



ATHENS INSTITUTE

Abstract Book

**13th Annual International Conference on
Demography and Population Studies
15-19 June 2026, Athens, Greece**

**Edited by
Barbara Zagaglia & Olga Gkounta**

2026

Abstracts
13th Annual International
Conference on Demography and
Population Studies
15-19 June 2026, Athens, Greece

Edited by
Barbara Zagaglia & Olga Gkounta

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Preface

This book includes the abstracts of all the papers presented at the 13th Annual International Conference on Demography and Population Studies (15-19 June 2026), organized by the Athens Institute.

A full conference program can be found before the relevant abstracts. In accordance with Athens Institute's Publication Policy, the papers presented during this conference will be considered for inclusion in one of the Athens Institute's many publications only after a blind peer review process.

The purpose of this abstract book is to provide members of the Athens Institute and other academics around the world with a resource through which they can discover colleagues and additional research relevant to their own work. This purpose is in congruence with the overall mission of the association. Athens Institute was established in 1995 as an independent academic organization with the mission to become a forum where academics and researchers from all over the world can meet to exchange ideas on their research and consider the future developments of their fields of study.

To facilitate the communication, a references section includes all the abstract books published as part of this conference (Table 1). I invite the readers to access these abstract books –these are available for free– and compare how the themes of the conference have evolved over the years. According to the Athens Institute's mission, the presenters in these conferences are coming from many different countries, presenting various topics.

Table 1. *Publication of Books of Abstracts of Proceedings, 2014-2026*

Year	Papers	Countries	References
2026	24	13	Zagaglia and Gkounta (2026)
2025	35	22	Zagaglia and Papanikou (2025)
2024	23	14	Zagaglia and Gkounta (2024)
2023	42	21	Zagaglia and Gkounta (2023)
2022	28	14	Zagaglia and Gkounta (2022)
2021	16	11	Papanikos (2021)
2020	14	12	Papanikos (2020)
2019	24	18	Papanikos (2019)
2018	30	20	Papanikos (2018)
2017	33	19	Papanikos (2017)
2016	44	18	Papanikos (2016)
2015	44	23	Papanikos (2015)
2014	21	15	Papanikos (2014)

It is our hope that through Athens Institute's conferences and publications, Athens will become a place where academics and researchers from all over the world can regularly meet to discuss the developments of their disciplines and present their work. Since 1995, Athens Institute has organized more than 400 international conferences and has published over 200 books. Academically, the institute is organized into 7 divisions and 37 units. Each unit organizes at least one annual conference and undertakes various small and large research projects.

For each of these events, the involvement of multiple parties is crucial. I would like to thank all the participants, the members of the organizing and academic committees, and most importantly the administration staff of the Athens Institute for putting this conference and its subsequent publications together.

Gregory T. Papanikos
President

Editors' Note

These abstracts provide a vital means to the dissemination of scholarly inquiry in the field of Demography and Population Studies. The breadth and depth of research approaches and topics represented in this book underscores the diversity of the conference.

Athens Institute's mission is to bring together academics from all corners of the world in order to engage with each other, brainstorm, exchange ideas, be inspired by one another, and once they are back in their institutions and countries to implement what they have acquired. The *13th Annual International Conference on Demography and Population Studies*, accomplished this goal by bringing together academics and scholars from 13 different countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Poland, Russia, Türkiye, UK, USA), which brought in the conference the perspectives of many different country approaches and realities in the field.

Publishing this book can help that spirit of engaged scholarship continue into the future. With our joint efforts, the next editions of this conference will be even better. We hope that this abstract book as a whole will be both of interest and of value to the reading audience.

Barbara Zagaglia & Olga Gkounta
Editors

13th Annual International Conference on Demography and Population Studies, 15-19 June 2026, Athens, Greece

Organizing & Scientific Committee

All Athens Institute's conferences are organized by the Academic Council. This conference has been organized with the assistance of the following academic members of Athens Institute.

Dr. Gregory T. Papanikos, President, Athens Institute & Professor (Adjunct), University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA.

Dr. Barbara Zagaglia, Head, Anthropology & Demography Unit, Athens Institute & Associate Professor, Polytechnic University of Marche, Italy.

Dr. Sonia Salari, Deputy Director, Social Sciences Division, Athens Institute & Professor, University of Utah, USA.

Dr. Chris Sakellariou, Vice President of Finance, Athens Institute & Associate Professor of Economics (Retired), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

FINAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM
13th Annual International Conference on Demography and Population Studies, 15-19 June 2026, Athens, Greece

PROGRAM

Monday 15 June 2026

08:30-09:15

Registration

09:15-10:00 Opening Speech and Welcoming Remarks

Speaker: Gregory T. Papanikos, President, Athens Institute & Professor (Adjunct), University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA.

10:00-11:30 Session 1

Moderator: Barbara Zagaglia, Head, Anthropology & Demography Unit, Athens Institute & Associate Professor, Polytechnic University of Marche, Italy.

1. **Sonia Salari**, Professor, University of Utah, USA.
Title: Dimensions of Suicide in a Pro-gun State: Correspondence Analysis of Sex, Age and Method in Utah.
2. **Ioana Popa**, Associate Professor, University of Pavia, Italy.
Title: Demographic Disparities and Spatial Inequalities in out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest in Lombardy (Italy).
3. **Michal Taracha**, Research Assistant, Institute of Econometrics, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland.
Title: Likes, Loves, and Little Ones: Social Media Use, Union Histories, and Fertility Intentions among Young Adults in Europe.
4. **Jakob Zellmann**, PhD Candidate, University of Bologna, Italy.
Title: Integrating Climate Feedbacks into Population Projection.
5. **Hemmat Safwat**, Director, Energy Development Services, Greece.
Title: Globalization – Economics: Immigration & Reverse Migration.

11:30-13:30 Session 2

Moderator: Sonia Salari, Deputy Director, Social Sciences Division, Athens Institute & Professor, University of Utah, USA.

1. **Flore Muguet**, Independent Researcher, EPHE-PSL/GSRL (Paris), France.
Title: Amma's Darshan: Producing Ritual Experience during Pre-Covid European Tours.
2. **Eliza Gardiner**, Professor, Vancouver Island University, Canada.
Title: Theatre as Cultural Practice: Ritual, Identity, and Performance.
3. **Nina Maria Szukala**, PhD Candidate, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland.
Title: Discursive Practices and Actions Towards Living Organisms: An Anthropological Perspective on Biodesign.
4. **Omotayo Adenugba**, PhD Student, Johns Hopkins University, USA.
Title: People of Oil: Ecologies of Restoration and Corporate Withdrawal in Ogoni.
5. **Marina Romero**, Master Student, Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil.
Title: Negotiating and Producing Knowledges: Traditional Masters and Epistemic Inclusion in Brazilian Universities.
6. **Marianna Kokkinaki**, Writer, Independent Researcher, Greece/USA.
Title: The Methodology of the Sacred.

13:30-14:30 Session 3 – A Symposium on “The World at a Crossroads: Power, Order, and Uncertainty”

Moderator: Gregory T. Papanikos, President, Athens Institute & Professor (Adjunct), University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA.

