

# CPS NEWS

## The Newsletter of the Canadian Population Society

December 2018

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## The Latest News

### CPS 2019 – Call for Papers

The 2019 annual meeting of the Canadian Population Society will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia from June 5-7, 2019. The preceding Graduate Development Conference is scheduled for June 4th.

Authors are required to submit an abstract of their paper no later than **January 31, 2019**. Abstracts should be submitted to session organizers via email and be sufficiently detailed for the organizer to judge the merits of the submission. Submissions should include the full names, affiliations, and email addresses of all authors.



The annual meeting is scheduled to include nine regular sessions and a poster session. The topics and organizers are as follows:

#### Mortality

Anna Zajacova, Western University  
Email: [anna.zajacova@uwo.ca](mailto:anna.zajacova@uwo.ca)

#### Family

Nicole Denier, University of Alberta  
Email: [nicole.denier@ualberta.ca](mailto:nicole.denier@ualberta.ca)

#### Health and Morbidity

James Iveniuk, Wellesley Institute  
Email: [iveniukj@gmail.com](mailto:iveniukj@gmail.com)

#### Immigration and Migration

Mike Haan, Western University  
Email: [mhaan2@uwo.ca](mailto:mhaan2@uwo.ca)

#### Social Diversity

Sean Waite, Western University  
Email: [swaite3@uwo.ca](mailto:swaite3@uwo.ca)

#### The Labour Market

Anne Milan, Statistics Canada  
Email: [anne.milan@canada.ca](mailto:anne.milan@canada.ca)

#### Fertility

Laura Wright, University of Saskatchewan  
Email: [laura.wright@usask.ca](mailto:laura.wright@usask.ca)

#### Indigenous Demographics

James Falconer, ISC|CIRNAC  
Email: [james.falconer@canada.ca](mailto:james.falconer@canada.ca)

#### Gender

Melissa Moyser, Statistics Canada  
Email: [melissa.moyser@canada.ca](mailto:melissa.moyser@canada.ca)

If none of these sessions are appropriate for your paper, please submit your abstract directly to the Program Chair,

Yoko Yoshida at [yoko.yoshida@dal.ca](mailto:yoko.yoshida@dal.ca). Submissions for the poster session should also be submitted to the Program Chair.

Students who wish to participate in the Graduate Development Conference should send their complete papers to the CPS Student Representative, Eugena Kwon, at [ekwon22@uwo.ca](mailto:ekwon22@uwo.ca).

Student papers accepted to the regular sessions and the Graduate Development Conference are eligible for the award for best student paper. Please refer to the [Student Competition website](#) for complete details about eligibility requirements. Student authors who want to be considered for this award should submit their abstracts to the Student Paper Competition Committee no later than January 31, 2019. Full papers are needed on or before April 19, 2019 to be considered for the competition. Committee Co-Chairs: Martin Cooke ([cooke@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cooke@uwaterloo.ca)) and James Falconer ([james.falconer@canada.ca](mailto:james.falconer@canada.ca)).

Session organizers will notify corresponding authors about the acceptance of papers beginning on February 28, 2019. Completed papers should be sent to session organizers no later than May 15, 2019.

All conference attendees must be current members of the CPS and at least one author of an accepted paper must register for the conference by April 19, 2019.

#### Other Calls:

American Sociological Association 2019 Meeting  
Philadelphia, USA, August 10-13, 2019  
Submission deadline: January 9, 2019

The Migration Conference 2019  
Bari, Italy, June 18-20, 2019  
Submission deadline: January 31, 2019

5th Human Mortality Database Symposium  
Harnack Haus, Berlin, Germany, May 13-14, 2019  
Submission deadline: February 17, 2019

Conference on Gender Gaps in Health  
Lake Como, Italy, October 1-2, 2019  
Submission deadline: February 24, 2019

IUSSP International Seminar on Kinship and Reproduction in Past Societies  
Minneapolis, USA, August 22-23, 2019  
Submission deadline: March 1, 2019.

#### Special Issue – Turkish Journal of Sociology

The *Turkish Journal of Sociology* invites submissions to a special issue focusing on Population and Society. The Guest Editors are Mehmet Fatih Aysan (Istanbul University) and Eric Tenkorang (Memorial University). This special issue of TJS will focus on aspects of population and society, such as: population size and growth; fertility; changes in family structure and households; union formation and dissolution; population aging; internal and international migration; health, diseases and mortality; urbanization, development, and environmental issues; and the well-being of populations.

