

IUSSP Webinar on
**Priorities in research on international migration and mobilities:
Implications of the COVID pandemic and its legacies**

November 5, 2020

Q&As

- 1 When will the workshop on R program will be held?
Suzan Mohamed (suzan.mohamed75@yahoo.com)
 - At the end of February 2021 probably over a few days. It will be open access. Please join! We will be sending out a call for registration - probably in December or early January. I will make sure you receive an invitation.
- 2 Due to internet connection I have missed a lot. Will you make presentations available?
Ines Raimundo (inesmacamo@gmail.com)
 - Yes, we will make a recording available after the meeting and send a link to all the attendees and those who registered for the webinar.
- 3 What are the main biases from mobile data on mobility ?
Jaber Belkhiria (jabelkhiria@ucdavis.edu)
 - Many and varied biases! Demography is an important one - children typically do not carry phone, nor the elderly. Wealth biases exist in many countries, and geographical biases exist in coverage and use too.
- 4 Did you consider other factors such as Symptomatic/ Asymptomatic rates? Age ? Requesting a PCR test upon entry to a country?
Jaber Belkhiria (jabelkhiria@ucdavis.edu)
 - In this model, we didn't split between symptomatic/asymptomatic--we lumped all infected people together, partly because we figured the March lockdowns affected most people similarly in terms of travel, regardless of infection status. And no ages explicitly modeled, partly because we didn't look at death/hospitalizations, only cases.
 - As far as the testing during cross-country movement, we didn't include it in the presented simulations, but in terms of the results, that kind of effect serves to slow down the potential cross-border spread (therefore causing the waves we observed to take longer generally, equally across the simulations).
 - Further details here: <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/369/6510/1465>
 - My thinking was more that symptomatics will be less mobile (travel less). Implementing PCR requests is a very important parameter to consider indeed. Thanks for the link !
- 6 Could there be any ethical issues involved in using mobile phone based data?
Papiya Mazumdar (papiya.mazumdar@york.ac.uk)
 - Definitely - ethics assessments and approvals are vital with such data. We only work with aggregated and anonymised data from which no individual can be identified (kind of like traffic flows that you see on Google maps), and often these are pre-processed to remove small numbers of flows.

7 I'd like to ask panelist, if they had a chance to advice policies (such as national lockdowns) using the results of theirs analyses (e.g. synchronised lockdowns).

Michaela Sedovic (m.sedovicova@lse.ac.uk)

- Yes. The findings from our studies have been timely disseminated to the WHO, EU CDC, US CDC, Chinese CDC, and many other national and international organizations for tailoring strategies.
- Thank you. If I may another question (I am sorry if this was a part of your presentation, at some point I had troubles with the internet connection, so I might have missed it). Were your results applied in some country already and is it possible to look at the difference they brought?
- Our studies did have some influence on some countries, such as the lifting the lockdown in China, and the early response in Africa regarding the importation risk from China. But I think it's a challenge to quantify the impact of these in different countries.

8 how likely do demographers get access to big data sets?

Aris Ananta (arisananta@ui.ac.id)

- As far as mobile phone-based data hopefully increasingly so! A lot of the mobility-oriented datasets are being recognized as really important with COVID, and I think a lot of orgs are moving to make them open to researchers more broadly
- I will ask this in the Q&A
 - depending on the data you are looking for you can look here for data on births/population counts: <https://www.worldpop.org/project/categories?id=5>
 - It depends on the data required. For example, Academic institutions and non-profits can access quite detailed mobility datasets of the kind we used here through signing agreements on data usage: <https://dataforgood.fb.com/>

9 Is it possible to say the most part of migration was in fact internal migration during this period?

Jackeline Romio (jackeline.romio@gmail.com)

- Yes - internal movements/migration normally far exceed international levels, and it's likely that during covid this gap was increased further due to major drops in international travel

10 Prof Zohry, thanks for the presentation. Are there any examples you may have of integrated migration datasets such as cross border statistics and administrative data, to compliment the dicennial census? Countries relying only on census data are disadvantaged.

Mary Muyonga (mary.kalerwa@gmail.com)

- Prof. Muyonga, thank you for your question. as you may know countries usually hide administrative data. A few countries publish them. most of countries consider them as a security issue. I think we need to push for national International Migration Surveys. These surveys may make available comprehensive and comparable data on migration. At the same time, we need to push for publishing administrative data.
- Thank you. I agree with the need for International Migration Survey and the demand for published administrative data. Hope to hear the status of the earlier process from Prof Kraly.

11 Thank you. If I may another question (I am sorry if this was a part of your presentation, at some point I had troubles with the internet connection, so I might have missed it). Were your results applied in some country already and is it possible to look at the difference they brought?

Michaela Sedovic (m.sedovicova@lse.ac.uk)

- We are collaborating actively with UK Office for National Statistics and other government agencies on the types of mobility data we presented to shape policies. Lai

can give you some insights on our China work. We have also had engagements with Europe CDC and Africa CDC (e.g. prioritising surveillance in early stages of spread)

- 12 Do you think that travel restrictions could promote covid-19 transmission as it leads to more irregular/ uncontrolled movements ?
Jaber Belkhiria (jabelkhiria@ucdavis.edu)
 - Good question but no simple answer
 - Any suggestions Marie?
- 13 Question to Marie: What impact Covid 19 can wield on migration policy in the future? Even after Covid 19 eradication.
Mohammad Haddadi (Mohammadhaddadi41@gmail.com)
- 14 Question to Marie: How do we translate these migration research priorities into canvassing policy makers to push back against proposed policies that marginalise migrants even more and that seek to capitalise upon anti migrant sentiment (xenophobia) that may have arisen in shadow of Covid-19?
Diego Iturralde (diegoi@statsa.gov.za)
- 15 There is a clear overlap between migration and mobility in the presentation of the participants and between modern methods of data acquisition and analysis. Is it intended to introduce modern methods to be used in the development of migration research?
Yaser Helmy (yhkamis.c@ksu.edu.sa)
 - Thank you Yaser for your question. In fact mobilities include all types of movement. Migration is well-defined in demography.
- 16 There is an additional question for Dr. Ayman: Is such recent data available for use in research in some countries?
Yaser Helmy (yhkamis.c@ksu.edu.sa)
- 17 Thank you all & IUSSP for organizing this important sharings.
Sunethra Perera (sunethrae@gmail.com)