



DESA



Global Policy
Dialogue Series



FUTURE
OF THE
WORLD

Speakers' Biographies

The Future of Population Growth

Session 6 of the *Future of the World:*
Global Policy Dialogues on Preparing for What's Next series

Wednesday, 23 February 2022, 8:30-10:00 a.m. EST

Moderator



Aminda Leigh

Aminda Leigh is a British-Italian professional moderator and journalist with 30 years' experience, beginning in newsrooms at various BBC radio and TV channels in the UK. She is now based in Rome, where she runs a media services agency – AMROS Media Solutions. She specialises in environmental issues including climate change, sustainable transport, the circular economy, chemicals management and disaster risk reduction as well as research, innovation and technology.

Leigh's professional experience as a moderator and master of ceremonies spans more than a decade, working at high profile events across Europe, such as: EU Green Week, EU Bioeconomy Week, the EU Agriculture Outlook conference, the Eurocities Environment Forum, the High Level Conference on EU Chemicals Policy 2030, the Eighth Forest Europe Ministerial Conference and the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction organised by UNIDSR, to name but a few. Furthermore, she has moderated at major global gatherings like the World EXPO in Milan and the COP23 climate talks in Bonn.

In the field of journalism, Leigh has made award-winning web documentaries and videos on a variety of topics, including climate change, the gender pay gap and Europe's Common Agricultural Policy.

Panelists

Topic 1: Rapid population and demographics of population growth



John Wilmoth

John Wilmoth took up his position as the tenth Director of the Population Division on 2 January 2013. He comes to UN DESA from a distinguished academic career, most recently as Professor at the Department of Demography of the University of California at Berkeley. He previously served in the Population Division as Chief of the Mortality Section from 2005 to 2007.

Wilmoth is the author or co-author of more than 50 scientific papers examining various aspects of population dynamics and population issues, including the causes of the historical decline of human mortality, prospects for future trends in life expectancy, the impact of population ageing on public pension and healthcare systems, popular perceptions of population growth and its consequences, and methodologies for estimating and projecting demographic trends. Wilmoth has also served as a consultant to the World Health Organization and the World Bank from 2009 to 2012, leading the development of new global estimates of maternal mortality. He is a member of the Population Association of America and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population. He also serves on the editorial boards of some leading demographic journals including *Demographic Research* and the *European Journal of Population*.



Alex Ezeh

Alex Ezeh, Ph.D., is Dornsife Professor of Global Health at the Dornsife School of Public Health, Drexel University. Ezeh's work focuses on urban health, population change, and models to strengthen knowledge-based institutions. Previously, he served as the founding Executive Director of the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) and guided APHRC to become one of Africa's foremost research institutes. Ezeh also initiated and directed the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in

Africa and the African Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship programs. He serves on numerous international and non-profit boards, including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' High-Level Advisory Board for Economic and Social Affairs. Ezeh has contributed to several Lancet Commissions and Co-Chaired the Guttmacher Lancet Commission on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Ezeh received the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Royal Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene's 2020 George Macdonald Medal; The World Academy of Sciences 2018 Prize for the Social Sciences; and he holds two

Honorary Doctor of Science degrees from KCA University (Kenya) and University of Ibadan (Nigeria). He currently co-chairs a new Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing.

Topic 2: Social and economic impacts of population growth



Nyovani Janet Madise

Nyovani Janet Madise is Director of Development Policy and also Head of the Malawi office of the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP). Her work at AFIDEP focuses on research to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and promoting the use of evidence among African decision-makers for the formulation of strong development policies and programmes.

Madise has a degree in Mathematics and Economics from the University of Malawi; MSc and PhD in Social Statistics from the University of Southampton and Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) from the University of Aberdeen. She worked for about 25 years at the University of Southampton until 2018. She held roles such as: Professor of Demography and Social Statistics; the University's lead for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity; Associate Dean (Research); Deputy Head of School; and Director of the University's Public Policy Unit. Nyovani previously worked in Kenya and at the University of Malawi. Nyovani is Vice-President and President-elect of the Union of African Population Studies.

