IUSSP XXVIII IPC
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People TALK Newsletter 2
Tuesday
31 October 2017

MAKING THE VULNERABLE VISIBLE

The United Nations Population Fund gathered a veritable who's who of the world of population study at the plenary session that closed off day one of the scientific programme of the IPC.

Dr Benoit Calasa, West and Central Africa Regional Director of the UNFPA, chaired the session which asked the panellists to consider how the challenges posed by the data demands made on the statistics community by Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development can best be met. The panel, consisting of Dr Carmen Barasso, Regional Director of International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR); Professor Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue, Professor of Development Sociology, Cornell University; Dr Philomena Efua Nyarko, University of Ghana; Mr. Paulo Saad, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; Professor Marwan Khawaja, UN ESCWA; and Dr Pali Lehohla, Statistician-General for South Africa and head of Statistics South Africa, carefully considered how best the world can meet the demand for disaggregated data that will ensure that the most vulnerable are made visible.

The importance of strategic partnerships with stakeholders other than National Statistical Offices (NSO) was highlighted. NSO's need to reach out to relevant stakeholders to partner with them in ensuring that the data needs of the SDGs are met. The coordination of this process is of paramount importance, in order to ensure that efforts are not duplicated. The panel also pointed to the importance of ensuring that the local, national, regional and international development agendas are complementary, so that they work together and not contrary to each other. Technology can be used to decrease the turnaround times from data collection to the release of results. Big data has been used to track human movement in time of crisis, the earthquakes in Nepal and Haiti being examples of this.

It was proposed that this method could possibly be used to track the movement of displaced populations. It was pointed out that the research community can take credit for the shift to 'Leave No One Behind' that is the fundamental essence of Agenda 2030, as they were the ones who pointed out that the aggregated level of reporting in the Millennium Development Goals, in fact, meant that many were left behind.

Researchers were encouraged to stop thinking that their findings would magically lead to policy and investment that would best serve the population and to instead help build the political will to put the correct policies in place. They were challenged to spend the same amount of energy on ensuring that their research moved from paper to action on the ground, as they did on the actual research; to partner with the broadest range of stakeholders possible to ensure that their research is used; to engage with and educate civil society and influencers so that these stakeholders are in a position to demand good data and use it to ensure that appropriate policies are put in place and actioned.

Researchers should have their ear to the ground and know what the most pressing issues are that need investigation. In this way, they can, by partnering with other interested stakeholders, improve society. An example of this is a study in Ghana which included academia and government, and that resulted in the Vitamin A Supplementation programme in Ghana, and which has been adopted by other areas in the world.

Let us all, especially those with the power to investigate, use our knowledge and skills to ensure that no-one is left behind.

MEASURING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SOUTH SUDAN

Dr. Manuel Contreras-Urbina, from George Washington University, provided an overview of a study that measured violence against women and girls in the country of South Sudan. There is not much data available on the extent and types of violence affecting women and girls in countries that are emerging out of conflict.

This study – forming part of a broader 5-year global program funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development – was conducted to gather information on what drives violence against women and girls, as well as the risk factors involved. Taking on a softer approach, the study also aimed to gain a deeper understanding of the experiences of those victims who had survived.

South Sudan has been through different types of conflict. Prior to independence, the area – as part of the Republic of Sudan – found itself embroiled in two destructive civil wars. The first lasted from 1955 to 1972. The second, which is infamous for being the longest civil war to have taken place on the African continent, lasted 22 years, from 1983 to 2005. An overwhelming majority of the population voted to break away from Sudan in January 2011. On 9 July of that year, the Republic of South Sudan was born, becoming the 193rd member of the United Nations.

Independence hasn't yet brought much peace. Rebellions, intercommunal fighting, and raids continue. Women and children often find themselves caught in the middle of the conflict.

