



„Demografische Realitäten – unbequeme Wahrheiten“ Pressegespräch anlässlich der EPC 2010 (European Population Conference)

Termin: Mittwoch, 1. September 2010, 10:00 Uhr

Ort: Landtmannsaal, Café Landtmann, Dr. Karl Lueger-Ring 4, 1010 Wien

Die „alternde Gesellschaft“ ist zu einem der wichtigsten Themen im Europa des 21. Jahrhunderts avanciert. Doch noch immer tun sich Politik und Wirtschaft schwer, zukunftsfähige Antworten auf den Demografischen Wandel zu finden. Kontroverse Debatten, wie derzeit um die Anhebung des Renteneintrittsalters und eine veränderte Work-Life-Balance, zeigen dies deutlich. Auch die Ausgestaltung familienpolitischer Maßnahmen, etwa zur Vereinbarkeit von Elternschaft und Beruf, ist umstritten, ebenso wie die Frage nach dem richtigen Maß an Einwanderung. Will man diese Fragen nachhaltig beantworten, sind die Entwicklung des Klimas und der Umwelt von zentraler Bedeutung, weil sie Gesundheit und Mortalität der Weltbevölkerung beeinflussen.

Die vielschichtigen Aspekte des Demografischen Wandels werden vom 1. bis zum 4. September 2010 auf der European Population Conference (EPC) in Wien beleuchtet. Die EPC ist die größte Konferenz zur bevölkerungswissenschaftlichen Forschung in Europa und findet alle zwei Jahre statt. Sie wird von der European Association for Population Studies (EAPS), dieses Jahr in Kooperation mit dem Institut für Demographie (VID), einem Institut der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften (ÖAW), organisiert.

Als Spezialthema für die EPC 2010 wurde „Bevölkerung und Umwelt“ gewählt. Das Logo reflektiert den thematischen Fokus, indem die derzeitige Alterspyramide der 27 EU-Staaten mit einem Baum kombiniert wird. Rund 800 WissenschaftlerInnen, PolitikerInnen und JournalistInnen haben sich bereits angemeldet. Das Tagungsprogramm finden Sie unter <http://epc2010.princeton.edu/>.

Ihre GesprächspartnerInnen sind:

FRANCESCO BILLARI, Direktor, DONDENA Centro per la Ricerca sulle Dinamiche Sociali, Università Bocconi, Italien

ALEXIA FÜRNKRANZ-PRSKAWETZ, Vize-Direktorin, Institut für Demographie (VID), Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (ÖAW), Österreich

FRANÇOIS HÉRAN, EAPS-Präsident; Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques (INED), Frankreich

WOLFGANG LUTZ, Direktor, Institut für Demographie (VID), Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (ÖAW), Österreich

JAMES W. VAUPEL, Direktor, Max-Planck-Institut für demografische Forschung (MPIDF), Deutschland

FRANS WILLEKENS, Direktor, Nederlands Interdisciplinair Demografisch Instituut (NIDI), Niederlande

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Prof. Francesco C. Billari



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Francesco C. Billari is Vice Rector of Development, Professor of Demography, and Director of the Dondena Centre for Research on Social Dynamics, at Bocconi University in Milan. He is also Secretary-General and Treasurer of the European Association for Population Studies (EAPS). In the past, he has worked or held visiting positions at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, the University of Pennsylvania, Pompeu Fabra University, the University of Padua, the Catholic University of Sacred Heart, and the University of Milan-Bicocca.

Francesco C. Billari has worked in committees for the National Institute for Demographic Studies in Paris (INED) and the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and collaborates regularly with the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI).

Francesco C. Billari's main research interests are family and fertility in a comparative perspective, life-course analysis and modelling, transition to adulthood, and the relationship between demography and economy. He has coordinated and participated in international and national research projects on these topics, and is publishing in leading scientific journals.

Recent Publications:

Billari, F.C.; Liefbroer, A.C. (2010). Towards a new pattern of transition to adulthood? *Advances in Life Course Research*, forthcoming.

Myrskylä, M.; Kohler, H.-P.; Billari, F. C. (2009). Advances in development reverse fertility declines. *Nature*, 460 (7256), 741-743.

