



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON POPULATION,
EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
(Virtual meeting)
New York, 6-7 September 2022

An overview of population, education, and sustainable development

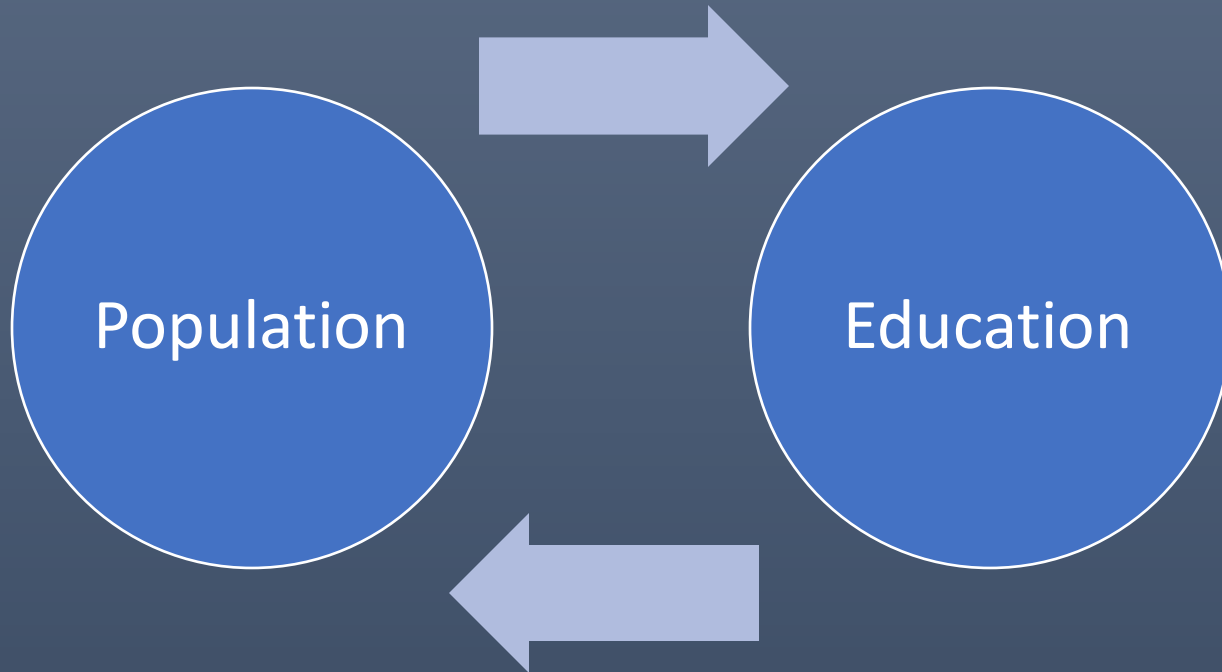
Nicole Mun Sim Lai
Population Division
6 September 2022

Almost 20 years ago...

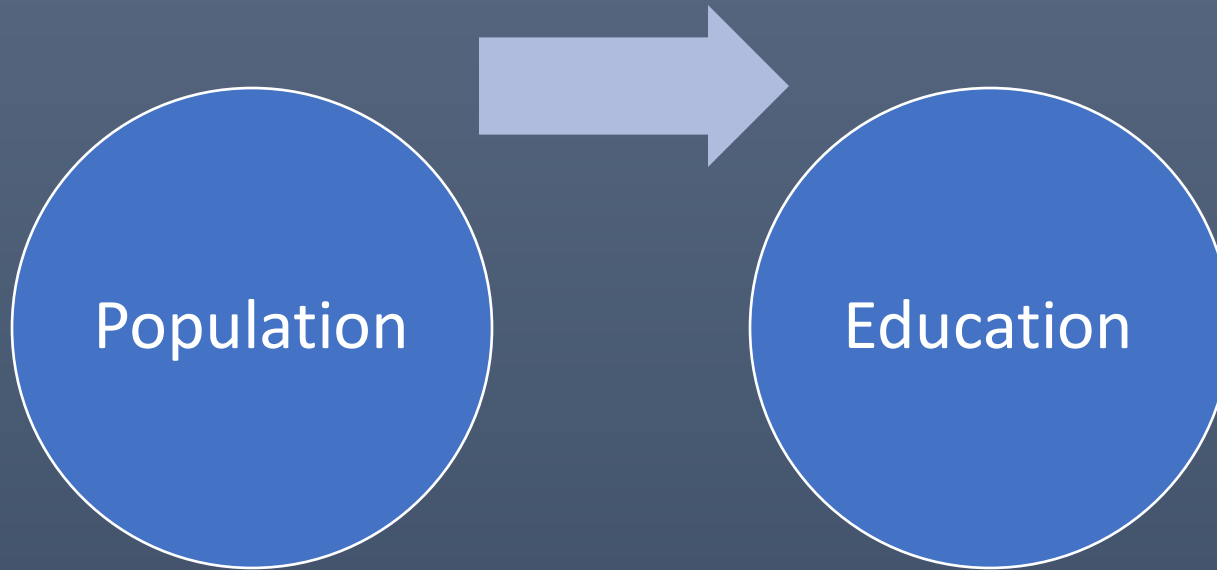
In 2003, the Commission on Population and Development had a similar theme.



