



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

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IUSSP Council meets in Paris

The IUSSP Council held its first meeting on 7–8 April at IUSSP headquarters, hosted by INED on the Condorcet Campus in Aubervilliers, in the Paris region. The Council discussed priorities for 2026–2029, including preparations for IUSSP's centenary in 2028 and early planning for the International Population Conference (IPC2029) in Barcelona, Spain, and approved the creation of six new Scientific Panels.

[\(Read more\)](#)

New IUSSP Scientific Panels

Six new Panels were created and three were renewed. Several Panels were also extended to complete their programme of activities and two IUSSP Panels are "ongoing". In addition, the IUSSP Council decided to establish a new Early-Career Panel to organize activities for the benefit of Early Career Researchers.

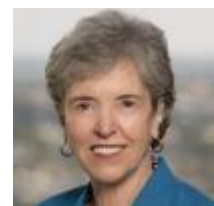
[\(Read more on the new Panels\)](#)

IUSSP awards

IUSSP 2026 Laureate – Jane Bertrand

The Council elected Jane Bertrand as the 2026 IUSSP Laureate in recognition of her exceptional contributions to the advancement of population sciences and distinguished services rendered to the population community. An in-person Laureate Award ceremony was held on Thursday 7 May 2026 at the PAA Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. A virtual ceremony will take place on 28 September.

[\(Read more\)](#)



Call for 2027 IUSSP Laureate Award

The IUSSP Laureate Award honours exceptional achievements in the population field. Nominate a deserving colleague for the 2027 IUSSP Laureate Award. **Deadline for nominations: 1 December 2026.**

[\(Read more\)](#)

Call for 2027 Early Career Award nominations

The IUSSP Early Career Awards are offered in the following world regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America. One award will be bestowed per region in a unique collaboration with UAPS, APA, EAPS, ALAP and PAA. **Deadline for nominations: 1 November 2026.**

[\(Read more\)](#)

IUSSP at other conferences

IUSSP at the 2026 PAA Annual Meeting

After missing the 2025 PAA meeting, the IUSSP returned to the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America (PAA), which was held in St. Louis, Missouri from 6 to 9 May 2026. The IUSSP had an exhibition booth and held a member-organized meeting that included a ceremony to present the 2026 Laureate award to Jane Bertrand. The meeting provided an important opportunity to reconnect with members and colleagues in North America.

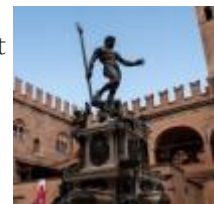
[\(Read more\)](#)



IUSSP at EPC 2026 in Bologna

The 2026 European Population Conference (EPC2026), held from 3 to 6 June at the University of Bologna, brought together over 1,000 researchers and students from all over Europe and beyond. The IUSSP shared a booth with EAPS and four IUSSP Scientific Panels organized three pre-conference workshops.

[\(Read more on the EPC 2026 Conference in Bologna\)](#)



IUSSP activities

IUSSP Debate: When Populations Shrink - Should States Encourage Births or Adapt?

The IUSSP Debate "When Populations Shrink – Should States Encourage Births or Adapt?" was held online 1 April 2026. The debate was proposed and organized by Stan Becker and Apoorva Jadhav and included four debaters – Youngtae Cho, Reiko Hayashi, Anna Rotkirch and Vegard Skirbekk – with opening insights on the question from Tomas Sobotka.

[\(Read more\)](#)



Population Dynamics in a Changing Climate

The newly founded IUSSP Panel on Climate and Environmental Demography and the EAPS Working Group on Climate Demography organized a workshop on "Climate Demography: Population Dynamics in a Changing Climate" on 3 June 2026 as a preconference event at the European Population Conference (EPC) in Bologna, Italy.

[\(Read more\)](#)

Global Perspectives in Lifetime Migration Data Infrastructures

The IUSSP Scientific Panel on Lifetime Migration organized a workshop on “Global Perspectives in Lifetime Migration Data Infrastructures” on 3 June 2026 as a side event of the European Population Conference held at the University of Bologna.

[\(Read more\)](#)

SOCSIM Demographic Microsimulation in R

The Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, in collaboration with the IUSSP Panel on Kinship Structures, Dynamics and Inequalities and the IUSSP Panel on Digital and Computational Demography, organized a preconference workshop on 3 June 2026 on the topic of SOCSIM Demographic Microsimulation in R at the 2026 European Population Conference.

[\(Read more\)](#)

Kinship Structures, Dynamics, and Inequalities conference

The international conference on Kinship Structures, Dynamics, and Inequalities was held on 8-9 June 2026 at MPIDR in Rostock, Germany, in collaboration with the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Kinship Structures, Dynamics and Inequalities. Its central aim was to advance comparative and interdisciplinary research on kinship by sharing ideas on how rapid sociodemographic transformations reshape family systems beyond the household, and how these transformations contribute to social and economic inequalities.

[\(Read more\)](#)

Forthcoming activities

Beyond Birth Rates

The IUSSP Panel on Aligning Population Policies with Low Fertility invites you to this hybrid conference on 20 August 2026: “Beyond Birth Rates: Advancing a Pro-Alignment Approach to Low Fertility in North America”. This event will bring together leading experts and policy analysts to examine the implications of low fertility, dispel common myths and misperceptions, and propose pro-alignment policies to help people avoid both unintended and unrealized fertility and foster demographic resilience.

[\(Read more\)](#)



Members News

Members' new publications

- *En finir avec le natalisme*, Armelle Andro
- *Scaling Laws and Urban Systems*, edited by Céline Vacchiani-Marcuzzo and Denise Pumain
- *La ménagère et la science*, Denise Pumain
- *Diplomacia de las movilidades humanas. Activismo y comunicación responsable en las Américas, Europa y Asia*, Camelia Tigau, Antonio Alejo, and Roberto Zepeda
- *Exilio intelectual en la Norteamérica del siglo XXI. Cómo salvar su nueva vida. Tomo I, Canadá*, Camelia Tigau

[\(Read Summaries\)](#)

Members' published software

This section advertises members' software packages. These packages, which enhance the study of population, must be published in established repositories with rigorous peer testing and review.

- Jeronimo O. Muniz (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, UFMG) has published a Stata software package for fertility estimation: **ownchild** calculates age-specific fertility rates using an advanced version of the own-children method, originally proposed by Grabill and Cho (1965, *Demography* 2: 50–73).

[\(Read more\)](#)

IUSSP members' blogs. *Do you have a blog or podcast on population issues that you would like to share with IUSSP members? Please send information to the IUSSP Secretariat (contact@iussp.org) for inclusion in the next Bulletin.*

Nandita Bajaj – podcasts and interviews

Nandita Bajaj (Population Balance) invites members to check out the recent episodes on her OVERSHOOT podcast with Philip N. Cohen ([Falling birth rates are not a crisis](#)), Samuel Miller McDonald ([The elite's fixation with low birth rates](#)) and Vegard Skirbekk ([The advantages of declining fertility](#)). As a scholar-activist, Nandita writes and publishes for [academic](#) and [media](#) outlets and offers [presentations](#), specifically on the harms of pronatalism and low-fertility alarmism on reproductive rights and planetary health. She also runs a storytelling podcast, [Beyond Pronatalism](#), which she invites members to check out (and potentially join as guests).



[\(Learn more\)](#)

Marion Burkimsher – Podcast

Marion Burkimsher (Independent Researcher) was interviewed by a New Zealand think tank on NZ's falling fertility rate and looming population decline. She explores whether immigration can fill the gap as birth rates drop, the psychological implications of ageing societies and what might actually help young people form families - from modern partnering challenges, the advantages of cross-cultural interactions and how education might help, to realistic expectations about parenthood.



[\(To listen to this podcast, click here\)](#)

New IUSSP members

Nine new Members and 4 new Student Associates joined the IUSSP between 1 March and 31 May 2026. Please encourage your colleagues and students to become members.

[\(See list\)](#)

In memoriam

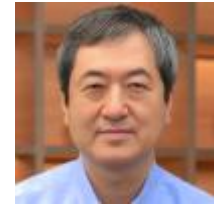
- **Dirk J. van de Kaa** (1933-2026)

Dirk van de Kaa passed away in The Hague, The Netherlands on 22 May 2026 at the age of 93. The founding father of contemporary Dutch demography, he joined the IUSSP in 1967 and was a member of the IUSSP Council from 1977 to 1984. He was also the 2001 IUSSP Laureate.



