RC41 NEWSLETTER 2026_2

The RC41 Newsletter is published twice per year by the board of the Research Committee on Sociology of Population (RC41) of the International Sociological Association (ISA), and sent electronically to all RC41 mailing list members. Please, send contributions to walter.bartl@soziologie.uni-halle.de

Contributions should be no more than 1,000 words long. They will be reviewed by the RC41 board members for possible publication and may be edited for clarity or to fit the available space.

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EDITORIAL

Dear friends and members of RC41,

Looking back on the time since our last newsletter, one activity stands out: the RC41 Mid-Term Conference “Population Dynamics in the Global North and the Global South: Age structural transitions, migration, and changing places”, at Carlos III University of Madrid (UC3M), 10-11 September 2026.

I am very grateful that our treasurer, Alberto Veira-Ramos, took the initiative to organize this conference. It took place at the Getafe Campus of UC3M, located on the outskirts of Madrid. At that time of year, temperatures in Spain are already mild, which made the venue a very attractive location. As it happened, Leonor, Princess of Asturias, had started her university studies at UC3M earlier that week, which made this second-tier city unusually popular with fans and journalists and accommodation during those days rather expensive.

At the conference, 31 papers were presented, five of them online because some participants had difficulties in obtaining a travel visa. The papers had 50 authors from 19 countries – vivid proof that this is a truly international research committee. Spain and India were the most strongly represented countries.

Overall, it was a very stimulating event, not only in terms of the papers presented and the lively discussions but also for building and maintaining a vital and cohesive academic community of population scholars. Some photos of the event are included in the Reports section below.

Looking ahead, the World Congress of Sociology in Gwangju is coming up next year. RC41 received a record number of abstract submissions, demonstrating how timely and topical the sociology of population is. This is not surprising, given that countries in Asia are facing quite heterogeneous population dynamics posing very different policy challenges.

We have several new members in RC41, and I am especially grateful that they accepted my invitation to send me their short bios, which I have happily included. Thank you for continuing to send us information for the newsletter. If you have any last-minute updates, feel free to use our mailing list by sending a message to rc41_members@lists.uni-halle.de.

Walter Bartl

REPORTS

RC41 MID-TERM CONFERENCE “POPULATION DYNAMICS IN THE GLOBAL NORTH AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH: AGE STRUCTURAL TRANSITIONS, MIGRATION, AND CHANGING PLACES”, CARLOS III UNIVERSITY OF MADRID (UC3M), 10-11 SEPTEMBER 2026.








UPCOMING CONFERENCES

XXI ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY, JULY 4 – 10, 2027, GWANGJU, KOREA

Presenter registration opens 4 December 2026: https://www.isa-sociology.org/isa-events/xxi-world-congress-of-sociology

CALL FOR PAPERS

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN SETTINGS OF ARMED CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE.

Collection in Population Health Metrics. Submission deadline 31 May 2027.

Guest editors: Ursula Gazeley, PhD, University of Oxford, United Kingdom. Signe Svallfors, PhD, Stockholm University, Sweden. Orsola Torrisi PhD, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

More details: https://link.springer.com/collections/hbfaiefabc

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Veira-Ramos, A., Ivashchenko-Stadnik, K. and Liubyva, T. (2026). *Ukrainian society during wartime: Grassroots resilience as a mechanism for social transformation*. Palgrave Macmillan. https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-97841-8

Villacís, B. (2026). *Practical guide to measure corruption: Transforming national anti-corruption priorities into evidence-based action*. United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) & United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). https://track.unodc.org/track/uploads/res/track/resourcehub/2026/practical_guide_to_measure_corruption_transforming_national_anti-corruption_priorities_into_evidence-based_action_html/UNSD_UNODC_Practical_Guide_to_Measure_Corruption_2026.pdf

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Jasso, G. (2026). From foundations of justice analysis to current and future challenges. *Social Justice Research, 39*(2), 216–253. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11211-026-00476-6

Villacís, B. (2026). Governing expertise through anti-corruption: How governance mechanisms authorize expertise and ratify power. *Frontiers in Political Science, 8*, Article 1869966. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2026.1869966

Villacís, B. (2026). Manufactured invisibility: Statistical infrastructure erosion and the reconfiguration of anticorruption and anti–organized crime capacity in Ecuador. *Frontiers in Political Science, 8*, Article 1812428. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2026.1812428

BOOK CHAPTERS

Nelson, G. L. (2026). Poverty and the incidence of teenage pregnancy in the Philippines. In S. Katz & L. Livesey (Eds.), *The international handbook of women and poverty*. Bloomsbury.

RESEARCH NETWORK NEWS

Byron Villacís recently joined the World Elite Database (WED), an international collaborative research network studying elite populations and national power structures through comparative data. He will coordinate the Ecuadorian team, together with William Echeverría Tigse. https://worldelitedatabase.org/teams/

Alberto Veira-Ramos was appointed as Deputy Chair of the Council of Research Networks for the European Sociological Association (ESA) for the 2026–2028 term (elected in August 2026 at the Warsaw ESA Conference).

NEW MEMBERS

CYNTHIA T COOK

Cynthia T Cook, PhD has been teaching and researching global health issues in sociology for over 25 years focusing on social indicators. She has a master's in sociology from the University of Chicago and a doctorate from Texas Woman's University. She has published peer review articles on skilled health attendants, Sangomas/traditional healers, and polygamy. She has edited three books including her most recent: Voices in Medical Sociology published by Cognella Press in 2025. This book contains three recent articles: Social Determinants for Maternal Health in Sub-Saharan Africa; COVID-19, BCG, and Sub-Saharan Africa; and Staying Alive: The Right to Live or Brain Dead. Dr. Cook's teaching career includes being a Senior Lecturer at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York; an Associate Professor at Florida A & M University in Tallahassee, Florida, and an Assistant Professor at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska; she is presently an adjunct professor in Creighton University's Interdisciplinary Leadership Doctoral Program.

Cook, C. T. (2002). The effects of skilled health attendants on reducing maternal deaths in developing countries: Testing the medical model. *Evaluation and Program Planning, 25*(2), 107–116. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0149-7189(02)00003-4

Cook, C. T. (2007). Polygyny: Did the Africans get it right? *Journal of Black Studies, 38*(2), 232–250. https://doi.org/10.1177/0021934705285695

Cook, C. T., & Kalu, K. (2008). The political economy of health policy in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Medicine and Law, 27*, 29–51.

SHU HU

Dr. HU Shu is Associate Professor and Head of the Sociology Programme at School of Humanities and Behavioural Sciences at Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS). She received her PhD in sociology from National University of Singapore. Her research interests center on how family origin, gender, and the state shape the lives and wellbeing of individuals at different stages of the life course. Her recent research projects focus specifically on the intergenerational relations, gender and time use patterns, and divorce patterns in Asia. Her publications have appeared in *Social Science Research, Social Sciences & Medicine, Chinese Sociological Review, Journal of Family Issues, Social Indicators Research, Chinese Journal of Sociology*, and *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

Hu, S. (2018). Parents' migration and adolescents' transition to high school in rural China: The role of parental divorce. *Journal of Family Issues, 39*(12), 3324–3359. https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X18778083

Hu, S., & Gu, X. (2026). Between autonomy and interdependence: The changing parental role in adult children's family formation in China. *Social Science Research, 133*, Article 103279. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2025.103279

Hu, S., & Mu, Z. (2021). Extended gender inequality? Intergenerational coresidence and division of household labor. *Social Science Research, 93*, Article 102497. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2020.102497

QINGYUE LI

My name is Qingyue Li, from China. I am a senior Ph.D. student at the Graduate School of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University in Miyagi, Japan, and expect to advance to candidacy very soon. My research lies at the intersection of the life course, well-being, sequence analysis, social stratification, housing.

SIGNE SVALLFORS

Signe Svallfors (they/them) is Associate Professor of Sociology at the Department of Sociology, Stockholm University. Svallfors' research focuses on the intersection of violence, social inequality, and health dynamics, with an emphasis on reproductive rights and gender-based violence in Latin America. Svallfors is Principal Investigator of the European Research Council

Starting Grant SeRO, which applies mixed methods to understand how local violent crime affects sexuality and reproduction in Mexico. Svallfors holds a PhD in Sociological Demography from Stockholm University (2021) and was previously a postdoctoral researcher at Stanford University and the Karolinska Institute.

Interests: Sexual and reproductive health; gender-based violence; armed conflict; crime; disasters; intersectionality; surveys; GIS; mixed-methods

Svallfors, S. (2026). Armed conflict and unwanted births in Colombia. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior, 67*(2), 290–309. https://doi.org/10.1177/00221465251353533

Svallfors, S., Caudillo, M., & Torrisi, O. (2025). The consequences of community violence for contraceptive use and provision in Mexico. *Demography, 62*(6), 1945–1972. https://doi.org/10.1215/00703370-12319849

Svallfors, S. (2023). Hidden casualties: The links between intimate partner violence and armed conflict in Colombia. *Politics & Gender, 19*(1), 133–165. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1743923X2100043X

SERGI VIDAL

Sergi Vidal is a Professor of Sociology at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Senior Researcher at the Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics (CED), where he leads the Generations and Life Course research group. His research lies at the intersection of social demography, life-course sociology, and social stratification. A central focus of his current work is residential mobility and migration across the life course, including its links with family dynamics, housing, and socioeconomic inequalities. He is currently Principal Investigator of the ERC Consolidator Grant LIFELONGMOVE (https://webs.uab.cat/lifelongmove/), which examines lifetime mobility trajectories and their consequences across different institutional contexts. He is also Vice-President of the European Association for Population Studies (EAPS) and Chair of the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Lifetime Migration. Personal website: https://vidalsergi.wordpress.com/

Vidal, S., Lecoursonnais, M., Brandén, M., & Valente, R. (in press). Context disadvantage and residential mobility from early life into adulthood: Impacts on socio-economic outcomes. *Social Forces*.