Speakers:

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Philip G. Cerny, Professor Emeritus, University of Manchester (UK) and Rutgers University (USA). <i>Title: Heterarchy, Multipolarity, Asymmetry, and the New Anarchy.</i>2. Domenico Maddaloni, Professor, University of Salerno, Italy. <i>Title: Disillusioning Democracies: Hegemonic Crisis, European Decline, and Citizens' Distrust in an Era of Chaos.</i>3. Mehmet Cevat Yildirim, Associate Professor, Gaziantep University, Türkiye. <i>Title: Ways of Constitutional Law to Deal with Political Uncertainty in the 21st</i>4. Ludovica Marchi, Visiting Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK. <i>Title: Russophobia: A 'new beginning' for Europe.</i>5. George Zahariadis, Associate Professor, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. <i>Title: Health Care in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.</i> <p>Interventions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hemmat Safwat, Director, Energy Development Services, Greece.2. Eliza Gardiner, Professor, Vancouver Island University, Canada.3. Aykush Avanesyan, Senior Lecturer, Kuban State University, Russia.
14:30-15:30 Lunch
18:00-20:00 Session 4 – Visit Aristotle’s Lyceum
It requires pre-booking
20:30-22:30 Athenian Early Evening Symposium (Sequence of Events: Ongoing Academic Discussions, Dinner, Wine and Water, Music, Dance)
Tuesday 16 June 2026
09:30-11:00 Session 5 – Special Microsymposium on Gerontology Moderator: Adrian Szumowski , Assistant Professor, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland.
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sonia Salari, Professor, University of Utah, USA. <i>Title: A Retrospective Content Analysis of Elder Adults who were Abused as Children in Institutions.</i>2. Yasar Selman Gultekin, Associate Professor, Düzce University, Türkiye. Pinar Gültekin, Professor, Düzce University, Türkiye. Serap Bayram, Professor, Düzce University, Türkiye. <i>Title: Participation and Care Relationships of Older Adults in Rural Areas: An Examination of How Older Adults Participate in Social Life in Forest Villages in Düzce.</i>3. Meifang Chen, Assistant Professor, Duke Kunshan University, China. <i>Title: Strengthening Sustainable Long-Term Care Workforce Systems in Ageing Societies: Multisectoral Collaboration and Policy Gaps in China and Lessons for LMICs.</i>4. James Muruthi, Assistant Professor, Drexel University, USA. <i>Title: Social Capital-Neighborhood Stress Pathways in Aging: A Conceptual Framework for Prostate Cancer Vulnerability in Middle- and Old-age Black Men in the USA.</i>
11:00-12:30 Session 6 Moderator: Mehmet Cevat Yildirim , Associate Professor, Gaziantep University, Türkiye.
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mary Abed Al Ahad, Associate Lecturer, University of St Andrews, UK. <i>Title: Obesity and the Experienced Cultural, Economic, and Climate Variations among Immigrants to High-Income Countries: An Umbrella Review of the Literature.</i>2. Heather Williams, Doctoral Researcher, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK. <i>Title: Methodological Reflections on Feminist, Trauma-Informed, Ethnographic Research that Prioritises the Voices and Safety of Hard-to-Reach Homeless Women.</i>

3. **Aras Bradosty**, PhD Student, University of Pavia, Italy.
Cristina Montomoli, Professor, University of Pavia, Italy.
Ioana Popa, Associate Professor, University of Pavia, Italy.
Mohammed Ibrahim Mohialdeen Gubari, Associate Professor, University of Sulaimani, Iraq.
Title: Trends in All-Cause and Cause – Specific Mortality in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (2020-2023).

12:30-14:30 Session 7

Moderator: Utku Özer, Research Fellow, Athens Institute.

1. **Domenico Maddaloni**, Full Professor, University of Salerno, Italy.
Valentina D’Auria, Researcher, University of Salerno, Italy.
Jessica Maglio, PhD Student, University of Salerno, Italy.
Title: The Impact of Recent Waves of Migration on Italian Political Debates: Views from Civil Society.
2. **Cristina Catallo**, Associate Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada.
Title: Migrant Older Adults’ Use of Digital Technology for Transnational Health Care Practices: Policy Implications.
3. **Shihab Idrees**, Postdoctoral Researcher, CNRS – French Research Center in Jerusalem (CRFJ), Israel.
Title: Love Made Material: Parenting, Consumption, and Everyday Political Constraint among Palestinian Citizens of Israel.
4. **Abraao Tavares**, PhD Student, CEDEPLAR, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil.
Paula Miranda-Ribeiro, Professor, CEDEPLAR, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil.
Title: Life Course, Sexuality, and Religion: LGBTQIA+ Experiences in Inclusive Christian Churches in Brazil.
5. **Giada Cascino**, Researcher, Kore University of Enna, Italy.
Sergio Severino, Full Professor, Kore University of Enna, Italy.
Title: Social Capital and Social Distance in Multi-ethnic Contexts.
6. **Michael Dzator**, Lecturer, CQUniversity, Australia.
Portia Simelane, Lecturer, CQUniversity, Australia.
Title: Unpacking Gender-Based Violence in Australian Universities: A Demographic Approach.

14:30-15:30 Lunch

15:45-19:30 Session 8

Old and New-An Educational Urban Walk

The urban walk ticket is not included as part of your registration fee. It includes transportation costs and the cost to enter the Parthenon and the other monuments on the Acropolis Hill. The urban walk tour includes the broader area of Athens. Among other sites, it includes: Zappion, Syntagma Square, Temple of Olympian Zeus, Ancient Roman Agora and on Acropolis Hill: the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion, and the Parthenon. The program of the tour may be adjusted, if there is a need beyond our control. This is a private event organized by the Athens Institute exclusively for the conference participants.

20:30-22:30

Closing Remarks by Gregory T. Papanikos: “Wine, Words, and Wisdom: An Ancient Athenian Dinner Symposium” followed by an Ancient Athenian Dinner

Wednesday 17 June 2026
An Educational Visit to Selected Islands
or Nafplio & Mycenae Visit

Thursday 18 June 2026
Visiting the Oracle of Delphi

Friday 19 June 2026
Visiting the Ancient Corinth and Cape Sounion

Saturday 20 June 2026
09:00-10:00 - The Academic Discussion continues in the downtown open agora (close to the
Aristotelian Lyceum)

Mary Abed Al Ahad

Associate Lecturer, University of St Andrews, UK

Obesity and the Experienced Cultural, Economic, and Climate Variations among Immigrants to High-Income Countries: An Umbrella Review of the Literature

Objective: Obesity is a growing global public-health concern, particularly among immigrants to high-income countries. This umbrella literature review synthesizes evidence from systematic reviews to explore the multifactorial cultural, socioeconomic and environmental determinants of obesity and weight gain among immigrants to high-income countries.

Design: A systematic search of PubMed, Web of Science, and Scopus was conducted from January 2015 to November 2025 to identify systematic reviews and meta-analyses examining the impact of cultural, socioeconomic, and environmental factors on obesity among adult immigrants (i.e., economic, students, and refugees) to high-income countries.

Setting: 33 reviews were included and thematically synthesized under four domains: physical climate and physiological changes, socioeconomic stressors and psychological mediators, cultural factors, and methodological quality - rated using the AMSTAR tool.

Results: The review found consistent evidence linking longer duration of residence and higher levels of acculturation with increased obesity risk. Socioeconomic disadvantage, food insecurity, and psychological stress—particularly acculturation stress—were key mediators of weight gain. Less sunny colder climates impacted weight gain indirectly through limiting physical activity and accessibility to traditional-healthy diet outlets. Cultural dietary transitions and intergenerational differences further influenced obesity trajectories. Methodological quality varied, with only six reviews providing meta-analysis pooled estimates of obesity and being rated as high to moderate quality.

Conclusions: Obesity among immigrants is shaped by intersecting cultural, socioeconomic, environmental and physiological factors. Public-health strategies must adopt culturally sensitive approaches that address structural barriers and support healthy transitions post-migration. Future research should emphasize longitudinal, intersectional, and climate-tailored studies to inform targeted interventions.

