



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

WITTGENSTEIN CENTRE CONFERENCE 2026

01-02 December 2026, Vienna/Austria

Demography and Human Capital

Deadline for submission: 30 April 2026

Human capital—education, skills, health, and capabilities—is a central driver of demographic change and a key lens for understanding social and economic development, inequality, and resilience. Demographic processes shape human capital accumulation across cohorts and generations, while human capital influences fertility, mortality, migration, and economic outcomes. In the context of climate change, human capital also conditions exposure, adaptive capacity, and long-term vulnerability.

At the same time, human capital trajectories unfold in diverse demographic and institutional settings. Across high-, middle-, and low-income countries, differences in education and health systems, economic structures, gender norms, migration regimes, and exposure to shocks shape human capital formation and its demographic consequences. This conference aims to foster dialogue across disciplines and geographies, encouraging comparative research.

This conference aims to advance theories, data, and multi-dimensional demographic methods for modelling human capital formation and its dynamics over time, and to connect cutting-edge evidence to policy debates globally. We welcome contributions from all disciplinary backgrounds and methodological traditions, including demography, economics, sociology, public health, geography, and data science.

We invite submissions addressing, among others:

- Human capital measurement, data, and methods
- Multi-dimensional population dynamics and human capital projections
- Education and skills across the life course
- Human capital, health, and mortality
- Fertility, family dynamics, and human capital
- Migration and human capital
- Human capital and economic development/growth

The conference will take place immediately **following the 50th anniversary celebration of the Vienna Institute of Demography (VID) on 30 November 2026** at the same venue. There are also thematic overlaps between the two events. Conference participants are warmly invited to attend the VID's 50th anniversary celebration as well.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- Ann Berrington, University of Southampton
- Further keynote speakers will be announced soon

Paper submissions online:

<https://www.oeaw.ac.at/vid/news-events/calendar/conferences/demography-and-human-capital/submission-upload-wittgenstein-centre-conference-2026>

including

- short abstract (250–300 words) and
- extended abstract (2–5 pages) or the full paper.

The short abstracts will appear on the conference website if accepted.

Please make sure your extended abstract includes the title, full name(s), affiliation and e-mail addresses of each author.

The **submission deadline is April 30, 2026**, and notifications of acceptance will be sent out in June 2026. All presentations are expected to be held in person.

A special issue of the [Vienna Yearbook of Population Research](#) will be dedicated to the topic of this conference. Conference participants and other researchers will be invited to submit their papers on the conference theme to this platinum open-access journal.

Conference Organisers:

Alexia FÜRNKRANZ-PRSKAWETZ, Anne GOUJON, Guillaume MAROIS, Shalini SINGH and Tomas SOBOTKA

Contact: For any questions regarding the conference, please contact conference.vid@oeaw.ac.at

All about WIC2026:



Wittgenstein Centre

FOR DEMOGRAPHY AND
GLOBAL HUMAN CAPITAL



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

www.wittgensteincentre.org