Vidal, S., & van Damme, M. (2024). Women's family trajectories after union dissolution: A comparative life course analysis. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 86*(2), 369–390. https://doi.org/10.1111/jomf.12972

Vidal, S., Lersch, P. M., Jacob, M., & Hank, K. (2020). Interdependencies in mothers' and daughters' work-family life course trajectories: Similar but different? *Demography, 57*(4), 1483–1511. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13524-020-00899-z

Vidal, S., Huinink, J., & Feldhaus, M. (2017). Fertility intentions and residential relocations. *Demography, 54*(4), 1305–1330.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Day 1, September 10th

09:00 – 10:15

Demographic Dividend (Plenum)

Demographic Dividends and the Moral Economy of Aging: Rethinking Population Transitions through Social Capital and Cultural Practice	Samuel Ramapuram
Gravity Predictions of International Migration Flows	Jesús Fernández-Huertas Moraga Gonzalo López Molina

10:15 – 10:45

*** Coffee Break ***

10:45 – 12:25

Place (Plenum)

Changes in municipal population structure and the challenges for public health: A local-level analysis in Jalisco, Mexico	Guillermo Julián González-Pérez María Guadalupe Vega-López
Immigration and Pro-European Attitudes: A Multilevel Analysis of Regional Context	Juan J. Fernández
Spatial Distribution Dynamics of the Foreign-Born Population in the Metropolitan Areas of Barcelona and Buenos Aires: A Comparative Analysis	Javier Serrano Besil Ana Romero Fernández Mercedes Di Virgilio Fernando Gil Alonso Cristina López Villanueva Denise Brikman Miguel Rubiales Pérez
The rise of luxury housing in Barcelona: Displacement, cohesion, and identity: The Case of the Dreta de L'Eixample	Montserrat Simó Solsona Ana Romero Fernández Cristina López Villanueva Ana Belén Cano Hila Karla Berrens Torruella

12:25 – 13:25

***** Lunch Break *****

13:25 – 15:05

Internal Migration (Panel 1)

Migrations in Spain, 1950–2021: Demographic and Economic Drivers of Regional Change in a Shifting North–South Context	Ana Gutiérrez Sanchis Paula Remoaldo Carlos Martínez de Ibarreta Zorita
Cities and Citizenship Rights: Why Internal Migration Matters?	Ram B. Bhagat
Moving Millions: The Migration Dynamics of Hazard Risk and Economic Opportunity in India	Subhojit Shaw
Climate Stress and Internal Migration: Changing Population Landscapes in Pakistan	Zubaria Andlib (online)

Fertility Policy (Panel 2)

Health-related social inequalities in the fulfilment of fertility intentions in Spain	Marta Seiz Xiana Bueno Ryohei Mogi Leire Salazar
Voluntary and Involuntary Childlessness in Peru: A Cohort Analysis of Women Born 1936–1984	Robin Cavagnoud

15:05 – 15:30

***** Coffee Break *****

15:30 – 17:10

Depopulation (Plenum)

The "Domino Effect" of Rural Depopulation and Territorial Inequalities: The Case of Spain Within a Global Context	Sergio Andrés Cabello
Changing Places after Industrial Restructuring: Population Dynamics, Urban Shrinkage and Fragile Dependencies in Karabük and Thionville	Merve Karadaban Emmanuèle C. Cunningham-Sabot (online)
Educational Opportunities in Shrinking Societies: Regional Inequality in Access to Upper Secondary Education in Japan	Shinichi Aizawa

Day 2, September 11th

09:00 – 10:15

Demographic Dividend (Plenum)

Youth Population and Skill Development in Tamil Nadu – A Sociological Study	Mahamuni Thamilarasan
Migration, Human Capital, and Ageing: Rethinking Demographic Change in Post-Soviet Georgia	Tatiana Sitchinava Nino Gomelauri

10:15 – 10:45

***** Coffee Break *****

10:45 – 12:25

Refugees (Panel 1)

Forced and Recurrent Displacement from Pakistan's Tribal Districts along the Pakistan–Afghanistan Border: An Analysis of Security, Governance, and Human Security	Islam Gul (online)
Retaining Human Capital Amid War: The Demographic Stakes of Ukraine's IDPs	Tetiana Liubyva

Transnational networks (Panel 2)

Another R of Temporary Migration: Reproduction and Community Mediation among Indonesian Migrants in Japan	Waode Hanifah Istiqomah
Navigating Changing Migration Flows in Post-Socialist Europe: Regional Perspectives from Georgia, Lithuania, Serbia and Slovenia	Sanja Cukut Krilić Jelena Despić Dovilė Galdauskaitė Tatiana Sitchinava
Negotiating Return in a Transnational Context: Narratives of Highly Educated Turkish Migrants in Germany	Özge Güvenç Vural Birsen Şahin Kütük
Negotiating Aging in Transnational Spaces: Retired Korean Nurse "Guestworkers" in Germany	Yonson Ahn (online)

12:25 – 13:25

***** Lunch Break *****

13:25 – 15:05

Aging and Public Policy (Panel 1)

Demographic Aging and Public Policies: The Case of Mexico	María Guadalupe Vega-López Guillermo Julián González-Pérez
Resilient Threads: Demographic Shifts and the Reconfiguration of Artisan Labor in Maheshwar, India	Surbhi Dayal

Family Norms (Panel 2)

Changing Values and Norms about Childcare and Parental Leave Arrangements in Bulgaria: Insights from a Qualitative Study	Elitsa Dimitrova
Gendered Demographic Governance in China: Norm Translation between the Global North and the Global South	Zeynep Temel (online)

15:05 – 15:30

***** Coffee Break *****

15:30 – 17:10

Data Politics (Plenum)

A New Paradigm in Demographic Statistics: Register Integration and Annual Censuses in Spain	Jorge L. Vega Valle
Digitalizing Registers and Depoliticizing the Census in Post-Unification Germany	Walter Bartl
Indian Census: Caste, Social Justice, and Political Agenda	Vinod Chandra
Scale problems in measuring depopulation and their effects on public policy	Alberto Zamorano Cuesta

*** Farewell ***

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Demographic Dividends and the Moral Economy of Aging: Rethinking Population Transitions through Social Capital and Cultural Practice

Samuel Ramapuram (Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany)

This paper explores the contemporary debates on demographic change that remain analytically incomplete without integrating the cultural and moral dimensions of population processes. Engaging the theme of "Population Dynamics in the Global North and the Global South," it responds to dominant emphases on age structure, migration, and policy by foregrounding the moral economy of aging as a critical yet underexplored dimension of demographic transformation. While existing scholarship conceptualises demographic dividends primarily in economic and health terms, this study advances a novel framework that situates aging within culturally embedded systems of value. Theoretically, the paper synthesises Bourdieu's theory of capital, Coleman's social capital, and Appadurai's cultural flows to reconceptualise aging populations as repositories of cultural and relational resources. Extending the notion of the "third demographic dividend," it proposes that intergenerational practices ritual, memory, and community-based knowledge constitute a measurable form of cultural capital. This perspective is further enriched through Sen's capability approach, reframing aging as a domain of potential capability expansion rather than dependency.

Methodologically, the study adopts a comparative multi-sited ethnographic design combined with demographic analysis. Fieldwork spans two contrasting contexts: aging societies in Germany and rapidly transitioning populations in India. The research integrates life-history interviews with older adults, ethnographic observation of intergenerational practices, and secondary demographic data to examine correlations between cultural participation, well-being, and social cohesion. The paper makes two key contributions: first, it introduces the concept of a "moral-cultural demographic dividend"; second, it demonstrates how policies fostering intergenerational exchange and active aging can transform demographic aging into social resilience. By bridging demographic theory and cultural sociology, it offers a globally comparative and empirically grounded framework for understanding population change.

Gravity Predictions of International Migration Flows

Jesús Fernández-Huertas Moraga (Carlos III University of Madrid, Spain)
Gonzalo López Molina (Analistas Financieros Internacionales, Spain)

What is the future of international migration flows? The growing availability of bilateral international migration data has resulted in an improved understanding of the determinants of migration flows through the estimation of theory-based gravity models. However, the use of these models as a prediction tool has remained an understudied research area in economics. This paper estimates simple gravity models of bilateral migration flows for the whole world and projects these models into the future. Our results confirm a limited role for economic factors and a large one for demographic ones, in line with the literature. As a novel contribution, we show that estimates based on net flows are substantially lower than those

based on gross flows. The reason is that network effects are historically more correlated with gross than with net flows.

National and international institutions regularly update population projections, needed to predict the future of macroeconomic variables and different policy scenarios. These projections are based on different assumptions on the path of fertility, mortality and, also, immigration and emigration. In fact, international migration flows accounted for 58 per cent of rich countries' population growth between 1990 and 2020.

The contribution of this paper is to use the gravity framework to predict the evolution of international migration flows by origin, destination and time. The main advantage of the gravity framework is its transparency and simplicity, which allows us to decompose the forces driving future migration --demography, economic conditions, and migrant networks--, and to explore how different assumptions about their evolution map into different migration scenarios. Importantly, we show that this can be achieved at a low cost in terms of predictive ability with respect to competing complex models.

To this end, we both collect data on net flows every 5 years by origin and destination and data on gross flows. We first regress the migration data on a simple set of controls: demographic variables, networks and GDP per capita as a proxy for economic development. Then, we predict migration flows by using existing projections of these variables. Our main results reveal a limited quantitative role for economic factors, though, and a large one for demographic ones, in line with the literature, for the evolution of future migration flows. Almost half of the growth in international migration flows that can be expected until 2050 can be attributed to population growth at origin according to our baseline model. What is new in our paper is that we show that predictions based on net flows are substantially lower than those based on gross flows. The reason for this is that we find that network effects, defined as the influence of the stock of migrants from an origin to a destination on future migration flows, are historically more correlated with gross than with net flows.