Omotayo Adenugba

PhD Student, Johns Hopkins University, USA

**People of Oil:
Ecologies of Restoration and Corporate Withdrawal in Ogoni**

People of Oil: Ecologies of Restoration and Withdrawal in Ogoni offers an ethnographic account of how the end of corporate extraction does not end dependency but instead inaugurates new, fragile ecologies of repair. When Shell announced its exit from onshore operations in Nigeria in March 2025, many Ogoni residents whose lives have long been shaped by the corporation's extractive presence were left wondering what it means to live after corporate exit. For decades, Shell's activities in Ogoni, a key oil-producing region of the Niger Delta, have produced devastating ecological and social consequences, yet they have also generated forms of dependence through employment, environmental restoration projects, and informal oil economies.

This project examines the implications of corporate exit for Ogoni people by addressing the following questions: (1) How is the Ogoni people's sense of ethnic unity and demands of prominence among Nigeria's ethnic groups, which is emboldened by being strategically located in proximity to oil production, challenged in the wake of the corporation's exit? (2) What forms of economic survival and livelihood patterns are emerging in Ogoni after the withdrawal of the oil corporation? (3) Through what restorative practices did Shell embed itself in Ogoni life, and how did these practices differ from local ideas of repair? How does the corporation's exit implicate both corporate and indigenous forms of repair?

Aras Bradosty

PhD Student, University of Pavia, Italy

Cristina Montomoli

Professor, University of Pavia, Italy

Ioana Popa

Associate Professor, University of Pavia, Italy

&

Mohammed Ibrahim Mohialdeen Gubari

Associate Professor, University of Sulaimani, Iraq

Trends in All-Cause and Cause - Specific Mortality in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (2020 -2023)

Background: Mortality population-level data is critical to health planning, and these data are still lacking in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, especially at the time of COVID-19. This paper looked at the trends and patterns in all-cause and cause-specific mortality between 2020 and 2023 through population-based forensic registries.

Methods: The study is a Population-Based Observational Study based on death records of the Department of Forensic Medicine, 2020-2023. Deaths were compared in terms of age, sex, cause of death and geographic area. The mid-year population estimates were used to compute crude mortality rates and age-standardized mortality rates (ASMR). The temporal trends were evaluated by log-linear regression to determine the Annual Percent Change (APC) with the 95 percent confidence intervals.

Results: Annual deaths ranged from 14,193 in the year 2020 to 16,891 in the year 2023. Crude death rate decreased to 2.24/1000 population in 2023 and it was 2.63/1000 population in 2020. ASMR declined to 2.14/1,000 population/year (APC=-5.2%) (95% CI; 11.9-1.9; p=0.12) during the period of study. The death rate was growing very significantly with age, and was higher in the male population in comparison to the female population (2.41 to 2.05 per 1,000 in 2023). More than two-thirds of the deaths were caused by non-communicable diseases, cardiovascular diseases (23%) and cancers (22%) being the most common. Outside factors especially road trauma injuries and suicide were still significant contributors to early deaths. The difference in geography was also noted, as the mortality was more prevalent in Duhok and Erbil. Between 2020 and 2023, the infant mortality declined from 11.5 to 8.2 per 1,000 live births and maternal mortality rate from 16.6 to 14.5 per 100,000 live births.

Conclusions: During the COVID-19, the mortality was highest followed by a decline, that did not statistically significant. The continued burden of non-communicable diseases, chronic low-level mortality and inequalities in the regions underscore the need to reinforce the control of chronic diseases, prevention of injuries, and health planning on a subnational level. Evidence-based health policy should be supported by enhanced mortality surveillance system.

Giada Cascino

Researcher, Kore University of Enna, Italy

Fabio Aiello

Associate Professor, Kore University of Enna, Italy

&

Sergio Severino

Full Professor, Kore University of Enna, Italy

Multi-Ethnic Social Integration: A Nominal and Operational Definition

In the Mediterranean Sea, “there are [...] different humanities that come into conflict, claiming aspects of differentiation” (Giovannini, 2010). In the Italian context, the growing stabilisation and tendency towards the establishment of foreign presence represents a transformation “that has led to a rethinking [...] of the very modes of social coexistence in our country” (Cesareo, 2020, p. 28). This contribution aims to provide food for thought on the analysis of the formation of social bonds in a multi-ethnic society.

The contribution aims to present a perspective for the conceptualisation and analysis of multi-ethnic social bonds, which has seen the development of a quantitative methodology for measuring multi-ethnic social integration.

The conceptualisation perspective presented is based on the definition of integration proposed by Cesareo and Blangiardo (2009), which identifies peaceful coexistence as the optimal configuration of multi-ethnic integration and highlights its multidimensional, bidirectional and processual nature. However, the perspective presented exploits the possible margins for redefining the social dimension proposed by the authors and focuses on the possibility of empirically analysing the bidirectionality of the integration process.

The conceptual and analytical approach proposed to the social dimension goes beyond the presence or absence of contact with non-native people, also considering the unavailability and relational closure between ethnically diverse individuals. In this direction, two classic concepts of sociology have been recovered that lend themselves well to being adapted in a multi-ethnic key and used as criterion variables in the process of social integration: social capital and social distance. In particular, the proposal draws on Putnam's (2000/2004) conceptualisation of bridging social capital and, with regard to social distance, the theoretical and methodological approach of Cesareo (2007) and Bichi (2008). According to this proposal, the two concepts are

suitable for representing a descriptive element (the first) and an explanatory element (the second) of the possible configurations of coexistence in a given community.

The proposed perspective of analysis and interpretation outlines possible configurations of multi-ethnic social integration through the combination of the chosen dimensions of study. Therefore, this perspective places at the basis of the peaceful coexistence described by Cesareo (2009) an inverse relationship between bridging social capital (presence) and social distance (absence). Furthermore, considering other possible combinations between the two dimensions of study, the conceptual and analytical approach arrives at the definition of three other types of multi-ethnic social integration, which it defines in terms of conflictual coexistence, ambivalent coexistence and indifferent (or silent) coexistence.

The proposed analysis and interpretation are applied in an empirical study, which aimed to measure the level of multi-ethnic social integration, in school and extracurricular contexts, of Italian students and students with non-Italian citizenship attending secondary schools in an Italian region, Sicily.

The development of a quantitative methodology to measure multi-ethnic social integration involved the preparation of a questionnaire, based on the adaptation of existing measurement tools and the construction of ad hoc batteries. The analysis process used Item Response Theory (IRT) models, estimated for the uni- and bi-dimensional measurement of multi-ethnic social integration.

Cristina Catallo

Associate Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada

Sepali Guruge

Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada,

Alanna De Fry

PhD student, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada,

Kateryna Metersky

Associate Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada

Hasina Amanzai

Assistant Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada,

Lixia Yang

Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada

Zhixi C. Zhuang

Associate Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada

Lu Wang

Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada

Areej Al-Hamad

Assistant Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada

&

Yasin M. Yasin

Assistant Professor, University of New Brunswick, Canada

Migrant Older Adults' Use of Digital Technology for Transnational Health Care Practices: Policy Implications

Background: Canada's healthcare system faces several limitations, including long wait times, workforce shortages, and a growing need to distribute limited healthcare resources more equitably. To address these challenges, the use of digital technology offers an efficient way to support patient access, provide timely care, and reduce healthcare costs.

A growing population of migrant older adults is engaging with digital technology for virtual healthcare. These older adults also used digital health for transnational healthcare practices from seeking linguistically accessible health information to accessing culturally-informed care to manage illnesses. Digital technology use for transnational healthcare may help bridge the existing gaps in the Canadian healthcare system, and may have local and national policy implications.

