

# Workshop on Developing an Agenda for Population Aging and Social Research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) September 7–8, 2023

## PRESENTER AND DISCUSSANT BIOSKETCHES

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**Sara Adar** is an associate professor and associate chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Currently, she has a large research portfolio on environmental risk factors of accelerated aging funded by the National Institutes of Health, and she is a Multiple Principal Investigator of the National Institute on Aging-funded Gateway to Global Aging project. Dr. Adar has won awards for her teaching from the University of Michigan and for her research from the American Heart Association and the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology. She is currently a member of the Review Committee for the Health Effects Institute, an Associate Editor at the Environmental Health Perspectives, and a standing member of the Cardiovascular and Respiratory Disease Study Section for the National Institutes of Health. She holds a B.S. in environmental engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a M.H.S. from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a Sc.D. from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

**Emily M. Agree** (*workshop planning committee member*) is research professor at Johns Hopkins University and associate director of the Hopkins Population Center. She previously served as director of the Hopkins Center for Population Aging and Health. Her research expertise is on disability and long-term care, aging families, and intergenerational relationships. Dr. Agree is a member of the steering committee for the National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS), a nationally representative longitudinal study of disability in later life. Her work has focused on the relationship of assistive technology use to disability in later life and the influence of population aging on family relationships and old-age support. She has served on the Population Association of America (PAA) Board of Directors and the editorial boards of *Demography*, and the *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, and *Research on Aging*. Dr. Agree holds an M.A. in demography from Georgetown University and Ph.D. in sociology from Duke University. She currently serves on NASEM's Committee on Population.

**Jennifer Ailshire** is associate professor of Gerontology, Associate Dean of Research and Associate Dean of International Programs and Global Initiatives at the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California. Dr. Ailshire's research has demonstrated the importance of physical and social environments, and their interactions, in determining health and wellbeing across the adult life course, and particularly for older adults. She is the architect of the Contextual Data Resource, which can be linked to longitudinal studies of aging in the U.S. to facilitate examination of socioenvironmental determinants of health and aging. She is a co-director of the USC/UCLA Center on Biodemography and Population Health and co-investigator on the Gateway to Global Aging. Her research on global aging focuses on health and cognition, social inequality, and caregiving, and she is currently conducting a pilot study of aging in Colombia. She holds a Ph.D. in sociology, with a specialization in demography, from the University of Michigan.

**Jaqueline C. Avila** is an assistant professor in the Department of Gerontology at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Dr. Avila is an early-stage investigator interested in social determinants of older adult health in Latin America. She has published several papers on the health of older Mexican adults using data from the Mexican Health and Aging Study, as well as cross-national comparisons of cognitive function between Mexico and the U.S. Dr. Avila is currently studying how tobacco use impacts cognitive function among older adults in low- and middle-income countries. Dr. Avila completed a postdoctoral fellowship in substance use research at Brown University School of Public Health and a PhD in Population Health Sciences at the University of Texas Medical Branch.

**Ayaga A. Bawah** (*workshop planning committee member*) is associate professor and director of the Regional Institute for Population Studies at the University of Ghana, and a research affiliate of the Population Studies Center, University of Pennsylvania. Prior to joining University of Ghana, he was assistant professor at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. Professor Bawah has expertise in population and health research in Africa, particularly in research methodology, longitudinal data analysis and modeling of demographic processes, evaluation of health interventions, fertility and reproductive health programs including family planning. He has published widely in several top-tier peer-reviewed journals and

contributed several books chapters in the fields of population and health. Professor Bawah is a member of Ghana's Food and Drugs Authority's Technical Advisory Committee on Clinical Trials, a member of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS), and the Population Association of America. He holds a B.A. in geography and resource development and an MA in population studies from University of Ghana, and an MA and Ph.D. in demography from the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Bawah previously served on the NASEM Committee on Continuing Epidemiological Transition in Sub-Saharan Africa from 2010-2013.