Changes in Municipal Population Structure and the Challenges for Public Health: A Local-Level Analysis in Jalisco, Mexico

Guillermo Julián González-Pérez, María Guadalupe Vega-López (Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico)

This study aims to analyze the changes in population structure that have occurred at the municipal level in the state of Jalisco, particularly in the municipalities of Puerto Vallarta (PV) and Cuautla, between 1990 and 2025, and to examine existing projections for 2040. It also seeks to identify the challenges that different demographic structures pose for public health at the local level. Using official population data and existing municipal-level projections, population pyramids were constructed for the years 1990, 2010, 2025, and 2040, and various indicators were calculated, including median age, the Aging Index (AI), the Labor Force Structure Index, and the Elderly Generation Index, among others.

The findings of this study reveal that while the largest concentration of elderly people (EP) is in the state's major cities (such as PV), the percentage of EP reaches very high figures in

predominantly rural municipalities (such as Cuautla, located in the mountains): while it is expected that around 36,000 EP will live in PV by 2040 (AI 61.9), in Cuautla there will be only 352, one hundred times fewer, but with an AI of 217.1. These differences in the aging process are mostly due to the impact of migration, since PV is a magnet for tourism, and Cuautla is one of the 26 municipalities in Jalisco (20% of the total) that have lost population between 1990 and 2025 due to poverty and lack of opportunities.

This means that local health strategies should be better tailored to their specific realities, and that policies designed at the federal or state level often fail to address the problems of these municipalities. The concentration of healthcare personnel and infrastructure in medium-sized or large cities, for example, poses a challenge to healthcare in municipalities like Cuautla, a challenge that needs to be managed at the local level.

Immigration and Pro-European Attitudes: A Multilevel Analysis of Regional Context

Juan J. Fernández (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain)

This study examines whether immigration influences citizens' attitudes toward European integration through exposure to foreigners in everyday environments. While previous research has largely focused on cross-border mobility, much less attention has been paid to domestic transnational exposure, such as living in regions with higher immigrant populations. Using data from 82 Eurobarometer surveys conducted between 2004 and 2023 and covering 191 European regions, the analysis investigates six dimensions of pro-European attitudes, including EU image, support for EU membership, perceived benefits of integration, and European identification. Multilevel models with regional and survey fixed effects assess how regional immigration levels shape these attitudes while controlling for individual and regional characteristics. The study contrasts predictions from interethnic competition theory, which expects immigration to reduce support for European integration, with contact theory, which predicts the opposite effect. Results indicate that regional exposure to immigrants—particularly those from other EU countries—is generally associated with more positive attitudes toward the EU and stronger European identification.

Spatial Distribution Dynamics of the Foreign-Born Population in the Metropolitan Areas of Barcelona and Buenos Aires: A Comparative Analysis

Javier Serrano Besil, Mercedes Di Virgilio, Denise Brikman (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina), Ana Romero Fernández, Fernando Gil Alonso, Cristina López Villanueva, Miguel Rubiales Pérez (Universitat de Barcelona, Spain)

Contemporary cities are undergoing profound transformations driven by the globalization of capital, goods, and people. The arrival of international migrants, their internal distribution within metropolitan areas, and their socio-demographic characteristics are contributing to the reconfiguration of social and residential structures, influencing the dynamics of urban segregation and fragmentation.

The aim of this study is to compare the evolution of settlement patterns among the five main groups of foreign-born populations in the metropolitan areas of Barcelona (AMB, 36

municipalities) and Buenos Aires (AMBA, 25 districts) over the last decade. Three of these groups (those of Venezuelan, Colombian, and Peruvian origin) are common to both areas, whilst Barcelona includes those born in Ecuador and Morocco, and Buenos Aires includes those from Bolivia and Paraguay.

The analytical methodology involves the calculation and cartographic representation of local spatial autocorrelation indicators -also known as LISA or local Moran's I (Anselin, 2019) - from a diachronic perspective. The analysis is carried out at the census tract/district level, covering the last two census updates in Spain (INE) and Argentina (INDEC): 2011 and 2021, and 2010 and 2022, respectively. Univariate and bivariate LISAs, which cross-reference data on country of birth and educational attainment (a proxy for socioeconomic status), enable the concentration of the analyzed populations within the territory to be identified and establish spatial patterns of social differentiation based on the areas in which they are located.

The results show, in both cities, a preference for a more central location among people with a high level of education and a dispersion towards the periphery among those with basic levels of education. The different origins are distributed in more central locations among groups with higher educational levels—Venezuelans in Barcelona and Colombians in Buenos Aires—and are dispersed towards peripheral areas, with a concentration of low educational attainment among those with a higher prevalence of basic education: Moroccans in Barcelona and Paraguayans in Buenos Aires.

The Rise of Luxury Housing in Barcelona: Displacement, Cohesion and Identity. The Case of the Dreta de L'Eixample

Montserrat Simó Solsona, Ana Romero Fernández, Cristina López Villanueva, Ana Belén Cano Hila, Karla Berrens Torruella (Universitat de Barcelona, Spain)

Cities such as Barcelona, Lisbon or Madrid have become consolidated economic, financial and innovation hubs. Barcelona has emerged as a powerful economic center in Southern Europe, attracting new technologies, fostering start-ups and, above all, drawing large-scale investment in the real estate sector. Tourism has intensified processes of gentrification (López-Gay et al., 2022), those are especially evident in Barcelona’s Eixample district (a middle- to upper-middle-class area), where major investors acquire residential buildings of high heritage value and transform them into luxury units.

This communication (funded by the Barcelona Chair of Housing Studies, 2024) analyses the impact of luxury housing’s expansion in the neighbourhood of La Dreta de l’Eixample, focusing on its demographic and social effects, as well as on the relationships between residents and their community, and on the forms of grassroots resistance developed by its residents.

The methodology follows a mixed-methods approach: (a) quantitative analysis of secondary data to examine changes in the neighbourhood’s sociodemographic profile (Municipal Register), and (b) analysis of 20 semi-structured residents’ interviews, co-designed with the Dreta de l’Eixample Neighbourhood Association, to explore the luxury housing’s impact on

residents' relationships and sense of belonging within the social, urban and residential configuration.

The neighbourhood's sociodemographic profile is undergoing a transformation, becoming younger and more diverse in terms of residents' origins as a result of the long-term local residents' "expulsion". The loss of a sense of community is directly reflected in the construction of symbolic identity (Blokland et al., 2023), posing a significant challenge to social cohesion. The findings suggest that the presence of high-end housing increases social distance, leading to a more fragmented city (Musterd, 2020).

Migrations in Spain, 1950–2021: Demographic and Economic Drivers of Regional Change in a Shifting North–South Context

Ana Gutiérrez Sanchis (Carlos III University of Madrid, Spain)
Paula Remoaldo (University of Minho, Portugal)
Carlos Martínez de Ibarreta Zorita (Comillas Pontifical University, Spain)

Spain's long-term migration experience provides a rich setting to examine how demographic and economic dynamics interact over time and across regions in an ageing society. Over the second half of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first, the country has moved from being predominantly a country of emigration to becoming an important destination for foreign immigration, while undergoing profound transformations in its age structure, welfare state and regional development patterns. In this context, the paper addresses the following research question: How do regional demographic and economic configurations, particularly age structure and welfare investment, shape foreign immigration in Spain's Autonomous Communities between 1950 and 2021? By focusing on "changing places" within Spain, the study contributes to broader debates on age-structural transitions, migration and territorial inequality in the Global North and the Global South.

The main objective is to assess whether there is a systematic relationship between economic and demographic variables and migration outcomes, using a quantitative methodological approach. Empirically, the paper builds a regional panel dataset for Spain's Autonomous Communities covering the period 1950–2021. Official statistics on migration flows and stocks are combined with indicators of regional economic performance and demographic composition, including gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, unemployment rate, public health expenditure per capita, ageing index, dependency ratio and the share of foreign residents. Particular attention is paid to public health expenditure per capita and its spatial lag, in order to capture both the role of welfare provision and potential spillover effects across neighboring regions. The empirical analysis draws on multivariate panel data models that exploit the temporal and territorial dimensions of the dataset, controlling for unobserved heterogeneity across regions and identifying robust associations between demographic and economic drivers and migration outcomes.

The findings confirm the central hypothesis of the paper. Regional GDP per capita and public health expenditure are positively and significantly associated with the number of foreign immigrants, indicating that both economic opportunity and welfare state capacity act as key pull factors in the Spanish context. By contrast, the ageing index shows an inverse

relationship with the presence of foreigners, suggesting that regions with more aged populations tend to attract fewer foreign migrants. Once these factors are taken into account, the unemployment rate does not exhibit a significant effect, which points to the need to look beyond labour market indicators alone when explaining migration patterns in ageing societies. These results underscore the importance of considering age structure and welfare investment alongside economic indicators when examining migration processes, and highlight the relevance of regional welfare regimes for understanding migration in the Global North.

The paper concludes by discussing the implications of these patterns for regional divergence and social cohesion in Spain. By linking age-structural transitions, welfare state configurations and migration, the study shows how demographic and economic drivers shape "changing places" within a country that has moved from emigration to immigration. It also offers insights for understanding similar dynamics in other regions of the Global North and the Global South, where ageing, welfare restructuring and migration intersect in complex ways.

Cities and Citizenship Rights: Why Internal Migration Matters?

Ram B. Bhagat (International Institute for Population Sciences, India)

Cities are spaces of relationships between people and places. It is both a form and a process determining who gets what, and where. However, in social sciences, space and place have been viewed mostly as containers of things. As such, the roles of cities in simultaneously producing prosperity and poverty, benefits and costs, inclusion and exclusion are hardly recognised in dominant urban theories. Henri Lefebvre (1991) and David Harvey (2008) have argued for the importance of the Right to the City as a critical strategy for advancing human rights and human well-being, restoring places to the people, and redefining the relationship between the people and the state.

