise was the discovery of the existence of an important and global market around population registration with a plurality of multinational companies offering technological solutions for

identification and registration projects. This points to the importance of the subject and the need to engage in critical discussions about the whole issue of population registers.

- **What are you hoping to achieve by the end of this 1-year fellowship? Are there specific research outputs that you will produce through this fellowship? Can you brief us on your expected research outputs and where you see your work fitting into the broader research and praxis at the intersection of population registers, ethics and human rights?**

My research aims to produce original analyses, anchored with empirical data, in the form of reflective essays, scientific papers and podcasts to understand the socio-political and international context of biometric voting register reform in Cameroon; to understand the work that scientists (technology providers), EMB (Electoral Management Body) practitioners and related groups (civil society, NGOs, associations, etc.) are doing to enable everyone to be a voter; to understand that digital voting registers can be more inclusive and less discriminatory, but that they can also, through the standardisation (automation) of registration, work against the needs of individuals by depriving them of the opportunity to become potential voters; to answer more critical questions such as: why, in 2023, more than 60 years after independence, Cameroon is still building a reliable voter register; to understand the challenges that lead to the creation of a sustainable voter register anchored in stable democratic institutions.

- **Would you like to share a Interesting and indeed funny fact about yourself or your time so far as an IUSSP Population Ethics, Human Rights Fellow?**

I would like to share with you an amusing but significant fact for research on population registration practices. In Cameroon, Elections Cameroon (EMB) officials told me the story of an old man with whom they had to negotiate for several minutes before he finally agreed to be photographed. Indeed, before this negotiation, the agents were surprised to see that after the photo was taken, the image of the old man did not appear on their screen. Instead, they saw a black background, which suggested that there had been a problem with the photo. After several attempts, they realised that the old man was using magic so that his image would not be captured in the biometric kits. Once the negotiation was over, the old man agreed to be photographed and this time his image appeared normally. Whether real or imagined, this story shows that registration is an experience of negotiation between these agents and people. Agreeing to negotiate is what is done in the process of developing the voting record. Whether it is this kind of old man or the citizen who believes that the election is already played out, my research promises to be very interesting.

Elizabeth Nansubuga

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Elizabeth Nansubuga is a Demographer, holds a PhD in Demography/ Population Studies & is faculty at Makerere University, Uganda. I have a keen interest in civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa. As an IUSSP Population, Ethics & Human Rights fellow, I focus on the ethical and human rights insights regarding exclusion of “fatherless” children from birth registration & national identity systems.

- **What is your professional and education background? How did you get interested in policy and research at the intersection of population registers, ethics and human rights?**

My profession is all about the scientific study of human populations with respect to size, structure, composition, and distribution. As a Demographer and faculty at Makerere University with over 15 years' experience, I contribute to knowledge generation and [research studies](#) in Population Studies and Demography. I hold a PhD in Population Studies obtained from North West University, South Africa; an MSc. Population & Reproductive Health and a BSc. Population Studies.

In 2017, as a technical co-lead, I examined data on the prevalence, barriers and facilitators of birth registration in Uganda. Since then, I have participated in various policy and research engagements on birth and [death registration](#). My field work visits exposed me to human rights' insights, excluded populations and challenges associated with legal identity registration systems. To bridge the gap between research and practice, I engaged the policy makers at the National Identification and Registration Authority. This led me to interrogate the legal frameworks governing identity registration in Uganda; and the related policy – practice gaps. Thereafter, I developed a keen interest and became an advocate for the excluded persons in registration processes. This incited my interest to further explore the relationship between population registration systems ethics and human rights.

- **Through the IUSSP Fellowship on Population registers, ethics and human rights, you are undertaking an individual research project while resident at WiSER and ISER. Can you give us some background on that research project and explain how the fellowship is helping you to advance your project?**

As an IUSSP fellow, I focus on the ethical and human rights insights regarding exclusion of “fatherless” children from birth registration & national identity systems. Fatherless children - persons whose biological fathers may be unknown or ‘absent’ for various reasons, are often excluded from legal identity registration systems. Such exclusion and marginalization has diverse ethical and human rights implications in addition to unreliable population data. Using an innovative human rights and children’s rights’ approach, I will conduct an in-depth analysis and exploration of the ethical and human rights issues surrounding registration of fatherless persons. I also examine the identity registration frameworks in Uganda & South Africa with a key focus on the policy – implementation gaps.