Articles should be submitted in English no later than **March 31, 2019** to the journal's [online portal](#). First published in 1917, TJS is a publication of the Department of Sociology of the Istanbul University Faculty of Letters, the first and leading sociology department in Turkey.

#### Upcoming Events

The Vanier Institute of the Family is hosting the [Families in Canada Conference 2019](#) on March 27 and 28, 2019. The conference is a national, pan-Canadian meeting that will be held in Ottawa, Canada (at the Infinity Convention Centre) with simultaneous satellite conference hosted at universities across the country. The conference is a gathering of diverse leaders from multiple fields and disciplines who will come together to explore how Big Data can be used to inform and inspire ideas to optimize family well-being in Canada. Demographics and family diversity are among the cross-cutting themes that the conference will address. The conference website is now live and sign-up for the conference [e-newsletter](#) is also available.

#### Employment and Training

*Deputy Director – Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins.*

The Bloomberg School of Public Health is launching a survey research program entitled Performance Monitoring

for Action (PMA). The PMA program is designed to deliver high-quality, rapid-turnaround data to promote data-driven decision-making to improve the health and welfare of populations. To achieve this goal, PMA recruits women from a set of nationally and sub-nationally sentinel communities and trains them to collect data on a routine basis using smartphone technology.

To assist in guiding the implementation of the cutting-edge approaches of the PMA, the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at the Bloomberg School of Public Health invites applications for the position of Deputy Director of this program. The focus of the position will be on ensuring the technical quality of the PMA throughout the full spectrum of survey operations, including survey design and development and the dissemination of data products. For qualified individuals, this will be a faculty position in the Scientist track within the Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health. Prospective candidates can consult the on-line [job posting](#) for further details about the position, required qualifications, and application instructions. Review of applications will begin on February 4, 2019.

*Student Recruitment – VADA Program, the University of Manitoba and the University of Victoria*

The Visual and Automated Disease Analytics (VADA) Program is recruiting its 2019 cohort of trainees. The VADA program aims to train the next generation of graduates students interested in health informatics and using computation science to translate complex health data into insights that can improve population health. The program offers students hands-on training in software such as R, Python, and Tableau as well as development of other professional competencies. Master's students are eligible for one year of funding (\$16,000) and PhD students are eligible for up to two years of funding (\$19,000 per year). The program is an NSERC-funded partnership between the University of Manitoba and the University of Victoria. Please visit the [VADA webpage](#) for complete details about the program and application instructions. The deadline for applications is **March 1, 2019**.

**Renew your CPS membership for the new year. Memberships renewals can be completed on the CPS website.**

## Population Data BC

### *Course - Epidemiological Statistics*

Offered in partnership with the University of Victoria, Continuing Studies, and Population Data BC, this is a basic course that will introduce students to the field of epidemiology. Students will be instructed in the basic concepts of epidemiology, common epidemiological research designs, methodological issues, and statistical methods for epidemiological data. Please consult the [course webpage](#) for a full course description and registration details. This is an online course that will run from January 14 to April 7, 2019. The registration deadline is **January 2, 2019**.

### *Webinar Series*

Population Data BC presents a webinar series entitled The Power of Population Data Science. This [webinar series](#) aims to highlight the value of data linkage by profiling some recent publications in the *International Journal of Population Data*. Upcoming webinars:

January 9, 2019

The Canadian Chronic Disease Surveillance System: A Model for Collaborative Surveillance

January 24, 2019

Changes in Accessing Routinely Collected Data from Multiple Providers in the UK for Primary Studies: Managing the Morass

February 13, 2019

Family Matters: High School Graduation and Sibling Influence

Past webinars are available on demand.