Population and education are interlinked

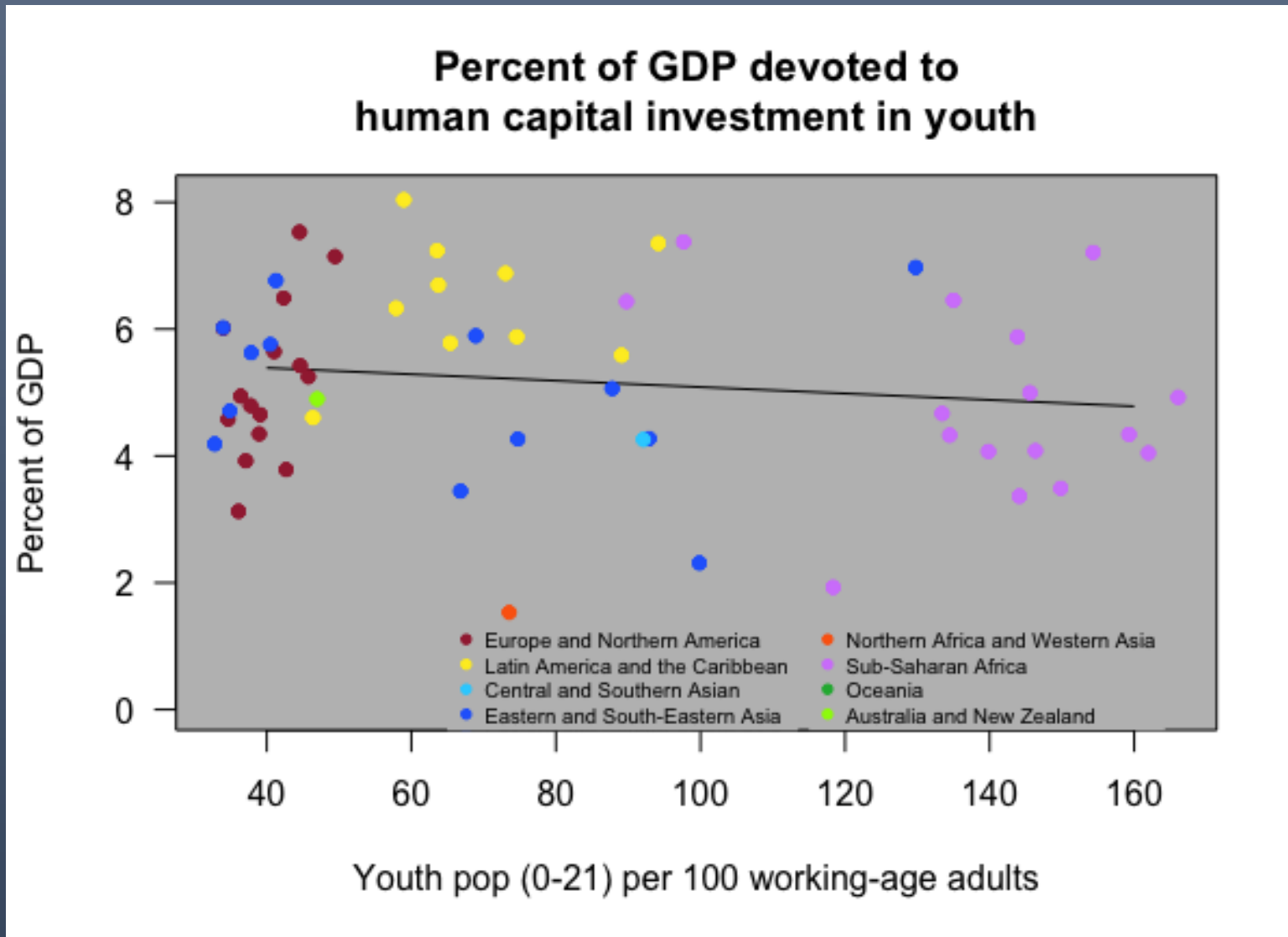


The influence of population on education



1. Projecting school-age population