The IUSSP fellowship provides key expertise in the form of great mentors, opportunities and resources in terms of protected time off, library resources, fora for presentations (seminars), peer reviews, and also skills development that are critical to the advancement of my project goals and objectives. I am also able to tap into the networks of both mentors, and the collaborating institutions. The peer review and mentors’ feedback has broadened/ sharpened my research insights and led to my adoption of an interdisciplinary approach of addressing registration issues.

- **You are already 2+ months into the fellowship. How’s it going? What are you learning from your mentors and fellowship cohort colleagues?**

I have acquired commendable knowledge and skills from the mentors. In the shortest time, I have learnt about the identity management systems in South Africa, human rights advocacy and their potential impact on exclusion of fatherless children. This knowledge led me to conduct a comparative review/ analysis for both Uganda and South Africa population registration processes. I have also enhanced my conceptualization using an interdisciplinary approach and also the children’s rights and human rights frameworks as critical frameworks to engage in addressing the research objectives.

The meetings are a source of constructive feedback which has also sharpened my research argument. From the mentorship, I have also learnt about the various global professional networks and civil society groups engaged in population registration advocacy, research and programme implementation. Through the mentors’ and fellows’ insights through shared country

registration experiences. I am also on the path to enhance my knowledge and skills in analysis of policy - practice gaps. The mentors have also enhanced my knowledge and skills in Zotero, application of “leaving no one behind” analysis (LNOB), and access to credible information sources beyond academic literature. Last but not least, both mentors and fellows have provided a supportive learning environment.

- **Has there been anything unexpected that has come up during your fellowship to-date (e.g. an interesting area of the field that you are getting exposed to during a chance seminar or conversation, or some new insights from interactions from researchers at WiSER or consultations with South African civil society groups and researchers)?**

Two major issues come to mind in terms of the unexpected:

1. Prior to the start of the fellowship, I focused solely on Uganda. However, following the orientation week and interactions with human rights experts in South Africa, I got interested in the uniqueness of the South African population registration story. Additionally, the human rights’ issues to be explored, other key insights of research interest include:

1. Fathers’ rights in birth registration processes in South Africa.
2. DNA testing to prove paternity
3. Deregistration after birth registration: Case of blocked IDs in South Africa.
4. Historical challenges: Role of Apartheid on current population registration systems in South Africa.
5. Digital Transformation in Birth Registration & its potential negative effects on children’s rights. Issue of biometrics.

2. In Uganda’s case, the new insights relate to the:

- i. Social construction of the fatherhood and “fatherless” in the Ugandan context.
- ii. Embedment of patriarchy in legal frameworks and its implications on policy, implementation practices; and inclusion or exclusion of persons in civil registration processes.

- **What are you hoping to achieve by the end of this 1-year fellowship? Are there specific research outputs that you will produce through this fellowship? Can you brief us on your expected research outputs and where you see your work fitting into the broader research and praxis at the intersection of population registers, ethics and human rights?**

By the end of the fellowship, I envisage four key research outputs: a publication in an internationally peer reviewed journal, conference presentations (i. Population Association of America (PAA) – 2024, ii. African Identities conference – Uganda – September 2023), a policy brief and research seminar workshops (WISER, ISER, Makerere University & National Identification Registration Authority).

My work advances knowledge for both policy, and practice for inclusive population identification and registration processes in Uganda, and elsewhere. It will also bring to the forefront the discussion of children’s rights and human rights programming approach, as well as enhance advocacy efforts of vulnerable persons – “fatherless children” in civil and population registration systems in Uganda. I believe this fellowship will put me on the right career of becoming a global advocacy leader in population and civil registration policy.

• Would you like to share a fun fact about yourself or your time so far as an IUSSP Population Ethics, Human Rights Fellow?