Study purpose and methods: A qualitative interpretive descriptive study was conducted to understand migrant older adults' use of digital technology to access transnational healthcare practices. With institutional research ethics approval, this in-depth individual interview

study was conducted with 29 Afghan, 20 Syrian and 26 Ukrainian migrant older adults in the Greater Toronto Area - one of the largest migrant receiving urban centres in the world.

Results: Migrant older adults face multiple barriers accessing and using the Canadian healthcare system. There is a mismatch between migrant older adults' perceptions about what health services should be covered while residing in Canada and the reality of out-of-pocket health related expenses while residing in Ontario - a reflection of provincial-level differences in health insurance coverage across Canada. The historical and current disparities involving discrimination and racism created a mistrust in healthcare providers and the healthcare system. Digital technology is used by migrant older adults to access various forms of transnational healthcare practices such as verifying treatment plans provided by Canadian healthcare providers, obtaining culturally specific information about various illnesses, and seeking alternative care options.

Conclusions and implications: Digital technology may help migrant older adults obtain information, advice, and treatment from their country of origin, to support or enhance the local healthcare they received. These results have policy implications for bridging the gap between the services provided by the Canadian healthcare system and the needs from the migrant older adults. Local and national level policies are needed to guide the use of digital technology for healthcare to ensure standardized, consistent delivery of care.

Meifang Chen

Assistant Professor, Duke Kunshan University, China

Strengthening Sustainable Long-Term Care Workforce Systems in Ageing Societies: Multisectoral Collaboration and Policy Gaps in China and Lessons for LMICs

Background: Rapid population ageing across the Asia-Pacific region has intensified demand for long-term care (LTC) services and highlighted the critical need for a sustainable and well-coordinated LTC workforce. Global frameworks emphasize multisectoral collaboration (MSC) as essential for addressing complex care needs in ageing societies. However, there remains limited comparative evidence on how MSC is operationalized within national LTC workforce policies and how governance structures shape workforce development.

Methods: This study systematically reviews and analyzes national LTC workforce policies across 37 Asia-Pacific countries and territories (N = 71 policy documents, 2011–2024). Policies were identified through government sources, international databases, and targeted searches. A structured assessment framework, informed by WHO health systems building blocks, the WHO Decade of Healthy Ageing, and ILO decent work principles, was used to evaluate policy quality across seven domains, including governance, implementation, and financing. Qualitative thematic synthesis examined patterns of multisectoral collaboration, stakeholder roles, and coordination mechanisms.

Results: Policy quality varied substantially across countries (score range: 4–31/32; mean = 19.66), indicating uneven development of LTC workforce systems. Key weaknesses were observed in coordination mechanisms, implementation capacity, and financing sustainability. While policies frequently referenced multiple sectors – including public, private, and civil society actors – only a small proportion (8/71) demonstrated fully integrated multisectoral collaboration. Most policies relied on dual-sector arrangements, typically dominated by the public sector. Sectoral roles were differentiated but imbalanced: governments led regulation, financing, and planning; private actors focused on service delivery and employment; and civil society organizations contributed to community-based care and advocacy. Where present, collaboration mechanisms included inter-ministerial coordination bodies, service delivery partnerships, workforce training systems, and regulatory or financing instruments. However, these mechanisms were often fragmented or weakly institutionalized.

Conclusions: Findings highlight critical gaps in translating multisectoral collaboration from policy rhetoric into practice. Strengthening LTC workforce systems in ageing societies requires more integrated governance structures, clearer role alignment across sectors, and sustained investment in implementation and financing. Enhancing coordination and inclusive stakeholder engagement will be essential to building resilient, equitable, and effective LTC systems in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

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&

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Unpacking Gender-Based Violence in Australian Universities: A Demographic Approach

Gender-based violence (GBV) within Australian universities constitutes a pervasive public health and social challenge, deeply intertwined with demographic factors and population dynamics. This study applies a demographic and population studies framework to investigate the prevalence, patterns, and correlates of GBV among university students across Australia, aiming to illuminate the hidden epidemic and inform evidence-based policy and institutional responses.

Drawing on the 2021 National Student Safety Survey (NSSS), which sampled over 1,000 students from each of Australia's 39 universities, the research provides a comprehensive, disaggregated analysis of sexual harassment (SH) and sexual assault (SAslt) by gender and geographic location. The study employs both descriptive and inferential statistical methods, including chi-square tests, to examine the association between gender and GBV experiences, as well as differences across states and territories. Institutional data incorporating university-specific infographics and demographic breakdowns enable a granular exploration of risk factors and campus environments.

Findings reveal a high and uneven prevalence of GBV, with the Australian Capital Territory recording the highest rates of SH (21.8%) and SAslt (8.6%). Females are disproportionately affected, with statistically significant gender differences detected for both harassment and assault (harassment: $\chi^2 = 152.415$, $p < 0.001$; assault: $p < 0.05$ in most institutions). Risk exposure is concentrated in general campus areas, lecture theatres, and libraries, highlighting critical spatial dimensions of vulnerability within university settings. These spatial patterns underscore the importance of environmental and situational factors in population risk assessment.

From a demographic perspective, the study underscores the role of gender as a primary axis of vulnerability within the university population, while also highlighting the influence of location, institutional culture, and reporting mechanisms. Over half of surveyed students' express uncertainty or lack of awareness regarding available reporting channels and support services. Despite the relatively high

levels of victimization, formal complaints remain low, pointing to persistent cultural, psychological, and systemic barriers to disclosure and help-seeking.

The research's demographic approach provides crucial insights for targeted interventions. Recommendations include embedding GBV awareness and prevention into university curricula, reforming reporting systems to enhance accessibility and transparency, and tailoring prevention programs to account for gendered and spatial disparities in risk. Policymakers and institutional leaders are urged to leverage population-based data to drive reforms, allocate resources, and monitor progress in GBV reduction.

Limitations of the study include its reliance on self-reported data, potential recall bias, and exclusion of non-university tertiary institutions. Nevertheless, the findings offer a robust empirical foundation for demographic and population studies approaches to GBV, emphasizing the need for ongoing surveillance, research, and culturally sensitive interventions.

In conclusion, GBV represents a persistent and gendered threat to student well-being and institutional equity in Australian universities. Through a demographic lens, this study advances understanding of GBV's scope, determinants, and solutions, contributing to safer and more inclusive educational environments nationwide.

Eliza Gardiner

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**Theatre as Cultural Practice:
Ritual, Identity, and Performance**

NOT AVAILABLE

Yasar Selman Gultekin

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Pinar Gültekin

Professor, Düzce University, Türkiye

&

Serap Bayram

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**Participation and Care Relationships of Older Adults in
Rural Areas: An Examination of How Older Adults
Participate in Social Life in Forest Villages in Düzce**

Across Europe, the growing older population necessitates a rethinking of care and participation relations. In this context, the participation of older adults living in rural areas remains limited due to both spatial and social constraints. This study examines the forms of social participation, care relations, and community engagement among older adults residing in the forest villages of Düzce, through the lens of forestry engineering and rural development. In rural contexts, the relationships that older people establish with family members or external (often migrant) care workers represent not only modes of care but also expressions of social participation. Using participatory observation, semi-structured interviews, and village-based mapping methods, the research explores how older adults interact with nature, production, and their local communities. Findings indicate that the traditional connections of older residents with forest resources contribute significantly to their psychosocial well-being, beyond physical care. However, factors such as increasing migration, the informal nature of care services, and social isolation limit the participation of both older adults and care providers. The study argues for viewing elder care in forest villages not merely as an individual or familial responsibility, but as an ecological and community-based issue. It highlights the need to develop participatory methods that strengthen the active involvement of both older adults and live-in care workers in local community life.