Francesco C. Billari is available for interviews in English, French, and Italian.

Prof. Francesco C. Billari, Milan

Who cares?

New family policies throughout Europe and their impact on fertility, family dynamics, and work-life balance

The belief that higher socio-economic development is consistently correlated with lower overall fertility across countries used to be one of the most established and accepted hypotheses in social sciences. Our recent research has challenged this conventional wisdom: We found that at advanced levels of development the fertility trend is actually reversed. This reversal has the potential to slow down the rates of population ageing, thereby ameliorating the social and economic problems that have been associated with the emergence and persistence of very low fertility.

However, institutional, cultural, and policy contexts are highly heterogeneous across developed countries. Therefore, our current research investigates the different mechanisms that may underlie the reversal in fertility decline – particularly in the light of exceptions such as Japan, Canada, and South Korea. We do need a better understanding of how improvements in labour market flexibility, social security, gender equality, or family policies can facilitate relatively high levels of fertility in advanced societies. For instance, data from some European countries suggest that a positive relationship exists between fertility and female labour force participation.

In addition, we look at the cultural and social-psychological factors that might influence the decision to have children. Norms, beliefs, and attitudes are crucial to fully understand various determinants of fertility choices in developed countries.

Learn more about the topic during the EPC:

- Session 32: “Family policies and fertility”
Thursday, September 02, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
- Session 43: “Economic uncertainty and fertility”
Friday, September 03, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
- Session 54: “Gender equity and fertility”
Friday, September 03, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Session 73: “Reproductive decision-making in a macro-micro perspective”
Friday, September 03, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Further reading: Advances in development reverse fertility declines / Nature 460 (2009), <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v460/n7256/full/nature08230.html>

Prof. Alexia Fürnkranz-Prskawetz



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Alexia Fürnkranz-Prskawetz is Deputy Director of the Vienna Institute of Demography (VID) where she leads the Research Group on Population Economics. She is Professor of Mathematical Economics at the Vienna University of Technology. Alexia Fürnkranz-Prskawetz teaches at the Vienna University of Technology and the European Doctoral School of Demography.

Alexia Fürnkranz-Prskawetz works on long-term population and economic development, the impact of population ageing on the labour force, as well as on the macroeconomic consequences of an ageing society.

She is currently leading a 3-year-project on agglomeration processes of regional industrial activities in ageing societies, funded by the Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF), a 3-year-project on productivity, wages, and training in ageing societies, funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), and a 3-year-project on national transfer accounts and intergenerational redistribution, funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF).

Recent Publications:

Prettner, K.; A. Prskawetz (2010). Decreasing fertility, economic growth and the intergenerational wage gap. *Empirica* 37 (2): 197-214.

Engelhardt, H.; Kohler, H.-P.; Fürnkranz-Prskawetz, A. (2009). Causal Analysis in Population Studies. *The Springer Series on Demographic Methods and Population Analysis* 23, 252 p.

Prskawetz, A.; Bloom, D; Lutz, W. (2008). Population Ageing, Human Capital Accumulation, and Productivity Growth. *A Supplement to Population and Development Review* 33, Population Council, New York.

Alexia Fürnkranz-Prskawetz is available for interviews in English and German.

Prof. Alexia Fürnkranz-Prskawetz, Vienna

What works?

Suggestions for a well-functioning ageing society: labour market, social security, and intergenerational exchange

Economic growth, prosperity, and social security have been the drivers behind the success of the European model. But will an ageing labour force be able to uphold these high standards? How does an old workforce affect the productivity level of certain sectors? And how do we have to reorganise the labour market today if we want to make sure that the European model survives tomorrow?

Former research has shown that the pattern of productivity on company level is hump-shaped, i.e. a higher share of young and old employees as compared to middle-aged workers is correlated with a lower level of firm productivity. However, when looking at specific economic sectors, our current research indicates a positive correlation of the share of older workers and productivity, while the results for the share of younger workers are less clear-cut. In other words: Old age does not necessarily cause negative productivity effects.