Wow!!! As I walked through the gates of WITS University, I observed that the University had recently celebrated 100 years in 2022. What a coincidence that my alma mater & current workplace - Makerere University also celebrated 100 years in 2022. This resonated and felt the perfect choice to have the fellowship – a place where we share historic significance and longevity. This partly got me interested in exploring the South African population registration story! Similarly, it was not long into my fellowship at the University that students engaged in a strike. I note that it was much more peaceful than the case would be back home. This reminded me that strikes are part of the University culture in Africa and one of the ways students and faculty advocate for their human rights in this part of the world.

On a lighter note - the time I had to sign a tenancy agreement which included a clause on ensuring the rights of the dog are respected. Hmmm!! I wondered if the dog was legally registered or whether the dog would also respect the tenants' rights. I quickly took interest to learn about rights and ethics concerning animals in South Africa.

Demographic microsimulations in R using SOCSIM

New Orleans, United States, 12 April 2023

The **IUSSP Scientific Panel on Digital and Computational Demography** organized a member-initiated meeting on “**Demographic microsimulations in R using SOCSIM: Modelling population and kinship dynamics**” on 12 April 2023, in New Orleans, United States, as part of the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America (PAA). The workshop was organized together with the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR), which also provided financial support, and included 20 external participants and seven members of the organizing committee.

The main objective of the workshop was to launch the R-language package ‘rsocsim:’ a user-friendly software for running demographic simulations (<https://github.com/MPIDR/rsocsim>). Rsocsim is a contemporary implementation of the venerable SOCSIM microsimulator, originally developed at UC Berkeley in the 1970’s, which has been used extensively to study kinship dynamics in demographic research. The new release intends to make the software more accessible to a wider audience by producing updated documentation and integrating the simulator into the open source R-environment.

Diego Alburez-Gutierrez, lead organizer, kicked off the workshop, followed by Ridhi Kashyap who, as chair of the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Digital and Computational Demography, welcomed the participants. Then Emilio Zagheni highlighted the commitment of MPIDR to the initiative and shared an inspirational speech prepared by Ken Wachter (UC Berkeley), who was among those who spearheaded the original development of SOCSIM. Following this, Ashton Verdery from the Department of Sociology and Criminology at Penn State University, delivered his keynote speech ‘Microsimulation and its Discontents.’ The keynote outlined the long history of simulation in demography and presented exciting opportunities for using this approach to study kinship structures in our contemporary world.



Emilio Zagheni (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research)

The hands-on component of the workshop started with a presentation by Tom Theile, software developer at the MPIDR, explaining the general logic of the rsocsim simulator. Later on, Liliana P. Calderón-Bernal, PhD candidate at the MPIDR and Stockholm University, showed participants how to run a simple SOCSIM simulation using publicly available data and code. Mallika Snyder, PhD candidate at UC Berkeley, explained how to analyse rsocsim output using

the case of family bereavement as an example. All workshop materials are available to the general public: https://github.com/alburezg/rsocsim_workshop_paa.

The event concluded with a lively exchange with participants, who had the opportunity to share more about their own research interests and how they may integrate demographic simulation in it.

Organizers:

- Diego Alburez-Gutierrez, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research
- Tom Theile, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research
- Emilio Zagheni, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research
- Ashton Verdery, Penn State University
- Mallika Snyder, University of California, Berkeley
- Liliana Calderon, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research