Madise sits on many boards including Plan International Inc., Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, AmplifyChange, the Population Council, UKRI's GCRF, NIHR's Global Health Research programme, and NWO-Wotro Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights programme.



Ms. Clare Menozzi

Clare Menozzi is a Population Affairs Officer in the International Migration and Urbanization Section of the UN DESA Population Division. She joined the Population Division in 2004 and has been involved in the preparations of numerous reports and data sets related to population and development and international migration. Menozzi has also worked extensively on documenting international migration policies, and recently participated in the development of SDG indicator 10.7.2. on the number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.



Laura Rodríguez Wong

Laura Rodríguez Wong holds a Ph.D. in Demography from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and is currently a Full Professor, Researcher and Training Director of the Graduate Course of Demography at the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil. In addition, She is Vice President of the International Union for the Scientific Study of the Population (IUSSP). She also served as President of the Latin-American Association for Population Studies and General Secretary of the Brazilian Population Association.

Her research experience is based mainly on demographic analyses applied to incomplete data, and she uses indirect demographic techniques. Data evaluation (census, demographic surveys, and vital statistics), together with fertility and maternal mortality has been the areas she has dedicated most of her time to. As a consequence, Wong also focuses on the demographic dynamics of the population, or the age and sex evolution of a population and its forecast. The population change structure (or the ageing process) operating in developing countries and its consequences motivates her to do research in more socially vulnerable populations, and she advises a number of UNFPA country offices (Afghanistan, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, among them) on country development programs design and evaluation.

Topic 3: Population, environment and climate change



Deborah Balk

Deborah Balk is Professor of Public Affairs in the Marxe School of Public and International Affairs at Baruch College and at the Graduate Center at the City University of New York and Director of the CUNY Institute of Demographic Research. She was a 2016 Andrew Carnegie Fellow. She received her PhD in Demography from UC Berkeley and a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Michigan.

Using a spatial demographic lens (combining population and remote-sensing data), she studies a wide range of demographic and health outcomes, poverty and vulnerability. She is pioneer in the spatial modelling of urbanization, and was the lead developer of the Global Rural Urban Mapping Project (GRUMP) and co-developer of the first global Low Elevation Coastal Zone (LECZ) data sets, which allowed for the estimation of urban population at risk of climate-change hazards.

She currently serves as Co-Chair on the New York City Panel on Climate Change's 4th Assessment, a member of Society and Economy Working Group of the New York State Climate Impacts Assessment, a member of the US Census Bureau's Scientific Advisory Committee, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Population.



Pierre Boileau

Pierre Boileau is currently the Head of the Global Environment Outlook programme at UN Environment. In this role he has led his team to complete the sixth Global Environment Outlook (published in March, 2019) as well as 6 regional environmental assessments (May, 2016). As part of the sixth Global Environment Outlook, his team worked closely with more than 160 experts and authors to produce the analysis contained in the publication. The findings in the sixth Global Environment Outlook global assessment are closely linked to pathways for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as well as a “Healthy Planet for Healthy People,” which is the theme of the report.

Prior to this, Boileau was the Head of the International Energy Agency's non-member country energy statistics section where he led a team of statisticians that produce IEA's global energy data publications as well as various electronic data products.



Raya Muttarak

Raya Muttarak is Professor of Demography at the Department of Statistical Sciences at the University of Bologna, Italy. She is the former IIASA Population and Just Societies (POPJUS) Program director. She has also been director of Population, Environment, and Sustainable Development at the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital since 2017. She currently serves as an editor of *Population and Development Review* and an editorial board member of *Population and Environment* and *Vienna Yearbook of Population Research*.

Her research focuses mainly on the reciprocal relationship between population and the environment. Her current research projects include differential impacts of climate variability on human health, migration, and child welfare; climate change attitudes, voting patterns, and environmental behaviors; and modeling and forecasting future vulnerability and adaptive capacity. She is also actively engaged in empirical studies on a variety of topics ranging from the COVID-19 pandemic and gender disparities, estimates of migration intention to female empowerment, and domestic violence.