**Hiram Beltrán-Sánchez** is associate professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the Fielding School of Public Health and Associate Director of the California Center for Population Research at UCLA. Dr. Beltrán-Sánchez's research focuses on the demography of health and aging. He has written on health patterns and trends in low- and middle-income countries; on aging in high-income countries including issues about compression of morbidity; on the links between early life experiences and late-life outcomes; as well as on biomarker data from Mexico to study physiological patterns of health and their link with sociodemographic factors. He is currently serving on the Population Association of America (PAA) Board of Directors and received the 2018 Early Achievement Award from PAA. Dr. Beltrán-Sánchez holds an MSc in Mathematics from Northern Arizona University, an M.A. in Demography and Ph.D. in Demography from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Lisa F. Berkman** is the director of the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies, Thomas D. Cabot Professor of Public Policy, Epidemiology, and Global Health and Population, School of Public Health. She is the principal investigator of the Health and Aging Study in Africa: A Longitudinal Study of an INDEPTH Community in South Africa (HAALSI), a program project funded by the National Institute on Aging. In 2003, Berkman co-edited (with Ichiro Kawachi) *Social Epidemiology*, a groundbreaking textbook on this burgeoning field with a second edition being published in 2014. Her research is aimed at understanding inequalities in health-related to socioeconomic status, social networks with an emphasis on workplace conditions and labor policy. Berkman is the current president of the Population

Association of America, past president of the American Population Centers, and a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

**David Canning** is the Richard Saltonstall Professor of Population Science, and professor of economics and international health in the Department of Global Health and Population at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. His research focuses on the role of demographic change (e.g., the effect of changes in age structure on aggregate economic activity) and health improvements (e.g., health as a form of human capital and its impact on worker productivity) in economic development. Canning served as associate director of HCPDS from 2008–2017 and was PI on the Welfare Effects of Balancing the Federal Social Security and Health Care Budgets project. He received his bachelor's in mathematics and economics from Queen's University Belfast and his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Cambridge.

**Feinian Chen** is a professor of sociology and director of the Hopkins Population Center at Johns Hopkins University. Prior to joining Johns Hopkins University, she was a professor of sociology at the University of Maryland and a faculty associate at the Maryland Population Research Center. Her main research interests include intergenerational relations, gender, work and family, population aging, and health. Her work is globally situated and is actively engaged in research on family transitions, gender dynamics, and their health implications in the diverse contexts of China, India, the Philippines, and the U.S. She is currently serving as a Deputy Editor for *Demography*, Council Member for the Population Section, and Chair for the Asia and Asian America Section of the American Sociological Association. She has served as an associate editor for the *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* and the editorial boards of journals including *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *Chinese Sociological Review*, *Population Research and Policy Review*, and *Research on Aging*. Dr. Chen received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was trained in social demography at the Carolina Population Center.

**Samuel Clark** is a professor appointed in the Department of Sociology at The Ohio State University. Clark worked for about a decade in close collaboration with statisticians at the University of Washington to develop new methods for population estimation and

projection/forecasting for the UN Population Division. He leads the open VA Team that: develops new statistical methods to automate cause of death classification using verbal autopsy interview data; contributes to developing global standards for verbal autopsy; works to improve the verbal autopsy interview and develops and disseminates user-friendly software to integrate verbal autopsy cause of death assessment into civil registration and vital statistics systems in LMICs. Dr. Clark is a standing member of the WHO's Verbal Autopsy Reference Group. Dr. Clark's work is supported by the National Institutes for Health, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Bloomberg Philanthropies through the Data for Health Initiative. Dr. Clark has B.S. in biology and engineering from Caltech and MS and PhD in demography from the University of Pennsylvania.