Inauguration of the Scholarly Migration Database

New Orleans, United States, 12 April 2023

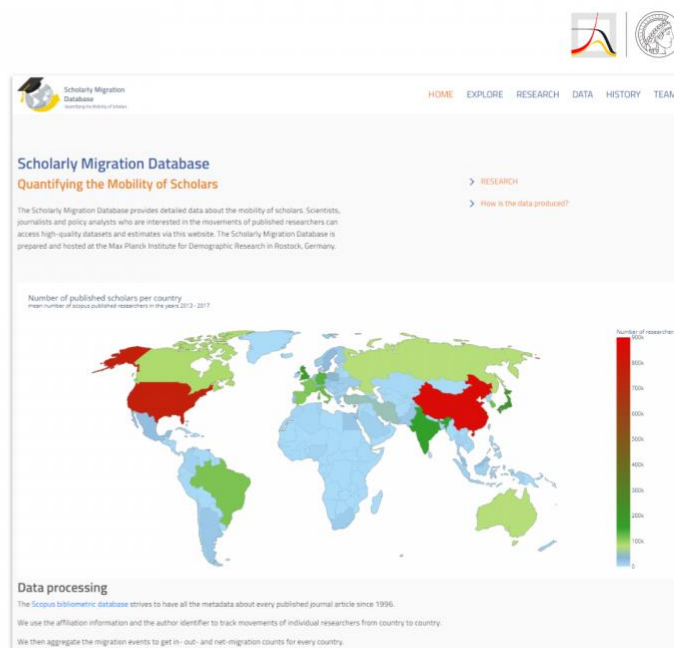
The inauguration meeting for the Scholarly Migration Database (SMD) was held on Wednesday, April 12th 2023 in New Orleans, United States, at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America with support from the **IUSSP Panel on Digital and Computational Demography**.

International migration and circulation of scholars is known to enhance research performance by facilitating knowledge recombination, and is fundamental to scientific discovery, especially in its most innovative forms. Policymakers have also recognized the role of attracting the best and the brightest in the global competition for talent to favor economic growth and productivity.

This meeting was the opening event for the most comprehensive database on the global migration of scholars, developed and hosted at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR). The **database website** was unveiled and participants in the meeting were among the first to be able to access the data, learn how to get started with analyzing these types of data, and learn about recent and current cutting-edge research that leveraged these types of data in areas like gender inequalities in science, brain drain and brain circulation, migration and development, policies and migration, the relationships between internal and international migration, and more.

Scholarly Migration Database

- Visit:
 - <https://www.scholarlymigration.org/>
- To contact SMD's team
 - Scholarlymigration@demogr.mpg.de
 - <https://twitter.com/SMDatabase>



The meeting agenda included welcome notes by Emilio Zagheni, MPIDR director and one of the core team members of the SMD, and by Ridhi Kashyap (University of Oxford), chair of the IUSSP Panel on Digital and Computational Demography. It was followed by a demo of the database, and eight invited lightning talks as described below.

First, we had **Emilio Zagheni** welcome the online and onsite participants and explain the idea behind SMD. Next, **Ridhi Kashyap**, the chair of the IUSSP panel on Digital and Computational Demography welcomed the participants. This was followed by a brief demo of this database by MPIDR Research Scientist **Aliakbar Akbaritabar**, another core team member of the SMD, and what researchers and academics can find on the website <https://scholarlymigration.org>.

Next on the agenda was lightning talks by 8 invited speakers who used bibliometric data to study different aspects of the migration of scholars. **Ridhi Kashyap** spoke about global patterns of the migration of scholars by gender (which is published [here](#)) followed by **Xinyi Zhao** from MPIDR and the University of Oxford who discussed the case of Germany and the return migration of male and female scholars. Next lightning speakers were **Samin Aref** from the University of Toronto speaking about “Studying the international migration of published researchers in national science systems (Russia, Germany, and the UK)” and **Andrea Miranda Gonzalez** from the University of California at Berkley speaking about “Internal migration of scholars in Mexico”.

After a short break and Q&A to address the most burning questions on the first four lightning talks, **Ilya Kashnitsky** from the University of Southern Denmark shared his experience as the first “beta user” of the database and showed fascinating visualizations that illustrate the power of this database. He posed questions on curious cases of countries and their in- or out-migration rates that need to be studied further using the SMD data. He publicly shared his replication materials on [GitHub](#) to allow such further analysis.

Lightning talks were continued with **Maciej J. Danko** from MPIDR on Global patterns of migration of scholars with economic development (which is published [here](#)) and **Aliakbar Akbaritabar** on Internal and international migration of scholars worldwide. Next, we had **Erin Walk** from MIT spoke about a spatial analysis framework used to see the interrelationships between scholarly migration and collaboration with word2vec word embedding vectors followed by open discussion and Q&A with online and onsite participants.