- **Yasuhiko Saito** (1955-2026)

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Yasuhiko Saito, Research Project Professor at the College of Economics, Nihon University. He died on April 11, 2026, in Tokyo, following a courageous battle with cancer. Saito had served on the IUSSP Council from 2006 to 2009.



- **Alphonse L. MacDonald** (1940-2026)

The family of Dr. Alphonse L. MacDonald share the sad news of his death on March 4th, 2026. He passed away in Paramaribo, Suriname, the country of his birth, following a major stroke suffered late last year while in Suriname visiting family.



- **Tom Merrick** (1939-2026)

We are saddened to report the death of Thomas W. Merrick on 18 March 2026. An IUSSP member since 1968, he was a distinguished economist and demographer whose work helped shape the study of population and development in Latin America and beyond.



Tom Burch – 2026 PAA Honored Member

Our late IUSSP member and colleague, **Thomas K. Burch** was recently included in the Population Association of America (PAA) Honored Member List. This is a highly deserved recognition that honors his memory and scholarly contributions to population science. During his long academic career, he made significant contributions to the fields of fertility and family planning, families and households, demographic theory and the teaching of demography. Tom Burch passed away on July 26, 2022. He was Professor Emeritus in the department of Sociology at Western University, Canada, and Adjunct Professor of Sociology at the University of Victoria. [\(Read more\)](#)



Regional Population Associations

2026 ALAP congress in San Jose, Costa Rica

The XII Congress of the Latin American Population Association (ALAP) will take place in San José, Costa Rica, 24-28 August 2026 on the theme "*New Frontiers: Demography, Digital Revolution, Democratization of Information and Dialogue in the Americas*".

[\(Read more on the ALAP website\)](#)



7th APA Conference in Hanoi

The **7th Asian Population Association Conference (APAC 2026)** will be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, 24-27 November 2026. APAC 2026 will bring together population scholars, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers from across Asia and beyond to discuss emerging demographic trends and pressing population issues. The conference is expected to feature approximately 300 oral presentations across 56 parallel panel sessions, and up to 300 poster presentations over the course of the event. APAC 2026 is now accepting **Expressions of Interest for exhibit booths, side meetings, and sponsored sessions. Deadline for applications: 31 August 2026.**

[\(Read more\)](#)



2026 PAA Annual Meeting in St-Louis, MO

The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America (PAA) was held in St. Louis, Missouri (United States) from 6 to 9 May. The conference programme and the poster awards are available on the [PAA website](#). The next meeting will be held in Seattle from 31 March to 3 April 2027. The Call for Papers will open in July 2026.



EPC 2026 in Bologna, Italy

The European Population Conference 2026 (EPC 2026) convened in Bologna, Italy, from 3 to 6 June, was organized by EAPS in collaboration with the University of Bologna. The conference programme and photos of the event are available on the [EAPS website](#).



Other Announcements

Survey on next generation future scenarios

The **Scenario Evolution Process (SEP)** is a global, research community-led initiative to evaluate and update the Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs). Whether the SSPs require a minor update or a fundamental redesign will be decided by the research and policy community. 1/ **Respond to the survey**. 2/ Attend the Community **Webinar on 30 June**. 3/ Submit a contribution to the SEP's **call for papers** for a Special Issue on “Socioeconomic futures frameworks for motivating actions for sustainability” in the journal *Futures*. 4/ Propose **nominations** for the SEP Orchestration Working Group, particularly from researchers outside the Global North.



21st IASSH conference

The Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH) organized its 21st Annual Conference at Rajasthan University, Jaipur from 11 to 13 February 2026. The **Ninth Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture** was delivered by well-known demographer and gender specialist **Dr. Ravi Verma** on “Fertility Transition to Gender Justice: Revisiting Caldwell’s Theory of Social Change”. ([Read the IASSH conference report](#))



N-IUSSP

Recent articles

- Change is the only constant: living arrangements in the United States, 1850–2021, Ginevra Floridi and Albert Esteve
- Women’s stable employment and first births in Europe, Angela Greulich and Michael S. Rendall
- Children’s schooling and living arrangements in 24 African countries, Maria Pohl, Ewa Batyra and Albert Esteve
- The end of lowest-low as we knew it: one threshold, many futures, Ignacio Pardo and Stuart Gietel-Basten
- China: demographic dividend and skill-based productivity, Hengyu Gu, Yingju Wu, Guillaume Marois, Wolfgang Lutz and Tianlong Niu
- On Türkiye’s recent rapid fertility decline, Sutay Yavuz
- Population growth and family planning are still important. Has UNFPA forgotten? Frank Götmark, Chukwudozie Ajaero, Mohammad Mainul Islam, Rhoda Mundi, Nebechukwu H. Ugwu and Malte Andersson



- How siblings shape cognitive aging. Evidence from American families, Yiang Li
- Measuring life expectancy with care needs in Ibero-American countries, Mariana Calderón-Jaramillo, Jeroen Spijker, Elisenda Rentería and Luciana Correia Alves
- Economic cycles and first births among natives and migrants' children in Belgium, Jonas Wood, Karel Neels and Leen Marynissen
- Extending working lives: how European birth cohorts compare, Jan Einhoff
- Beyond national borders: assessing avoidable mortality across European districts (2002–2019), Sophie Stroisch, Michael Mühlichen, Pavel Grigoriev and Tobias Vogt
- Every year of schooling counts for dementia risk in the US, Hyungmin Cha
- Immigrant housing and mobility across countries and generations, Joseph Harrison
- How seasonal mortality shapes life expectancy in Europe (2000-2019), Isabella Marinetti

[\(Read articles\)](#)

Calls

Calls for papers

- Special issue of the journal *Space Populations Societies* on "The Diversity and Dynamics of Low Fertility". Deadline for submission of extended abstracts: 1 July 2026
- 2026 Australian Population Association (APA) Conference - "Creating Demographic Resilience", Canberra, Australia, 18–20 Nov 2026. Submission deadline: 15 July 2026
- Special Issue of *China Population and Development Studies (CPDS)* on "Family Lives in Transition in East and Southeast Asia: Institutions and Digital Transformations". Deadline for submission of full manuscripts: 31 August 2026
- (IUSSP) Workshop: Aftermath of a Pandemic: Changes in Mortality and Health, Oslo, Norway, 28-29 January 2027. Deadline for submissions: 11 September 2026
- (IUSSP) Special issue of *Studies in Family Planning* on "Pandemic and Epidemic Impacts on Reproduction, Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Family Dynamics: Longer-Term Consequences and Cross-Crisis Perspectives". Deadline for submissions: 15 Sept 2026
- *Population* journal's Early-Career Researcher Prize. Submission deadlines: 15 October 2026
- Thematic series of *Genus* on "Population Structures and Dynamics, and Social Change: Studies in Honor of Antonio Golini". Deadline for submissions: 31 October 2026
- The 4th International Conference on "Prolonging Working Life: Towards sustainable working lives in times of demographic changes", Helsinki, Finland, 15-16 April 2027. Deadline for submissions: 30 November 2026
- (IUSSP) Special Collection of *Demographic Research* on "Kinship Demography: Structures, Dynamics, and Inequalities". Deadline for submissions: 15 December 2026
- "Breaking Barriers: Users' Perceptions, Preferences, and Access to Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC)" - a Special issue of *Contraception and Reproductive Medicine*. Submission Deadline: 16 December 2027
- Open Access Topical Collection on "Analysing Multiple Cause of Death Data to Understand Mortality Profiles, Trends and Disparities" in *Genus*. Deadline for submissions: 31 December 2026

Training

Training courses and workshops

- 3rd Edition of the Barcelona Four Seasons School of Demography - Bcn4Seasons School, Barcelona, Spain: *Social Indicators: Theory and Applications* - 28 September–1 October 2026. Registration deadline: 15 July 2026. *Marriage, Cohabitation, and Singlehood in Population Perspective*, 5–8 October 2026. Registration deadline: 20 July 2026