### *Introduction to Data Science*

The free webinar series will focus on machine learning methods and analytic methods that serve the needs of health and environmental researchers working to understand trends in society, health, and human behavior. The webinars commence on January 15, 2019 and include four modules, each with two sessions. The first sessions are one-hour introductory presentations with question

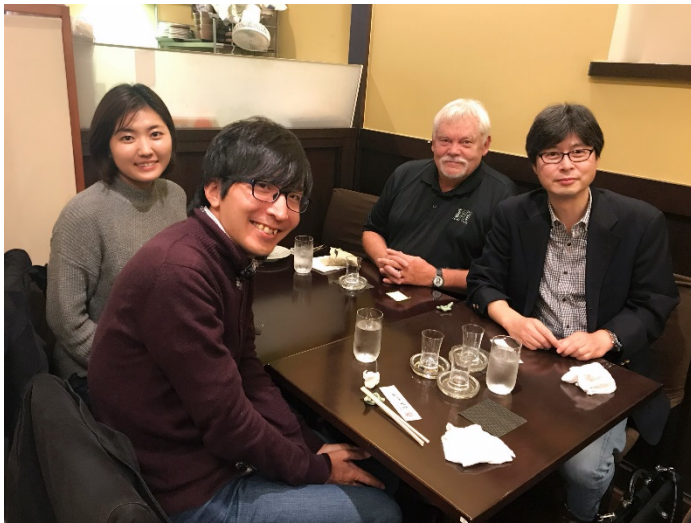
periods. The follow-up sessions are two-hour practicum sessions. Consult the [course webpage](#) for more information and registration details.

### QICSS Conference Recap

The presentations from the QICSS International Conference 2018 are available on the [QICSS website](#). This year's conference theme was Immigrants' Impact, Immigrants' Outcomes: New Results Using Business and Social Data. David Card (University of California) and Richard Alba (City University of New York) were the keynote speakers. Their talks and the other conference presentations and can be viewed online.

### CPS Members

**SWANSON, David.** David Swanson (Professor Emeritus, University of California, Riverside) was Visiting Professor at Aoyama Gakuin University this Fall. He also gave three invited lectures on different applications of the cohort change ratio method at (1) the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, (2) Kyoto University, and (3) Aoyama Gakuin University.



David Swanson (back left) seated besides his host, Professor Takashi Inoue, enjoying a meal of sabu, side dishes, and saki. Across from them are Professor Inoue's students, Rina Katayama (left) and Shinji Komatsu.



### New Releases to the Research Data Centres:

#### December 2018

- Digital Economy Survey (DES) 2018
- Employment Insurance Beneficiaries (EIB) January 1997 – June 2018
- Employment Insurance Coverage Survey (EICS) 2017
- Labour Force Survey (LFS) November 2018
- Longitudinal and International Study of Adults (LISA) 2016

#### November 2018

- Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) 2017
- Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs Survey (CTADS) 2017
- Education and Labour Market Longitudinal Linkage Platform (ELMLP)
- National Cannabis Survey (NCS) 2018, Wave 3
- Longitudinal Administrative Databank (LAD) 2016
- Labour Force Survey (LFS) October 2018

### Insights into Census 2016

The 2016 Census microdata file has been available in the RDCs since May 2018. The data file contains 100% of long-form respondents and all variables from the long-form questions. The PPT slide deck from a webinar about this release is now available on the [CRDCN website](#). This resource provides information about the content and research potential of the Census 2016 microdata file and also discusses its comparability to previous census years.

The topics of the presentation include: methodology, demography and mobility, immigration, language, ethnic origin, Aboriginal peoples, income and housing, education, and labour.

## Statistics Canada

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### Modernization Agenda

At Statistics Canada, employees and partners are embracing change and progress to facilitate the development of a modern and responsive statistical agency for the next century. In

2017/2018, the agency launched four [pathfinder projects](#) to lead this modernization initiative.

- *Measuring Cannabis.* Over the past year, Statistics Canada has prepared the statistical system for measuring the social and economic impacts of legalization of cannabis. This includes innovative strategies of collecting data on cannabis, such as using municipal wastewater to measure cannabis consumption levels and crowdsourcing to measure cannabis prices. In 2018/2019, the agency will begin to incorporate cannabis into its key economic indicators (e.g., GDP and CPI).

- *Canadian Housing Statistics Program.* In partnership with public and private organizations, notably the Canada Mortgage and Housing Commission, Statistics Canada is developing an integrated source of information to track housing prices and markets across the country.

