



## UNITED NATIONS EXPERT GROUP MEETING

on the  
Methodology and Lessons  
learned to evaluate the  
completeness and quality of  
vital statistics data from civil registration



Statistics Korea

New York, 3 and 4 November 2016

### INVITED SPEAKERS, EXPERTS AND MODERATORS



**Dr Tim Adair** is a Principal Research Fellow in the Data for Health Initiative - CRVS at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne. He is a demographer who has extensive experience in the collection, assessment and usage of mortality and other public health data in Australia (including Indigenous health) and internationally. He has worked on projects in Southeast Asian countries that have strengthened mortality registration systems and the quality of mortality statistics. He has a PhD in Demography from the Australian National University (2006), and has held positions as Postdoctoral Fellow at the MEASURE DHS project, Senior Research Officer at the University of Queensland, Consultant at the Health Information Systems Hub at the University of Queensland, and a Senior Data Analyst and Consultant at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. He was also Director and Senior Research Fellow at the National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre for four years, where he developed and led an ageing research program that informed Government, the private sector, not-for-profit sector and the general public about key issues related to the ageing population, including longevity, retirement income and mature age employment.



**Salah AlMuzahmi**, Ph.D. is the Deputy Director General of Planning & Studies in the Ministry of Health, Sultanate of Oman. He joined the Oman MoH in 1992 as Regional health statistician in Dhahira District. In 2004, He is appointed as the director of the Department of Health Information and Statistics in MoH Oman. Currently, He is also an active member in 12 national committees that are related to health and statistics such as Maternal Mortality committee, five-year health plan, Health insurance. He is also appointed as a national surveys coordinator for some of health related surveys such as GSHS, GYTS, etc. Dr. Salah holds a Ph.D. in Public Health from the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia (2015) and a MPH in Applied Epidemiology from Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Australia.



**Dr. Beltrán-Sánchez** is Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Science at the Fielding School of Public Health and at the California Center for Population Research, both at UCLA. He has written on health, aging, and mortality patterns and trends in low- and middle-income countries; on links between early life experiences and late life outcomes; and on biomarker data to study physiological patterns of health and their link with sociodemographic factors. He co-founded the Latin American Mortality Database, the largest data repository in Latin America from 19 countries in the region (including data from around 1850). Before joining UCLA, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Southern California, a David E. Bell Research Fellow at the Center for Population and Development Studies at Harvard University, and Research Associate at the Center for Demography of Health & Aging at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



**Everton Campos de Lima** has graduated in Political and Social Sciences at the Université Libre de Bruxelles in 2005. He holds an M.Sc in Sociology granted by the Université Libre de Bruxelles in 2006, and a Ph.D. in Demography, CEDEPLAR/UFMG, in 2010. He has stayed at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, 2008-2009, as a visiting Ph.D. student. He has been postdoctoral researcher at the Federal University of Minas Gerais – UFMG 2011-2013. Currently, he holds a position as Assistant professor at University of Campinas – UNICAMP, and he is also working as researcher scientist at the Population Study Center – NEPO/UNICAMP. His main research interests are: Fertility, Formal Demography, Small Area Estimation and Spatial Demography.



**Karen Carter** is the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Specialist in the Statistics for Development Division at the Pacific Community. In this role she provides technical support to Pacific Island Countries and Territories to improve their CRVS and Health Information Systems, and provides coordination support for the Brisbane Accord Group of partner agencies and implementation of the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan. Karen is an epidemiologist by background with a Master's degree in Public Health and Tropical Medicine and a PhD from the University of Queensland that focussed on evaluating mortality trends in the Pacific Islands. She has worked in the health sector for 20 years, specialising in CRVS for the last 10.



**Chen Wei** is Professor in the Department of Demography & Centre for Population and Development Studies, Renmin University of China. He studied demography and completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in Population Studies in Renmin University of China. From 1990 to 1997, he attended three seminars and workshops on population, ageing and migration studies in the USA, Malta and Thailand. From 2001 to 2004, Chen Wei studied in Australian National University, where he completed his PhD degree in Demography and Sociology. He was a visiting scholar at the Australian National University in 2010 to 2011. He attended a workshop on demographic microsimulation in 2012 in Australian National University.