A mixed-method approach of research was used in this study. A household based survey, targeting women and men aged 15-64, was conducted. Respondents were asked to answer questions on the types of violence that they had experienced during different periods of South Sudan's recent history. On the qualitative side of things, in-depth interviews were conducted with community leaders, police, victims, members of women's groups, and perpetrators.

The study was also designed to gauge whether there were any differences in the experiences of victims from urban and rural areas, as well as from Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites. The results of the study showed that women and girls in South Sudan have been, and still are, at high risk of violence. One third of women have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence from a non-partner. In times of conflict, girls and women become targets.

Women and girls are not safe even within their own homes:

two-thirds experienced violence from an intimate partner.

FAMILY PLANNING 2020

Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) is a global partnership that supports the rights of women and girls to decide, freely and for themselves whether, when, and how many children they want to have. FP2020 works with governments, civil society, multilateral organisations, donors, the private sector, and the research and development community to enable 120 million more women and girls to use contraceptives by 2020.

The session, introduced by Jason Bremmer, discussed one of the more important social constructs faced in the modern world today with respect to the creation, monitoring and evaluation of international indicators to facilitate the progression of family planning (FP). Key primary objectives in relation to FP2020 were discussed by the following panel members: Ann Biddelcom, Jacob Adentunji, Jay Prakesh, Emily Sonneveldt and Michelle Weinberger. The harmonisation of common goals with respect to common measures; country ownership of their respective development and processes related to FP and the quality of data regarding service vs. non-service statistics.

The London summit held in 2012 gave birth to a working group to provide advice and technical support for monitoring progress towards FP2020 goals. The key objectives were to improve the quantitative and qualitative key dimensions of FP; advanced measurements of key aspects of FP; and measurement alignment and promoting the use of data for decision making. Since then there has been a tremendous uptake in a wide range of partnerships across the globe, amongst others 41 partner countries, 14 donor countries, 39 civil society partners, 9 foundations, 4 multilaterals and 18 private sector partners.

FP2020 is seen as a gatekeeper regarding policies and implementation of the current 18 CORE Indicator Framework. In addition, the group ensures the standardisation of variables on a global scale to uniformly monitor and evaluate the progress of FP towards the international goal. An online tool developed by FP2020 assists countries in adopting a model relevant to social dynamics within their respective countries. The responsibility, however, lies upon nations to capacitate and support monitoring and evaluation officers who are responsible for running the related FP estimates and communicating their respective annual changes. Annual consensus workshops hosted by governments help to review data and agree on final figures as well as discuss potential improvements.

The use of quality service statistics (these include data sets that are usually interrogated over a period of 3 years) as opposed to non-service statistics significantly improves the estimates via the reduction of confidence intervals. The Mozambican example recently re-emphasized the importance of service statistics. Estimates from a reputable survey provider closely resembled those of the service statistics as opposed to the estimates from non-service statistics, resulting in enhancements in the FP monitoring and evaluation processes.

ALTERING THE REALM OF THE POSSIBLE

An esteemed panel took to the stage on Monday 30 October 2017 at the CTICC in Cape Town to discuss 'Our Next World – Rethinking Demography'. The session was sponsored by the World Demographic and Ageing Forum (WDA) and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA).

The session was opened by Dr Hans Groth, President of the WDA, who gave a presentation on what the world looks like today and what it would look like in 2100. The statistics showed that by 2100 Africa would have a large cohort of working-age population; Asia and Latin America's working-age population would decrease and the elderly (65+ years) would increase; Europe's population would have shrunk; in North America and Oceania both the working-age population and 65+ cohorts will continue to increase. He then handed over to Dr Nicholas Eberstadt from the American Enterprise Institute to give give a geopolitical context to his introduction.

Dr Eberstadt invited the panel to think of demography as being a force that gradually but irrevocably alters the realm of the possible. Demography alters the realms of options, such as geopolitical prospects, potential interactions between different populations, nations and political configurations. He further suggested that advances in population research allow for more sophistication than the headcount approach that is most familiar.