- *Low Carbon Economy.* This project addresses the need to collect statistics on clean technology in Canada, and the impacts of this sector on society, the environment, and the energy sector. In 2018 and 2019, the program is being expanded to include new variables related to a low-carbon economy, such as health outcomes, urban densification, and consumer spending.

- *Measuring Growth in International Visitors to Canada.* The agency is exploring the use of new technologies and methods to gather tourism data and produce detailed data on this sector of Canada's economy.

In addition to these projects Statistics Canada is pursuing other modernization initiatives, such as finding [new ways to present data](#). This includes: i) online hubs that contain many sources of data on a broad area (e.g., sustainable development), ii) data visualization products that present data in an interactive and graphical form, iii) new channels for disseminating information, and iv) a new look for the agency's website with new tools to refine navigation and search results.

### Open Building Data

The Open Database of Buildings (ODB) is an exploratory initiative that contributes to the creation of a comprehensive open database of buildings in Canada. In its current version, the ODB contains data on 4.3 million building footprints from seven provinces and one territory. The database contains eight variables for each footprint: data provider, latitude, longitude, area, perimeter, census subdivision unique identifier, and census subdivision name. The ODB microdata were downloaded from 61 different data providers from January to August 2018. Please visit the ODB [webpage](#) for further details about this initiative and access to data.

### New Database Interface

This year, Statistics Canada launched a new interface for accessing socioeconomic data, formerly known as the CANSIM system. The [new interface](#) allows for easier manipulation of variables and customization of data tables. The database houses over 5000 data tables, which are available free of charge.

## Feature Interview

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In this issue, the CPS News interviews Thomas Le Grand, Full Professor and former Chair of the Department of Demography at the University of Montreal. Dr. Le Grand retired from his position in September 2018, where he worked since 1991. He took this decision to free up time to work with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP). Dr. Le

Grand was elected IUSSP President for the 2018-2021 term. He is the first Canadian to hold this distinguished office.

Recently, Tom also co-organized and presided over a semi-plenary session at the Latin American Population Association Conference in Puebla, Mexico on the topic “Challenges to monitoring the SDGs: A regional dialogue on demographic data and indicators.” He also made an opening speech at the meeting on *Healthy Cities Now and in the Future, The Critical Role of Urban Reproductive Health* in Kigali, Rwanda this November.

## Interview

*The CPS would like to congratulate you on election to IUSSP President. If I am not mistake, this is the first time a Canadian citizen has held this office. I am interested in your thoughts about the relevance of the IUSSP, which celebrates its 90th year in 2018, in the 21st century. What are the pressing demographic issues of this century and how do you perceive the IUSSP’s role in responding to these issues?*

Thanks for the congrats! You are right: I am the first Canadian citizen to be elected president of the IUSSP, and the first one born and raised in North America since Ansley Coale (1977-1981).

From the start, the IUSSP recognized the importance of population problems and of their relationships with economic, political, and social factors. The IUSSP website states: “The IUSSP mission is to promote the scientific study of population, encourage exchange between researchers around the globe, and stimulate interest in population issues.” While population challenges have evolved over time, these goals remain just as relevant today as in the past. The field of population studies has always dealt with issues of great policy importance, and it is essential to uphold high and rigorous standards and to provide scientific credibility for serious work on these issues.

For me, some of the most pressing demographic issues for the 21st century at the international level include:

- Dealing with rapid ongoing population growth especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and the challenges it poses to

economic development (poverty alleviation) and protecting the natural environment. For perspective, the population of the region is projected to grow by nearly 3 billion people from now to the end of the century, a number equivalent to the entire world population in 1960 or 40% more than the current populations living in North and South America and in Europe.

- Handling the consequences of rapid population aging in most regions of the world.

- Urbanization and urban demography: the vast bulk of future world population growth will occur in cities and it is increasingly important to understand how urban contexts affect demographic behaviors and outcomes.

- International migration (including refugees) and migrant integration: phenomena that are likely to increase over time, given the impact of climate change on some regions of the world.

- Interrelations between population and the environment.

- Methods and data – in particular, monitoring and then explaining key demographic and socioeconomic variables at disaggregated levels, making use of both “classic” and new sources of data (satellite and drone data, cellphone records, social media, credit card receipts).