Latin words such as *civis* (citizen), *civitas* (the city as a body of citizens with rights and duties), and *civilitas* (the craft of government) show close association with the word city. Nationalism across the world has crystallized in prime cities, as people evolved from subjects to citizens, and the polity from monarchy to democracy. Urban citizenship emerged as a precondition for national citizenship. It means people's relationship with the city shaped their relationship with the nation. However, as people differ in their capabilities determined by their socio-economic status, including their migratory status, the city as a site of subjugation, contest, and advancement of citizenship rights is hardly emphasized in migration literature because of the overwhelming influence of methodological nationalism, narrowly focusing on international migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and irregular migrants, who are largely non-citizens in the Global North. In the Global South, increasing urbanisation raised different issues and challenges in the relationship between people and the state, mostly unleashed by internal migration, directed towards large cities.

The paper argues that the relationship between internal migrants and cities requires a theoretical lens of methodological spatialism, which is not only city-centric but also concerned with the substantive rights of migrants as citizens. Unlike formal citizenship rights, which are legal rights, such as the right to vote and elect a government, substantive rights,

such as economic and social rights, including the rights to food, health, education, employment, housing, etc., are necessary for developing the capabilities of citizens and defining the progress of a nation. Internal migrants fulfil formal citizenship rights, but many fail to achieve substantive rights. Although both rights are mutually reinforcing, formal rights are meaningless when substantive rights are not fulfilled.

The paper presents various categories of internal migrants, such as long-term and short-term migrants of seasonal, temporary, and circular nature based on census and National Sample Survey (NSS) data, and assesses their socio-economic conditions based on indicators like access to food, housing, clean fuel, improved drinking water, health insurance, etc., highlighting the extent to which substantive citizenship rights are fulfilled. This paper concludes that a just city, inclusive of internal migrants, rests on the fulfilment of substantive rights, vital for democracy and the nation.

Moving Millions: The Migration Dynamics of Hazard Risk and Economic Opportunity in India

Subhojit Shaw (National Institute of Disaster Management, India)

Background: India is one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, where recurrent floods, earthquakes, and landslides collectively cause tens of thousands of deaths, displace millions, and erode the livelihoods of communities living on the margins of environmental risk. Between 2000 and 2025, these hazards caused over 73,600 deaths and rendered 14.7 million people homeless, with floods alone accounting for economic damages exceeding USD 102 billion. While urbanization offers a pathway to a better life for many, it is important to recognize the uneven impact of natural disasters on urban residents. India has experienced a series of devastating natural disasters in recent decades. Moreover, the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change have disproportionately affected the low-income population. Scientists believe human activity is making these events more common and severe.

Research Questions: Do individuals residing in natural hazard zones migrate more than those in non-hazard zones, and does access to livelihood opportunities moderate this relationship across gender and economic groups?

Data and method: The analysis in this paper was based on multiple data sources. First, we have identified the natural hazard zones (earthquakes, floods, and cyclones) using the Vulnerability Atlas of India from the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council, Government of India (BMTPC). Secondly, we have used built-up areas (GHS-BUILT), population density (GHS-POP) and a settlement model (GHS-SMOD) from the Global Human Settlement Layer (GHSL). Alongside, we have used geocoded data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), conducted in 2019-21, comprising 721,525 women and 101,428 men across India's diverse geo-climatic landscape. Multivariate logistic regression models with interaction terms were estimated to compute adjusted odds ratios for migration, stratified by gender and household wealth status, to measure migration patterns, as well as other socio-demographic and economic data.

Result: The findings reveal a pronounced gendered distinction in mobility. Female migration is overwhelmingly institutionally driven, with married women over 22 times more likely to migrate than unmarried women (AOR = 22.30), confirming that social norms and marital institutions dominate over environmental or economic push factors. Male migration, by contrast, is more economically structured, with wealth, employment, and destination livelihood opportunity as primary drivers. The interaction analysis further shows that while higher livelihood access promotes out-migration for both sexes, hazard exposure substantially dampens this effect most severely among the poorest households who face a compounded constraint of low opportunity and high environmental risk that renders adaptive migration effectively unattainable.

Conclusion: This study highlights a critical intersection of gender, poverty, and environmental risk that severely limits their capacity to migrate as an adaptation strategy. Effective policy must prioritise livelihood diversification within hazard zones, portable social protection mechanisms, and gender-sensitive programming that addresses the structural barriers constraining women's autonomous mobility. The study contributes both theoretically, by empirically validating the dual-driver framework in the Indian context, and practically, by generating nationally representative evidence to inform spatially targeted disaster-migration policy.

Climate Stress and Internal Migration: Changing Population Landscapes in Pakistan

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Climate change is increasingly reshaping patterns of human mobility and population distribution across the Global South. In many climate-vulnerable countries, environmental shocks such as extreme heat, floods, and droughts undermine local livelihoods and push households to relocate in search of economic stability and safer living conditions. Pakistan provides a critical context for examining these dynamics because it faces recurrent climate shocks, including rising temperatures, severe floods, and water scarcity. These environmental pressures disproportionately affect rural communities and may contribute to changing patterns of internal migration and spatial population redistribution. Against this backdrop, this study addresses the following research question: To what extent do climate-related shocks influence internal migration patterns in Pakistan, and how do these environmental pressures reshape regional population landscapes?

This study examines the relationship between climate stress and internal migration in Pakistan and investigates how environmental shocks reshape regional population dynamics. The analysis combines district-level climate indicators with nationally representative household survey data covering the period 2012 to 2024. Climate exposure is measured using indicators of temperature anomalies, extreme heat days, and flood intensity, while migration outcomes capture household relocation and rural-to-urban mobility. The empirical strategy employs a set of advanced econometric techniques to identify the causal impact of climate shocks on migration flows. The baseline analysis uses panel fixed-effects models to control for time-invariant district characteristics. To address potential endogeneity and spatial correlation, the

study further implements instrumental variable estimation, difference-in-differences designs, and event-study models to examine dynamic responses to climate shocks. In addition, spatial econometric models and multilevel regression frameworks are applied to capture regional spillovers and heterogeneous migration responses across districts.

The results indicate that climate stress significantly increases internal migration from environmentally vulnerable regions, particularly among younger working-age populations in rural areas. This migration flows contribute to population decline in climate-exposed districts while simultaneously increasing demographic pressure in urban centres. By integrating climate indicators with demographic and migration data, the study demonstrates how environmental shocks are reshaping population landscapes in Pakistan. The findings contribute to the growing literature on climate-induced migration and provide important insights for climate adaptation and development policies in Pakistan and across the Global South. The results further suggest that climate change may intensify existing regional inequalities by accelerating population concentration in urban areas while undermining the demographic and economic sustainability of climate-exposed rural communities.

From a policy perspective, the evidence underscores the need to move beyond disaster-response approaches toward long-term climate adaptation strategies that strengthen rural resilience, protect climate-sensitive livelihoods, and incorporate population mobility into national development planning. Investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, adaptive social protection systems, and sustainable urban expansion will be essential for managing future migration pressures and reducing vulnerability among affected populations. More broadly, the study provides evidence relevant to global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to poverty reduction (SDG 1), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), and climate action (SDG 13), by demonstrating how environmental change increasingly shapes demographic processes and patterns of human mobility across the Global South.

Health-related social inequalities in the fulfilment of fertility intentions in Spain

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The (un)fulfilment of fertility intentions is a key issue in the current demographic context of age structure change. Accordingly, it has received abundant attention, as have dynamics related to low fertility and the postponement of reproductive decisions. Most research on the topic, nevertheless, has focused on structural correlates, particularly those related to the labor market, economic circumstances, and partnership dynamics. Lesser attention has been paid to the role of health-related determinants and to the extent to which these are socially stratified.

The aim of our study is to analyze, for the case of Spain, whether there are social differentials in the fulfilment of desired fertility due to health-related reasons. In particular, we assess inequalities by level of education and migrant background in: 1) the risk of infertility and miscarriage; 2) the experience of unfulfilled fertility intentions due to infertility and miscarriage; 3) access to and success of Medically Assisted Reproduction (MAR) treatments; 4) the experience of health problems affecting reproductive decisions. Adjusting for age at

attempting pregnancy, we expect women from higher socioeconomic strata to have a more advantageous position across all these respects, due to greater knowledge on healthy habits, better material circumstances to adopt them, greater capacity to early detect and address health-related complications, and increased access to healthcare services. In contrast, women in lower socioeconomic positions could experience, for the opposite reasons, health-related disadvantages diminishing their capacity to fulfil their reproductive desires.

We explore these dimensions using nationally representative data from the 2018 Spanish Fertility Survey ($n=14,556$ women) and combining descriptive statistics with logistic and linear regression analysis. The main outcomes analyzed are the probability of infertility and miscarriage; the likelihood of unfulfilled fertility intentions for such reasons among women in their late reproductive years; different aspects of access to and success of infertility treatment; and the avoidance or postponement of conception for health-related reasons. Women's educational level and migrant background are incorporated as main social stratifying dimensions.

Our findings reveal a social stratification of health-related barriers to the achievement of fertility aspirations. Women with university-level education are generally more protected against infertility and health-related reproductive barriers, although they are more prone to miscarriage. They are also more likely to report childbearing later than desired for this reason or due to infertility, which possibly reflects postponement behaviors. Still, highly educated women are better positioned to respond to infertility through greater access to MAR, to private treatments and IVF, while also showing more favorable post-treatment outcomes. Foreign-born women, on their part, are more vulnerable to infertility and miscarriage than their Spanish-born counterparts, showing greater propensity to final childlessness as a result. They show, additionally, a higher proclivity to unsuccessful MAR treatments and to health conditions that affect their reproductive choices. Taken together, these results highlight the importance of social inequalities in reproductive health for understanding variations in the capacity to fulfil fertility intentions.