Training and education are crucial factors when it comes to adjusting the labour market to demographic change. Training usually has a positive effect on productivity and thus on economic growth. At the same time, education is the key to responding to labour shortages in the near future. Better educated people will adapt to changes in the labour market much more easily than their less educated counterparts.

When organising life in ageing societies, life-cycle decisions on consumption, work, investment, etc. have to be taken into account, too. In some age groups, people consume more than they earn and contribute to production, while in other age groups it is vice versa. The difference ("lifecycle deficit") has to be covered through a combination of public transfers, private transfers or asset based flows. National Transfer Accounts (NTA) is a system for measuring economic flows across age at the aggregate level in a manner consistent with National Income and Product Accounts. In a current study we focus on building up NTA accounts for Austria and contribute to a comparative analysis where we compare NTA accounts across European countries emphasizing the role of different institutional settings.

Learn more about the topic during the EPC:

- Session 18: "Economics and labour market issues",
Thursday, September 02, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Session 26: "Life-course perspectives on health and mortality",
Thursday, September 02, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
- Session 106: "Ageing and wealth",
Saturday, September 04, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Prof. François Héran



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François Héran is President of the European Association for Population Studies (EAPS) and Research Professor at the National Institute for Demographic Studies (INED) in Paris where he has been Director from 1999 until 2010. He is also chairing the Steering Committee of PRES "Sorbonne Paris Cité".

François Héran's main fields of research are the organization of sample surveys, immigration and integration, family-formation, and kinship structures. He has been in charge of several national demographic surveys like "Sociability in France", "Couple Formation", "Educational Investments of Families", "Longitudinal Study of Electoral Turn-Out", and the family survey associated to the census.

François Héran is also Vice-chair of the French National Assessment Board of the Population Census.

Recent Publications:

F. Héran, Figures de la parenté. Une histoire critique de la raison structurale, Paris 2009.

F. Héran, Le Temps des immigrés: essai sur le destin de la population française, Paris 2007; Tokyo 2008.

F. Héran, The world population over the next three centuries: explosion, implosion, or equilibrium, in: Population and Societies, 408, 2005.

François Héran is available for interviews in English and French.

Prof. François Héran, Paris

Demographic Realities – An Inconvenient Truth

It is without controversy that the population in most European countries will considerably age over the coming decades. Data from UN demographic prospects illustrate that increased longevity accounts for most of the population ageing process. The probabilistic forecasts that take into account the uncertainty of projections and make explicit the subjective judgements of the experts go in the same line. Even the countries with exceptionally high fertility such as France will not escape from population ageing, essentially due to a longer expectancy of life. It seems clear now that neither a pro-natalist policy nor the long-standing introduction of young migrants have the capacity of compensating for the ageing process. The demographic expertise, in spite of all the uncertainties, is able to make a rather clear distinction between inexorable processes accumulated in the past and still impacting the next decades, from one side, and the open processes accessible for policy interventions, from the other.

Learn more about the topic during the EPC:

- Session 66: “Work-family balance in Europe”,
Friday, September 03, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
- Session 88: “Parental leave policies in European countries”
Saturday, September 04, 09:00 AM - 10:30 PM
- Session 102: “Policy implication of population ageing”,
Saturday, September 04, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Further reading:

http://www.institutdiderot.fr/tl_files/diderot/rendez_vous/fheran.pdf

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Wolfgang Lutz is Director of the Vienna Institute of Demography (VID) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW). He leads the World Population Program at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenburg, Austria. He is Professor for Social and Economic Statistics at Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration and works as a scientific advisor for various international organizations such as the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) in Nairobi, Kenya, and the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) in Washington D.C., USA.

Wolfgang Lutz works on family demography, fertility analysis, population projections and the interaction between population and environment. He has conducted a series of in-depth studies on population-development-environment interactions in Mexico, several African countries, and Asia. He is the author of the series of world population projections produced at IIASA and has developed approaches for projecting education and human capital.

For his scientific work Wolfgang Lutz was honoured with the Advanced Grant of the European Research Council (ERC) and the Wittgenstein Award 2010.

Recent Publications:

Lutz, W.; Crespo Cuaresma, J.; Abbasi-Shavazi, M.J. (2010).

Demography, education, and democracy: Global trends and the case of Iran.

