



December 17, 2018

Mary Ellen Zuppan
Executive Director
International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)
3-5 rue Nicolas
75980 Paris Cedex 20
France

Dear Mary Ellen Zuppan,

It gives us great pleasure to write this nomination letter for the IUSSP Laureate Award in support of **Dr. Gordon De Jong**, Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Demography and the founding Director of the Graduate Program in Demography at Penn State.

In line with the eligibility requirement for the Laureate Award, Gordon De Jong has been an IUSSP member for forty-four years (since 1974).

Joining me in this nomination are four other IUSSP members, each different nationalities. Our names are listed below:

Dr. Stephen A. Matthews (Nationality: UK & USA/Residence: USA)
Dr. Vladimir Canudas-Romo (Nationality: Mexico/Residence: Australia)
Dr. Dirgha Jibi Ghimire (Nationality: Nepali/ Residence: USA)
Ms. Syeda Saman Naz, MSPH (Nationality: Pakistani/ Residence: USA)
Dr. Nimfa B. Ogena (Nationality: Filipino/Residence: Philippines)

We, the nominees, all have ties to Penn State where Gordon has been the intellectual leader in demographic instruction and research since arriving on campus in 1963, over a half century ago. Although retired Gordon remains active; most recently helping to develop and launch the new online Certificate and Masters Graduate Programs in Applied Demography and he continues to come in to the office every day. Gordon reviews manuscripts and grants and continues to serve the discipline, the university, research centers and his home department.

Below we briefly summarize Gordon's many contributions to the field of demography. While we will refer to academic contributions, publications, grants and awards, arguably the greatest contribution has been Gordon's vision to create a unique interdisciplinary (dual-degree) training program in Demography at Penn State. From humble beginnings, the current program now includes over 45 faculty and approximately 70 graduate students from across ten academic departments at the university; seven of these departments are now formal 'major' dual-degree partners with Demography (the seven departments are: Agricultural Economics, Anthropology, Economics, Health Policy and Administration, Human Development and Family Studies, Rural Sociology and Sociology). And, many other departments have had graduate students take a doctoral minor in Demography (including

Biobehavioral Health, Education, and Geography). To grow and sustain a program that would support the training of both U.S. and developing country demography students, Gordon secured over 40 cumulative years of competitively-awarded training grants from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute of Aging, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. As befits a scholar of Gordon's stature and longevity he has quite simply introduced thousands of undergraduate and graduate students to the study of demography and has done more than almost anyone else at Penn State to internationalize the curriculum across the social sciences (ranging from topics and courses taught to helping recruit scholars engaged in international research and instruction). The data on graduate students speaks for itself.

Under Gordon's tutelage the Demography program has graduated over 275 Ph.D. graduates; at last count he personally had supervised 31 Master's and 33 Ph.D. graduates, and served on the thesis committees of an additional 90 students in demography and sociology at Penn State; these are remarkable numbers. These 100+ graduate students have gone on to have distinguished careers in academia, government and international agencies and also in business and applied demography in the United States and internationally. Indeed, many of Penn State's Demography alumni are now leaders in the field in their own right and they all can trace the development of their theoretical, substantive and methodological skills to a program envisioned, designed and directed by Gordon DeJong. While Gordon transitioned out of the director position in July 2013 his legacy is the creation of the largest and most successful interdisciplinary social science training program at Penn State. The Demography Program's success is recognized by the Graduate School who annually provide resources in the form of research assistantships, tuition waivers, recruitment funds and travel grants for the students in the program (note, these funds are above and beyond the resources available to the students via their own home academic department). Moreover, Penn State's Demography program is one of the largest and among the highest ranked demographic training programs in the U.S (source: *U.S. News and World Report* evaluation of doctoral programs, 2006).

Academic Background and Employment History: Gordon is a native of Kentucky, USA. He earned his B.A. degree in sociology from Central College (Iowa) and then both an M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology with an emphasis in demography from the University of Kentucky. Before joining Penn State in 1963 he did post-graduate work in demography at the University of Chicago. Gordon rose through the academic ranks in the Department of Sociology at Penn State becoming a Full Professor in 1972, served as acting head 1979-80, and later becoming a Distinguished Professor in 1991. Importantly for Penn State, Gordon was one of the co-founders of the Population Issues Research Center (1972), now the Population Research Institute, of which he twice served as Director (1974-76 and 1982-88). In addition to his positions at Penn State, De Jong has been a Senior Fellow at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii (1978-79), and a visiting faculty at the Netherlands Graduate School in Demography (1994).