He went on to demonstrate this by inviting the delegates to consider the estimated increase in the working-age population of India and the estimated decrease in the working-age population in China, which seems to tell a strong story. However, if you look at the educational profile of the working-age populations of India and China up to now and prospectively in the future, you get a different and more qualified story. The graphic showed the proportion of working-age population by level of education for India and China. Only a tiny fraction of China's working-age population has no education, while approximately 20% of India's working-age population has no education. India seems to be on a trajectory perhaps 50 years behind China in eliminating illiteracy. This qualifies our understanding of the economic potential and prospects for both of these demographic giants.

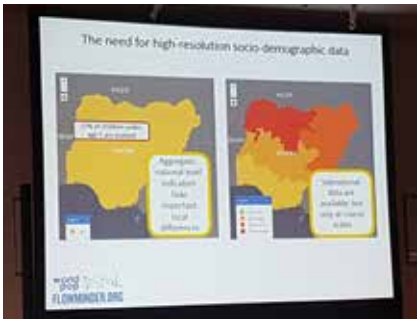
The international flavour and professional nous of the IPC were well-captured in the panel who took to the stage. Dr Eberhardt was joined by Thomas Cueni, Director-General of the IFPMA, who led the discussion; Dr Ewa Björling, former Minister in the Swedish Government; Dr Wang Feng, Professor of Sociology, Fudan University in China; Dr Eliya Zulu, Executive Director of the African Institute for Development Policy and Dr Thomas Zeltner, Head of International Affairs at the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences.

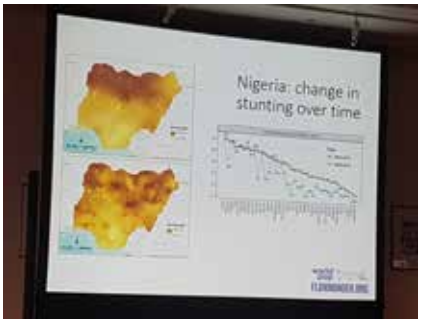
The panel had a robust debate around the issue of the ageing societies and their impact globally. One panellist mentioned that pension systems had been established at a time when the life expectancy was 67, so a retired person would need to be supported for an average of two years. There are countries in the world where life expectancy is now into the 90s, which places a huge burden on the welfare state, especially if the working-age population is decreasing while the elderly population decreases.

Dr Wolfgang Lutz, Founding Director of the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital in Austria closed the session, encouraging population specialists to use a multi-dimensional approach to population studies.

The population issues facing the world will be confronted head-on by the population specialists at this conference as they continue to grow the body of knowledge of the science of population.

MAPPING PEOPLE





Consider space, place and time when reflecting on demographic issues.

Professor Mark Collinson introduced the concept of space, place and time as an undeniable domain of consideration when discussing demographic issues. The session, rightly coined "Improving measurement of population distribution: Geospatial data", provided an insight into projects executed over 3 continents amongst the speakers of the day: Robby Zuchowski, Claudio Bosco and Alisson Barbeiri.

The discussant, Michael White, reminded the audience that the technological improvements in computing power and applications tremendously assist in research options that previously proved difficult. Robby's case study in Atlanta (USA) focused on the scale and spatial patterning of racial / ethnic segregation based on both home and workplace environments. He used the combination of demography and spatial statistical techniques such as GWR (Geographically Weighted Regression Analysis) and Morans I to look deep into segregation between races and was able to visually display the daily mobility movements into the Central Business District.

Big Data sets, such as LODES (new Census dataset) includes granular block levels of 89000 units. The LODES dataset strengths includes the useful data for residence and workplace, detailed smaller areas and rich origin / destination information, whilst limitations is that it is administratively collected and may have questions around representativeness, Crude SES and age groups.

Does funding really reach the intended recipients?

Claudio Bosco represented a team from Flowminder and his topic entitled "Mapping the interaction between development aid and stunting in Nigeria" emphasised the importance of policy decisions around funding and its intended purposes. The well-explained variance of 62% is underpinned by a host of statistical techniques, including Bayesian modelling and Artificial Neuron Models, and proves that there is a general improvement in some areas of Nigeria with respect to funding.