Shihab Idrees

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**Love Made Material:
Parenting, Consumption, and Everyday Political Constraint
among Palestinian Citizens of Israel**

This paper explores how parental love among Palestinian citizens of Israel is increasingly expressed through material and consumer practices – a process I conceptualize as materialized love. Based on eighteen months of ethnographic fieldwork in the Triangle region, a predominantly Palestinian area in central Israel, the study investigates how parents strive to provide care, dignity, and a sense of belonging under the overlapping pressures of neoliberal restructuring, consumer capitalism, and political marginalization.

Within this context, everyday parenting becomes a field where emotional aspirations and material realities collide. Parents invest heavily in children's goods, educational programs, enrichment activities, and domestic aesthetics as visible signs of good parenthood and upward mobility. These practices are not merely individual choices but social acts through which families negotiate their moral standing and sense of worth in a stratified society. Drawing on in-depth interviews and participant observation, I show how consumer competence becomes a moral language of love, while also revealing how structural inequalities – limited resources, segregated spaces, and restricted mobility – shape what is materially possible.

The article argues that these consumer practices create what I term the subjectivity paradox: parents develop sophisticated strategies of economic participation and emotional investment while remaining trapped in systems that reproduce their marginalization. The Arabic term *madhāhir* (conspicuous display) becomes central to understanding how Palestinian families navigate public visibility and moral critique. Displays of consumption are at once acts of self-assertion and sites of vulnerability, as families seek recognition without appearing 'wasteful' or detached from collective hardship.

By linking intimate practices of love and care to broader structures of power, the paper contributes to anthropological debates on neoliberal subjectivities, affective economies, and moral economies. It also offers insight into how consumer capitalism intersects with settler-colonial governance, shaping both the possibilities and limits of contemporary Palestinian family life. Ultimately, this study invites reflection on how

love itself – mediated through goods, spaces, and aspirations – becomes a means of surviving constraint and imagining dignity under conditions of structural inequality.

Marianna Kokkinaki

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The Methodology of the Sacred

This presentation introduces *The Methodology of the Sacred*, an interdisciplinary study of ecstatic ritual, trance, altered states of consciousness, and embodied sacred practices across cultures and historical periods. Drawing from anthropology, religious studies, philosophy, and ethnographic research, the project investigates how human societies have historically cultivated techniques of ecstasy as methods of healing, social cohesion, cosmological participation, resistance, and transformation.

The presentation explores exemplary traditions such as the Dionysian and Eleusinian Mysteries, the Anastenaria of Northern Greece, tarantella and tammurriata, Afro-diasporic religions such as Haitian Vodou and Brazilian Candomblé, Amazonian shamanism, and ayahuasca religions including Santo Daime and Umbanda. The research draws from direct fieldwork, apprenticeship, and participatory engagement with these communities. Rather than approaching these practices as marginal or irrational phenomena, the work argues that ecstatic states constitute sophisticated cultural technologies through which communities negotiate identity, memory, suffering, ecological relations, and experiences of the sacred.

Particular emphasis is placed on the body as a site of knowledge production and cosmological encounter. The project examines rhythm, music, dance, ritual performance, sacramental plant medicines, and spirit possession as methodologies—structured practices capable of transforming consciousness and generating forms of communal and spiritual knowledge that challenge dominant Western epistemologies.

The presentation further considers the contemporary resurgence of interest in ritual and altered states within global conversations surrounding mental health, psychedelics, spirituality, embodiment, and decolonial approaches to knowledge. In this context, anthropology offers an essential framework for understanding ecstatic traditions not as exotic survivals, but as dynamic and adaptive cultural systems that continue to shape contemporary spiritual and social life.

By placing ancient ritual systems, Indigenous cosmologies, and contemporary practices into dialogue, *The Methodology of the Sacred* proposes a renewed anthropological approach to ecstasy: one that recognizes altered states not as peripheral to culture, but as central to the

human search for meaning, connection, transcendence, and transformation.

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Valentina D'Auria

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&

Jessica Maglio

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The Impact of Recent Waves of Migration on Italian Political Debates: Views from Civil Society

It is well known that immigration and multi-ethnicity have become very hot topics for public opinion and politics in Western countries. Italy, in particular, has been affected by this phenomenon since the 1990s. During this same period, the country underwent structural adjustment programs that led to economic stagnation and a resurgence of emigration. To what extent have these critical demographic, economic, social, and cultural changes influenced Italians' opinions and their relationships with institutions and political actors? In what direction, or directions, have they pushed civil society? To answer these questions, we use qualitative data collected in the Horizon TRUEDEM-Trust in European Democracies research in the spring of 2024. More specifically, we conducted interviews with politicians, officers, and CSOs leaders. In addition, we conducted four focus group debates with specific target groups of citizens living in the Salerno area (Southern Italy). The results of our analysis show that, although isolationist tendencies and views rejecting multiculturalism are evident in the Italian population, other perspectives point toward the opposite direction. It is up to Italian (and European) politics to steer change in a positive direction.

Flore Muguet

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Amma's Darshan: Producing Ritual Experience during Pre-Covid European Tours

Amma, a transnational spiritual figure known as "The Hugging Saint," offers an individualized embrace called *darshan*, which she performs continuously for several hours, attracting several thousand people on each occasion. No spiritual prerequisites are required to participate: *darshan* is based on voluntary participation.

Part of a contemporary transnational spiritual movement expanding in the West, characterized by accessibility and non-dogmatism, *darshan* is analyzed here as a ritual device. While many studies have explored devotees' experiences and the transformative dimensions of *darshan*, this paper adopts a complementary perspective by examining how such experience is empirically produced through spatial, logistical, and collective mediations.

Based on ethnographic fieldwork conducted in France between 2016 and 2019, during Amma's pre-Covid European tours, I approach *darshan* not as an isolated encounter, but as the outcome of a tightly orchestrated collective ritual device. This fieldwork was carried out during short but intensive sequences lasting 24 to 48 hours. The ritual device is composed of precise actions and spatial and relational constraints. Participants follow a structured pathway over several hours, including regulated waiting lines, organized circulation, collective chanting, and guided spiritual practices, culminating in a brief embrace of a few seconds with the guru.

I argue that the emotional intensity of the embodied experience attributed to this embrace relies on the entire ritual process that makes it possible. By organizing time, space, and interaction, the device actively produces specific forms of attention, perception, and bodily availability. For some participants, this experience opens onto a lasting involvement in a transnational spiritual network.

James Muruthi

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Social Capital–Neighborhood Stress Pathways in Aging: A Conceptual Framework for Prostate Cancer Vulnerability in Middle- and Old-age Black Men in the USA

Prostate cancer (PCa) disparities among Black men in the United States persist as a major public health challenge, with midlife and older adults experiencing disproportionate incidence and mortality compared to other racial/ethnic groups. Existing PCa disparity models overemphasize individual and discriminatory risk factors, leaving neighborhood structural exposures, social relational processes, and recovery mechanisms under-theorized. This study proposes a multilevel conceptual framework situating PCa vulnerability within distal, intermediate, and proximal determinants, integrating neighborhood stressors, social capital, and recovery processes as central, but underexplored, pathways shaping aging-related physiological vulnerability. While the framework is broadly applicable to other chronic diseases sensitive to environmental and social stressors, PCa serves as a high-priority exemplar.

At the distal level, chronic exposure to neighborhood structural stressors in US urban contexts (including concentrated poverty, residential segregation, environmental disorder, and community violence) establishes persistent psychosocial strain over the life course. Structural disadvantage constrains material and social resources, heightens vigilance, and conditions the environment in which aging processes unfold. By explicitly linking US neighborhood adversity to cumulative physiological burden, the framework operationalizes structural determinants as crucial drivers of Black aging and PCa vulnerability.