2. Increased demand for life-long learning
3. Population challenges to human capital investments

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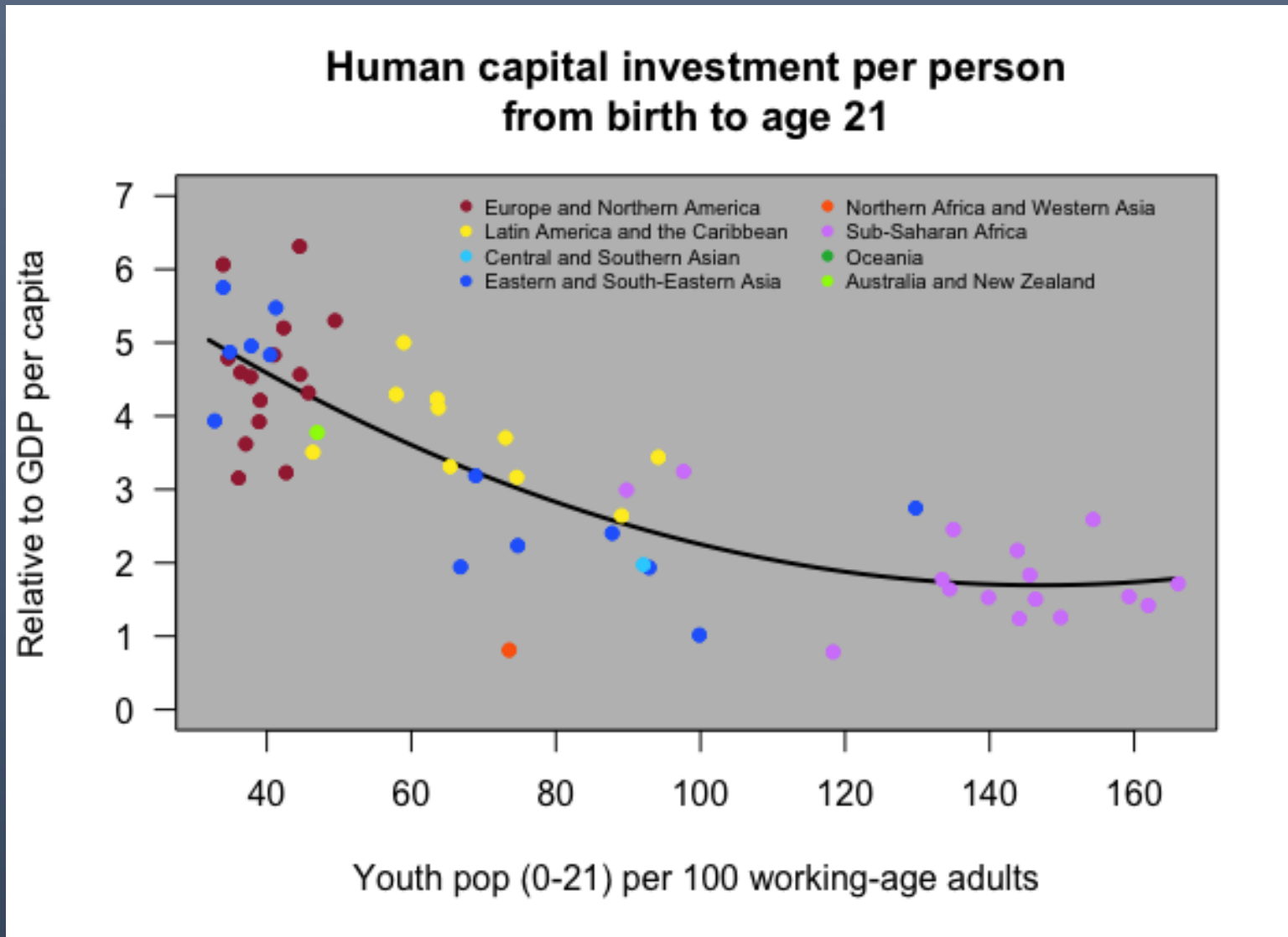