Voluntary and Involuntary Childlessness in Peru: A Cohort Analysis of Women Born 1936–1984

Robin Cavagnoud (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Peru)

Throughout most of the twentieth century, motherhood in Latin America was a near-universal experience, and permanent childlessness remained below 5% among cohorts born before 1950. Peru subsequently underwent one of the region’s most rapid fertility transitions, yet the parallel rise in the share of women reaching the end of their reproductive lives without children has attracted almost no analytical attention, and no prior study has examined definitive childlessness in the country. This omission matters because the institutional, cultural, and economic contexts of the region differ substantially from those of the Global North, where most theoretical models of childlessness have been built. The present study addresses an explicit question: who are the women who remain childless in Peru, and how has the socio-demographic composition of this group evolved across cohorts? Specifically, has it become more heterogeneous, as European models of educational bimodality would predict, or has it converged toward a single profile?

The analysis mobilises the full harmonised series of the Demographic and Family Health Surveys (ENDES, 1986–2024), comprising twenty-three nationally representative rounds and a consolidated base of 694,303 individual records, of which 134,114 women aged 40–49 are distributed across eight birth cohorts. Childlessness is identified from total live births and disaggregated into voluntary and involuntary components through a harmonised classification of reproductive intentions. Inter-cohort trends are estimated with Wilson confidence intervals and Cochran-Armitage tests; intra-cohort educational heterogeneity is assessed through a normalised Shannon entropy index; and a multinomial logistic regression on the complex survey design contrasts childless women with mothers of one, two, and three or more children.

Three findings stand out. First, total childlessness rises significantly, from 4.18% in the 1936–1949 cohort to a historical peak of 5.22% in 1965–1969. Second, voluntary childlessness jumps to roughly 30% in the 1955–1959 cohort and then stabilises at 30–34%, a threshold transition rather than the continuous expansion observed in Europe; involuntary childlessness remains the dominant component throughout. Third, and most strikingly, the educational composition of childless women reverses completely: the share with higher education rises from 24.5% to 54.1%, while those without schooling contract to a residual 2.2%. Contrary to predictions of educational bimodality, the Shannon entropy index declines monotonically, revealing progressive homogenisation rather than polarisation. Multinomial regression confirms never having been in a union (OR > 400) and higher education as the dominant structural predictors.

Peru thus illustrates a compressed demographic transition in which childlessness concentrates around a single profile, that of urban, highly educated women with discontinuous or absent conjugal trajectories, rather than splitting into the dual regime theorised for Europe. The persistence of the involuntary component, now associated with education and non-union rather than poverty and rurality, calls for differentiated policy responses and for analytical frameworks attentive to the specificity of regional reproductive transitions.

The “Domino Effect” of Rural Depopulation and Territorial Inequalities: The Case of Spain Within a Global Context

Sergio Andrés Cabello (University of La Rioja, Spain)

Regional disparities and inequalities between different areas, both globally and within countries, have taken on a new dimension over the last quarter of a century. In a context dominated by major cities, numerous regions and territories are being left behind. Although the focus has often been on the depopulation of rural areas – and there is no doubt that this is a decisive and even primary process – these imbalances go further. This generates ‘domino effects’, with the impacts of depopulation and other processes (ageing, migration of younger generations, etc.) affecting not only small towns but also medium-sized and small cities.

Furthermore, a sort of territorial “Matthew effect” would also come into play, whereby different areas, regions and localities find themselves in advantageous situations whilst others are on the opposite side, reproducing a scenario that becomes structural. In short, these are situations that affect territorial and social cohesion—both of which are interdependent—and

which generate challenges that are difficult to resolve. The case of Spain is paradigmatic in this whole process.

Over the course of almost two decades, and through various studies and involvement in the development of plans and strategies relating to regional inequalities and rural depopulation, the framework presented in this proposal has been developed. The main methodology employed has been qualitative, involving in-depth interviews and focus groups, which has enabled us to capture the views of expert informants and local stakeholders.

Based on the intrinsic characteristics of each country, Spain has experienced depopulation in a significant part of its rural areas, a process that began in the second half of the 19th century and intensified a century later. In the 21st century, the frameworks and narratives surrounding rural areas and depopulation have changed, but the problem itself has merely been mitigated. Furthermore, regional inequalities are affecting entire regions that are being left behind; in many cases, these are the very regions where rural depopulation is most acute, thereby exacerbating the impact on social and territorial cohesion.

Changing Places after Industrial Restructuring: Population Dynamics, Migration and Urban Shrinkage in Karabük (Turkey) and Thionville (France)

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Emmanuèle C. Cunningham-Sabot (École Normale Supérieure de Paris, France)

This paper examines population change, labour mobility and socio-spatial restructuring in former iron and steel cities after industrial decline. Comparing Karabük in Türkiye and Thionville in France, it asks how apparent post- industrial recovery may replace one dependency with another. The cases share steel-centred histories but differ in territorial organisation: Karabük is a provincial city historically organised around a single plant, whereas Thionville is a commune within a cross-border metropolitan region. Rather than reproduce a Global North/Global South binary, the paper situates Thionville in an early-industrialised core economy and Karabük in a later-industrialising, semi-peripheral economy. In both cities, factory-centred growth shaped housing provision, infrastructure, employment and collective identities, despite their different institutional settings.

The comparison follows sequences of restructuring rather than identical calendar periods. Lorraine's steel crisis began in the mid-1970s; in Karabük, employment pressures and changes in state industrial policy preceded, and were intensified by, Kardemir's 1995 privatisation. Demographic trends likewise require attention to scale. Karabük's urban population fell from 105,373 in 1990 to 100,749 in 2000, while Thionville's commune population declined from 43,020 in 1975 to 39,712 in 1990 before reaching 42,658 in 2023. These are city-level indicators for different administrative units, not interchangeable measures of their wider urban regions.

Methodologically, the research combines comparative socio-spatial and morphological analysis, demographic and socio-economic indicators, policy and document analysis, and semi-structured interviews. It approaches urban shrinkage as a multidimensional process

linking industrial employment, migration, governance, housing and land markets, and socio-spatial inequalities rather than population loss alone.

The findings identify different mechanisms behind apparent recovery. In Thionville, regional reindustrialisation and diversification did not fully replace employment lost in mining and steel. Luxembourg's labour market subsequently supported cross-border commuting, residential demand and demographic stabilisation, repositioning Thionville within a transnational metropolitan region. Yet this recovery depends on employment opportunities and regulations outside the commune's political control, with consequences for housing pressures and socio-spatial differentiation.

In Karabük, changes in state support and industrial restructuring weakened employment and urban social provision. Following privatisation, public incentives promoted labour-intensive industries, particularly textiles and, according to field findings, food production. As incentives waned, some firms closed, suspended production or relocated, exposing the limits of diversification. Tax advantages and subsidised credit did not establish a self- sustaining production base. Later, university expansion generated student-related housing and service demand; TOKİ-led interventions reshaped parts of the housing stock; and real-estate revaluation attracted other actors and investment. Although intertwined, these processes rely on different institutions, policy choices and market mechanisms and do not constitute a single recovery strategy.

Both cities thus display fragile but distinct post-industrial dependencies. Thionville relies on an external labour market that local authorities cannot govern, while Karabük relies on state-mediated incentives, university-related demand and land-revaluation dynamics whose direction can be altered by public decisions and market conditions. By distinguishing external labour-market dependency from institutionally and spatially mediated dependencies, the comparison outlines a typology of vulnerability and shows why demographic or property-market recovery need not resolve underlying industrial and socio-spatial fragilities. This distinction also clarifies the contrasting politics of vulnerability.

Educational Opportunities in Shrinking Societies: Regional Inequality in Access to Upper Secondary Education in Japan

Shinichi Aizawa (Sophia University, Japan)

Population decline and ageing are often discussed in terms of shrinking cohorts and fiscal sustainability. However, less attention has been paid to how demographic change restructures access to educational opportunities at the subnational level. This paper examines how population decline reshapes the distribution of upper secondary education opportunities in Japan, focusing on regional inequalities in access.

Drawing on prefecture-level panel data, the study conceptualizes educational provision as an opportunity structure shaped by institutional arrangements and demographic pressures. Rather than treating public and private sectors as context-specific categories, the analysis focuses on how variations in capacity, competition, and enrolment patterns affect access to schooling. In particular, indicators such as application patterns and enrolment distribution are used to

capture the degree of market-mediated access and the relative availability of educational options. The analysis identifies distinct patterns of regional variation by mapping prefectures along two key dimensions, revealing a typology of educational opportunity structures under demographic decline.

The findings reveal substantial regional disparities in access to upper secondary education under conditions of demographic decline. While some regions maintain diversified opportunity structures through institutional adaptation, others experience increasing constraints due to declining cohorts and uneven capacity distribution. These patterns suggest that demographic change does not simply reduce demand but reconfigures the spatial distribution of opportunities in ways that may reinforce territorial inequalities.

By situating educational access within broader debates on demographic change and human capital formation, the paper contributes to population sociology by highlighting the importance of subnational variation in opportunity structures. The Japanese case illustrates how shrinking societies face not only quantitative challenges but also qualitative transformations in the distribution of life chances, with implications for social inequality and policy design.

Youth Population and Skill Development in Tamil Nadu – A Sociological Study

Mahamuni Thamilarasan (University of Madras, India)

Population with an adequate acquired skills are the human resource of any nation. Among the general population of a nation, youth population with high employability skills are considered as knowledge economy and human capital. At this juncture, India moves progressively towards becoming a global knowledge economy but it must meet the rising aspirations of its youth. This can be partially achieved through focus on advancement of skills that are essential, updated to fulfill the emerging market demand of the global economy. The challenge pertains not only to a huge quantitative expansion in skill training for the youth in India, but also to the much more important task of raising their quality of occupational life and livelihood as whole.