The visual representation provides a good understanding to entities at all levels including monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes. In the Nigeria case study he mentioned that in terms of policy implications:

- There is not a very good overall relationship between where money is spent for stunting vs. actual areas of stunting, although there was an indication earlier that in certain areas (locations) there is
- The primary reason could be misreporting and the fact that 60% of all data is not geo-located
- Lack of information from administration sources Claudio shared that, on the other hand, the Nepal project example displayed good correlation.

WEATHER TO DIE FOR

Does the weather influence death?

In short, the answer is yes. Professor Zhongwei Zhao, from the Australian National University, gave a fascinating presentation on how the change in seasons can affect death statistics.

Drawing on daily mortality data from Taiwan, Zhao analysed trends across the 1970s, comparing them with more recent data from the early 2000s. The study aimed to answer three questions: (1) who were more vulnerable to extreme changes in seasonal temperatures in the 1970s; (2) have there been any notable changes in temperature-related deaths after the 1970s; and (3) can the method of analysis be improved?

Taiwan has a warm climate. The average temperature in summer (which reaches its peak around June and July) is around 30°C (or 85°F). The coldest months are December and January, with an average temperature of about 16°C (or 61°F). Despite having a relatively mild climate, the shift in temperature between the summer and winter months influences the types of deaths that occur. During the 1970s, a higher proportion of older people, aged 65 and above, passed away during the colder months. The percentage of people who died from cardiovascular diseases (CVD) was higher during winter than in summer. Infants younger than one year of age were also more vulnerable to colder temperatures.

In the summer months, however, children and young individuals (aged 1 to 34) were more at risk of dying. The proportion of individuals dying from respiratory issues and injuries was much higher in the warmer months. In fact, if one digs a little deeper into the injury data, many deaths in the 1-34 age cohort during summer months were a result of drowning. This is not unexpected, considering the popularity of rivers, dams and the sea as a form of recreation during the warmer season.

Exploring recent data from the 2000s, the incidents of drowning during the summer months have dropped, due to improved safety initiatives. Improved living conditions, the building of better-ventilated buildings, better medication and the adoption of more sophisticated heating methods, have also contributed to reducing the various type of death. Zhao also tackled the third question put forward above, outlining two different models used to forecast daily mortality changes, drawing on the use of artificial neural networks.

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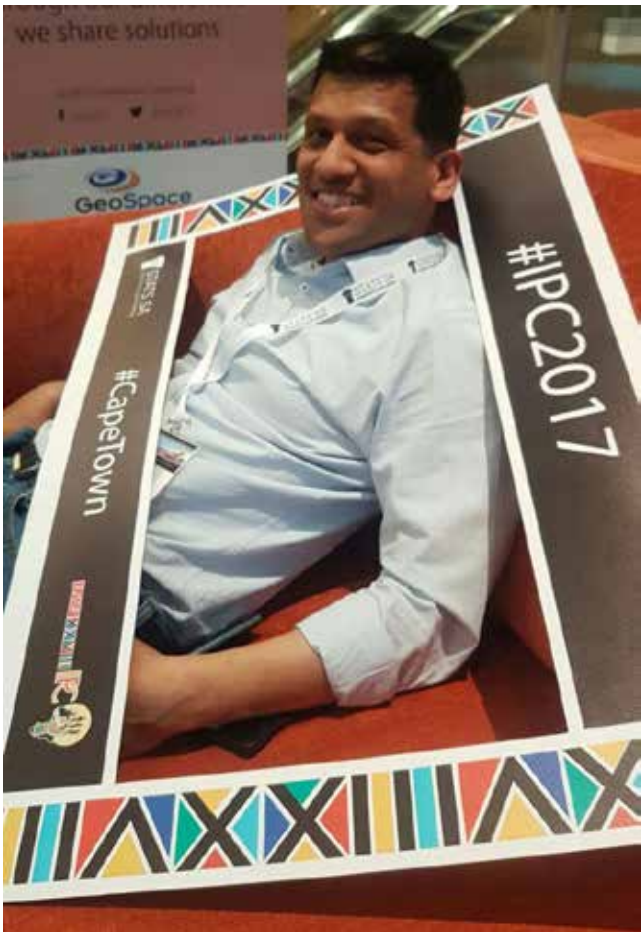
we share solutions
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CONFERENCE THEMES COVERED