Career and Study Opportunities

Jobs/Fellowships/PhD Positions/Post-Docs

- Postdoctoral Research Associate in demography and population studies, Princeton University (United States). Deadline for applications: 30 June 2026
- ERA Chair position in Advanced Population Projections and Modelling – Faculty of Science, Charles University (Prague, Czechia). Deadline for applications: 30 June 2026
- Professor/Associate Professor in Demography / Population Studies, The University of Hong Kong. Deadline for applications: 31 July 2026
- Post-doctoral researchers, EduTrack, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR), Rostock Germany. Deadline for applications: 15 August 2026

Calendar

Forthcoming IUSSP meetings & other events

- (IUSSP) "Epidemics, Gender, and Public Institutions in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries", University of the Balearic Islands, Palma (Majorca), Spain, 2–3 July 2026
- (IUSSP) "Beyond Birth Rates: Advancing a Pro-Alignment Approach to Low Fertility in North America", Montreal, Canada (hybrid), 20 August 2026
- XII Congress of the Latin American Population Association (ALAP), San José, Costa Rica, 24-28 August 2026
- 7th Asian Population Association Conference, Hanoi, Vietnam, 24-27 November 2026
- Wittgenstein Centre Conference (WIC2026) – "Demography and Human Capital", Vienna, Austria, 1-2 December 2026
- The 4th International Conference on "Prolonging Working Life" (hybrid), Helsinki, Finland & online, 15 -16 April 2027
- Colloque de l'AIDELF 2027 « La démographie dans tous ses états », Montréal, Canada, 1-4 June 2027
- 2028 European Population Conference (EPC 2028), Tallinn, Estonia, 28 June-1 July 2028

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 as 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 2026**. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

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IUSSP Council meets in Paris to set priorities for 2026–2029

Aubervilliers/Paris, France, 7-8 April 2026

The newly elected IUSSP Council met on 7–8 April 2026 at INED in Aubervilliers/Paris for the first Council meeting of its 2026–2029 mandate. The Council reviewed recent activities and discussed the future direction of the Union, its scientific priorities, finances, and preparations for major upcoming events, including the IUSSP Centennial in 2028 and the 2029 International Population Conference (IPC2029) in Barcelona Spain. It was also an opportunity to meet with the INED director Francois Clanché.

2025 A Year of Recognition and Transition

Council members began by reviewing IUSSP’s mission and recent achievements. Particular attention was given to the Union’s receipt of the 2025 United Nations Population Award, an important recognition of IUSSP’s long-standing contribution to population science. Council members noted that the award provides an opportunity to strengthen IUSSP’s visibility and voice in international population discussions. Council members discussed the importance of using the coming years to consider how IUSSP can evolve and remain sustainable in an evolving scientific and funding environment.

Scientific Activities Remain Strong

The Council reviewed the Union’s scientific activities in 2025, which included 12 seminars, workshops, conferences, and other events involving nearly 1,500 participants. Approximately 500 participants came from low- and middle-income countries.

IUSSP’s scientific panels continue to be the backbone of its scientific programme. Several Panels were renewed, while a number of new Panel proposals were approved for the coming years.

Newly approved scientific panels include:

- Adult Mortality in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (2026-2030)
- Aligning Population Policies with Low Fertility (2026-2029)
- Climate and Environmental Demography (2026-2030)
- Climate Change, Gender, and Migration (2026-2029)
- Voluntary and Involuntary Childlessness (2026-2029)
- Measuring Contraceptive Agency: From Rights-Based Frameworks to Survey-Ready Indicators for the Final SDG Period and Beyond (2027-2030)

Current and new Panels are listed [here](#).

A particular priority for the new Council will be strengthening engagement with early-career researchers. A new Early Career Perspectives Panel will be established, building on the successes of previous training and mentoring activities while expanding networking opportunities at conferences and other events.

Financial Sustainability is a Central Concern

While IUSSP remains financially stable, much of the Council’s discussion focused on long-term sustainability. Council members noted that donor funding for population research has become increasingly uncertain, while membership dues currently cover only a relatively small share of operating costs. These trends are not unique to IUSSP and reflect broader challenges facing many international scientific associations.

As a result, the Council began a broader discussion about the future organizational model of IUSSP. Questions raised included how to diversify revenue sources, strengthen institutional

partnerships, increase membership engagement, and ensure the Union remains financially sustainable beyond 2029.

Membership and Engagement

Council also discussed how to strengthen the value of IUSSP membership in an era when researchers have many competing professional networks and associations. Ideas included expanding webinars and networking opportunities, strengthening collaborations with regional associations, and increasing the visibility of members' research through IUSSP communications.

Council also considered ways to give student affiliates a greater stake and voice in the Union by proposing a constitutional amendment that would allow them to vote in Council elections. This change would require approval by the membership through a vote.

Finally, Council discussed ways to strengthen and build on the institutional affiliation programme launched in 2024, to increase the role and voice of population institutions in IUSSP activities and foster greater interaction between these institutions and IUSSP's international membership.

Looking Ahead to Barcelona 2029

The Council reviewed lessons from the 2025 International Population Conference in Brisbane and began planning for the next IPC, which will be held in Barcelona in July 2029.

Albert Esteve (IUSSP Council member), Mariona Lozano and Carlos Sanchez Moya, from the Centre for Demographic Studies (CED) at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), and Clara Cortina, from Demosoc at Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), will lead the local organization of the Barcelona conference. The event, jointly organized by CED/UAB and Demosoc/UPF will be hosted by Pompeu Fabra University in a central location near the city's waterfront. The organizers aim to create a high-quality conference with a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. They plan to provide networking and training opportunities and to promote media engagement at the conference and will do their utmost to facilitate the obtention of visas for participation from all regions.

Celebrating 100 Years of IUSSP

One of the most exciting topics discussed was preparation for the IUSSP Centennial in 2028.

The Council agreed that the centennial should be celebrated through a year-long programme of activities rather than a single event. Plans under consideration include a launch event in Paris, activities at regional conferences around the world, and major celebrations linked to the 2029 International Population Conference in Barcelona.

Council expressed enthusiasm for involving the broader membership through personal reflections, testimonials, photographs, and stories documenting the history and impact of IUSSP over the past century.

Importantly, the Council emphasized that the centennial should not simply look backward. Instead, it should highlight the continuing relevance of population science and IUSSP's role in addressing the major demographic challenges facing societies in the decades ahead.

Recognizing Excellence

The Council selected Jane Bertrand as the 2026 IUSSP Laureate in recognition of her distinguished contributions to population science especially her commitment to applying rigorous scientific research on family planning and reproductive health policies and programmes to

improve services for vulnerable populations in some of the world's poorest countries. An in-person ceremony was held at the Population Association of America annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri on May 7th and a virtual Laureate Ceremony will be organized on 28 September.

Preparations are also underway for the next cycle of IUSSP Early Career Awards, which continue to be organized in partnership with regional population associations and remain an important mechanism for recognizing emerging talent across all world regions. The deadline for nominations is 1 November 2026.

As the new Council begins its mandate, discussions in Paris made clear that IUSSP faces both significant challenges and important opportunities. Maintaining scientific excellence, strengthening global engagement, ensuring financial sustainability, and demonstrating the continuing relevance of population science will be central themes guiding the Union over the next four years. The Council encourages members to play an active role in IUSSP scientific activities, networks, and governance. Member engagement is essential to advancing the Union's mission.



From left to right, 1st row: Anne Goujon (IUSSP Secretary General & Treasurer), Laura Rodriguez Wong (IUSSP President), François Clanché (INED Director), Mary Ellen Zuppan (IUSSP Executive Director) 2nd row: Reiko Hayashi (IUSSP Vice President), and Council members: Ann Moore, Georgina Binstock, Albert Esteve, Nico van Nimwegen, Visseho Adjiwanou, Grace Cruz, Ayaga Bawah. [Aude Bernard and Sara Curran joined remotely]

New IUSSP Panels

April 2026

At its meeting in April 2026, the IUSSP Council approved the proposals by IUSSP members for the creation of six new Scientific Panels and the renewal of three others. Several Panels were also extended to complete their programme of activities and two IUSSP Panels are "ongoing".