Following the completion of his master's degree in 1988, he taught in Renmin University of China as a lecturer. In 1996 he was appointed as Associate Professor and in 2006 Professor of Department of Demography & Center for Population and Development Studies. While his major research interests involve fertility and reproductive health, he published widely on fertility, mortality, migration, family and ageing. Currently Professor Chen is leading two research projects, Effects of the Two-Child Policy funded by China Social Sciences Foundation, and Chinese Pattern of Low Fertility funded by Ministry of Education of China, both as the principal investigator. He is also the co-author of Demographic Foundation of China's Ageing Society, funded by China Natural Sciences Foundation.



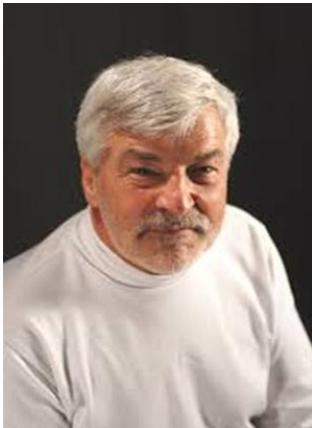
**Eliane de Freitas Drumond** is a medical doctor graduated and post-graduated by the Medical School of Federal University of Minas Gerais. Her doctorate subject was probabilistic linkage of live birth registration and inpatient information of birth, in 2007. Since 1990, she works at Municipal level with health information systems (mostly mortality) where she does some scientific and professional studies doing deterministic and probabilistic linkage between SIM, SINASC, and SIH. She is also dedicated to training doctors on filling the causes of death on the document.



**Rob Dorrington** is Professor of Actuarial Science and founding Head of the Actuarial Science programme and Director of the Centre for Actuarial Research, at the University of Cape Town. He is an actuary and a demographer, and is a Fellow of both the Actuarial Society of South Africa and of the University of Cape Town. He has served on the Council of the Actuarial Society of South Africa and is a past President of the Demographic Association of Southern Africa. He has also served on the South African Statistics Council, various task teams of South African National AIDS Council, Statistics South Africa and the South African Department of Health, and has been and occasional invitee to meetings of the UNAIDS Reference Group on Estimates, Modelling and Projection.



**Michel Guillot** is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. His research is organized primarily around two main areas: (1) formal demography; and (2) understanding health disparities across and within populations. In the area of formal demography, he has designed new methodologies for better understanding mortality levels and trends, and for studying their impact on population growth and aging. He has also made contributions in the area of model age patterns of mortality and indirect estimation methods. In the area of health disparities, he has examined the burden of disease among the global poor. He has also studied the health of vulnerable ethnic, religious, and migrant groups in a range of populations, including India. A related interest has been the analysis of the health crisis in the former Soviet Union, with a special focus on the Central Asia region.



**Kenneth Hill** is a retired professor from Harvard University. Dr. Hill's research interests have been in the development of demographic measurement methods (particularly for demographic outcomes that are hard to measure, such as child and adult mortality, unmet need for family planning, undocumented migration); the measurement of child mortality (with particular emphasis on tracking national trends and linking them to other changes); the exploration of links between demographic parameters and economic crisis; the impact of policy and programs on demographic change; the role of gender preferences on child health behaviors and fertility; the demography of sub-Saharan Africa; the role of development, particularly child mortality change, on fertility decline; and the measurement of demographic parameters for populations undergoing complex emergencies.



**Sun-Jae Hwang** is an assistant professor of Sociology at Chungnam National University and a senior researcher at the Asia Pacific Population Institute in Korea. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology and Demography from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and studies social stratification/inequality, population aging, and statistical methods. His recent work on the socioeconomic implications of population aging appeared in various academic journals, including *Journal of Aging and Social Policy*, *Korean Journal of Demography*, and *Korean Journal of Sociology*. He also directs and organizes a number of international joint projects and plans to hold an international seminar on the Joint Research on International Labor and Marriage Migrations in the Asia-Pacific Region in November 2016.



**Dmitri Jdanov** is a Research Scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany, and deputy head of Center for Demographic Research at the New Economic School, Russia. He has PhD in Mathematics from Ulyanovsk State University, Russia. Since 2000 he works for the Human Mortality Database, currently as head of MPIDR team. He is also deputy head of the Human Fertility Database team at the MPIDR and co-director of the Human Fertility Collection and Human Cause-of-Death Database. His current research focuses on inequality in mortality, quality of demographic data, and health of aging population.



**Janetta Joubert** graduated with two Honours and two Masters degrees from the Universities of Stellenbosch and Pretoria in South Africa, and a PhD from The University of Queensland in Australia. Her doctoral research focussed on the availability and quality of civil registration mortality data in South Africa. For the past 19 years, she worked as a research scientist at the South African Medical Research Council. She is employed in the Burden of Disease Research Unit, and her main interests are the descriptive epidemiology of major local disease, injury and risk factors for disease, as well as the quality-assessment, analysis and interpretation of cause-of-death data. Her peripheral research interests include demographic ageing and burden of disease in older persons.