Expertise: Gordon is a nationally and internationally known expert in migration and immigration research, social demography, population aging, and the demography of Pennsylvania. His current research program focuses on immigrant human capital and population growth patterns across immigrant destination metropolitan areas in the U.S., and on inequalities in health care access and utilization among Mexican children of immigrants in diverse metropolitan destination contexts. Recently completed NIH and NSF grant-supported research focused on the impact of U.S. welfare reform policies on the migration decisions of poor families. Over his career De Jong has conducted external grant-supported research projects on internal and international migration in the U.S., Great Britain, The Netherlands, Israel, Peru, The Philippines, Thailand, Romania, and South Africa. Results from these studies have been presented to the United Nations, the European Union, to U.S. national and state government leaders, and at international professional association forums. His publications include three books, *Migration Decision Making*, *Social Demography*, and *Appalachian Fertility Decline*, and

approaching 130 professional research articles, book chapters, and reviews, focusing primarily on internal migration in the U.S. and developing countries, immigration to the U.S., aging population problems and fertility trends as well as on pedagogy and the teaching of demography.

Over his career, De Jong has received 30 competitively awarded grants from governmental agencies and foundations to support his research and training activities. Perhaps less well known in the academic community Gordon has been active locally (in Pennsylvania) and authored over two dozen policy research reports on demographic trends for state government executive and legislative officials, business leaders, and citizens of the state.

Professional Service: Gordon has been an active member of Population Association of America (PAA) for over four decades and has an impressive track record of participation and service. He served as editor of *Demography* (1987-1990), the official scientific publication of the PAA, and has served as Chair of the PAA Publications Committee and as a member of the Clifford C. Clogg Award Committee (1996-1999). Within the American Sociological Association Gordon has served as the elected Chair of the Population Section (2002-2003), an elected member of the Council of the International Migration Section (1998-2001), and a member of the Demography Certification Committee. As noted above Gordon holds professional membership in the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and in both the International Sociological Association and the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. In addition, he has served other academic societies (Rural Sociology Society), numerous journals as an associate editor and reviewer, and reviewed grants for the National Science Foundation for over 30 years. Finally, in addition to his service to the Graduate Program in Demography and the Population Research Institute, Gordon has been a tremendous servant to the Department of Sociology, the College of the Liberal Arts and the University as a whole serving on, and chairing, all kinds of committees and boards.

Post-retirement Gordon has been an instrumental in the design and conceptualization of new online Graduate Certificate and Masters degree programs being developed as part of the World Campus at Penn State (launched in 2017-2018). Gordon's expertise and extensive contact list within the field of demography and applied demography has been a valuable resource for both course development and increasingly for advertising/recruitment and leveraging the numerous PhD graduates in non-academic applied demography positions that are graduates of our residential program). Not to put too fine a point on it, while Gordon is unlikely to be ever listed as the instructor of record in the online programs it is clear that these two programs would never have been developed without his input during the formative and preparatory stages. Indeed, Gordon is the author of several of the course proposals that were necessary to formalize the request to the Penn State Graduate School and the University's Board of Trustees to invest in the development of these programs. In addition, Gordon has provided funds to help defer student application fees for the program. He is determined to make this new program work and be sustainable.

Honors and Awards: Most recently Gordon became an honoree of the Population Association of America (PAA) <http://www.populationassociation.org/sidebar/paa-fund-campaign/honored-members/gordon-de-jong/>, and award bestowed on him recognizing his long and distinguished career and contribution to Demography at Penn State, in the United States and internationally. In addition, Gordon has received several other awards over his career. From Penn State he received the Provosts Award for Excellence in Collaborative Teaching (1994), the W. LaMarr Kopp International Achievement Award (1997) for significant contribution to the international mission of the University, the Outstanding Service to the College of Liberal Arts Award (2010), and the university Graduate Program Chair Leadership Award (2012). Gordon was selected as a Danforth Associate, named to Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Sociology, Men of Achievement, American Men and Women

of Science, and has received distinguished alumnus awards from both of his alma maters (Central College and the University of Kentucky).

In summary, Gordon's intellectual vision and promotion of demography at Penn State has had far reaching effects. His enthusiasm for all things demography has been passed along to generations of undergraduate and especially graduate students. For over forty years Gordon has devoted his energies to creating and providing a supportive training environment, with state of the art infrastructural support, that has made Penn State a leading place to study demography. Beyond the classroom Gordon has mentored and provided advice to faculty at Penn State, alumni, and many other besides. He remains active on a NIH research grant, still advises graduate students, and is involved with other faculty at Penn State in new initiatives that will one day lead to the delivery of online applied demography courses.

In light of his far reaching impact on generations of demographers across the world, his research on migration and immigration, social demography and aging, and his service to the field of demography over a distinguished career spanning five decades at Penn State we unreservedly nominate Dr. Gordon De Jong for the IUSSP Laureate Award.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Matthews, Ph.D.
Vladimir Canudas-Romo, Ph.D.
Dirgha Jibi Ghimire, PhD.
Ms. Syeda Saman Naz, MSPH
Nimfa B. Ogena, Ph.D.