The present research has focused on Youth Population and Skill Development in Tamil Nadu, India. This research is based on descriptive design and completed through the content analysis method. The researcher has used secondary data for this study. Tamil Nadu is one of the highly progressive states of India, located in the extreme south of the subcontinent with the population of 8.58 crore as per 2026 (85.84 million) according to projections based on census data. The state is experiencing steady growth, with a population of 72.1 million in 2011. As of March 2026, youth population aged 18–29 (youngsters) in Tamil Nadu is approximately 20.7% of the total 5.67 crore.

Skill development in Tamil Nadu in 2025 is dominated by the Naan Mudhalvan (I am the Leader) scheme, aiming to upskill over 10 lakh students with industry-relevant, emerging technologies like AI, IoT, and 5G. Programs emphasize AI-driven training, robotics, and automation, with extensive free short-term courses available via the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC).

Migration, Human Capital, and Ageing: Rethinking Demographic Change in Post-Soviet Georgia

Tatiana Sitchinava, Nino Gomelauri (Ilia State University, Georgia)

The relationship between migration, human capital, and age-structural change has become central to understanding demographic transformations in the Global South. In small post-Soviet states such as Georgia, these processes unfold in particularly complex ways, shaped by depopulation, ageing, and emerging immigration flows.

This paper examines how migration interacts with human capital to reshape demographic dynamics in Georgia in the context of globalisation. It argues that large-scale emigration since the 1990s has accelerated population decline and contributed to adverse age-structural shifts, limiting the country's potential to realise a demographic dividend. At the same time, recent immigration—driven by liberal economic policies—has introduced new demographic and socio-economic dynamics that partially offset these trends.

Drawing on national statistical data (Geostat, 2012–2023) and recent survey research conducted at the Institute of Demography and Sociology, the analysis highlights three key findings. First, sustained emigration and low fertility have produced a rapidly ageing population, constraining labour supply and long-term economic sustainability. Second, immigration from countries such as Turkey, India, China, and Iran is contributing to the diversification of the population and the reconfiguration of local labour markets, particularly in urban economic centres. Third, migrants' human capital—especially language skills and entrepreneurial capacity—plays a decisive role in shaping integration outcomes and economic participation.

The paper further argues that these processes are spatially uneven, reinforcing disparities between dynamic urban areas and "left-behind" regions experiencing depopulation and disinvestment. Despite these transformations, migration remains under-integrated into demographic policy frameworks.

By situating Georgia within broader debates on demographic dividends and post-migration societies, the paper contributes to understanding how migration and human capital can both mitigate and intensify demographic challenges in small, demographically fragile contexts.

Forced and Recurrent Displacement from Pakistan's Tribal Districts along the Pakistan–Afghanistan Border: An Analysis of Security, Governance, and Human Security

Islam Gul (Investigative Journalist with SBS Radio, Pakistan / Freelance Researcher)

Research Question: What are the underlying causes of forced and recurrent displacement in Pakistan's tribal districts, and how have security conditions, military operations, and governance failures transformed displacement into a persistent and structural problem?

Forced displacement has been one of the most severe and enduring consequences of prolonged instability in Pakistan's former tribal areas over the past two decades. Following the post-9/11 transformation of the security landscape in Afghanistan, rising militancy and violent extremism, along with counter-terrorism and military operations, have resulted in large-scale population displacement in these border regions. A defining feature of this crisis has been repeated displacement, whereby communities experience initial displacement, partial return, and subsequent renewed displacement.

Pakistan's eight tribal districts (Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzai, Kurram, North Waziristan, Lower South Waziristan, and Upper South Waziristan) are located along the Pakistan–Afghanistan border and have a combined population exceeding six million. These areas have historically been home to religious minority communities, including Sikhs, Hindus, and Christians, many of whom were forced to relocate to other parts of Pakistan or migrate to India due to escalating insecurity and extremist violence.

This paper examines recent episodes of recurrent forced displacement in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with a particular focus on the districts of Khyber and Kurram, where renewed militant violence and armed clashes displaced nearly 40,000 families for a second time. Using qualitative analysis based on media reports, policy documents, and testimonies from affected communities, the study explores how insecurity, armed group confrontations, and state security responses intersect to produce cyclical patterns of displacement.

The findings reveal that displaced populations face multidimensional vulnerabilities, including deaths caused by harsh winter conditions during displacement, civilian casualties from armed clashes, long-term physical injuries and disabilities, and severe disruption to access to housing, education, and sustainable livelihoods. Children's schooling and community social structures have been particularly affected. Minority communities have experienced disproportionate insecurity, further accelerating their displacement and social marginalization.

The paper also highlights how governance failures such as weak institutional coordination, mismanagement of relief efforts, and corruption in compensation and rehabilitation mechanisms have intensified displacement-related hardships. Although constitutional reforms in 2018 extended Pakistan's legal framework to the former tribal districts, gaps in implementation and inadequate post-conflict rehabilitation have undermined long-term stability.

The study concludes that forced displacement in Pakistan's tribal districts should not be viewed as a temporary humanitarian emergency, but rather as a recurring structural outcome of fragile security, incomplete reintegration, and persistent governance deficits. Sustainable peace requires displacement-sensitive security planning, transparent and accountable aid delivery, and rights-based reintegration policies that prioritize human security alongside counter-terrorism objectives.

Retaining Human Capital Amid War: The Demographic Stakes of Ukraine's IDPs

Tetiana Liubyva (IREX-Ukraine / Institute of Sociology of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine)

Ukraine's war has precipitated one of the largest and fastest population displacements in modern European history, posing an acute demographic challenge on top of Ukraine's longstanding trend of low fertility and population aging. This unprecedented combination highlights the global relevance of examining how conflict-driven internal migration interacts with age-structural transitions. In Ukraine, IDP numbers have surged from 1.5 million in 2021 to over 4.6 million by early 2026, whereas Ukrainian refugees abroad now total around 6 million. The study examines Ukraine as a dramatic case of intertwined age-structural crisis and internal migration, describing how the national government, civil society, and communities are striving to support IDPs' reintegration into host communities and encourage them to stay in the country.

Research question: "How can Ukraine's efforts to retain and integrate internally displaced persons (IDPs) help mitigate population decline and sustain human capital under conditions of war and demographic stress?" Addressing this question is important not only for Ukraine's future but also for understanding population resilience amid crises in a broader comparative context.

To respond to the research question, survey data collected within the United Voices in Action (VIA) program implemented by IREX are used. The survey was conducted in 2025–26 using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) as part of the final evaluation of the VIA program. It covered approximately 2,500 respondents (1,239 IDPs and 1,254 host community members) across 18 regions of Ukraine, with a stratified sampling design to ensure broad territorial coverage and balanced representation of key demographic groups. The survey captured indicators of IDPs' employment, social integration, and access to support services, enabling a systematic comparison between IDPs and non-IDPs.

Findings: Retaining IDPs is demographically and socioeconomically critical. IDPs possess high human capital – their educational attainment is on par with the non-displaced population – and they exhibit strong labor force attachment despite the upheaval (e.g., 39% of IDPs are employed full-time vs 44% of locals). Many IDPs are parents (≈30% have minor children, similar to locals), and IDPs are more concentrated in prime working ages (36–59 years, 48% of IDPs vs 43% of non-IDPs) while having roughly equal senior (60+) shares. These traits underscore that IDPs represent a vital resource for Ukraine's future labor force and could help slow accelerated population aging. At the same time, integration challenges remain, which threaten the long-term retention of IDPs. For instance, only 3% of IDPs have secure housing

(home ownership) compared to 82% of locals, leaving most IDPs in precarious living arrangements; this underscores the urgency of robust housing support policies.

Conclusions: Ukraine's experience demonstrates that internal displacement can act as a demographic buffer in a war-torn, aging society if IDPs are effectively integrated and retained; conversely, inadequate integration could see displacement become an accelerator of decline, as underutilized human capital seeks stability abroad. The Ukrainian case suggests that timely, coordinated interventions – from government policies to community-driven support via networks like IDP Councils – are key to converting an internal displacement wave into a foundation for demographic resilience and recovery. More broadly, these findings offer cautious lessons for other countries facing population decline and conflict-driven migration: proactive measures to integrate and invest in displaced populations can help maintain essential working-age cohorts and foster social cohesion, ultimately strengthening a nation's capacity to recover.

Another R of Temporary Migration: Reproduction and Community Mediation among Indonesian Migrants in Japan

Waode Hanifah Istiqomah (Hashimoto Foundation, Japan)

Across Asia, recruitment, remittances, and return have been central to the governance of temporary labor migration and to debates on migration and development. This paper shifts attention to another R, reproduction, to examine how temporary migration regimes also shape migrants' reproductive lives, including the timing of pregnancy and family formation. Focusing on Indonesian migrants in Japan, it examines not only formal institutions and workplace practices, but also the ambivalent role of migrant communities.

Drawing on qualitative research with Indonesian migrant workers, fieldwork in Indonesian communities in Shizuoka and Okayama Prefectures, and interviews with Japanese NGOs involved in migrant support, the paper analyzes how decisions regarding pregnancy, continued stay, and return are mediated in everyday social relations. The case of Indonesian migrants in Japan is important because, under temporary programs such as TITP (Technical Intern Training Program) and SSW (Specified Skilled Worker), legal protections may formally exist, reproductive constraints persist through institutional barriers, workplace expectations, and community mediation.

This paper further highlights the gap between the formal possibility of claiming rights and the circulation of such knowledge within migrant communities. Even when a migrant woman succeeds in remaining in Japan during pregnancy or in claiming the right to return to Japan after childbirth with support from NGOs, the heavily mediated and institutionally fragmented process does not translate into community knowledge. What circulates instead are simplified warnings and restrictive interpretations. The paper argues that reproductive injustice under temporary labor migration regimes is sustained by the limited communicability of successful rights claims, with broader implications for the study of migration, family formation, and social reproduction.