Last, but definitely not least, some celebratory photos were taken (see below), followed by a reception with food and beverages to commemorate the inauguration of the Scholarly Migration Database (SMD).

To find more information, see this [news release by the MPIDR’s press department](#) describing the event:

“MPIDR Researchers introduced a brand-new migration database at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America (PAA) in New Orleans with support of the IUSSP Panel on Digital and Computational Demography. They celebrated the inauguration with eight invited lightning talks by researchers who have already successfully used the new database for studies published in journals such as PNAS, epj Data Science, and Scientometrics.”

Additional links:

- Read a description of the SMD data in this MPIDR Working Paper: doi.org/10.4054/MPIDR-WP-2023-018
- The website of the database: <https://scholarlymigration.org/>
- Contact the core team: scholarlymigration@demogr.mpg.de

Read an overview of the inauguration event in Aliakbar Akbaritabar's Twitter Thread: <https://twitter.com/Akbaritabar/status/1646850038503559168?s=20>

SMD team will hold future workshops on bibliometric data and repurposing them for the study of migration of scholars. To receive updates on these courses, [sign up for the MPIDR’s newsletter](#).

Data and modeling approaches to assessing climate-conflict impact on population dynamics

New Orleans, United States, 12 April 2023

The ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Syria, and Afghanistan, to name a few, coupled with small- and large-scale climate change impacts (e.g., seasonal variability, extreme events, and long-term changing conditions) have the potential to strongly affect human health, well-being, livelihoods, and social systems. Climate change impacts include extreme events with a large spatial extent like hurricanes and floods, but they also include more local experiences like drier conditions affecting crop yields, waterborne disease outbreaks or more frequent and intense heat waves. The effects of these events can be exacerbated when climate change impacts interact with conflict.

The **IUSSP Panel on Population Dynamics under Global Conflict and Climate Change** organized a workshop at the 2023 annual meeting of the Population Association of America (PAA) in New Orleans (Louisiana) on 12 April 2023 entitled "**Data and modeling approaches to assessing climate-conflict impact on population dynamics**". The workshop, organized by Raya Muttarak, Liliana Andriano, Risto Conte Keivabu, Roman Hoffmann, Kathryn Grace, and Francesca Zanasi, brought together 30 participants.

The workshop aimed at providing researchers with theoretical and analytical tools to assess how conflict and climate change affect a wide range of demographic outcomes, such as health, fertility, mortality, and migration. The one-day workshop comprised four parts that reconcile theoretical approaches and hands-on activities. First, an introduction to and overview of demographic research on conflict, climate change, and population dynamics. Second, an overview of the demographic, climate and conflict data sources available for research in this field, coupled with a practical session on linking spatial conflict and climate data (e.g. **ACLED** and **ERA5** respectively) with georeferenced micro-level data (e.g. Demographic and Health Surveys) using the software R. Third, the afternoon session was devoted to critically approach conflict and climate change measurement, with reasoning on operationalization and causal inference. Finally, the workshop concluded with a practical session on statistical modelling with the software R.

IUSSP Laureate Award

The IUSSP Laureate Award honours exceptional achievements in the population field. Outstanding contributions to the advancement of population sciences through research, training, policy advice and science communication, as well as distinguished services rendered to the population community and the Union will be taken into consideration for this Award. Nominees should exemplify the highest standards of professional conduct.

General Information:

The IUSSP Laureate Award is bestowed every year.

IUSSP members are invited to nominate candidates for the IUSSP Laureate Award. Candidates for the Award do not have to be a member of the IUSSP. We welcome nominations of candidates from diverse backgrounds, genders and regions. Nominations should include an explanatory statement by the nominator, supporting statements of at least five IUSSP members of different nationalities, and a full curriculum of the candidate. Self-nominations will not be considered for this Award.

The IUSSP Council selects the successful candidate by secret ballot. Nominated candidates remain eligible for the Award for a period of no longer than four years.

Members of the current **IUSSP Council** may not be nominated for the Award nor sign a supporting statement.