**William H. Dow** is a professor at the University of California–Berkeley with appointments in the School of Public Health and the Department of Demography. He directs UC-Berkeley's Center on the Economics and Demography of Aging and is a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Dow was Principal Investigator of the Costa Rican Longevity and Healthy Aging Study (CRELES), and is currently Principal Investigator of the Caribbean American Dementia and Aging Study (CADAS), in addition to collaborating on population aging research in East Africa and East Asia. Honors include the Kenneth J. Arrow Award given by the International Health Economics Association. He holds a PhD in economics from Yale University. Previously Dow served on the steering committee for the NASEM Workshop on Strengthening the Scientific Foundation for Policymaking to Meet the Challenges of Aging in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Elizabeth Frankenberg** is the Cary C. Boshamer Distinguished Professor of Sociology and the director of the Carolina Center for Population Aging and Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research focuses on individual and family response to change and the role of community, broadly construed, in individual behaviors and outcomes across the life course. Dr. Frankenberg has invested developed and implemented innovative and ambitious designs for data collection to support her own research and that of the scientific and policy communities more broadly, including the Study of the Tsunami Aftermath and Recovery (STAR) and the Dynamics of Extreme Events, People, and Places (DEEPP) project. Dr.

Frankenberg received her MPA in public affairs from Princeton University and her PhD in demography and sociology from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Mary Ganguli** (*workshop planning committee member*) is professor of psychiatry, neurology, and epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and School of Public Health and is a medical staff member of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. She has conducted several NIA-funded population-based research projects on cognitive impairment and dementia in the US and India where she led a large study of the epidemiology of dementia, developing screening tools for the assessment of illiterate Hindi-speaking older adults. She served on the National Advisory Council on Aging, the DSM-5 Neurocognitive Disorders work group of the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Neurology Practice Parameter work groups on Mild Cognitive Impairment, and on several editorial boards of journals. She received the Distinguished Scientist Award of the American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry and the Outstanding Academician Award of the Indo-American Psychiatric Association. She holds an MD from Madras University, underwent psychiatry training at Memorial University of Newfoundland (Canada) and the University of Pittsburgh, and holds an MPH in psychiatric epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh. She is certified in general psychiatry by the Royal College of Physicians of Canada, and in both general and geriatric psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

**Carmen García-Peña** is currently the general director at the National Institute of Geriatrics in México. She is National Researcher level III by the National Council of Science and Technology. Dr. García-Peña's research expertise is on aging epidemiology and public health, particularly mental health, social determinants, and how and why we age as we do. She is an active member of the National Academy of Medicine in Mexico, the Mexican Academy of Sciences, and an international member of the National Academy of Medicine in the USA since 2006. Dr. García-Peña received her MD with a specialty in Family Medicine, an MA in medical sciences, and a Ph.D. in public health and ageing from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

**Pablo Ibararán** is head of the Social Protection and Health Division of the Inter-American Development Bank. He joined the Bank in 2005 as an Evaluation Economist in the Office of Evaluation and Oversight and also worked as Lead Economics Specialist in the Office of Strategic Planning and Development Effectiveness. Ibararán has worked in the design, implementation, and evaluation in the area of redistributive and social inclusion programs, as well as in the aging agenda. He has also participated in the preparation and evaluation of health programs, and since 2009 he has been a research associate at the Institute of Labor (IZA) in Bonn, Germany. Ibararán received his bachelor's in economics from the Center for Economic Research and Teaching (CIDE) and his Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Lindsay C. Kobayashi** is the John G. Searle Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Assistant Professor of Global Public Health at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She is the co-Director of the Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and is an Honorary Senior Researcher at the MRC/Wits Rural Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt) at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. Dr. Kobayashi currently leads research funded by the US National Institutes on Aging to link complementary data sources on socioeconomic conditions, social policies, and cash transfers in relation to cognitive aging outcomes in rural South Africa, and to examine the consistency of associations of key dementia risk factors with later-life cognitive function across diverse global settings using cross-nationally harmonized measures of cognitive function. She holds a PhD in Epidemiology and Public Health from University College London and completed a David E. Bell Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies.