New Scientific Panels

Adult Mortality in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (2026-2030)

- Chaired by Marília Nepomuceno (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research)

Aligning Population Policies with Low Fertility (2026-2029)

- Co-chaired by Shelley Clark (McGill University) and Sarah Hayford (Ohio State University)

Climate and Environmental Demography (2026-2030)

- Co-chaired by Jasmin Abdel Ghany (Nuffield College, Oxford) and Tobias Rüttenauer (Goethe University Frankfurt)

Climate Change, Gender, and Migration (2026-2029)

- Chaired by Ram Bhagat (formerly at International Institute for Population Sciences)

Voluntary and Involuntary Childlessness (2026-2029)

- Chaired by Sayeed Unisa (formerly at International Institute for Population Sciences)

The Council also approved the creation of a Panel on "**Measuring Contraceptive Agency: From Rights-Based Frameworks to Survey-Ready Indicators for the Final SDG Period and Beyond**", co-chaired by Ilene Speizer (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and Niranjana Saggurti (Population Council). This Panel will begin its activities at the end of the mandate of the current Panel on **Rethinking Family Planning Measurement with a Reproductive Justice and Rights Lens**.

Renewed Scientific Panels

Lifetime Migration (2023-2027)

- Chaired by Sergi Vidal (CED-CERCA / Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Mortality Dynamics and Multi-Morbidity at Death (2026-2029)

- Chaired by Sergi Trias-Llimós (Pompeu Fabra University)

The Council also approved the renewal of the Panel on "**Abortion Research**", co-chaired by Fatima Juarez (El Colegio de Mexico) and Susheela Singh (Guttmacher Institute). The new Panel will begin its activities at the end of the mandate of the current Panel on **Abortion Research**.

Continuing Scientific Panels

Abortion Research (ending in 2026)

- Co-chaired by Fatima Juarez (El Colegio de Mexico) and Susheela Singh (Guttmacher Institute).

COVID-19, Fertility, and the Family (ending in 2027)

- Chaired by Natalie Nitsche (Australian National University)

Digital and Computational Demography (ending in 2026)

- Chaired by Ridhi Kashyap (University of Oxford)

Epidemics and Contagious Diseases: The Legacy of the Past (ending in 2027)

- Chaired by Tim Riswick (Radboud University)

Kinship Structures, Dynamics and Inequalities (ending in 2029)

- Chaired by Diego Alburez-Gutierrez (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research)

Population Registers, Ethics and Human Rights (ending in 2027)

- Chaired by Romesh Silva (United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA)

Priorities in International Migration Research (ending in 2026)

- Co-chaired by Diego Iturralde (Statistics South Africa) and Ellen Percy Kraly (Colgate University)

Rethinking Family Planning Measurement with a Reproductive Justice and Rights Lens (ending in 2026)

- Chaired by Ilene Speizer (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and Elizabeth Sully (Guttmacher Institute)

Ongoing (permanent) IUSSP Panels/Committees

IUSSP Standing Committee on Demographic Terminology

- Chaired by George Alter (University of Michigan)

Population Environment Research Network (PERN)

- Coordinated by Susana Adamo (formerly at CIESIN, Columbia University)

- **Current Panels are listed [here](#).**
- **Past Panels are listed [here](#).**

Jane Bertrand Honored as 2026 IUSSP Laureate at the Annual Meeting of the PAA

IUSSP's 2026 Laureate, Jane Bertrand, was honored during a special side meeting held at the Population Association of America's (PAA) Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, on 7 May 2026. The gathering brought together IUSSP members, colleagues, former students, friends, and family members to celebrate Jane's distinguished career and her selection as the 36th IUSSP Laureate.

The event provided an opportunity to recognize Jane's achievements in the company of those who have worked with, learned from, and been inspired by her over the course of her career. On behalf of the IUSSP, Mary Ellen Zuppan and Ann Moore presented Jane with her Laureate Award before an audience that spanned multiple generations of population scientists.

Jane Bertrand was nominated by her colleagues and selected by the IUSSP Council in recognition of her "rigorous commitment to the application of scientific research on family planning and reproductive health to policies and programs serving vulnerable populations in some of the world's poorest countries." In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, her research has generated evidence that informed Ministry of Health policies and contributed to reducing inequalities in access to family planning services. She is also a gifted mentor training hundreds of researchers and junior faculty.


A particularly meaningful aspect of the celebration was the presence of several of Jane's fellow graduate students from the University of Chicago, where they studied under Donald J. Bogue, the 2011 IUSSP Laureate. Amy Tsui, a friend and colleague since graduate school, reflected on Jane's remarkable career and personal journey, tracing her contributions from pioneering work on the evaluation of family planning programs to her passion for "**highpointing**"—climbing the highest peak in each of the 50 U.S. states.

Additional tributes were offered by fellow graduate school colleagues Stan Becker and Michael White. Ilene Speizer spoke warmly about Jane's influence as her first employer and mentor, reflecting on the guidance and opportunities she provided early in her career.

In her remarks, Jane reflected on her decades of work in family planning and reproductive health, with particular attention to her experiences in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She also discussed her latest project, documenting the experiences of over 80 family planning and reproductive health workers in the wake of major reductions in U.S. foreign assistance. She plans to publish the work in a forthcoming book titled *When the Sky Falls: The Story of International Family Planning*.

The gathering was an opportunity for participants to reconnect, share memories, and celebrate Jane's many contributions to population research, public health, and international development.

The official IUSSP Laureate Ceremony will take place virtually on 28 September 2026, when colleagues involved in Jane's nomination, members of the IUSSP Council, and IUSSP President Laura Wong will formally recognize her career and achievements before the wider international population community.

- **For details on Jane Bertrand's accomplishments and contributions to the population field please read the [letter of nomination](#) .**



Jane's fellow graduate students at University of Chicago. From left to right: Michael White, Jane Bertrand, Stan Becker and Amy Tsui.

Jane Bertrand with IUSSP Council Members Ann Moore, Sara Curran and Ayaga Bawah.



Jane Bertrand with Jane Menken (2009 IUSSP Laureate).



From left to right: YJ Choi, Michelle Weinberger, Jane Bertrand, Jane's sister, Madeleine Short-Fabic, and Funmi OlaOlorun.

Call for the 2027 IUSSP Laureate Award

- **Deadline for nominations: 1 December 2026.**

Nominate a deserving colleague for the 2027 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.

Instructions:

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.

Call for Nominations: 2027 IUSSP Early Career Awards

- **Deadline for nominations: 1 November 2026**

The IUSSP Early Career Award is offered in the following world regions: **Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America**. One award will be bestowed per region in a unique collaboration with the **Union for African Population Studies (UAPS)**, the **Asian Population Association (APA)**, the **European Association for Population Studies (EAPS)**, the **Latin American Population Association (ALAP)**, and the **Population Association of America (PAA)**. The Awards will be bestowed every other year; the next set of awards will be announced in 2027.

Eligibility:

- Candidates should be early career scholars in the population field with **not more than 7 years of experience after their PhD** at the time of nomination (= after 1 November 2019). [**Extension of the eligibility period for up to 3 years may be accepted to account for career interruptions such as maternity/paternity leave, child/elderly-care, or illness; these career interruptions should be listed in the (self-)nomination letter.*]
- candidates from a region should be **residents of that region at the time of nomination**; in case of temporary postings (e.g. as a postdoc) candidates will qualify for the award from the region in which they are permanently/mainly based.
- candidates should be **IUSSP members** at the time of nomination.
- nominations should be **supported by at least 5 IUSSP members**, from more than 1 country, at least 3 of whom should be from the region of the candidate (2 supporters may be from other regions).
- **candidates may also nominate themselves**; self-nominations must be **supported by at least 5 IUSSP members**, from more than 1 country, at least 3 of whom should be from the region of the candidate (2 supporters may be from other regions).
- nominations and self-nominations **cannot be supported by members of the IUSSP Council**.

Procedure:

Nominations should be made by filling out the [ONLINE APPLICATION FORM](#). *This application form is only accessible to current IUSSP members and ensures that all nominees and sponsors are IUSSP members and meet the eligibility criteria.* IUSSP members can nominate a candidate or nominate themselves.

Before filling out the application, please prepare a short justification (maximum of 1000 characters) for the nomination, and if available, short statements of support from IUSSP sponsors who have been identified as supporters. The following documents should also be prepared for uploading:

- a **1-2 page explanatory statement/letter of nomination** that can also include supporting statements from sponsors,
- a **full curriculum vitae** including a **list of publications** of the candidate, and
- any **justifications for leaves of absence** for those who received their PhD more than 7 years ago.