Navigating Changing Migration Flows in Post-Socialist Europe: Regional Perspectives from Georgia, Lithuania, Serbia and Slovenia

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Tatiana Sitchinava (Ilia State University, Georgia)

Migration dynamics across post-socialist Europe have undergone significant transformation over the past three decades, shaped by demographic change, labour market restructuring, geopolitical crises, and processes of European integration. While migration research in the region has traditionally focused on emigration, recent increases in labour, student, return, circular, and forced migration have altered national migration landscapes and created new forms of mobility and settlement. This paper examines changing immigration patterns in Georgia, Lithuania, Serbia, and Slovenia—two EU member states and two non-member states—to explore how these countries respond to increasingly diversified migration flows and their implications for transnational family life. Particular attention is given to whether and to what extent existing statistical and policy frameworks capture these transformations. The paper addresses the following research question: How do changing migration flows in post-socialist Europe reshape transnational family arrangements, and to what extent do national data systems and migration governance frameworks capture these evolving realities?

The paper adopts a comparative qualitative and policy-oriented approach, combining analysis of migration governance frameworks, official statistical data, demographic indicators, and existing empirical studies from the four countries. The analysis draws on national and international statistical sources, migration and population datasets, policy documents, and secondary qualitative evidence on migrant and transnational family experiences. Special attention is paid to the capacities and limitations of official statistical systems, including administrative data infrastructures, definitions of migrant categories, and the availability of socio-demographic information relevant to understanding family relations across borders. Comparative analysis enables identification of both country-specific trajectories and broader regional patterns emerging within the post-socialist context.

The findings demonstrate that despite differences in EU membership status, migration regimes, and historical migration trajectories, all four countries face similar challenges in adapting governance and data infrastructures to increasingly complex forms of mobility. Immigration diversification has generated new transnational family arrangements, including cross-border care chains, mixed-status households, circular family practices, and prolonged family separation. However, official statistics largely remain centred on individual migrants rather than relational and family dimensions of mobility, rendering many aspects of transnational family life statistically invisible. Restrictive visa and family reunification policies further reinforce this disconnect, while informal and circular mobility practices continue to sustain family life across borders. The paper concludes that improving migration governance requires strengthening statistical infrastructures, harmonising definitions and methodologies across countries, and integrating and continuously adapting family-sensitive approaches into migration policy. Recognising transnational families as active agents of mobility is essential for developing evidence-based and socially responsive migration governance in post-socialist Europe.

Negotiating Return in a Transnational Context: Narratives of Highly Educated Turkish Migrants in Germany

Özge Güvenç Vural, Birsen Şahin Kütük (Hacettepe University, Turkey)

This study examines how highly educated second- and third-generation Turkish migrants in Germany evaluate the possibility of return migration to Turkey. As descendants of historical "guest worker" migration from Turkey to Germany, they illuminate links between migration, human capital, integration, and place-making in post-migration societies. Rather than treating return solely as a measurable demographic movement, the study approaches it as an interpretive process shaped by belonging, life chances, family ties, labour-market opportunities, and the social and political conditions of Germany and Turkey. It asks: How do highly educated second- and third-generation Turkish migrants in Germany articulate and negotiate their intentions to return to Turkey, and how are these intentions shaped by integration, transnational ties, identity, changing work opportunities, and emerging forms of digital mobility?

The study uses a qualitative case study design based on 20 semi-structured interviews with highly educated second- and third-generation Turkish migrants born and raised in Germany. The interviews were analysed thematically using MAXQDA. The analysis focused on integration experiences, belonging to Germany and/or Turkey, transnational practices, and the factors that make return thinkable, desirable, difficult, or unlikely. This approach moves beyond a simple return/non-return distinction by examining the conditional meanings attached to return intentions and how migrants imagine future lives across multiple places.

The findings show that return intentions are heterogeneous: some participants express a clear intention to return, some remain uncertain, and others do not consider return under current conditions. These differences relate to structural, cultural, social, and identity integration in Germany. Many are structurally integrated through education and employment and describe Germany as a context of security, stability, and professional opportunity, while also reporting exclusion, othering, or limited belonging. Yet return does not emerge as an automatic response to exclusion or structural disadvantage. Structural conditions are interpreted subjectively and evaluated at the meso level through family relations, transnational networks, cultural familiarity, emotional attachment, imagined lifestyle, and occupational expectations. Return is therefore negotiated through the intersection of personal aspirations, relational ties, and perceptions of Turkey's economic, political, and institutional conditions.

A key finding is the emergence of what participants describe as a "digital solution." While economic instability, political uncertainty, concerns about working conditions, and limited trust in legal and institutional arrangements deter return, remote work for European employers enables some participants to imagine bypassing these risks. Their preferred future is not necessarily a definitive return, but a transnational arrangement in which they reside partly in Turkey while maintaining income, employment, and professional networks in Europe. This form of digital migration reshapes place-making by allowing individuals to build everyday life in one country while remaining economically embedded in another. It also raises questions for Europe's human capital and the long-term sustainability of post-migration societies: what happens when highly skilled migrants relocate physically while continuing to contribute labour remotely? The findings further invite reflection on shifts in labour relations,

mobility, rights, and institutional belonging. The study concludes that return intentions should be analysed as part of wider transformations in migration, human capital, digital labour, and transnational place-making.

Negotiating Aging in Transnational Spaces: Retired Korean Nurse "Guestworkers" in Germany

Yonson Ahn (Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany)

To mitigate the 'care deficit' driven by aging demographics, German healthcare systems have been relying on migrant labor. A significant chapter of this history involved the arrival of slightly over 11,000 nurses and nurse assistants from South Korea to West Germany. Recruited primarily between the 1960s and 1970s under the Gastarbeiter (guestworker) program, these professionals became integral to the fabric of the West German healthcare infrastructure.

Some of them settled and continued working in Germany until retirement, becoming part of the country’s aging population. These retired healthcare migrants, once employed in elder care, find themselves transitioning from providers of care to navigators of their own aging process within a transnational context.

This study explores the diverse trajectories of these retired 'guestworkers' as they navigate the intersections of aging, belonging, and care provision. As they approach retirement, they encounter distinct aging journeys: aging in place within Germany, returning to the homeland, or maintaining a transnational existence by dividing their time between the 'guestland' and their country of origin.

The decision-making process for these retirees is deeply embedded in transnational family dynamics. Some choose to return to South Korea for their later years, fostering increased family mobility between the two nations. Others remain in Germany, aging in proximity to their adult children (when present) or seeking support within co-ethnic care environments. However, these arrangements are often fraught with intergenerational tensions; cultural expectations rooted in Confucian filial piety frequently clash with the realities of Western life, particularly when children are unable to fulfill traditional caregiving roles (Ahn 2023). Conversely, a third group adopts a 'multi-local' strategy, maintaining residences in both their homeland and 'guestland' for as long as their health and mobility permit. Ultimately, this study offers a deeper understanding of how retired migrants negotiate the complexities of aging and belonging across both local and transnational scales.

Demographic Aging and Public Policies: The Case of Mexico

María Guadalupe Vega-López, Guillermo Julián González-Pérez (Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico)

The objective of this study is to demonstrate the demographic aging of the Mexican population since 1980, analyzing demographic dynamics and the resulting changes in the age and sex structure that have occurred in the country between 1980 and 2025 and projections to

2070, and the present and future challenges this poses for the implementation of public policies at the national level. Using official birth and death data, as well as population projections, fertility and mortality trends were estimated, and population pyramids were constructed. In turn, various public policies implemented to address the needs of the elderly population (EP) and their impact on this population group were analyzed. The results show that in 45 years, the population aged 60 and over has increased substantially, rising from approximately 4 million in 1980 to 17 million in 2025, representing about 13% of the population, with a majority of women. However, EP largely faces substantial socioeconomic disadvantages (insufficient income, educational disadvantages, and lack of adequate access to healthcare) as well as high rates of obesity and comorbidities. Adding to this the fact that the country's population under 15 years old is still larger than the EP, public policy currently faces a challenge, as the needs of both population groups coexist. In response to the accelerated aging process nationwide, two public policies focused on EP stand out: the Pension for the Well-being of Older Adults in Mexico (which began in 2001 in Mexico City) – elevated to constitutional status in 2019 – which provides bimonthly financial support to EP throughout the country; and the "House-to-House Health" program (2025), focused on providing preventive and primary healthcare directly in the homes of EP and people with disabilities. Other programs, such as the National Care System, should also be implemented.

Resilient Threads: Demographic Shifts and the Reconfiguration of Artisan Labor in Maheshwar, India

Surbhi Dayal (Indian Institute of Management Indore, India)

Research on artisanship in India has been mostly in the context of history and livelihood, whereas demographic changes impacting its continuation are less well-researched. This research investigates these developments in the Maheshwar weaving community to see how generational shifts, mobility and gendered division of labour are re-structuring the structure of artisanal production.

This paper is based on qualitative research conducted among Maheshwari weavers in India. Data from eight villages has been collected through interview and observation methods. This research demonstrates a gradual decline in participation of younger generations, many of whom are in school and non-weaving work. This trend is contributing to an ageing workforce and is reducing intergenerational transmission of skills. Meanwhile, women’s labour remains important to the sustenance of production while unevenly recognised within formal and market-oriented frameworks.

The paper argues that placing these patterns in a population perspective, artisan communities are a key site for studying demographic processes such as occupational mobility, ageing and restructuring of labour at the local level. It also reveals how these transitions are affected by broader structural variables such as market volatility, state interventions and shifting demands.

This paper makes contributions to ongoing debates regarding population and development by stressing the importance of going beyond the aggregate measures of population and focusing on how changes in population affect people within different occupational groups. It further

addresses the difficulties of legislation requiring the preservation of handcrafted goods while failing to take into account the demographic requirements for survival.

Changing Values and Norms about Childcare and Parental Leave Arrangements in Bulgaria: Insights from a Qualitative Study

Elitsa Dimitrova (Institute for Population and Human Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria)

Background: Contemporary Bulgarian society is undergoing significant changes in family culture and value orientations related to parenthood and partnership. Concepts such as "positive parenting" and the pursuit of "parental autonomy" challenge established models of childcare, couple dynamics, and family life. This paper explores shifting familistic values and norms concerning childcare, parenthood, partnership, and parental leave arrangements in Bulgaria.