At aggregate level, human capital investment is similar in countries with high and low youth populations.

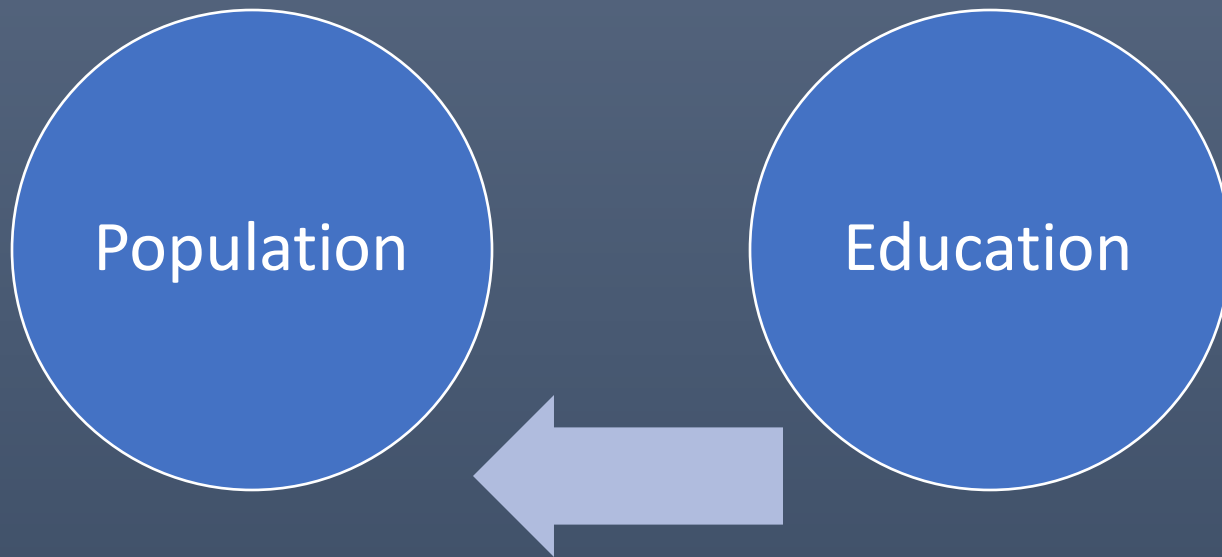
About 5% of GDP.

Source: computed using data National Transfer Accounts database, circa 2010.