**Bernado Lanza Queiroz** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Demography at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) and associated researcher at Cedeplar/UFMG. Dr Queiroz teaches undergraduate in Actuarial Science and graduate courses in Demography. He holds a Ph.D. in Demography from the University of California at Berkeley (2005). He specializes in economic demography, population aging, and mortality and health. He has strong interests in demographic methods and indirect techniques. Currently, his research is centered on two main topics: a) studying

how demographic changes are related to the changes in the labor market in developing countries. In particular, he is studying retirement trends, changes in occupation over time and across cohorts and how changes in the composition of the labor force impacts on the performance of different age groups; and b) small-area mortality estimation with defective data. In this project, we combine traditional demographic methods - death distribution methods - to bayesian statistics to produce estimates of life expectancy at the city level.



**Ji-Youn Lee** is director of Vital Statistics Division in Statistics of Korea. She worked for producing statistics on cause of death, migration, and national and sub-national population projections. She also has experience on estimating population census coverage and data linking with different data sources for improving quality of vital statistics. Now, she is working on developing new system for the 2016 population projections based on the first Korean register-based population census and vital statistics.



Nan Li is a demographer. His primary professional interests are mathematics and statistics demographic models and methods. He is a Population Affairs Officer at the Population Division of the United Nations. Recently, he has been worked on Probabilistic Population Projections, Probabilistic Life tables, Probabilistic Fertility Tables, and on Estimating Life Tables for Developing Countries. Nan Li holds a Ph.D. in Demography from Xian Jiaotong University in China.



**Colin Mathers** is the Coordinator of the Mortality and Health Analysis Unit in the Health System and Innovation Cluster at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland. He has led the work of WHO on global health statistics for the last 15 years, and played a leading role in WHO's work on summary measures of population health, global burden of disease, and monitoring progress towards the MDG health targets. He also oversees annual publication of the WHO flagship publication World Health Statistics, which is closely linked to WHO's Global Health Observatory ([www.who.int/gho](http://www.who.int/gho)). His team maintains the WHO Mortality Database which collects global summary data from death registration systems in Member States.



**Nadine Nannan** holds Masters Degrees in molecular biology and medical demography. Her doctoral thesis investigates alternative approaches for measuring childhood mortality in resource limited settings using South Africa as a case study. The research focusses on the use of vital registration data for monitoring childhood mortality trends. She will submit her PhD to the University of Cape Town in February 2017. She has worked with the South African Medical Research Council since 1996 as a demographer in the Burden of Disease Research Unit. Her research interests include the measurement of and differentials in childhood mortality, burden of disease assessment and inequalities in health.



**Alberto Palloni** is a retired Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A demographer and sociologist by training, Palloni's work primarily has been in the areas of health and mortality, statistical applications and mathematical demography. In recent research, Alberto Palloni conducted the first study to consider selection mechanisms arising from early childhood experience as a source of socioeconomic differentials in health and mortality in developed countries. He is also reconstructing adult mortality patterns for Latin American countries from 1850 onwards. He uses a novel procedure to simultaneously assess completeness of death registration and age-specific distortions in observed mortality patterns. This massive estimation exercise identified new patterns of adult and old age mortality to document a century of Latin American mortality decline.



**Chalapati Rao** is a faculty member in the Department of Global Health at the Research School of Population Health, Australian National University. His research interests lie in the area of strengthening primary mortality data collection and analysis in developing countries. The broad research themes include methodological research to measure total and cause-specific mortality, ascertain and/or validate registered causes of death, synthesis of mortality information from fragmentary or diverse sources for population level mortality estimation, and the assessment and strengthening of civil registration and vital statistics systems. He has been involved in the mortality component of burden of disease assessment in Andhra Pradesh, India during 1998-2001, and at the global level in the WHO GBD 2001 study. Since 2003, he has been involved in mortality field studies and secondary data analysis in several countries in Asia, the Middle East, Brazil, South Africa and Pacific Island Countries.



**Romesh Silva** is a demographer. His primary professional interests are demographic estimation in low-resource settings and the demography of armed conflict and forced displacement. He leads UN-ESCWA's work on assessing and improving civil registration and vital statistics systems throughout Western Asia. He also serves on the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Innovations in Strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems and the UN Inter-Agency Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics. He is an Associate at the Institute for International Programs in the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University and a Research Affiliate at the Data-Pop Alliance. Romesh holds a Ph.D. in demography from the University of California, Berkeley.



