



Wittgenstein Centre

FOR DEMOGRAPHY AND
GLOBAL HUMAN CAPITAL



The hybrid seminar will be held
online via Zoom and in person at
Dr. Ignaz Seipel – Platz 2, 1010 Vienna,
Museumszimmer (stair 1, 2nd floor)

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WIC Hybrid Colloquium

A Demographic perspective on forced migration with a special focus on Afghan refugees

Wednesday, 28 February, 2024
11:00 – 12:00 (CET)



Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi

Academy Fellow, Vienna Institute of
Demography

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Login information will be sent to
registered participants shortly before
the presentation.

Abstract:

International migration has always been an important issue for research and policy in almost every society and globally. Discussions and studies of migration are focused primarily on voluntary migration, and little attention is given to the reasons, consequences, and potential of forced migration. Yet, forced migration, especially refugees, makes up a significant proportion of international moves, most of it being south-south in nature. The number of forcibly displaced persons in the world surpassed 108 million by the end of 2022 and there is no evidence that the scale and severity of forced migration are being reduced. A vast majority (76%) of the displaced population live in low and middle-income countries. While Syria and Afghanistan have been the top refugee-sending countries for decades, Ukraine and Gaza have also become sources of population displacement. In addition to a large-scale population displacement due to war and conflicts, a significant number of refugees are environmentally driven. Despite the increasing scale and complexity of population displacement, forced migration is still a neglected and under-researched topic within Demography. This presentation illustrates the current situation of global population displacement by region with an emphasis on population displacement within and from Afghanistan. The need for research and training programs on the demography of forced migration as well as policy implications for the host countries of a sizable number of refugees are discussed.

About the presenter:

Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi is an Academy Fellow at the Vienna Institute of Demography, Professor of Demography, University of Tehran (on leave), Guest Research Scholar at the International Institute of Applied System Analysis (IIASA), and Honorary Professor, School of Demography, the Australian National University. He has conducted research and widely published on Iran's fertility transition, international and forced migration, Muslim demography, and population policies. His current research focuses on fertility declines and diversity among Muslim populations in Europe. Abbasi has served as Director of the Iran National Institute of Population Research; President of Asian Population Association, the President of the Population Association of Iran, and is a council member of the IUSSP. He has received several scientific prizes including the 2011 United Nations Population Award.

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

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