3. Population challenges to human capital investment



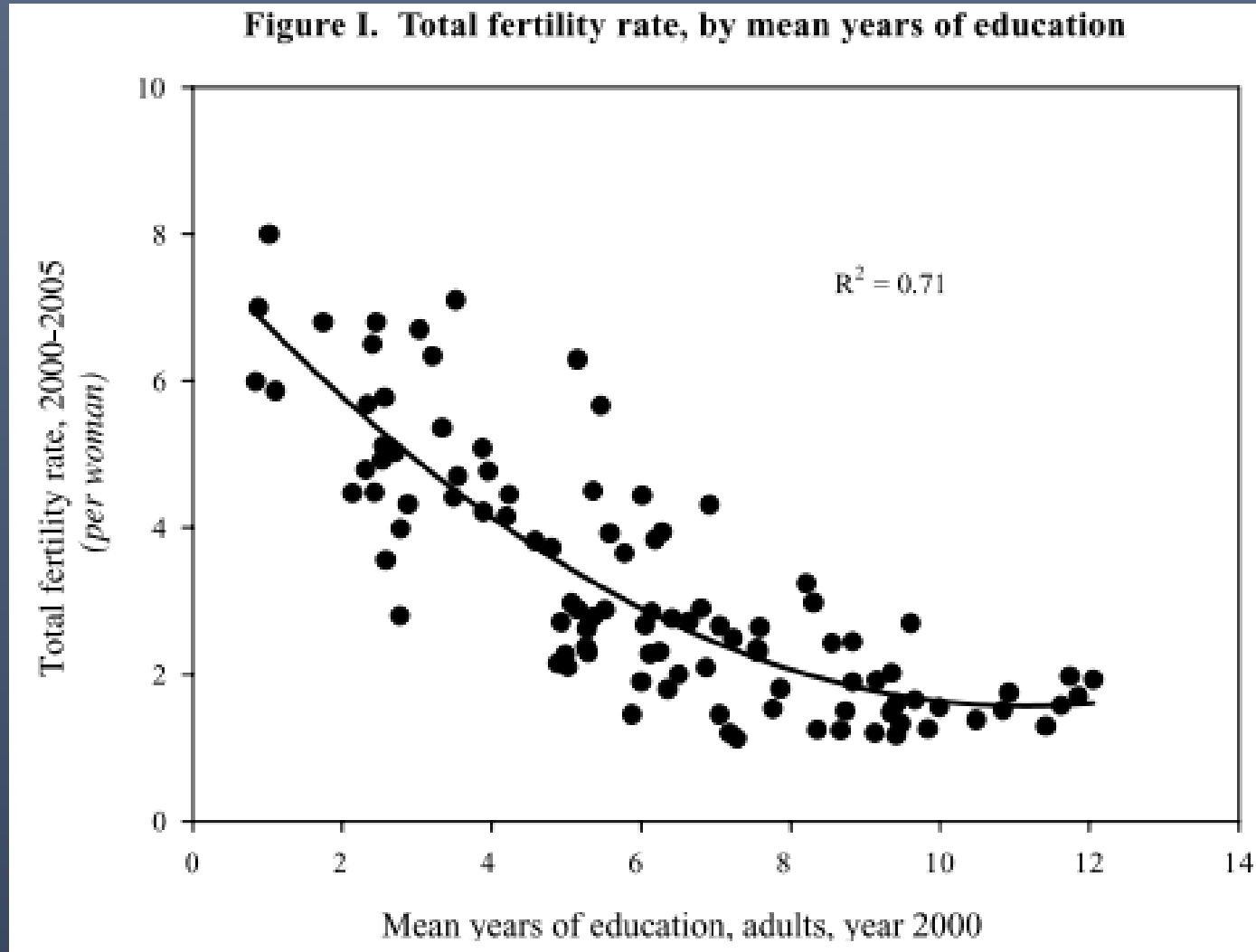
At individual level, differences in human capital investment are large and driven by demographic differences.



Influence of education on
lifecycle demographic
processes:

- Fertility, marriage, family formation.
- Mortality, morbidity, health.
- Migration