You will also be asked to enter the last names of supporters to retrieve them from the IUSSP member database. Institutional affiliation and **country of residence will be automatically entered based on members' profile information.** Please ensure nominees and all sponsors are current IUSSP members and their profile information is up-to-date for institutional affiliation, country of residence and, for nominees, information on their diploma and date awarded. If you do not find the nominee or sponsor's name in the drop-down list, it likely means their membership has expired and they will need to renew before you complete the application, or you will need to find another sponsor. If you cannot complete the application, it will be saved and you can return to fill it in later. If you are nominating someone else, please include yourself as a sponsor.

Jury and Prize:

The jury will consist of representatives of each of the regional population associations (5), IUSSP Council members from each of the regions (5) and the Laureates of the 2025 IUSSP Early Career Awards (5) and will be chaired by the IUSSP President (Laura Rodriguez Wong). The jurors from each region will review and rank the nominations from their region. The full jury will elect the 5 awardees based on the regional jurors' reports. The decision of the Jury is final and will be published on the IUSSP Website and in the IUSSP Bulletin.

The Awardees will be given an opportunity to present their current work and research interests in an 2027 Early Career Awards webinar and will be entitled to a Free Registration for the next International Population Conference of the IUSSP (IPC 2029, in Barcelona, Spain), where they will be presented in an Awards ceremony.

IUSSP at the 2026 PAA Annual Meeting

St. Louis, MO, United States, 6-9 May 2026

The Population Association of America (PAA) held its Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, from 6–9 May 2026 at the America's Center Convention Complex, bringing together more than 1,200 participants from across North America and beyond.

After missing the 2025 PAA meeting, the IUSSP returned to PAA this year with an exhibition booth and held a member-organized meeting that included a ceremony to present the IUSSP 2026 Laureate to Jane Bertrand. The meeting provided an important opportunity to reconnect with members and colleagues in North America, particularly as so many were unable to attend the International Population Conference (IPC 2025) in Brisbane. Several IUSSP Scientific Panels met during the PAA and presented outcomes of their work.

PAA also reported lower attendance at this year's meeting compared to previous years. Concerns about immigration controls, difficulties obtaining visas, and reduced travel funding contributed to a decline in international participation. During the meeting, PAA President Marcy Carlson met with IUSSP Executive Director Mary Ellen Zuppan at the IUSSP booth to discuss ways the two organizations could strengthen international collaboration at a time when travel budgets are increasingly constrained, and visa barriers make travel to the US for international participants more difficult.

IUSSP organized a side meeting on 7 May to honor Jane Bertrand, recipient of the 2026 IUSSP Laureate Award. She was honored for her work advancing research on family planning and reproductive health, with a particular focus on improving programs and policies for vulnerable populations in low- and middle-income countries. The session attracted a strong turnout of both long-time IUSSP colleagues and younger researchers who came to celebrate Jane Bertrand's contributions.

The **IUSSP Scientific Panel on Rethinking Family Planning Measurement with a Reproductive Justice and Rights Lens** presented results from its Delphi survey study, *Beyond Standard Indicators: Findings and Reflections from an Expert Survey on Family Planning Measurement Priorities* during a session at the conference. Ilene Speizer presented the findings, with comments by Mahesh Karra, during a session on 8 May.

The PAA Annual Meeting featured approximately 250 sessions over two and a half days. Highlights included a plenary session, *NIH and the Future of Population Research: A Conversation with NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya*, moderated by Will Dow. The session drew a packed audience eager to discuss the implications of recent funding cuts and changes affecting population research. PAA Past President Irma Elo delivered her Presidential Address, *Stalled Progress and Enduring Inequalities: U.S. Mortality in the 21st Century*.

Although attendance was lower than in previous years, the smaller size of the conference created more opportunities for meaningful discussions and networking among participants. The next PAA Annual Meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington, from 31 March to 3 April 2027. Look out for the PAA call for papers in your IUSSP email announcements or the Bulletin.



Old St. Louis County Courthouse (St. Louis, Missouri).



Paula Miranda-Ribeiro (Cedeplar) visiting Ann Moore (IUSSP Council Member) at the IUSSP Booth at PAA 2026.



Mary Ellen Zuppan (IUSSP Executive Director) and Ann Moore (IUSSP Council Member).



Mariam Bougma, Gloria Ramirez and Nestor Aldea Ramos visiting the IUSSP Booth.

European Population Conference

Bologna, Italy, 3-6 June 2026

The **2026 European Population Conference (EPC2026)**, held from 3 to 6 June at the University of Bologna, brought together over 1,000 researchers and students from all over Europe and beyond.

The conference began with a memorable Opening Ceremony held at the Palazzo Re Enzo, overlooking the Fountain of Neptune. After welcome addresses by the host institutions representatives and by **Emilio Zagheni** (EAPS President, MPIDR), a roundtable chaired by **Raya Muttarak** (University of Bologna) featured **Francesco Billari** (Bocconi University) and **Jessica Fanzo** (Johns Hopkins University) for a discussion on the topic of why and how population research is urgently needed to address today's imminent and emerging societal challenges such as climate change, conflicts and inequalities. The roundtable was followed by a welcome cocktail with live music.

The scientific programme over the following 2.5 days included more than 600 papers presented in 90 regular oral sessions, 19 flash sessions, and 8 poster sessions. The conference also featured preconference events and workshops, including three organized by IUSSP Scientific Panels, as well as exhibition booths, including a shared EAPS-IUSSP booth. On Friday evening, the organizers also hosted an outdoor party in a park with live music and a celebration of the European Doctoral School of Demography's 20th anniversary.

A very well-attended closing ceremony included the presentation of a number of EAPS and EPC2026 awards, as well as a surprise special award for **Nico van Nimwegen**, who has served EAPS in various roles and currently as Executive Director for more than 40 years. The ceremony also included the announcement of the newly elected EAPS Council, including the new President, **Anna Matysiak**, and the new Vice President/President-Elect, **Sergi Vidal**. The host city for EPC2028 was also announced: **Tallinn, Estonia**.

The success of EPC2026 was reflected not only in the high scientific quality of the presentations and discussions, but also in the warm and welcoming atmosphere that characterized the event throughout. Participants particularly appreciated the generous coffee breaks, lunches, and receptions, which fostered informal exchanges, as well as the kindness and professionalism of the conference staff and volunteers. Naturally, the beautiful city of Bologna provided an ideal setting for such a rewarding conference experience.

In addition to the booth shared with EAPS, the IUSSP was present at EPC2026 through four its Scientific Panels, which organized three pre-conference workshops on 3 June 2026:

- **Global perspectives in lifetime migration data infrastructures**, organized by the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Lifetime Migration;
- **Climate Demography - Population Dynamics in a Changing Climate**, organized by the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Climate and Environmental Demography;
- **Demographic Microsimulation in R using SOCSIM – Modelling Population and Kinship Dynamics**, organized by the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Kinship Structures, Dynamics and Inequalities and the IUSSP Panel Digital and Computational Demography

The conference programme and photos are available [here](#). A few photos are displayed below.



Key organizers of IPC2025 visiting EPC2026. From left to right, Ann Evans, Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi, Edith Gray.



Nico van Nimwegen receiving a Special (surprise) EAPS Award from EAPS President Emilio Zagheni.

2012 IUSSP Laureate Graziella Caselli, with EAPS Executive Director (and IUSSP Council member) Nico van Nimwegen on the left right and Deputy Executive Director Paul Monet on the left.

IUSSP Debate: "When Populations Shrink: Should States Encourage Births or Adapt?"

1 April 2026

Watch video recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37HYhQpTaAI>

What does a society look like when natural population growth is no longer the default? Can financial subsidies truly compete with the powerful structural and cultural forces of the 21st century? Are there other options? Is human population decline a good thing so habitats of other species can expand instead of continuing to shrink? This debate brings together world experts to address the ultimate question: Is population decline a policy failure to be fixed, or a new reality to be managed?

This IUSSP Debate "**When Populations Shrink – Should States Encourage Births or Adapt?**" was held on 1 April 2026. The debate was proposed and organized by IUSSP members **Stan Becker** (Johns Hopkins University) and **Apoorva Jadhav** (Population Reference Bureau).