Procedure:

The nomination document, including the letter of nomination and all supporting documents including the Curriculum Vitae of the nominee and any supporting emails, should be sent in one single PDF file to the IUSSP Executive Director Mary Ellen Zuppan (zuppan@iussp.org)

Please mention “IUSSP Laureate Nomination” in the subject line of the email.

Note that Individual emails of support for a candidate should be sent directly to the person coordinating the nomination, who should include these in the nomination document.

Nominations for the 2024 Laureate are open – the deadline to submit nominations is 1 November 2023.

Ruth Dixon-Mueller 1937-2023

Ruth Dixon-Mueller brought her life to a voluntary close on June 15, 2023 at Pegasos Association, a right-to-die organization in Basel, Switzerland. The choice to end her life at age 85, while she was still capable of doing so on her own terms, was to her a joyful affirmation of life. She was immensely grateful for the opportunity to do so peacefully.

Ruth had joined the IUSSP in 1974 and participated in many of its Conferences and Seminars. She is the author of many [books](#) and [articles](#) as well as four IUSSP Policy and Research Papers, whose titles reflect her main areas of interest:



- *PRP13 - Female, Empowerment and Demographic Processes: Moving Beyond Cairo*, 1998
- *PRP16 - Gender Inequalities and Reproductive Health: Changing Priorities in an Era of Social Transformation and Globalisation*, 1999
- *PRP18 - Women in the Labour Market in Changing Economies: Demographic Issues*, 2000
- *PRP20 - Sexual and Reproductive Transitions of Adolescents in Developing Countries*, 2007

Ruth was born in 1937 in Toronto, the daughter of Edwin Hunter Bronson and Miriam Goddard Bronson and the little sister of Martha. She showed early signs of rebellion by attending Art College rather than university; marrying Ruben Dixon, her high school sweetheart; and moving as a new bride to California to start a new life.

Ruth thrived in the tumultuous years of the 1960s in Berkeley, earning a BA, MA and PhD in sociology at the University of California. Although the marriage did not survive the sixties, her academic and early feminist aspirations blossomed. In 1970, the sociology department of the University of California at Davis hired her in an affirmative action. Progressing through the ranks to full professor and department chair, she taught at Davis for 18 years.

With a special interest in South Asia, her demographic and policy-based research, writing and consulting activities spanned the themes of women's employment in developing countries, marriage formation and dissolution, fertility and family planning, the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and women, and the politics of population policies.

She authored many articles in professional journals, reports for organizations such as the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC), and five books. She gave a number of papers at meetings of the Population Association of America (PAA) and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP).

Ruth resigned from UC Davis in 1988. In 1992, she left a 15-year marriage to Swiss-born Martin Mueller to move to Costa Rica with a friend. She lived there for 18 years, growing coffee for the local market and organically certified pineapples for export. Still writing and consulting, she moved back to California in 2010 and, for one semester, co-taught a graduate seminar on population policies in the demography department at UC Berkeley. In 2013, she received the

Harriet B. Presser Award from the PAA for "sustained and distinguished contributions to research on gender and demography".

At the time of her death, Ruth had moved from a houseboat in Alameda to St. Paul's Towers, a senior living community in Oakland. Residents there knew her as Chair of their End of Life Planning Committee, a topic she pursued with special interest. Following her 2017 book, *Passing On*, that analyzed concepts of fairness in inheritance bequests, in 2021 she published an essay on end of life choices entitled *Death, Life, and The Right to Draw Your Own Line*.

Her advocacy for sexual and reproductive rights and the "right to die" carried through right up to the end. She leaves friends in many places as well as her sister, five nieces and nephews and their partners, children and grandchildren in Canada and Australia.

The original version of this obituary was posted on: www.legacy.com

New members

Six new members joined the IUSSP between 1 March and 31 May 2023.

Australia: Hogan Christopher. **Brazil:** Fernandes Danielle; Johansen Igor. **Costa Rica:** Solís Bastos Laura. **Ireland:** Breathnach Ciara. **Switzerland:** Staub Kaspar.