All 19 conference themes will be covered over the next 5 days. In today's newsletter, the following themes were covered. Here is a short introduction to the theme convenors.

5. *Demographic Methods and Data*
8. *Gender and Population*
17. *Sexuality and Reproductive Health*
18. *Spatial Demography*

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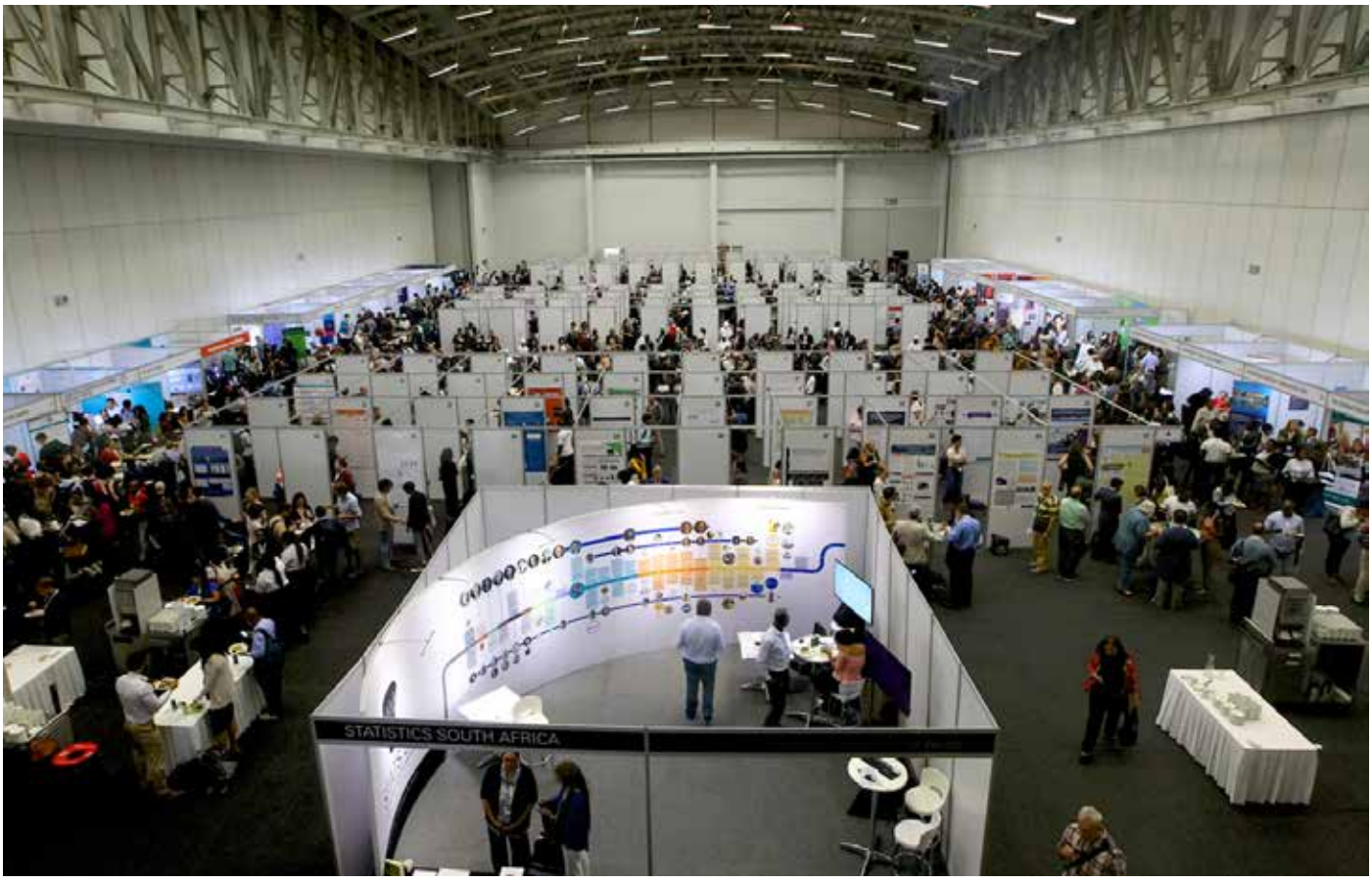
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The Time for Africa is NOW!