The specific question framing the debate was:

- **“Should nations with more deaths than births implement or increase incentives for childbearing and subsidies for child-rearing?”**

With opening insights on the question from **Tomas Sobotka** (Vienna Institute of Demography), the debate brought together four world experts in two teams:

On the "Yes" side:

- **Anna Rotkirch**, Population Research Institute, Väestöliitto (Finland)
- **Reiko Hayashi**, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (Japan)

On the "No" side:

- **Youngtae Cho**, School of Public Health, Seoul National University (South Korea)
- **Vegard Skirbekk**, Center for Fertility and Health, University of Oslo (Norway)

Slides:

- **Tomas Sobotka - Background for the debate**
- **Anna Rotkirch - A future with children**
- **Reiko Hayashi - Yes! - from the Japanese point of view**
- **Youngtae Cho - Redrawing the Blueprint for Smaller Generations**
- **Vegard Skirbekk - We need a positive demography to adapt to low fertility, low mortality and aging**

Additional readings:

- **Vegard Skirbekk - Reading List**
- **Reiko Hayashi (2025) *Demographic Change and Policy Responses: The Case of Japan*, Springer**
- **Anna Rotkirch - Reading list**
- **Youngtae Cho (2016) *The Determined Future* [see book review in English]**
- **Tomas Sobotka - Sources**

EPC2026 workshop on Climate Demography: Population Dynamics in a Changing Climate

Bologna, Italy, 3 June 2026

The workshop on “**Climate Demography: Population Dynamics in a Changing Climate**”, held on 3 June 2026 as a preconference event at the European Population Conference (EPC) in Bologna, Italy was organized jointly by the newly founded **IUSSP Panel on Climate and Environmental Demography** and the **EAPS Working Group on Climate Demography**.

This kick-off meeting brought together around 40 researchers for a focused afternoon of talks and discussion. The event was convened by **Raya Muttarak** (University of Bologna, Bocconi University), **Risto Conte Keivabu** (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research), **Jasmin Abdel Ghany** (Nuffield College/University of Oxford), **Tobias Rüttenauer** (Goethe University Frankfurt), **Emilio Zagheni** (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research) and **Maria Rubio-Cabañez** (Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics Barcelona). Participants included early-career and junior scholars as well as established demographers, geographers, epidemiologists, and climate scientists, reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of climate demography.

The workshop ran from 13:30–17:00 as part of the European Population Conference pre-programme. After a short welcome and an introduction to the IUSSP Panel and the EAPS Working Group, three invited keynotes set the scene: **Alexander De Sherbinin** on “Habitability, Climate Justice, and Climate Mobility”; **Mary Abed Al Ahad** on “Air Pollution and Health”; and **Roman Hoffmann** on “Populations in the Age of the Climate Crisis.” A coffee break allowed informal networking before a “Meet the Editors” panel featuring **Raya Muttarak**, **Timothy Adair** and **Alexander De Sherbinin**, which offered guidance on publishing in *Population and Development Review*, *Population Health Metrics* and *Frontiers in Climate*. The session closed with an open discussion to plan upcoming activities and collaborations.

Highlights from the keynotes and ensuing discussion showed how rapidly the field is evolving. Alexander De Sherbinin emphasized spatial heterogeneity in climate-driven mobility and the need to link earth-system products with household and migration micro-data. Mary Abed Al Ahad brought new evidence on the demographic impacts of air pollution and discussed pathways linking exposure and morbidity. Roman Hoffmann’s talk framed long-term demographic pressures and the interactions between age structure, health systems and adaptation capacity. Participants engaged actively on compound risks (e.g., heat, pollution, floods), the uneven social distribution of exposures and adaptive capacity, and the need for advanced methods to analyse the impact of interactions and sequences of various climate events.

The meet-the-editors conversation was particularly well received: editors highlighted opportunities for interdisciplinary special issues, transparency in data and code, and clear causal inference in observational research. They also shared their diverse views on cover letters. Across small-group exchanges and the final plenary, attendees proposed concrete next steps: a training workshop on geospatial and longitudinal methods for junior scholars, a shared data repository, and a possible special issue on climate–demography interactions. The lively discussions and diverse perspectives underlined strong enthusiasm to consolidate the climate demography network. If you would like to join activities or follow up on discussion, please contact climatedemography@gmail.com and stay up to date on upcoming events [here](#).

- **Workshop programme**



EPC2026 workshop on Global Perspectives in Lifetime Migration Data Infrastructures

Bologna, Italy, 3 June 2026

The **IUSSP Scientific Panel on Lifetime Migration** organized a workshop on “**Global Perspectives in Lifetime Migration Data Infrastructures**” on 3 June 2026 as a side event of the European Population Conference held at the University of Bologna. The workshop brought together researchers working on innovative longitudinal and linked data infrastructures that are transforming the study of migration by enabling scholars to conceptualize mobility as a dynamic life-course process rather than as a single event.

The event was attended by 25 participants and provided an opportunity to discuss emerging data sources from different world regions and data types, as well as the methodological and institutional challenges involved in building sustainable migration data infrastructures. The workshop formed part of the panel’s ongoing efforts to promote life-course approaches to migration research.



The workshop was moderated by Panel chair **Sergi Vidal** (CED-CERCA / Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) and featured four presentations showcasing innovative data infrastructures from diverse geographical contexts. **Elizabeth Jacobs** (University of Connecticut, USA) demonstrated how LinkedIn employment histories can be used as a novel source of digital trace data to reconstruct migration and mobility trajectories. **Niklas Murken** (Universität Potsdam, Germany) discussed the design and implementation of the Senegal Migration Panel Study. **Victoria Prieto** (Universidad de la República, Uruguay) illustrated the potential to study intra-Latin American mobility using data from the Latin American Migration Project. Finally, **Carren Ginsburg** (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa) presented a longitudinal cohort study of internal migration in South Africa, illustrating the opportunities and challenges of following highly mobile populations among rural communities.

The presentations highlighted several examples of what may be considered next-generation migration data infrastructures, including longitudinal surveys, digital trace data, and internationally harmonized migration datasets. At the same time, the workshop encouraged a critical reflection on the limitations of existing systems. During the moderated discussion, participants reflected on persistent challenges related to identifying and monitoring migrants over time, maintaining longitudinal follow-up among mobile populations, and ensuring that migration data adequately capture the temporal complexity of mobility trajectories. Particular attention was given to the difficulties of observing migration as a life-course process and to the risk that many existing infrastructures continue to miss important dimensions of mobility, especially among highly mobile, vulnerable, or transnational populations.

EPC2026 workshop on SOCSIM demographic micro-simulation in R

Bologna, Italy, 3 June 2026

As a part of the IUSSP Panels on **Digital and Computational Demography** and **Kinship Structures, Dynamics, and Inequalities**, the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) hosted an interactive pre-conference workshop on **"Demographic microsimulations in R using SOCSIM – Modelling population and kinship dynamics"** at the European Population Conference in Bologna, Italy. Course instructors **Tom Theile** (MPIDR), **Liliana Calderón-Bernal** (MPIDR), **Mallika Snyder** (MPIDR), and **Ridhi Kashyap** (University of Oxford), in collaboration with **Emilio Zagheni** (MPIDR) and **Diego Alburez-Gutierrez** (MPIDR), introduced participants to microsimulation and the “rsocsim” R package, and highlighted how it could be used to inform their research.

Instructor Tom Theile explains the SOCSIM workflow to participants.

First developed in the 1970s at the University of California, Berkeley, SOCSIM is a powerful open-source tool for modelling individual demographic events and producing synthetic populations with plausible age and kinship structures, using population-level demographic rates as input. The new **“rsocsim”** package developed at MPIDR offers researchers a readily-accessible and user-friendly approach to running and analysing SOCSIM simulations, and offers rich potential for further research in areas such as kinship dynamics and inequalities.

20 participants attended the workshop. Attendees were primarily graduate students and early career researchers and faculty, drawn from research institutions across Europe, Asia, and the United States. In the course of the workshop, participants learned about various approaches to microsimulation and agent-based modelling; how to set up, run, and validate a simulation in SOCSIM; and how to analyse simulation output to study kin availability and loss.