**Hans-Peter Kohler** is the F.J. Warren Professor of Demography and Co-Director of the Population Aging and Research Center (PARC) at the University of Pennsylvania. He has widely published on topics related to global aging, life-course perspectives on health, fertility, social and sexual networks, HIV/AIDS and biodemography. He directs the NIA- and NICHD-funded Malawi Longitudinal Study of Families and Health (MLSFH) that documents more than 25 years of demographic, socioeconomic and health conditions in one of the world's poorest countries.

Kohler received his MA in Demography in 1994 and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley and has been awarded the Clifford C. Clogg Award for Early Career Achievement by the Population Association of America and Otis Dudley Duncan Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Social Demography by the American Sociological Association.

**Patricia Morsch** is a physical therapist and has over 17 years of combined experience in clinical physical therapy and research on aging, older adults' health and public health. She currently serves as the Healthy Aging Advisor in the Department of Health Systems and Services at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) headquarters in Washington D.C., Regional WHO office for the Americas. Patricia worked previously in clinical and physiotherapeutic care, with an emphasis on the care of older people, on Department of Aging of the Cabarrus County, North Carolina and as a university professor and researcher in Brazil. She holds a graduate certificate in Public Health, a Master of Arts in Gerontology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (USA) and a PhD in Biomedical Gerontology from the Pontifical Catholic University of de Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil).

**Anthony Ngugi** is an associate professor of Epidemiology and Population Health and Interim Chair for the Department of Population Health at the Aga Khan University in Kenya. Dr. Ngugi has 16 years of experience in health research and has conducted large multi-country population-based studies of epidemiology of epilepsy in Sub-Saharan Africa, set up community level data platforms and led large data-intensive projects in MNCH. He is a Co-PI of an NIA/NIH funded Longitudinal Study of Health and Ageing in Kenya (LOSHAK), is a member of the International Epidemiological Association (IEA), Health Systems Global (HSG) and the Nutrition Information Technical Working Group in Kenya. Dr. Ngugi has also served as a Board Chairman for Foundation for People with Epilepsy (FPE) and a board member at the National Epilepsy Coordination Committee (NECC) in Kenya. He holds a bachelor's in veterinary medicine, a M.S. in Epidemiology and Economics from the University of Nairobi, and a PhD and Post Graduate Diploma in Epidemiology and Population Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



**Amparo Palacios-López** is a senior economist for the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS), the World Bank's flagship household survey program housed at the Development Data Group. Her primary area of research is development, with a focus on labor, gender, and welfare. The recent focus of her methodological research has been on labor and gender working jointly with the Gender Group of the World Bank and the International Labor Organization. As a member of the Living Standards Measurement Study team, Amparo supports surveys in several countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and leads the design of the questionnaires used in surveys in Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. She is part of the team of coordinators of the World Bank Household Survey Working Group and its Technical Review Panel. Amparo received an M.A. in Economics from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and a Ph.D. in Development Economics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Collin Payne** is an ARC DECRA fellow and associate professor of demography at the Australian National University, and a visiting faculty member at the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies. His research focuses on key issues facing populations around the world—how long we live, how health is maintained across the life-course, and how differences in healthy longevity arise both between individuals and across nations. His research outputs have generated new knowledge on international patterns of social, economic, and demographic inequalities in health, demonstrating that many well-established relationships observed in high-income populations (such as the age-pattern of depressive symptoms, the connections between biomarkers of health and reported disability, or the compression of morbidity with rising life expectancy) do not necessarily generalize to non-wealthy countries, or to disadvantaged sub-groups within populations. His current projects include an Australian Research Council-funded study estimating and comparing health expectancies across the Asia-Pacific, and an ANU Futures Scheme project developing methods for estimating the direct contributions of chronic diseases to shortfalls in healthy longevity. He holds a B.A. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. in demography from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Andrew Steptoe** is professor of psychology and epidemiology at University College London, where he is Head of the Department of Behavioural Science and Health, and director of the

English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). He was British Heart Foundation Professor of Psychology from 2000 until 2016, and Director of the Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care at UCL from 2011 until 2017. Dr. Steptoe's research is primarily focused on links between psychological and social processes and physical health, and on population ageing. He is a Fellow of the British Academy, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Royal Society of Biology, and the Academy for Social Sciences. Dr. Steptoe graduated in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University and completed his doctorate at the University of Oxford.