At the intermediate level, neighborhood stressors shape the quality and distribution of social capital, including bonding ties (family and close networks), bridging connections (community cohesion and collective efficacy), and linking capital (trust in institutions and access to formal resources). In US neighborhoods with concentrated disadvantage, erosion of social capital amplifies chronic vigilance, threat appraisal, and psychosocial strain, whereas robust social networks buffer stress effects. Hence, social capital is an active mediator between structural exposures and biobehavioral outcomes, addressing a gap in existing US health disparities frameworks that often underrepresent capital indicators as key mechanisms explaining disparities.

At the proximal level, impaired recovery processes translate environmental and social exposures into biological aging. Sleep regulation, circadian stability, and restorative behaviors provide a primary mechanism linking psychosocial strain to cardiometabolic dysregulation, systemic inflammation, and accelerated physiological aging. These proximal processes are measurable, modifiable, and sensitive to both neighborhood conditions and social capital, offering modifiable targets for health disparities intervention in this population.

This framework adds to existing US disparity models in three unique ways: (1) it integrates multilevel neighborhood, social, and recovery determinants within a life-course-informed aging framework; (2) it explicitly operationalizes social capital as a mechanistic mediator, rather than a descriptive correlate; and (3) it emphasizes recovery processes, particularly sleep, as proximal biobehavioral mechanisms linking social exposures to physiological vulnerability. By situating prostate cancer disparities using this approach we outline how structural disadvantage and relational resources jointly shape aging-related physiological vulnerability. This conceptualization provides a rigorous platform for future research and interventions that aim to strengthen social capital and enhance recovery processes, ultimately promoting equitable healthy aging in Black men and other populations experiencing concentrated disadvantage.

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Demographic Disparities and Spatial Inequalities in out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest in Lombardy (Italy)

Introduction: Cardiovascular diseases such as myocardial infarction predominantly affect the elderly. If not treated promptly, it can result in cardiac arrest. Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) mainly occurs in private home, although a significant number of cases also occur in nursing home. The incidence of OHCA varies considerably across geographical areas, linked to demographic and socioeconomic factors. However, most studies assume uniform demographic effects across space, overlooking spatial heterogeneity in the relationship between population structure and health outcomes. The study aimed to investigate spatial inequalities in OHCA incidence in relation to demographic (ageing index, population density) and socioeconomic (low-income) determinants in Lombardy, the most anthropized and industrialized Italian areas, in the period 2021-24.

Materials and Methods: A retrospective ecological study design was implemented at the municipal level. Data were obtained from the

Lombardia Cardiac Arrest Registry (CARE) covering 924 municipalities across seven provinces of Lombardy in northern Italy (Pavia, Lodi, Cremona, Mantua, Varese, Como, and Brescia). The outcome of interest was an OHCA event. Due to incomplete registry coverage in 296 municipalities and in order to maintain geographic contiguity for spatial analysis, the study focused on 628 municipalities forming the South-East (SE) macro-area of Lombardy (provinces of Pavia, Lodi, Cremona, Mantua, and Brescia). Potential clusters of OHCA incidence were assessed using Global Moran's Index and Local Indicators of Spatial Association (LISA). Geographically Weighted Regression (GWR) was used to model the varying associations between OHCA incidence and demographic determinants at the municipal level: the ageing index, population density, and low-income taxpayers (less than 10,000 EUR/year).

Results: During the study period (2021-2024), 22,201 OHCA events occurred with a crude incidence of 126 per 100,000 per year. Significant clusters emerged (Global Moran's $I = 0.27$; $p < 0.001$): a high OHCA incidence cluster with 37 hot spots located in mountainous and hilly areas, and a low incidence clusters comprising 6 cold spots located in urban and lowland areas. GWR identified non-uniform spatial associations: the ageing index showed positive associations with OHCA incidence in specific provinces such as Pavia in the south-west of Lombardy, particularly in areas with a high concentration of nursing homes. Similarly, OHCA incidence was positively linked with low-income proportion in central-southern zones. Conversely, population density exhibited negative associations in rural north-eastern areas of the Brescia province, in the eastern of Lombardy.

Conclusions: These findings support the hypothesis that demographic disparities may shape the heterogeneous spatial distribution of OHCA incidence, emphasizing the need for place-based public health strategies in ageing populations. Spatial demographic approaches can better identify vulnerable populations and inform targeted interventions, such as strengthening emergency medical services in high-risk rural areas and improving healthcare access in ageing communities. Spatial cluster analysis provides policymakers with new evidence to help them design tailored interventions to reduce the incidence of OHCA and allocate necessary healthcare resources more effectively.

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Negotiating and Producing Knowledges: Traditional Masters and Epistemic Inclusion in Brazilian Universities

Over the past two decades, Brazil has launched educational policies aimed at transforming the composition of its universities, most notably through the implementation of ethnic-racial quotas – a policy mechanism that reserves a percentage of university admission slots for Black and Indigenous individuals, as well as those from low-income backgrounds. These policies have contributed to diversifying the student body in public universities, which were previously predominantly white.

Although ethnic-racial quotas represent a significant step toward greater plurality within the university, a mismatch persists between the increasing diversity of student bodies – which carry with them distinct epistemologies and lived experiences – and the still limited diversification of both the teaching staff and the knowledges formally recognized within the university.

In response to these dynamics, the Meeting of Knowledges program was launched in 2010 and is now implemented in over 20 universities across Brazil. This initiative promotes epistemic inclusion by opening universities to non-Western forms of knowledge and epistemologies – particularly those of Indigenous peoples, Afro-Brazilians, and other traditional communities. It invites the so-called “masters” of these knowledges to teach as professors in regular university courses, fostering transformations in both the ethnic-racial composition of academia and the university curriculum.

This paper draws on ethnographic experiences of accompanying such courses. The study followed two distinct formats: one in which students and professors visited an Indigenous traditional territory with the purpose of learning from the local context and its knowledge practices, and others in which traditional masters from Reinado de Nossa Senhora do Rosário, a black afrobrasilian religious community, taught within the university setting.

Drawing on ethnographic research accompanying these courses, I show how the entry of these knowledges into the university does not imply their simple schooling nor their reproduction as practiced outside the academic space, but rather the production of new configurations of learning and new communities of practice, in which traditional and

academic knowledge are rearticulated. This process is shaped by the communities' choices about what they decide to show at the university, since their knowledge is filled with secrets, and how the university chooses to open itself to these knowledges, carrying conceptions with a long historical burden about the communities and their relations with the world. In this process, both mismatches and asymmetries emerge, as well as effects of revaluation, strengthening, and reactivation of techniques, memories, and forms of transmission, especially in contexts marked by generational discontinuities and pressures for the substitution of traditional technologies. By examining these encounters ethnographically, the paper highlights both the possibilities and the limits involved in the ongoing negotiation of building more epistemically plural universities.

Hemmat Safwat

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Globalization - Economics: Immigration & Reverse Migration

The paper presents a comprehensive review of historical immigrants' movements between countries of origin and host countries from 1970 to 2025. The study revealed significant mutual economic benefits for both sides, with the latest estimates of global total contributions from immigrants to GDP in host countries of nearly \$9-\$12 trillion and about \$650- \$700 billion in total annual remittances sent to LMIC (Low- and Medium-Income Countries) countries of origin. The study covered many aspects, reflecting immigration patterns and the factors behind changes in these patterns, ranging from how immigration has been shaped across the five continents to where concentrations (high immigrant % from few countries of origin) in a host country are found. With more diverse origins reflected across Europe's many host countries. The paper examines remittances to LMICs and contributions to host countries from immigration, the various categories of host countries, and countries of origin. A review of the activities of international organizations under the United Nations and the World Bank, as well as the EC, EU, that have been playing important roles over the last two decades in fostering and supporting host countries and countries of origin in a wide range of areas. However, for researchers, the lack of reliable, sufficiently detailed data is a problem that warrants attention.