The IUSSP Panels on Digital and Computational Demography and Kinship Structures, Dynamics, and Inequalities, under which this workshop was organized, look forward to supporting further training and research in this area. Stay tuned for future training opportunities, which will be advertised by the IUSSP!

- **“rsocsim” package**



Participants in the SOCSIM pre-conference workshop at EPC 2026 in Bologna.

Kinship Structures, Dynamics, and Inequalities conference

Rostock, Germany, 8-9 June 2026

The international conference on **Kinship Structures, Dynamics, and Inequalities** was held on 8-9 June 2026 at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) in Rostock, Germany. The event was organized under the auspices of the **IUSSP Scientific Panel on Kinship Structures, Dynamics and Inequalities**, in collaboration with MPIDR and partner institutions New York University Abu Dhabi, Pennsylvania State University, and the National University of Singapore.

The conference brought together a large and diverse group of scholars from demography, sociology, anthropology, public health, and statistics. Its central aim was to advance comparative and interdisciplinary research on kinship by sharing ideas on how rapid sociodemographic transformations reshape family systems beyond the household, and how these transformations contribute to, reproduce, or potentially mitigate social and economic inequalities.

Scientific Scope and Aims

The conference was motivated by the growing recognition that contemporary demographic change particularly declining fertility, increased longevity, migration, and changing partnership patterns has fundamentally altered the availability, structure, and functioning of kinship networks. While family research has historically focused on coresidential nuclear families, this conference placed emphasis on extended and non-coresidential kin, including grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, step families, in laws and other forms of “chosen kin”.

Across sessions, scholars engaged with key themes such as kin availability over the life course, inequalities in access to kin, intergenerational transfers, caregiving arrangements, kin loss and bereavement, and available data and methodological innovations for studying kinship structures and its functions. A further objective was to explore how kinship systems interact with broader processes of social stratification, including inequality by education, gender, migration background, and socioeconomic status.

Programme Structure and Thematic Sessions

The two-day programme combined keynote lectures, thematic oral sessions, and a poster session, facilitating both in-depth discussion and broad scholarly exchange.

The conference opened with welcoming remarks followed by a keynote lecture by Prof. **Kath Weston** (University of Virginia, University of Edinburgh), who reflected on shifting conceptualizations of kinship, particularly in relation to non-traditional and chosen family forms. The second keynote was delivered by Prof. **Sangeetha Madhavan** (University of Maryland), who addressed the implications of demographic and social change for intergenerational support systems and caregiving structures.

The oral presentation sessions were organized into five thematic panels and a poster session:

Session 1: Beyond the Nuclear Family

This session examined the diversification of family forms and the empirical measurement of extended kinship ties. Contributions addressed kinship networks in midlife, affinal relationships, and the weakening or persistence of lineage-based ties across different contexts, including Europe and sub-Saharan Africa.

Session 2: Kinship Structure, Availability, and Inequality

Papers in this session focused on unequal access to kin across populations. Topics included the demographic consequences of violence on kinship structures, differences in kin availability by nativity, and the implications of parental health and changing family configurations for the “sandwich generation.”

Session 3: Data and Methods

This session highlighted methodological advances in kinship demography. Presentations introduced new analytical tools for modelling kin-number distributions, discussed emerging administrative and survey-based data sources, and presented developments in microsimulation and population registers for kinship research.

Session 4: Kin Loss and Bereavement

Contributions in this session addressed the demographic and social dimensions of kin loss. Papers examined global trends in widowhood, inequalities in exposure to child loss, and the long-term consequences of bereavement under conditions of health crises and structural inequality.

Session 5: Intergenerational Relationships and Caregiving

The final session focused on intergenerational exchanges and care systems. Presentations explored educational expansion and kin networks in Asia, caregiving arrangements in Latin America, and evolving configurations of motherhood and family forms in diverse cultural and institutional settings.

The conference constituted a key step towards advancing kinship demography as a field. The academic event reinforced the idea that kinship is not a fixed or background feature of demographic life, but a resource that is unevenly distributed and worth studying across different regions and disciplines. To emphasise this, the organisers announced the launch of a **Special Collection** of *Demographic Research* to showcase cutting-edge research on these topics.

- **Conference programme**



Dirk J. van de Kaa (1933-2026)

Dirk Jan van de Kaa passed away in The Hague, The Netherlands on 22 May 2026 at the age of 93 years. Dirk Jan van de Kaa had joined the IUSSP in 1967 and was a member of the IUSSP Council from 1977 to 1984. From 1976 to 1982, he chaired the IUSSP Working Group on National Bibliographies. In 2001, he received the IUSSP Laureate award for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of population sciences.

Dirk van de Kaa was the founding father of contemporary Dutch demography and a pillar of the scientific study of population in the Netherlands. As an eminent scientist and administrator of national and international acclaim, his impact crossed geographic and disciplinary borders, and his academic achievements were complemented by outstanding services to the national and international scientific communities.



Founding director of the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute NIDI (1971-1987), first President (1983-1987) and Honorary President (since 1987) of the European Association for Population Studies EAPS, professor of Demography at the University of Amsterdam (1977-1998), Project-Director of the World Fertility Survey (1981-1982), Director of the International Statistical Research Centre (1982-1984), Vice-President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (1984-1987), Rector/Director of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (1987-1995) and Vice-President of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (1988-1998) are part of his lasting legacy.

As scientific secretary of the Royal Netherlands Commission on Population (1972-1977) Dirk van de Kaa forged bridges between the scientific and policy communities and laid the foundation for the development of population-related policies, as did his work as chair of the Netherlands Interministerial Committee on Population Questions (1987-1994) and his work at the Population Commission of the United Nations (1971-1987).

His services to the scientific community further included memberships and leading roles in various learned societies in the Netherlands and abroad including several Academies of Science. Dirk van de Kaa was the proud holder of multiple scientific awards including the 2001 Laureate of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population IUSSP, and the 2022 EAPS Award for Population Studies.

After his studies in the social sciences and geography at Utrecht University where he graduated in 1959, Dirk van de Kaa went to Australia to pursue his studies in demography. His work on a demographic research project in Western New Guinea and later as a Research Fellow at the Demography Department of the Australian National University in Canberra, culminated in taking his PhD in Demography at the Australian National University with a thesis on *The Demography of Papua-New Guinea's Indigenous Population* (1971). While he liked to refer to Australia as his second homeland, he was invited to return to the Netherlands in 1971 to become the founding Director of the Netherlands Interuniversity Demographic Institute NIDI, an institute that he led until 1987.

In addition to his policy-oriented scientific work, his extensive bibliography ranges widely. But for many colleagues his groundbreaking work on the Theory of the Second Demographic Transition, jointly formulated with his Belgian colleague Ron Lesthaeghe, as a framework to understand modern population dynamics, will especially be remembered.

For many, it has been a great privilege to collaborate with Dirk van de Kaa, who will not only be remembered as a highly reputed and learned scientist, but also as a person of great integrity and wisdom. Dirk will be dearly missed and remembered with kindness by many.

He is survived by his wife Jacomien, his daughter Marjan and his son Jan Hein.

Written by Nico van Nimwegen, 30 May 2026

Yasuhiko Saito (1955–2026)

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Yasuhiko Saito, Research Project Professor at the College of Economics, Nihon University. He died on April 11, 2026, in Tokyo, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Born in 1955, Professor Saito was a distinguished scholar whose academic journey began at Nihon University, where he graduated from the Department of Economics in 1979. He later moved to the United States to pursue further studies, earning his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Southern California (USC) in 1993. He began his research career at USC under the mentorship of demographer Eileen Crimmins and economist Richard Easterlin. In 1995, he returned to his alma mater in Tokyo, where he dedicated over two decades to research and teaching.



Professor Saito was a leading figure in demography, gerontology, and population health. His work focused on active and healthy life expectancy, centenarian research, and the social determinants of health among older populations in both developed and developing countries. He promoted data collection for the study of ageing and health in Asian countries. He led a six-wave national longitudinal survey on ageing and health in Japan—the Nihon University Japanese Longitudinal Study of Ageing—which remains a cornerstone of gerontological research. He also worked on a five-country comparative study of centenarians (5-COOP), involving Denmark, France, Japan, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Professor Saito was also affiliated with Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore, where he contributed to research on ageing and health, particularly through longitudinal studies. At the time of his death, he was serving as Senior Research Fellow and Senior Advisor to the President on Population Ageing at the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and was overseeing the conduct of a groundbreaking longitudinal survey on ageing and health in the Philippines and Viet Nam.