Population and Development Review 36 (2): 253-281.

Lutz, W. (2009). The demography of future global population aging: Indicators, uncertainty, and educational composition. *Population and Development Review* 35 (2): 357-365.

Lutz, W. (2009). Editorial: Towards a world of 2-6 billion well-educated and therefore healthy and wealthy people. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society A* 172 (4):701-705.

Wolfgang Lutz is available for interviews in English and German.

Prof. Wolfgang Lutz, Vienna

How to survive?

The mutual impact of global warming and demographic change

The human population is both agent and victim of global climate change. So far scientists were mainly concerned about high population growth in the developing countries. However, greenhouse-gas emissions per capita are much higher in Europe than in Africa. In this context, we argue that a long term population decline in Europe might actually be desirable from an environmental perspective.

In our analysis, we try to weigh the possible negative impacts of population ageing associated with low fertility against the positive impacts that shrinking populations can have in the context of climate change. A fertility level that stays below the replacement-rate of two children per women might turn out optimal if the smaller young cohorts are better educated. And higher educated people probably will be less vulnerable to the consequences of climate change.

Many published scenarios – for example calculations of additional malaria deaths due to climate change – assume that whilst climate conditions will change, the population affected will stay the same in terms of their socioeconomic development. But demographers know that populations are not stationary. In almost all countries the young generations are on average better educated than the older ones, which means improvements in the average education of the future adults. This is likely to have a positive impact on economic growth and public health governance. Therefore, a country that is suffering from malaria deaths today might well have the means for better prevention and treatment in 2050.

Learn more about the topic during the EPC:

- Session 14: “Population, environment and policy”,
Thursday, September 02, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Session 52: “Population and land use in developing countries”,
Friday, September 03, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
- Session 105: “Population, mobility and resources”,
Saturday, September 04, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Further reading: Population Network Newsletter 41 (2009/2010)
<http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/POP/POPNET/index.html>

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James W. Vaupel is Founding Director of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) in Rostock where he heads the Laboratory of Survival and Longevity, the Laboratory of Population and Policy, and the Laboratory of Evolutionary Biodemography. He is also Director of the Max Planck International Research Network on Ageing and Research Professor at the Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Duke University, USA. James W. Vaupel is Panel Chair for the European Research Council Starting Grant and Rector of the European Doctoral School of Demography.

James W. Vaupel's main research fields are ageing societies and demographic change, human life expectancy, the plasticity of ageing, and the evolutionary development of ageing and longevity across the tree of life.

James W. Vaupel is Member of the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Regular Scientific Member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. For his scientific work, he was honoured with the Mindel C. Sheps Award for Mathematical Demography and the Longevity prize of the Ipsen Foundation.

Recent Publications:

Oksuzyan, A.; Crimmins, E. M.; Saito, Y.; O'Rand, A.; Vaupel, J. W.; Christensen, K. (2010). Cross-national comparison of sex differences in health and mortality in Denmark, Japan and the US. *European Journal of Epidemiology* 25 (7): 471-480.

Oksuzyan, A.; Maier, H.; McGue, M.; Vaupel J. W.; Christensen, K. (2010). Sex differences in the level and rate-of-change of physical function and grip strength in the Danish 1905-cohort study. *Journal of Aging and Health* 22 (5): 589-610.

Christensen, K.; Doblhammer, G.; Rau, R.; Vaupel, J. W. (2009). Ageing populations: the challenges ahead. *Lancet* 374 (9696): 1196-1208.

James W. Vaupel is available for interviews in English.

Prof. James W. Vaupel, Rostock

How long?

Latest research findings about life expectancy and ageing

The increase of best-practice life expectancy is so extraordinarily linear that it may be the most remarkable regularity of mass endeavour ever observed: In those countries doing best, two and a half years have been added to life expectancy every decade from 1840 until today. That equals three months per year or six hours per day. These findings raise the question whether further progress can be made in advancing the frontier of survival to even greater ages.

After age 40, most deaths result from senescence, the deterioration of health with age. For individuals death rates increase about 14% per year. This implies that the risk of death doubles every five years. The risk at 40 is about one in a thousand, by age 65 it is one in a hundred, and by age 90 one in six. After age 90 the rate of increase slows down and after age 110 the proportion of the surviving population that dies each year is constant - one in two per year.