Data and Methods: The study is based on 15 in-depth interviews with mothers and fathers of young children. The data were analyzed using thematic analysis to identify key patterns and insights.

Results: The findings point to evolving, yet still contested, norms surrounding childcare, partner relations, and parental leave uptake. Parents increasingly value fathers' involvement in childcare, including taking parental leave. At the same time, some respondents question fathers' caregiving practices and continue to support traditional role divisions, with mothers as primary caregivers and fathers as main providers. Despite emerging changes, traditional gender norms remain influential, often reinforced by economic factors. However, shifts are visible, particularly among highly educated women and those more strongly attached to the labor market. A notable paradox appears among higher socioeconomic groups, where both traditional and gender-egalitarian models of parenting and partnership coexist, reflecting a polarization of attitudes within similar social strata.

Conclusion: The study highlights a gradual transformation in norms related to childcare, partner relations, and parental leave in Bulgaria. Although traditional roles persist, they are increasingly being renegotiated in everyday family practices. The growing recognition of fathers' caregiving roles suggests a movement toward a more gender-egalitarian family culture.

Gendered Demographic Governance in China: Norm Translation between the Global North and the Global South

Zeynep Temel (Marmara University, Turkey)

China's transformation from a society that previously benefited from a demographic dividend into an aging society in recent years constitutes an important example for understanding how rising powers navigate global gender norms when confronted with population-related challenges typically associated with industrialized nations. China is experiencing demographic patterns more commonly associated with countries in the Global North,

including declining fertility rates and rapid population aging. At the same time, however, it continues to position itself as a country of the Global South. This situation has led the country to engage selectively with international gender equality frameworks and, in this regard, has differentiated it from other Global South countries. This study aims to examine how China incorporates global gender equality norms into its domestic population-related policies. At the same time, it investigates how these global gender equality norms are reinterpreted and what this process reveals about the relationship between demographic governance and gender discourse within the context of Global North-South geopolitics. Accordingly, the study seeks to contribute to broader academic discussions on issues such as norm diffusion, policy translation, and the gendered dimensions of demographic sustainability in non-Western contexts.

As its primary methodological approach, the study employs qualitative discourse analysis. In this regard, it examines three interconnected empirical datasets: official policy documents on population planning, fertility promotion, and elderly care since 2015; state statements and speeches by key policymakers; and China's international gender equality engagements. The study also analyzes China's discourse across international gender forums. Drawing on norm translation and strategic adaptation approaches, the study examines how international norms are reinterpreted through local political, cultural, and institutional contexts. This approach makes it possible to understand how gender equality discourse has been selectively incorporated into China's demographic governance mechanisms.

The findings of the study reveal that China follows a framework that may be described as "gender-oriented demographic governance." Within this framework, concepts such as women's empowerment and family support are embraced. However, these concepts are largely reshaped and redirected toward encouraging fertility and sustaining intergenerational care obligations. Furthermore, while principles of gender equality are emphasized in official discourse, policy implementation appears to prioritize the revitalization of traditional family structures, which are regarded as key components of national resilience. Consequently, gender equality becomes increasingly linked to broader objectives of demographic sustainability, labor force stability, and social cohesion within an aging society. China's hybrid status as a state displaying Global North demographic patterns while participating in Global South norm politics enables it to align with international gender frameworks while adapting them to national demographic priorities.

One of the study's key contributions is the proposal of the concept of gender-oriented demographic governance as a critical perspective for understanding contemporary population policies beyond Western contexts. First, analyses of demographic transitions and policy responses to these transitions require comparative approaches that take into account geopolitical positioning and the dynamics of norm translation. Second, gender should be understood not only as a policy area but also as one of the constitutive elements of demographic governance. Gender shapes how states conceptualize and respond to population-related challenges.

A New Paradigm in Demographic Statistics: Register Integration and Annual Censuses in Spain

Jorge L. Vega Valle (INE National Institute of Statistics, Spain)

Over the last 20 years, and especially in the last five years, Spain has undergone a profound transformation of its demographic statistics system, notably the shift from traditional censuses based on surveys to a model entirely based on administrative records.

The central element of this revolution is the consolidation of the Spanish Population Register (Padrón) as a continuous population record, providing up-to-date information on all residents. This register is complemented by other administrative sources—such as tax, social security, education, and housing data—integrated through interoperability and quality control processes.

A key milestone was the 2021 Population and Housing Census, the first one in Spain compiled entirely from administrative records, without extensive fieldwork. This model relied solely on a limited survey (1% of the population) for specific variables, achieving greater efficiency and data consistency.

Based on this experience, Spain has implemented an annual population census, representing a structural change: it has moved from a one-off measurement every ten years to a continuous system that provides up-to-date information with a high degree of territorial detail. This approach improves analytical capacity and its usefulness for public policy.

The main advantages of the new system include greater speed, consistency across sources, reduced costs by eliminating fieldwork, and the ability to progressively expand the variables analysed. However, it also presents challenges, such as the need to guarantee quality, conceptual consistency across records, and the protection of confidentiality.

Overall, the Spanish case represents an advanced model of transition towards records-based statistics, where it is also worth highlighting the importance of institutional coordination, interoperability and continuous quality management.

Digitalizing Registers and Depoliticizing the Census in Post-Unification Germany

Walter Bartl (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany)

Census-taking is considered the backbone of public statistics because it provides the state and society with essential information about a territory's population. It is usually carried out as a large-scale survey of the entire population of a defined area. The results are widely used in politics and planning, to the extent that states could hardly function without this information. Indeed, the census became a global standard model of statecraft during the 20th century.

However, this standard model has come under pressure in recent decades. Traditional census-taking is costly and requires significant administrative capacity, delivering the required data with a considerable time lag — usually every ten years. An alternative source of information

for public statistics is administrative registers. A register-based census uses personal information stored in administrative registers from various policy areas and aggregates it for statistical purposes. However, the transition to a register-based census is not straightforward, as it has only been realised in around one-tenth of countries worldwide. It requires the interoperability of a variety of administrative registers, which can be challenging to achieve both technologically and politically. Firstly, achieving interoperability necessitates intricate standardisation processes that entwine international, national, social, and technological elements. Secondly, register interoperability can increase the surveillance power of the state at the expense of individual privacy, a development that may be met with political resistance from citizens. In the 1970s and 1980s, several Western countries faced resistance to censuses or the creation of person numbers for administrative record linkage because citizens were anxious about the increased potential for electronic information processing and privacy protection.

So how can the transition to a register-based census in Germany be explained? This paper argues that legislation for a register-based census became possible due to the growing transnational legitimisation of this global model, as well as the coordinated political presentation of investments in both epistemic and material infrastructures. Based on a content analysis of academic literature and policy reports, the paper traces the international diffusion of the elements required for a register-based census as well as the contributions of stakeholders to the legislative process in Germany.

Indian Census: Caste, Social Justice and Political Agenda

Vinod Chandra (Sri Jai Narain Misra Post Graduate College, Lucknow, India)

India has been doing census from 1872 onwards and the last census was held in 2011 after a gap of every ten years from 1931 onwards. The year 2021 was the census year in India but due to the pandemic in 2021 it was postponed and the Government of India has initiated the census exercise in the year 2026 which is currently going on. This Census 2027 is special because of three main reasons: there is substantial increase in the Population after a gap of almost fifteen years; secondly, it is aided by digital technology and enumerators are using digital platforms for recording the data so that it may take less time to process the data; and thirdly, this census is collecting caste data along with the population count to achieve the social justice.

In this backdrop this paper discusses the methodological challenges of enumeration of caste data in the proposed Census 2027 as there are widespread differences in formulation of concept and definition of ‘caste’ and ‘sub-caste’ as measurable social categories in the contemporary social reality. The paper explores how caste-based identity and political consciousness has grown over the last few decades which provided grounds for the access to power, resources and opportunities. There are two views emerged in recent past regarding caste census in India - one view advocates the Caste Census in India and argue that to reduce caste-based inequalities, statistical visibility of various caste groups should be increased for empirical policy making; the other view is that consolidation and intensification of caste-based identity through caste census may have negative consequences for governance and development. Caste identity-based enumeration will create long term social tension which

will hamper the goal of social justice. Both views are discussed and deliberated in the present paper in context of Census 2027 in India.

Scale problems in measuring depopulation and their effects on public policy

Alberto Zamorano Cuesta (INE, Spain)

Across the European Union, demographic analysis and policy interventions for rural depopulation rely heavily on administrative divisions such as NUTS-2 (regions) and NUTS-3 (provinces). However, these scales often fail to capture the functional organisation of rural territories, where daily mobility, service provision, and economic activity occur at an intermediate level between municipality and NUTS-3. This scale mismatch is not merely a technical issue: it obscures areas of structural decline, hampers targeted investment, and widens the gap between demographic evidence and effective policy.

Spain offers a paradigmatic case. Traditional analyses use municipalities and provinces, yet the country's rural spaces are functionally articulated through comarcas, socio-economic units that lack a uniform definition or administrative status in most regions. The absence of a consolidated intermediate scale perpetuates diagnostic blind spots and limits policy coordination, a challenge that resonates across many EU member states where similar functional areas remain unrecognised in official statistics.

To address this gap, we present geocomarcas, a tool that delimits functional areas based on demographic, economic, and connectivity criteria. It provides a homogeneous framework to map depopulation patterns, assess needs, and prioritise interventions. By integrating indicators on population, age structure, migration, and economic activity, geocomarcas enables cross-regional comparison and supports evidence-based policy design.

The proposed approach contributes to ongoing debates on spatial heterogeneity in demographic analysis and the governance of territorial data. By making visible the intermediate scale at which rural life is organised, it offers a pathway to reduce the research-policy gap—an objective central to this conference—and to advance more effective, place-based policies for territorial cohesion in the EU.

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