Professor Saito's research contributed significantly to advancing population studies in Japan, Asia, and globally, with an emphasis on improving population health and standardizing the measurement of healthy life expectancy. He was an internationally recognized scholar who dedicated himself to advancing and standardizing the healthy life expectancy calculation methods, including the Sullivan method, IMACh, and SPACE. He collaborated closely with the REVES international network as one of its most experienced and longest-serving members, helping to improve how the world understands the quality of life in ageing societies. In 1997, he hosted and organized the annual REVES meeting at Nihon University in Tokyo. He also led the Asia-REVES subnetwork in the 1990s, actively promoting the use of healthy life expectancy across the region. In recent years, he established a workshop dedicated to these methods of healthy life expectancy, held prior to the network's annual meeting.

Professor Saito had an extensive network across regions and institutions. He served as a council member of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) from 2006 to 2009 and as an executive committee member of the International Social Science Council (ISSC), representing IUSSP, from 2010 to 2018. In addition, he served as a member of the 2025 IUSSP Nomination Committee. He was also a member of the 4th Council of the Asian Population Association from 2016 to 2018.

Beyond his technical achievements, Professor Saito was deeply committed to the growth of the academic community. He was a passionate mentor who dedicated himself to developing the capacity of young researchers throughout the Asia-Pacific region. He served as a crucial academic bridge between Japan and the international community, leaving behind a wealth of knowledge and a generation of scholars inspired by his dedication.

Professor Saito is survived by his wife, Tomoko Saito, and their only child, Kazuki.

Written by Reiko Hayashi, Chi-Tsun Chiu and Grace Cruz.

Alphonse L. MacDonald (1940–2026)

The family of Dr. Alphonse L. MacDonald share the sad news of his death on March 4th 2026. He passed away in Paramaribo, Suriname, the country of his birth, following a major stroke suffered late last year while in Suriname visiting family.

Alphonse was born on 8 July 1940 and educated at the University of Nijmegen, where he earned degrees in sociology, anthropology, and research methodology, culminating in a Doctor of Social Sciences in 1975. His academic path led him from the Netherlands to Peru, and eventually into a remarkable international career that spanned more than five decades.



He served as Senior Scientific Expert at the World Fertility Survey, Senior Technical Adviser to the National Household Survey Capability Programme, and later as UNFPA Country Director in Latin America and Nigeria. His leadership continued as Director of the UNFPA Office in Geneva and UNFPA Representative to the European Commission, before concluding his UN career as Senior Population Specialist at the UN Economic Commission for Europe.

Even after retiring in 2004, he never truly stopped working. He continued to advise governments, UN agencies, and statistical offices across Central Asia, Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, and Suriname. Census methodology, data quality, refugee statistics, and the ethics of official statistics remained his passions. He believed deeply that good data mattered because people mattered.

His publications ranged from historical demography to census methodology, fertility and mortality, migration, and statistical ethics. His final scholarly contribution—a 2025 study estimating mortality during the 1918–19 influenza pandemic in Suriname and the Dutch Caribbean—reflected both his intellectual curiosity and his enduring love for the history of his homeland. Alphonse was deeply committed to the international statistical community. He served on editorial boards, scientific committees, and held leadership roles in the Inter American Statistical Institute (IASI), including First Vice-President and President-Elect. He was a proud member of the International Statistical Institute, the International Association of Official Statistics, the Netherlands Society for Statistics and Operations Research, and the IUSSP.

He received many honours throughout his life—including the Gran Cruz de la Orden “Al Mérito por Servicios Distinguidos” (Peru), the UNESCO Commemorative Medal for the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the title of Commander in the Honorary Order of the Yellow Star in Suriname.

To his family, he was more than his titles. He was a man who loved languages, history, and long conversations. He was endlessly curious, meticulous in thought, and quietly proud of his Surinamese roots. He leaves behind his wife of 42 years, his four children, his grandsons, and his great granddaughter, who all brought him immense joy in his final years.

His family are grateful that his work touched so many lives and strengthened the foundations of population science around the world and take comfort in knowing that his legacy lives on—in the institutions he helped build, the colleagues he mentored, and the generations of scholars who will continue the work he cared for so deeply.

Tom Merrick 1939-2026

We are saddened to report the death of Thomas W. Merrick on 18 March 2026. An IUSSP member since 1968, he was a distinguished economist and demographer whose work helped shape the study of population and development in Latin America and beyond.



Born in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1939, Merrick earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania, where he developed a lifelong interest in the relationship between demographic change and economic development. Early in his career, he worked as an economist for the U.S. Agency for International Development and later held teaching and research appointments at several institutions, including Georgetown University, the University of Pennsylvania, George Washington University, and the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) in Brazil. Merrick served as President of the Population Reference Bureau and as Senior Adviser for Population and Reproductive Health at the World Bank.

Tom Merrick played an important role in the development of demographic research and training in Brazil. In the early 1970s, he joined the Centre for Development and Regional Planning (CEDEPLAR) at UFMG during the formative years of its demographic programme. His presence, made possible through support from the Ford Foundation, contributed significantly to the establishment of CEDEPLAR as an internationally recognized centre for population studies. He was also among the participants in the early efforts to strengthen demographic training and research in Latin America, helping to foster a generation of scholars and institutions that would shape the field in the region.

His research focused on fertility change, population dynamics, and economic development. He co-authored *Population and Economic Development in Brazil* (1979), with Douglas Graham, a landmark analysis of Brazil's demographic transformation that remains an important contribution to Brazilian and Latin American demography. He also collaborated with Elza Berquó on pioneering research that brought international attention to fertility decline in Brazil.

Later in his career, Merrick served as President of the Population Reference Bureau and as Senior Adviser for Population and Reproductive Health at the World Bank. He has served on boards and consultancies for UNFPA, the Ford Foundation, the Macarthur Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the American Public Health Association, and the National Academy of Sciences.

Throughout his professional life, he was known for bridging economics, demography, and public health and for his commitment to evidence-based policy and international collaboration.

Colleagues remember Tom Merrick not only for his intellectual contributions but also for his generosity, kindness, and collegial spirit. His influence on demographic research, particularly in Brazil and Latin America, and his longstanding engagement with the international population community leave a lasting legacy.

TOM MERRICK by Eduardo L.G. Rios-Neto

I knew Merrick from a few encounters at scientific events such as the PAA and IUSSP meetings. He was a true gentleman, among the most cordial that I ever met. He treated me as something of a grandson, given his foundational role in Cedeplar's demography and the fact that his Penn student, Paulo Paiva, was my master's thesis advisor. His 1979 book with Douglas Graham, *Population and Economic Development in Brazil*, is the best economic/historical demography account of Brazilian demographic dynamics until the end of the third quarter of the twentieth century. Merrick published a book with Elza Berquo in 1983 that was a pioneering work in highlighting fertility decline to the English-speaking public; it was also a pioneer in the use of microdata. In terms of my own doctoral dissertation, I was influenced by his application of Easterlin's bequests/land availability hypothesis to the Brazilian case, as published in *Demography* (1978) and *Research in Population Economics* (1981). His paper on piped water and early childhood mortality, published in *Demography* (1985), was also key to micro-macro modeling of mortality. An influential and pioneer modern demographer to the Brazilian studies that will be missed.

New members

9 new members joined the IUSSP between 1 December 2025 and 28 February 2026.

Bangladesh: Abu Hasanat M Kishowar Hossain. **Kenya:** Glory Achokor. **Korea, Rep:** Jisu Kim; Joeun Kim. **Moldova:** Elena Sîrbu. **Netherlands:** Frank van Tubergen. **Nigeria:** Oluwawemimo Ayandosu. **Turkey:** Sutay Yavuz. **Uganda:** Wenceslaus Sseguya.

New Student Members

4 new student members joined the IUSSP between 1 December 2025 and 28 February 2026.

Ghana: Annie Buabeng. **India:** Rahul Jha; Pooja Pagad. **Switzerland:** Maria Capt.