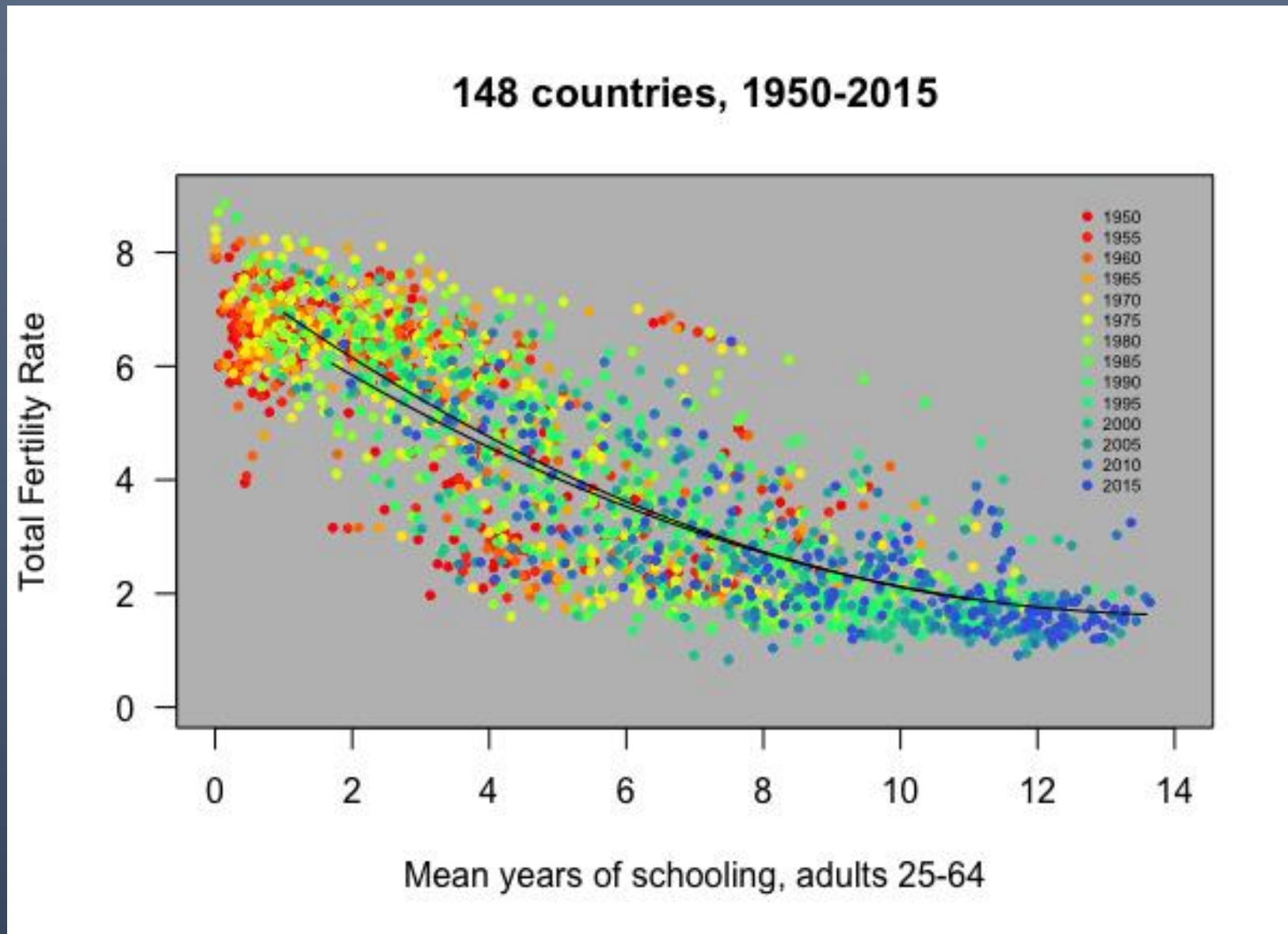
Fertility and Education, 2000



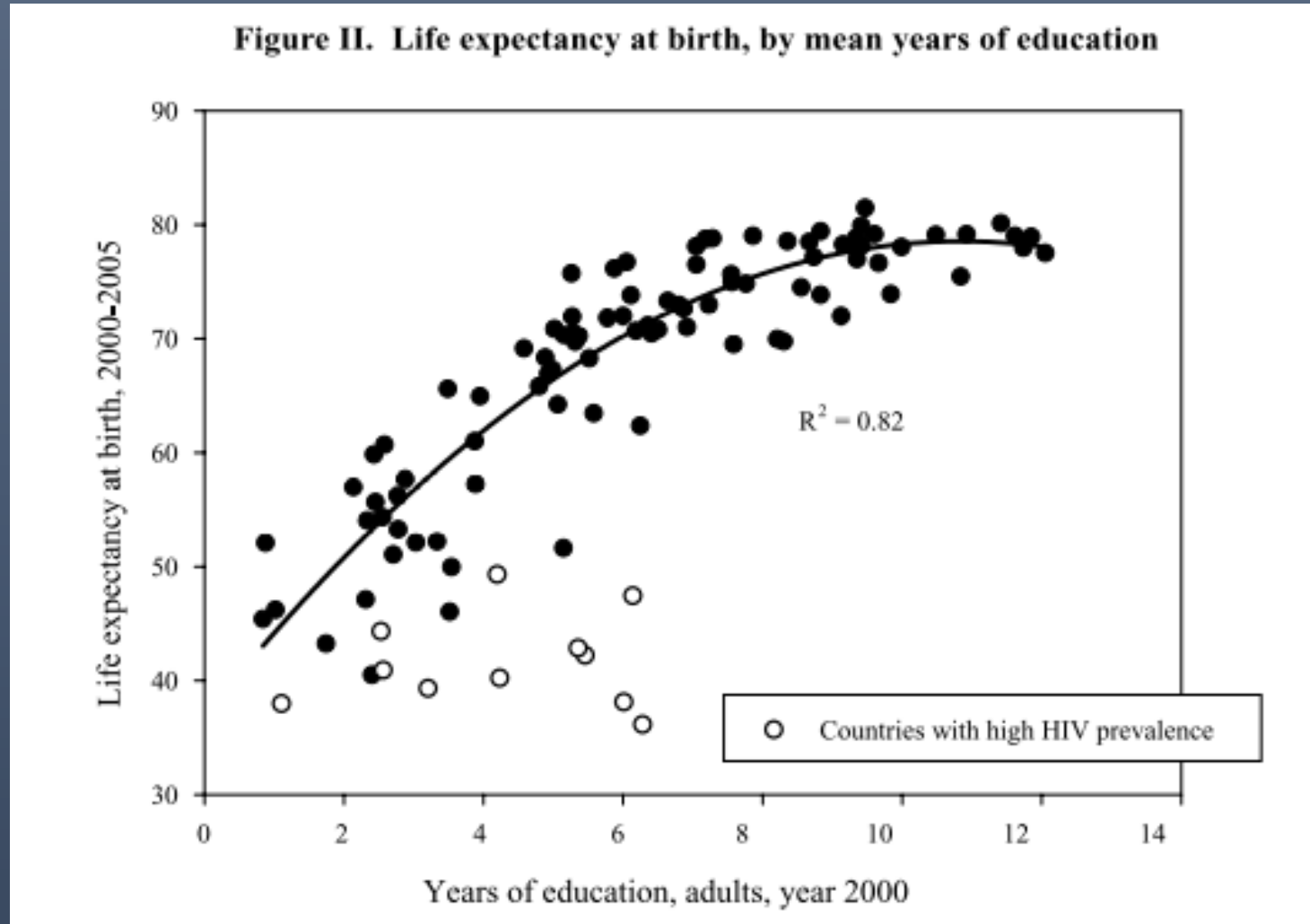
Difference in the level of fertility between countries is strongly correlated with educational attainment.