The IUSSP is active in all these areas (and in some others too) through the work of our [scientific panels](#) and our funded research and policy projects on the [Data Revolution](#) and [Fertility and Family Planning](#) in Urban Sub-Saharan African and in South Asia. In addition, the IUSSP often participates in UN forums (e.g., a year ago we provided statements to the Commission on Population and Development and to the group working to develop the *Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*), and we promote training in demography through our website and other activities.

*Can you provide some insight about your role as IUSSP President. What are the key organizational-level things that you plan to accomplish?*

Like many other scientific associations, the IUSSP is faced with changing donor priorities, new issues of scientific and policy importance that often cut across the disciplines,

rapid changes in the data ecosystem and research methods, and a stagnant membership. Building off the work begun during the last council (2014-2017), we need to strategically restructure our activities to better serve the world demographic research community in the hope that this will lead to enough funding to survive in the long term. This includes positioning ourselves to attract new sources of funding for projects on issues of policy relevance, organizing “mini-conferences” between the IPCs [International Population Conferences], using new technologies to better serve the membership, reflecting on the place demographic research and training in 21st century, and making better use of our members to help us make the union into a more dynamic forum.

To me, beyond our usual work (panels, conferences, etc.), the issues I feel strongly about include:

- Finding ways to draw in and involve a larger number of IUSSP members in our activities. This might occur through writing policy briefs or N-IUSSP [the [IUSSP magazine](#)] articles, making statements at important policy forums, mentorship activities, improving our news feeds, developing and sharing training resources, or creating “sections” as in they exist some other associations – broad research groups working on similar issues. It is especially important to make the IUSSP more appealing to younger demographers, and I hope to soon set up a junior demographer working group to think through on how best to do this.

- Continue seeking out new funded programs for which the IUSSP is well suited, allowing the union to play its role of drawing together top demographers to work on issues of policy importance. The dynamism created by these programs will benefit all our members, and overheads will help the IUSSP prosper in a time of falling core funding.

- Finally, I would personally like to make IUSSP activities more “green.” Traditionally, the core activities of the IUSSP have been organizing and running international conferences and seminars, which require a great deal of international travel. Although this has yet to be discussed in council, I would like to reflect on ways to reduce the IUSSP’s environmental footprint, possibly through having future seminars and conferences systematically streamed over the web, or facilitating participants’ ability to opt for

“green friendly” hotels or pay for carbon offsets during their travel to meetings.

*Is there potential to bring mini-IUSSP conferences to Canada in the future? What are some other avenues for strengthening ties between the IUSSP and demographers in Canada?*

I would hope that my tenure as IUSSP president will lead to stronger sustained relations with demographers in Canada. Canadians have always been present in the IUSSP through their work in panels, presentations at international conferences, etc. I would encourage Canadians to become prominent in the volunteer activities I noted above. We are planning to organize a mini-conference on international migration sometime in mid or late 2020, and Canada is the top place we are considering for this event. Finally, I’m right now working to organize an expert group meeting on innovations to structured data collection methodologies, and the meeting site is likely to be either Montreal or at the UN in New York.

*You have recently retired from a distinguished career at the University of Montreal. Reflecting back, what do you consider your most important contributions?*

When I arrived in Montreal in 1991, the Department was of quite high quality in terms of research and training, but in large part narrowly classic in approach – a strong emphasis on traditional demographic methods (which clearly remain of value) but weak in terms of more “modern” empirical (e.g., multivariate statistical) approaches to studying demographic phenomena. I taught the first course on multivariate statistics offered by the department in the early 1990s – a course that was then criticized by some professors as being out of place in a demography department, more appropriate for a sociology or economics department!

I contributed to helping to modernize the department at least in terms of the use of contemporary research methods, to reaching out to the international community beyond the traditional networks the Department, and through my work with the *groupe Population et Développement* (led by Victor Piché when I arrived in Montreal) to expand our research, training and institution-building activities in West Africa. While I am proud of what I’ve accomplished here in Montreal, I’m most proud of my

contributions to African demography: the many African doctoral students I've trained, my efforts to help reinforce the institutional research and training capacity of top centers (especially the ISSP/Université de Ouagadougou) and my own studies often done in collaboration with African researchers.