Recent data from some major host countries show a decrease in net immigration (immigrants arriving - departing). This could, in turn, decrease the net number of immigrants (leaving - returning) for several countries of origin. The economies of these countries on both sides will be adversely affected. Under this scenario, the countries of the immigrants' origin (mostly LMICs) are more vulnerable. A key question arises: "How does the return of immigrants to their country of origin shape the future?"

Sonia Salari

Professor, University of Utah, USA

Dimensions of Suicide in a Pro-gun State: Correspondence Analysis of Sex, Age and Method in Utah

Utah is a firearm-friendly state located in the intermountain west, the region of the U.S. with the highest suicide rate. This study uses correspondence analysis to examine the multivariate dynamics of the relationship between gender/age and the method of suicide (firearms, sharps, gas, poisoning, asphyxiation/suffocation, and jumping) for 16,388 Utah suicides of people 10- years and older from 1970 to 2020. This study is unique in two respects: the use of correspondence analysis, an appropriate technique for finding relationships in studies that involve large, two-way tables, and combining two variables to create a single composite variable. We found there are very distinct response pattern differences in suicide methods by the age and gender of the victim. Males and females are clearly separated according to suicide method as are two age groupings (under 40 and over 40). Findings suggest suicide prevention should provide greater attention to firearm safety, especially among males. Further, we suggest methods which combat poisonings would assist in averting female suicides.

Sonia Salari

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A Retrospective Content Analysis of Elder Adults who were Abused as Children in Institutions

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are measured by a survey of hardships prior to age 18. Accumulations of ACEs may cause post-traumatic stress disorder PTSD and survivors can go on to have potentially poor physical and mental health outcomes in later life. Abandonment, parental death, divorce and incarceration are considered indicators of ACEs. Direct child abuse, neglect and exploitation add to the list of these traumatic life stressors. Witnessing the abuse of others can also be psychologically detrimental. Some survive, others do not. With survival comes the potential for resilience, but this does not mean victims have an easy recovery. This presentation will examine adverse childhood experiences from the perspective of known elder adults who have come forward with their accounts of abuse as children confined to institutional settings.

One of the main vulnerabilities for abuse is among children who are without their parents. This is an issue in modern society because estimates suggest between 7.5 and 11 million children lost caregivers or were left parentless during the recent global pandemic. Modern American children in this situation would typically be cared for by relatives or foster families. Just a few decades ago, the unaccompanied children would have experienced institutions, such as orphanages, boarding (for Indigenous) and state “schools” for people with disabilities. Native American children were victims of human trafficking – taken from their parents and tribal lands to be re-socialized in boarding schools of their colonizers. Some children encountered caregivers who were empathetic and positive influences. However, these institutions have historically been magnets for those who wish to exert power and control over others. Being separated from or having no parents, these children were particularly vulnerable to mistreatment.

Content analysis from news, historical documents and film surveillance methods are utilized to obtain narratives and quotes of now older adults who were abused, neglected or exploited in these group quarters with an eye toward the impact on the outcomes of the elder adult. Many of these people were silenced or ignored throughout their lives. Others were found buried or were never heard from again. Without family, there may have been no one searching for them in their absence. Predatory abusers were aware of this vulnerability and took advantage

of the situation. These perpetrators were rarely held accountable for horrific treatment of institutionalized children.

Trauma-informed and realistic responses are necessary to situate these survivors in safe environments. Primary prevention, keeping this from happening in the first place, is the most ideal way to approach children without parents available. The troubled teen industry has been a modern example of this type of devastation. There are those in the United States who have recently advocated for orphanages, concentration camps and bringing back institutions for persons with disabilities. So, it is important to bring to light the negative side of these abusive 'snake pits' based upon the too often hidden testimony of those who survived in their youth and were impacted across their lives.

Nina Maria Szukala

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Discursive Practices and Actions Towards Living Organisms: An Anthropological Perspective on Biodesign

Biodesign is an emerging design sub-discipline that integrates approaches from fields such as life sciences, speculative design, and materials science. It implements organic materials and living organisms into design processes. Scholars perceive it as a potential source of solutions for a sustainable future (Mason, Sharr 2022; Morrow, Bridgens, Mackenzie 2023; Gambardella 2024) and discuss it from multiple perspectives, addressing ethical questions (Armstrong 2022), presenting a developed taxonomy of the field (Pollini, Rognoli 2024), and analyzing the role of workspaces and infrastructures in which it evolves (Ihls, Pollini 2025).

Little is known, however, about the empirical validation of biodesigners' perspectives on the living organisms they interact with, while they often incorporate them as integral components of their projects. Previous studies have tended to describe biodesign practice in humanistic terms, along with concepts such as 'more-than-human', 'interconnectedness', and 'agency' (Rognoli, Pollini, Alessandrini 2021; Karana, Barati, Giaccardi 2020), rather than investigating biodesigners' actual assumptions and values. This paper presents the findings of ethnographic study designed to explore the discursive practices of biodesigners in their everyday work. The research was conducted through fieldwork in so-called "new laboratories" and in-depth interviews with biodesigners. During ethnographic study I was collecting data to answer the following questions: 1) how do biodesigners talk about living organisms and the interactions between them?, 2) how do biodesigners understand these ways of speaking?, 3) what practices do biodesigners use to work with living organisms? I reveal how biodesigners name their interactions with living organisms, show whether they employ concepts that are attributed to their practice by scholars, and if so, investigate the consistency of linguistic declarations with procedures applied to living organisms. I base my broader anthropological analysis on these empirical data by addressing the following questions: 1) how can we justify the unity between posthuman narrative surrounding biodesign and its ambition to serve supra-anthropocentric purposes if it involves the use of living organisms in its practice? The project contributes to the 'relational turn' in anthropology by examining the role played by living organisms in

shaping the discipline of design and in the adaptation projects it initiates
in response to environmental changes.

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Likes, Loves, and Little Ones: Social Media Use, Union Histories, and Fertility Intentions among Young Adults in Europe

The year 2004 marked the beginning of the social media boom, with MySpace becoming the first social networking platform to reach one million users and the launch of Facebook, today's most widely used social media platform. Since then, the global social media use has expanded rapidly. The share of social media users increased from 13.4% in 2010 to 61.7% in 2024 (Kemp, 2024). Social media has substantially reshaped how people communicate, form relationships and interpret social reality. These effects are especially pronounced among teenagers and young adults, who remain the most active users (Lenhart et al., 2010). A growing body of research suggests that intense internet and social media use is associated with reduced childbearing intentions (Weimin & Youru, 2024; Liu et al., 2021; Guldi & Herbst, 2017). However, existing research has rarely examined how social media use relates not only to fertility intentions but also to actual fertility outcomes, or how these associations differ between men and women. Furthermore, existing studies mostly rely on cross-sectional and single-country (mostly Chinese) data.

This study investigates the association between social media use and fertility intentions among adults aged 28–32, using data from the second round of the Generations and Gender Survey and Harmonized Histories for Croatia, Estonia, and Norway. The analysis focuses on union-formation trajectories before age 28 and their association with actual and intended fertility. Descriptive results show that individuals spending 2–4 hours daily on social media had the highest average number of unions formed by the age of 28 (0.87), the lowest mean age at first union (22.20), the longest average union duration, and the highest average ideal family size. In contrast, those spending more than 4 hours on social media daily formed fewer unions (0.82 on average), had particularly short unions, fewer intended children and the lowest share of unions lasting for over a year ending up in marriage (34.2%).