Our ongoing research in Rostock suggests that the five-year doubling time of the risk of senescent death is the same for all humans today and in the past. This invariance, which has to be verified, suggests that the rate of deterioration with age is a basic biological constant that may be very hard to alter.

Nevertheless, we are living longer and longer because senescence can be, and is being, postponed. The explanation for that is that the pace of health deterioration with age is only one factor defining the risk of death. The other factor is a summary measure of a person's health. And this health level can be ameliorated at any age - by personal behaviour, social progress, and medical advances.

Learn more about the topic during the EPC:

Session 03: "Comparative perspectives on health and mortality of national populations",

Thursday, September 02, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Session 11: "Socioeconomic and sociodemographic influences on health",

Thursday, September 02, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Session 81: "Health in European populations: comparisons, trends, determinants",

Friday, September 03, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Further reading: Biodemography of human ageing / Nature 464 (2010),
<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v464/n7288/full/nature08984.html>

Prof. Frans Willekens



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Frans Willekens is Director of the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) in The Hague. He is also Professor of Demography in the Faculty of Spatial Sciences at the University of Groningen where he founded the Population Research Centre (PRC) in 1991. Frans Willekens is Member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Frans Willekens works on multistate demographic and biographic modelling, and on population forecasting. Among Frans Willekens' main research interests are the estimation of international migration flows and the harmonization of migration data. He is Co-Editor of the book "International migration in Europe: Data, Models, and Estimates" which for the first time draws together different modelling techniques for an improved overall picture of the migration pattern within Europe and between Europe and the rest of the world.

Recent Publications:

Reuser, M.; Bonneux, L.G.; Willekens, F. (2009). Smoking kills, obesity disables: a multistate approach of the US Health and Retirement Survey. *Obesity* 17: 783-789.
Willekens, F. (2009). Continuous-time microsimulation in longitudinal analysis. In: Zaidi, A.; Harding, A.; Williamson, P. (eds.) (2009). *New frontiers in microsimulation modelling* (Ashgate, Surrey, UK): 413-436.

Frans Willekens is available for interviews in English and Dutch.

Prof. Frans Willekens, The Hague

Why move?

Reasons for migration and its effects on the economy and society

In Europe, international migration is a significant phenomenon and one of the main factors contributing to population change. Since 1989, net immigration has contributed to at least 50% of the European Union's annual population growth. What are the eminent reasons for existing migration patterns? And, even more important, how can we monitor, manage, and channel the flow of people?

Since decades, the evidence-based management of international migration is challenging because the evidence is inadequate. Countries differ in sources of migration data, data availability and data quality. The management of migration calls for accurate and reliable data collected from different sources and for metadata that document how the different data are combined. Monitoring instruments could only recently be refined, improving for example figures on the number of migrants, reasons for migration, and duration of stay.

Scientists are developing innovative instruments for the measurement, analysis and monitoring of international migration. The aim is to obtain better answers to a most important question: "What is the evidence?". Knowing the facts becomes increasingly important given that migration turns out to be a crucial factor for economic growth and stability in many countries and a decisive factor in the success of nations in a globalizing world. Our research includes the use of micro-simulation and quality control methods to test the reliability of international migration data. It also includes a study of the impact of the global financial crisis on international migration. It can be shown that, of all types of migration, labour migration is affected most. Especially low-skilled immigrants are facing job-loss and a decrease in wages. Yet, the crisis does not lead necessarily to more return migration. People who invested heavily in migration and the settlement in the country of destination are not likely to return to their country of origin that has even less opportunities and lower prospects.

Learn more about the topic during the EPC:

- Session 19: "New data and methods of migration research",
Thursday, September 02, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Session 59: "Mobility and migration",
Friday, September 03, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Session 94: "Migration statistics and the impact of migration",
Saturday, September 04, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Further reading: The global economic crisis and international migration: an uncertain outlook / Vienna Yearbook of Population Research
<http://hw.oeaw.ac.at/?arp=0x0023296f>