



Wittgenstein Centre

FOR DEMOGRAPHY AND
GLOBAL HUMAN CAPITAL



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The hybrid seminar will be held
online via Zoom and in person at
Vordere Zollamtsstraße 3, 1030 Vienna
(FFP2 mask & 2G certificate required)

WIC Hybrid Colloquium

An Epidemic of Uncertainty

Tuesday, May 31st, 2022 
10:00-11:00 (CEST)

Please click [here](#) to register online.
Login information will be sent to registered
participants shortly before the presentation.

Jenny Trinitapoli

University of Chicago

After a four-decades-long battle against HIV, the standard global-health metrics have started to point to good news: new infections are down, prevalence has stabilized, life-saving antiretroviral drugs are widely available, mother-to-child transmission is lower than ever, and AIDS-related mortality has declined. But in the wake of pandemic AIDS, an epidemic of uncertainty persists. In Malawi, adult prevalence of HIV has been steady at roughly 14% since 2000; yet at any given point in time, half the young-adult population doesn't know their HIV status. I argue that AIDS-related uncertainty is measurable, pervasive, and impervious to biomedical solutions. The consequences of uncertainty are pertinent to multiple domains of life including relationship stability, fertility, health, and well-being. Even as HIV is transformed from a progressive, fatal infection to a chronic and manageable condition, the accompanying epidemic of uncertainty remains central to understanding social life in this part of the world.

About the presenter

Jenny Trinitapoli is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Chicago, where she also directs the Center for International Social Science Research. Her training is in two areas: social demography & the sociology of religion. Bridging these two fields, her work features the demographer's characteristic concern with data quality and denominators and an insistence on connecting demographic processes to questions of meaning.

The Wittgenstein Centre is a collaboration among the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the University of Vienna.

If you would like to be added to the WIC Colloquium mailing list, please click [here](#).