Source: United Nations, 2003

Fertility and Education, 1950-2015



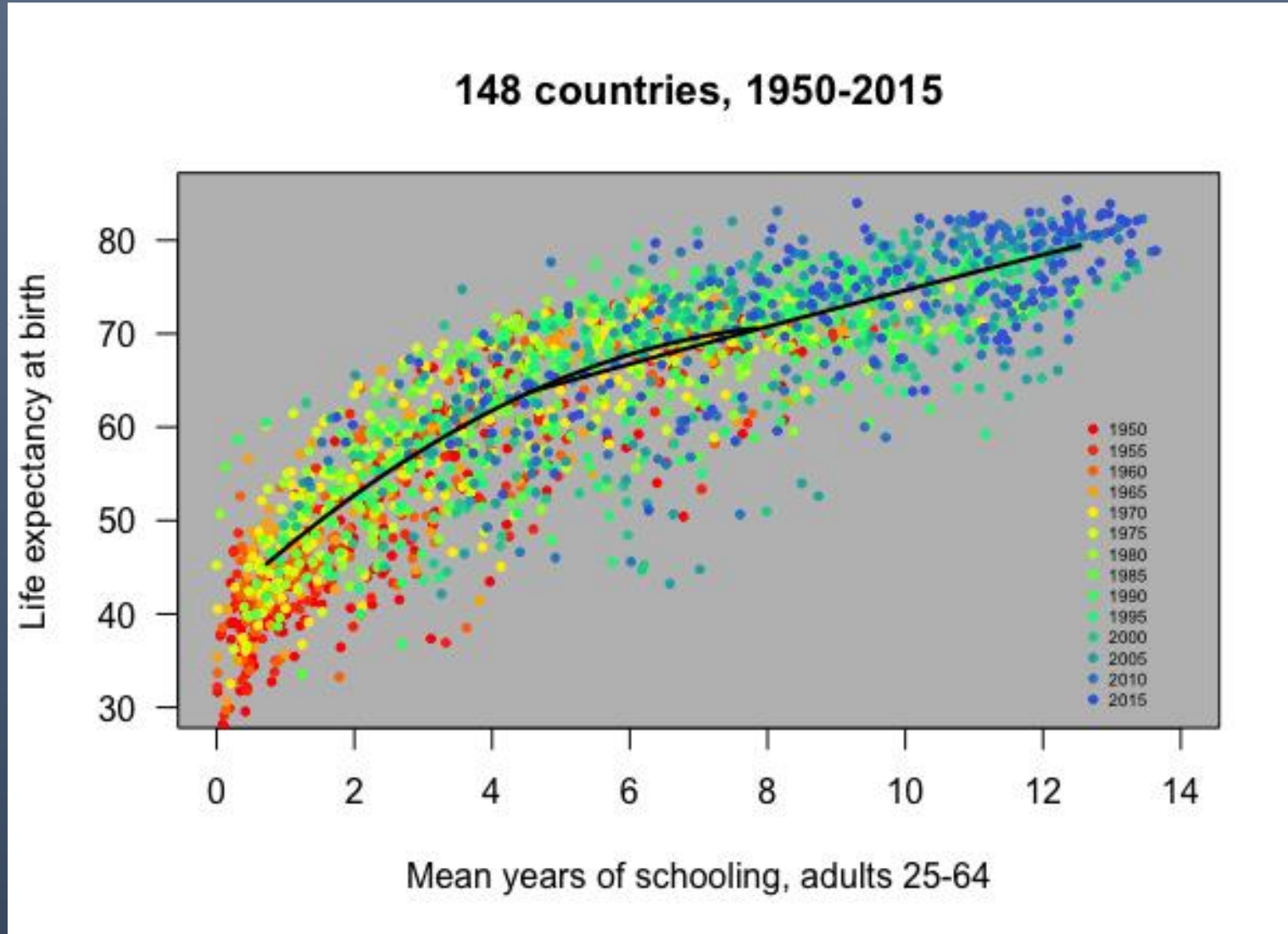
Life Expectancy and Education, 2000



Strong correlation between life expectancy and education attainment across countries.

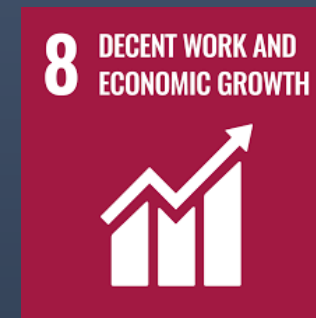
Source: United Nations, 2003

Life expectancy and Education, 1950-2015



Sustainable Development

- The population-education nexus is important for achievement of multiple sustainable development goals.
- It impacts:
 - **Inclusion:** “leaving no one behind”; gender equality; intra-generational and inter-generational equity;
 - **Economies:** economic growth (the demographic, education, and gender dividends); fiscal sustainability of public sector programs;
 - **Individual well-being:** autonomy, health, and economic opportunity.
- Focusing on the population-education nexus responds to the SG’s call in “Our Common Agenda” to place long-term intergenerational thinking at the heart of national governance and the multilateral system.



In this meeting,

- New evidence, analysis, and methods on long-standing issues.

As well as, emerging issues:

- COVID-19
- Life-long learning
- Digital technologies
- Quality education



Thank you