IPC 2017 Takes Off!

What you need to know about the International Population Conference (IPC) 2017

1. **Conference mobile application**
   We have an app! Go to the Google Play Store/App Store, search for Stats SA IPC2017 and install it.

2. **Wi-fi connection**
   To download the app (and post about the conference on social media), you need Wi-fi.
   We have it!
   Name: IUSSP2017
   Password: @Capetown

3. **Social platforms**
   Join the conversation and share your experience of the 28th International Population Conference on Twitter #IPC2017
   Follow @IPC2017 for regular updates
   The presentations will be made available on the IPC website: ipc2017capetown.iussp.org

4. **Interpretation units**
   These are available outside the Exhibition area at Hall 2. Please produce your passport/ID to obtain a unit.
   These are to be returned after use.

5. **Conference updates**
   Keep an eye on the electronic screens for updated conference information

6. **Lost and found**
   Please go to the inormation desk at the entrance of the accredittion area.

7. **Conference photos**
   Conference photos are available on Flickr. Go to www.flickr.com/photos/124502081@N02

Disclaimer: *The organising committee reserves the right to use images and footage taken over the period of the International Population Conference (IPC) 29 October – 03 November, for use on conference and organisers platforms.*

José Miguel Guzmán – 2017 Laureate

José Miguel Guzmán was elected by the IUSSP Council to be the 2017 IUSSP Laureate in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the understanding of population issues and their relevance for national policies and programmes. José Miguel Guzmán's contribution to demographic studies and to the improvement of public policy in the social domain spans several decades and covers a variety of issues, borne out in a publication list of more than 20 books and 50 articles. José Miguel Guzmán is renowned in particular for his key contributions to demographic research in the area of the demographic transition in Latin America and for the great influence he exercised at the global level in areas such as applied research on policies regarding ageing as well as population and climate change linkages. José Miguel also trained more than 400 demographers from Latin America and the Caribbean, and from Africa in demography, specifically in fertility.

Congratulations!

United Nations Population Fund

Vacancy: Population Dynamics Policy Adviser, UNFPA ESARO

Level: P5
Deadline: 6th November 2017, New York Time

Position Summary
The Population Dynamics Policy Adviser post is located in the East and Southern Africa regional office (ESARO) of UNFPA in Johannesburg South Africa, and is under the overall supervision of the Regional Director and reports directly to the deputy Regional Director. S/he is the principal adviser at the regional level for evidence based advocacy and policy dialogue/advice in the area of population dynamics and its developmental implications. S/he works in an integrated manner with the technical, operations, policy and programme staff in the ESARO and also assumes the function of Team/Practice Leader of the Evidence, Knowledge and Innovation Unit.

Requirements and Qualifications
Education: Advanced Degree (preferably Ph. D.) in demography and/or economics, or other field directly related to the substantive area of this post.
Experience: 10 years of increasingly responsible professional experience in the substantive area of population and development and population policy, of which seven years at the international level;

For more information and how to apply visit: https://www.unfpa.org/jobs/population-dynamics-policy-adviser-esaro

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