Generalized ordered logistic regression models show that younger cohorts are more likely to intend to have children by age 28, although older cohorts are more likely to have had children by that age. Higher education and better financial well-being are associated with stronger

fertility intentions, but also with fewer children in practice. Additionally, Norway exhibits higher early childbearing but comparatively low fertility intentions relative to Estonia and Croatia. Furthermore, women using social media for 1–4 hours daily were more likely than men to have had children. Nevertheless, women were also less likely to intend (additional) children in the low-use groups. In the groups spending more time on social media, this relationship shifted, with women becoming gradually somewhat more likely than men to intend (additional) children. Overall, higher social media use appeared to be negatively associated primarily with men's fertility intentions.

In future work, we will apply sequence analysis using the Needleman-Wunsch algorithm to compare partnership trajectories across levels of social media use. Transitions between key relationship stages (pre-union, short-term union, long-term union, and post-union) across ages 17–28 will be used to construct substitution costs.

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&

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Life Course, Sexuality, and Religion: LGBTQIA+ Experiences in Inclusive Christian Churches in Brazil

One of the most significant transformations in the Brazilian religious landscape throughout the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries concerns changes in the population's religious composition, marked by a decline in the proportion of Catholics and a sustained growth of Evangelicals and individuals with no religious affiliation, as documented by recent Demographic Censuses. Although religious freedom was formally established with the 1891 Constitution, it is especially through the last four censuses that these shifts have become evident. These changes have unfolded alongside major demographic transformations, particularly fertility decline, with implications for family arrangements, private life, and the public sphere.

The expansion of Evangelical Christianity in Brazil has been driven mainly by Pentecostal and Neo-Pentecostal churches, historically rooted in socially vulnerable populations and grounded in theologies offering practical responses to everyday economic, physical, and emotional challenges. In matters of sexual morality, these traditions tend to reinforce a normative heterosexual and conjugal model. Data from the 2022 Demographic Census underscore the institutional weight of religion: for the first time, the census mapped types of buildings and identified 286 religious establishments per 100,000 inhabitants, exceeding both educational and health facilities. These figures highlight the relevance of religion for understanding contemporary sociodemographic dynamics in Brazil.

Within this context, a still incipient but growing phenomenon can be observed: Christian churches that self-identify as inclusive and explicitly support LGBT+ populations. These churches propose reinterpretations of prohibitive dogmas concerning sexuality and same-sex relationships, often grounded in human rights discourses. Despite increasing visibility, little is known about how these institutions operate and how members experience sexuality, conjugality, and faith from a demographic perspective. Addressing this gap contributes to the Demography of Religion and the Demography of Sexual Minorities, while dialoguing

with population agendas advanced since the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994).

Against this backdrop, this research analyzes how demographic events – especially sexual initiation and conjugal union – are mobilized, regulated, and resignified within inclusive Evangelical churches. The article presents preliminary results from ongoing fieldwork, drawing on a mixed-methods approach and a life-course perspective focused on transitions into adulthood.

The methodological design combines three strategies. First, in-depth interviews are conducted with LGBT individuals affiliated with inclusive Evangelical churches from different denominations, emphasizing life trajectories, religious socialization, experiences of acceptance or exclusion, and negotiations between faith, sexuality, and future projects. Second, participant observation in religious services and community activities enables the analysis of everyday practices, discourses, and moral expectations shaping religious and sexual experiences. Third, a survey applied to LGBTQIA+ individuals with histories of participation in Christian institutions offers a broader view of sociodemographic profiles, religious trajectories, experiences of discrimination, and affective-sexual partnerships, situating qualitative findings within a wider panorama.

Although the research remains in the fieldwork phase, preliminary findings indicate non-linear religious trajectories marked by distancing, return, and reconfiguration of institutional ties across the life course. Even in inclusive contexts, acceptance of sexual diversity often coexists with normative expectations regarding moral discipline and affective-sexual regulation, highlighting ongoing disputes between religiosity, sexuality, and human rights in contemporary Brazil.

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Methodological Reflections on Feminist, Trauma-Informed, Ethnographic Research that Prioritises the Voices and Safety of Hard-to-Reach Homeless Women

People experiencing multiple exclusion homelessness (MEH) constitute a small proportion of the homeless population in the United Kingdom (UK). This group is characterised by multiple and complex needs, homelessness, and at least one other domain of deep social exclusion, such as: institutional care (prison, local authority care, mental health hospitals); substance misuse (drugs, alcohol); or participation in street culture activities (begging, street drinking, shoplifting or sex work).

Homelessness literature consistently emphasises that women experiencing homelessness are under-recognised, under-recorded, and under-studied due to the way data is collected and the strategies women reportedly use to mitigate gendered risks and conceal homeless identities. At the same time, homeless women with the most complex needs, who qualify for support from a wide range of statutory and charitable services, find it difficult to engage with service providers due to histories of trauma and distrust of authorities. Homeless researchers relying on host homeless service agencies for participant recruitment thus systematically exclude women with the most complex needs from homelessness literature, reinforcing their invisibility.

Recognition that homeless women face greater physical risks and are more likely than homeless men to experience violence, abuse, and exploitation on the streets, and to be trauma survivors of adverse life events, heightens both ethical and methodological challenges for research that aims to prioritise the physical and perceived safety of both participants and the ethnographer during a street-based study.

This paper reflects on the ethical and methodological challenges encountered during a 12-month ethnographic immersion on the streets of the UK with marginalised and at-risk homeless women. The lone researcher relied on unconventional recruitment methods, Geertz's deep hanging out, participant observation (1998), and Bourgois's ethnographic *accompagnateur* (2011) as participants led the ethnographer into hospitals, police stations, and criminal courts. A feminist methodological approach (Allen, 2023; Whittingdale, 2021) centred the voices, experiences, and perceptions of research participants,

while trauma-informed and safeguarding research practices (Edelman, 2023) were employed to prioritise physical and psychological safety in everyday high-risk research scenarios.

This paper argues that the way research is conducted with marginalised and at-risk women is crucial, requiring intuitive decision-making, ongoing critical self-reflection, and awareness of how an evolving embodied positionality influences the production of knowledge.

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Integrating Climate Feedbacks into Population Projection

Climate change has significantly impacted various meteorological phenomena, particularly by increasing the frequency, intensity, and duration of heat waves. The acceleration of global warming has resulted in 19 of the 20 hottest years occurring after 2000, with predictions indicating that heat waves will become even more frequent, intense, and long-lasting than historically observed. This alarming trend has heightened the urgency to understand how these changes affect human health and behavior.

There is growing evidence that climate change influences demographic processes. For example, heat-related mortality is projected to rise globally, with only a modest decline in cold-related deaths despite rapid warming. Regarding fertility trends, recent scientific evidence points to an emerging consensus on the impact of rising temperatures. Studies across various regions worldwide have found that days with high average temperatures or positive temperature anomalies are associated with declines in birth rates 8 to 10 months later. Similarly, growing evidence indicates that both sudden-onset and slow-onset climate events affect internal and international migration processes worldwide. This underscores the importance of integrating the effects of a changing climate into population projections.

However, to the best of our knowledge, no research has systematically investigated the effects that climate change will have on future population by jointly modeling its impact on mortality, fertility, and migration at a subnational level in low- and middle-income countries. This study aims to address this gap.

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