**Nikkil Sudharsanan** is the Rudolf Mößbauer Assistant Professor of Behavioral Science for Disease Prevention and Health Care at the Technical University of Munich. Prior to joining TUM, he was an Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellow at the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health and a David E. Bell Postdoctoral Fellow at the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies. His primary expertise is on aging and mortality in low- and middle-income countries with a focus on older adults' health behaviors and beliefs and designing and evaluating interventions for preventing cardiovascular diseases. Dr. Sudharsanan holds an M.A. in Statistics and a Ph.D. in Population Studies from the University of Pennsylvania. He previously contributed to the National Academies of Sciences Workshop and Volume on the Future Directions for Demography of Aging.

**David R. Weir** (*workshop planning committee member*) is research professor in the Survey Research Center of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, where he is also director of the Health and Retirement Study. He has previously held positions at Yale University and the University of Chicago. His primary areas of expertise are aging and survey research, with specific training in economics and demography. He has conducted studies on population-based international comparisons of dementia and cognitive impairment, and social disparities in biomarkers of aging. He is a member of NIA's National Council on Aging, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, and the Population Association of America. He holds an AB in history from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University. He previously served on several NASEM activities, including the Committee on Population from 2015—2018, as well as the co-chair of the Planning Committee

for a Workshop on Priorities for Strengthening the Scientific Foundation for Policymaking to Meet the Challenges of Aging in Latin America.

**Rebeca Wong** (*workshop planning committee chair*) is Sheridan Lorenz Distinguished Professor in Aging and Health; professor, Department of Population Health and Health Disparities; director, WHO/PAHO Collaborating Center on Aging and Health; and associate director, Claude Pepper Older American Independence Center, and the Sealy Center on Aging. Previously, Dr. Wong served in the faculty of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Georgetown University Department of Demography, and as Associate Director of the University of Maryland Population Research Center. Dr. Wong has pioneered the use of cross-national approaches to study health outcomes including physical and cognitive function in immigrant population, and has completed recent work on indoor air pollution and its impact on cognitive aging, socioeconomic gradients of health, economic consequences of health shocks, co-existence of infectious and chronic diseases, and the impact of the social security and health care reform among older adults in Mexico. She serves as Principal Investigator of the Mexican Health and Aging Study (MHAS), financed by the National Institute on Aging. She served on the NASEM Committee on Population from 2018-2021 and was a co-chair of the Planning Committee for a Workshop on Priorities for Strengthening the Scientific Foundation for Policymaking to Meet the Challenges of Aging in Latin America.

**Yaohui Zhao** (*workshop planning committee member*) is Yangtze River Scholar Professor of economics at the National School of Development and the Institute for Global Health and Development of Peking University. She has been the Principal Investigator of the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS) since 2007 and is associate director of the Institute of Social Science Surveys of Peking University. She has published more than a hundred research articles covering the fields of labor economics, health economics and the economics of aging. She was chair of “The path to healthy ageing in China: A Peking University–Lancet Commission,” published in 2022. She holds a B.A. and M.A. in economics from Peking University and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago. Dr. Zhao served as a member of NASEM’s Commission for Global Roadmap for Healthy Longevity, the Social, Behavioral, & Environmental Enablers for Healthy Longevity: A Workshop for the Global

Roadmap for Healthy Longevity Initiative, and the Panel on Policy Research and Data Needs to Meet the Challenge of Aging in Asia.