**Adriana Skenderi** is a staff member of the Demographic Statistics Section, United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. She has an academic background in Mathematics, Statistics, and Demography. In her current position Adriana leads a team of staff members performing annual data collections of vital statistics, national population estimates, international migration flows, and population and housing censuses data from the National Statistical Offices of all countries and areas. She is responsible for the annual publications, UN Demographic Yearbook and Population and Vital Statistics Report. She is also responsible for several compilations based on the national data of 2000 and 2010 rounds of Population Censuses.



**Vladimir M. Shkolnikov** is the head of Laboratory of Demographic Data at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock (Germany), head of the Center for Demographic Research at the New Economic School in Moscow (Russia), Director of the Human Mortality Database and Co-Director of the Human Fertility Database. His expertise is in population and medical statistics and methods of measurement and decomposition in demography. His scientific focus is on methods and empirical research on population and health.

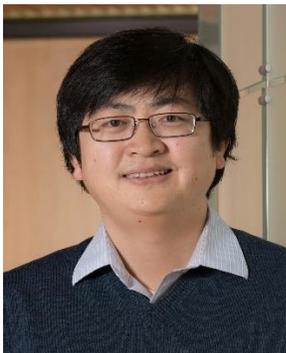


**Gretchen Stevens** is a technical officer in the Department of Information, Evidence and Research at the World Health Organization in Geneva. Dr. Stevens led the development of the Guidelines for Accurate and Transparent Health Estimates Reporting (GATHER), which define and promote best practices in reporting health estimates. She has carried out global analyses of the prevalence of overweight and obesity, hearing and vision impairment, infertility, child growth, and anemia; she has also

published comparative analyses of mortality data. Dr. Stevens' doctoral research focused on environmental risk assessment in Mexico, including an analysis of environmental burden of disease at the county (municipio) level.



**Patama Vapattanawong** is one among very few demographers in Thailand. She received her B.Sc. in Nursing and Midwifery from Mahidol University, Thailand, in 1983; M.Sc. in Community Medicine from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, in 1993; and Ph.D. in Demography from Mahidol University, Thailand, in 2002. She is now an Associate Professor at the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, teaching many courses related to Demography such as Technique of Demographic Analysis; Indirect Technique for Demographic Estimation; Advances Demographic Projection; Population, Health and Community Health Services Development. She is keen on using large datasets, particularly birth and death registration databases, to study demographic transition in Thailand and other related issues. Her research interests are child and old age mortality.



**Haidong Wang** PhD is an Associate Professor of Global Health at University of Washington, Seattle. Received his doctoral degree in Demography from the Population Studies Center at University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Wang's current work involves formal demographic estimation methods, demographic data synthesis, and estimation of the burden of HIV/AIDS."

**Danzhen You** is a Demographer and Statistics and Monitoring Specialist in Data & Analytics Section of the Division of Data, Research and Policy at UNICEF New York. As the focal point for Demographics, she leads the data analysis, reporting and monitoring activities in the areas of child mortality, urbanization, migration and refugees, population dynamics and demographic dividend. She is the Coordinator of the UN Inter-agency Group for the Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) and leads the group's child mortality estimation work. She participates in various international or interagency expert groups including the Global CRVS group and the International Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics.

Dr You has over 15 years of professional experience in demography, public health and development. Prior to UNICEF, Dr You worked at

Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies as a researcher. She holds a PhD in Demography and a Master's degree in Statistics from University of California, Berkeley.



**Maigeng Zhou, Bsc, Msc, PhD** is Professor and Deputy Director of National Center for Chronic and Non-communicable Disease Control and Prevention of Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Affiliate Professor at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington.

Prof. Zhou is an experienced epidemiologist and public health researcher in China. His research focuses on chronic non-communicable disease control and prevention, especially the mortality trends, burden of diseases, the health effects of risk factors and intervention strategy development and assessment. His most recent research included the effect of air pollution on health status in China. He is also a leading expert in vital statistics in China. He received research projects or grants from the main funding sources in China including Ministry of Science and Technology, and Ministry of Health. He also received funding from international agencies such as World Health Organization and has long term collaborations with University of Oxford, Harvard University, Stanford University and Johns Hopkins University in a wide range of research areas on chronic disease control and prevention.