*If you were to give a Canadian student demographer a single piece of advice, what would it be?*

This is a hard question. Demography is a small field, but one that clearly remains important in the 21st century. I would emphasize the value of combining very solid methodological and data skills with a substantive field – the causal theory and facts with regard to economic demography, anthropology, epidemiology, sociology, etc.). This combination underlies the ability of top researchers to do innovative scientifically grounded studies on issues that are often of real policy importance to Canada and to the world. Too, students must keep their standards high, question their assumptions and models (critical thinking is essential), and be ambitious – be willing to go live elsewhere for several years and learn another language, to expand their knowledge, skills, and networks.

*On a personal note, when you are not filling your time with IUSSP duties, what do you like to do for fun?*

I opted to retire at the end of September to free up time for my work with the IUSSP and also to do things I've put off for many years. I hope to become more fluent in Spanish and would enjoy spending time living in Mexico. I would also like to volunteer with environmental protection groups and possibly animal rights groups. For me, environmental conservation is of enormous importance to our own wellbeing and also to that of our planet: climate change and the ongoing mass extinction of other species is, for me, a huge tragedy and a genocide. In my time off, I enjoy reading (science fiction, thrillers, and more serious works), walks in the countryside, good food (and improving my own skills at vegetarian cooking) and, if I move to a more temperate climate, tennis.



## Obituary

### **FERNANDO, Rajulton.**

The CPS is sad to report that Rajulton Fernando passed away on Tuesday December 11, 2018.



Rajulton Fernando was born in Tamil Nadu, India. After his bachelor's degree at St Joseph's College in Triuchirapalli, Tamil Nadu, and a Master's in Statistics at University of Madras in 1972, he obtained his PhD in 1985 from the Interuniversity Program in Demography at the Free University of Brussels. It was during his studies in Belgium that he met Zenaida Ravanera, his future partner in life. After a year in India and a year as a Post-Doctoral Fellow and Lecturer at Brown University, Professor Fernando joined the Department of Sociology at Western University in 1987. Western was rapidly expanding its Demography program and looking for a formal demographer at a senior level to strengthen its PhD program in Social Demography. Dr. Fernando filled the post with commitment and distinction. He supervised a large number of doctoral theses and was an invaluable member of the Department, becoming Professor Emeritus in 2011. Professor Fernando was always very dedicated to his students, ensuring that they had the competence and support to launch their own academic and research careers. He was also a humble and generous colleague.

He was very active professionally, serving as the President of the Canadian Population Society in 2004- 2006, and as a member of the executive for many years. Because he was fluent in French he was also involved in demographic activities in Quebec. He was extremely productive in his scholarly publications and very successful in receiving grants and supporting students in his research projects.

Specializing in demographic analysis and demographic models, Professor Fernando wrote an early version of software for event history analysis. With funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Fernando organized an international workshop on longitudinal analysis in October 1999, bringing together leading colleagues from Canada and around the world (see Special Issue on Longitudinal Methodology of Canadian Studies in Population, 2001). Through his research and teaching, Professor Fernando promoted the development of longitudinal surveys and their analysis. For several years, he taught in the summer school of the Centre interuniversitaire Québécois de statistiques sociales.

Rajulton Fernando was a quiet and modest man. He was deeply committed to his family, and was very proud of his children. Rajul and Zenny introduced Fravic and Carmina early, indeed very early, to professional meetings around the world. Only later did they admit that these demography presentations were invariably boring.

A decent and honest man, we have been privileged to have Rajul as a wonderful friend and colleague for more than three decades. We mourn his passing.

– T. R. Balakrishnan (Bala), Rod Beaujot, Tom Burch, Eddie Ebanks, Carl Grindstaff, and Kevin McQuillan

## CPS People

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The Canadian Population Society is a scientific association that seeks to improve knowledge and understanding about the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of human population. It seeks to promote the study and development of the science of demography in both its empirical and theoretical aspects.

**Past-President:** Alain Bélanger

**President:** Michael Haan

**Vice-President:** Yoko Yoshida

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Sean Waite

### Councillors:

Martin Cooke

Nicole Denier

James Falconer

Eugena Kwon (Student Representative)

Melissa Moyser

Sean Waite

Laura Wright

**Journal Editor:** Michael Haan (interim)

**Newsletter Editor:** Christoph Schimmele

**Webmaster:** Sean Waite