

DEPARTMENT OF METHODS AND MODELS
FOR ECONOMICS, TERRITORY AND FINANCE
MEMOTEFSAPIENZA
UNIVERSITY OF ROMEUNESCO Chair
on Population,
Migrations and Development

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UNESCO CHAIR in Population, Migrations and Development"

*UNESCO Chair wishes you a
Merry Christmas*



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Editorial

Sub-Saharan Africa plays a pivotal role in world population trends, with a population exceeding 1.1 billion, and the world's fastest population growth rate (around 2.5%). The Region is characterised by a very high fertility rate (4.6 children per woman), and high mortality, despite a sharp decline (nowadays, several countries still show life expectancy below 60 years). These demographic trends have led Sub-Saharan Africa to account for 14% of the world's population, and the figure is expected to increase to 22% by 2050. The Region boasts the youngest median age globally, with over 60% of its population under the age of 25. This "youth bulge" has significant implications for education, employment, healthcare, and economic development.

Economically and socially, sub-Saharan Africa remains the most disadvantaged in the world, despite the progress achieved in the last few decades. Substantial progress on human development has been recorded according to the UN Human Development Report 2023/24, but major inequalities remain, with the majority of countries in the Region ranking in the group of countries with low human development. Poverty remains one of sub-Saharan Africa's greatest challenges, with the majority of countries in the Region showing poverty headcount ratios of over 30%. Moreover, the Region continues to experience ethnic, religious, or regional conflicts and health crises, which destabilize local farming, healthcare and social systems. As a result of these trends, internal and international population movements constitute a major challenge for the Region.

According to the Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024, internal displacement broke new records in 2023, with 75.9 million people living in internal displacement globally. Sub-Saharan Africa, which hosts 46 per cent of the world's IDPs (34.8 million people), was again the most affected region, with conflict and disasters overlapping in many countries, forcing people to flee again and/or prolonging their displacement. In 2023, among Sub-Saharan Countries, Sudan and the Dem. Rep. of Congo report the highest figures of forced movements of people within the borders of their countries. Six million displacements by conflict have been recorded in Sudan, which is the second-highest figure ever recorded after Ukraine in 2022. In Burkina Faso the figure reaches 707,000 displacements, the highest figure since the escalation of conflict in 2019. Concerning internal displacements caused by disasters, the Horn of Africa is among the most affected areas in Africa, with 2.9 million movements following years of drought. Moreover, conflict and disasters often overlap, as in the Greater Horn of Africa as far as in Nigeria and South Sudan.

According to IOM, women and girls increasingly participate in migration, making up the majority of migrants in East Africa and the Horn of Africa (50.4 per cent compared to men and boys). Women also account for the highest number of refugees and asylum seekers, as they are more likely to be forcibly displaced, while men are more likely to migrate irregularly in search of employment opportunities.

Despite the abundance of international literature, and the numerous policy papers and plans that have been proposed to address these challenges, there is an urgent need to provide up-to-date data and analyses to inform prevention and response by governments, and to strengthen their commitments towards conflict resolution, peacebuilding, climate action, poverty reduction and disaster risks mitigation measures.

During the next three years, the Chair will coordinate an ambitious policy oriented research project, named MAPS – Migration Action Plan for sub-Saharan Africa, conceived to take into account the challenges, priorities, and unique circumstances of the Region, looking at specific areas of origin, transit and/or destination of population movements.

Cristina Giudici

UNESCO CHAIR in
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Activities 2024

Conferences and Meetings



February 7-9 University of Prague, PhD students presented their contributions to the **15th Conference of Young Demographers**. Eleonora Miaci: "A Multi-Method Study on Fertility and maternity of Albanian Woman in Italy"; Agostino Cristofalo: "Housing tenure trajectories and health across Europe", Giacomo Lanfiuti Baldi: "An Age-Period-Cohort Model for the gender gap in youth mortality", and Carla Ventre: "A fair economic model for migrant integration: the case study of Riace".

March 21-25 University of Hamburg, Daniela Foresta contributed to the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Demographie Annual Meeting**, with a study titled "Life expectancy among immigrants in Sweden pre and during COVID-19: A consideration of different origins and types of residence permits".

March 26-27 Sapienza University of Rome, Elena Ambrosetti, Alessandra De Rose, Cristina Giudici, Eleonora Miaci, Agostino Cristofalo, Martina Bodo participated to the 14th edition of the **MEMOTEF Research Days**. In this occasion the ReMIG Statement on Migration was presented and discussed.

April 17 Sala Caduti di Nassiria, Senato della Repubblica, Roma, Elena Ambrosetti contributed to the launch of the UNFPA

2024 State of World Population Report "Interwoven lives, threads of hope".

April 17-20 Hyatt Regency Columbus, Ohio, Contributions to the **Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America** were presented by Alessandro Feraldi on "Depression-free life expectancy after widowhood, separation and divorce among community-dwelling elderly population" and "Socioeconomic Inequalities and Smoking-Related Differences in Healthy Working Life Expectancy" and Daniela Foresta on "Comparing Migrant and "Native" Italian Adolescents in Risky Behaviours."

April 19 Sapienza University, Elena Ambrosetti contributed to the PRIN 2022 Congress "La tutela della libertà religiosa dei migranti in Italia: una prospettiva interdisciplinare".

May 6-8 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva, Camilla Pangallo took part to the **Meeting of "Group Experts on Migration Statistics"**, organized by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

May 20-22 Ca' Foscari University of Venice, the **General Meeting Age-It** was held under the auspices of the PNRR Research Program "Age-It." Contributions were presented by Eleonora Trappolini on "Native/Migrant Differences in Job Satisfaction at Older Ages: Insights from Italy" and Giammarco Alderotti on "Gendered effects of partners' health on silver splits in Europe".

May 22-24 USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology and the Institute of Aging, Javeriana University, Agostino Cristofalo and Alessandro Feraldi participated to the **35th REVES meeting** with contributions, respectively, on "Educational inequalities in Dementia and Healthcare Utilization in Italy" and "Socioeconomic Inequalities and Smoking-Related Differences in Healthy Working Life Expectancy: An Examination Using U.S. Population-based Estimates from the Health and Retirement Study at Age 50".

May 23-24 University of Milan—Bicocca and University Carlo Cattaneo—LIUC, Milan., The **Italian Society of Economy, Demography, and Statistics (SIEDS) conference** took place. Contributions were presented by Martina Bodo on "Life satisfaction and institutional trust: a comparative analysis of Italian and foreign citizens", and Cecilia Fortunato on "Remigration intentions of refugees living in Germany. The complex dynamic behind (im)mobility aspirations and uncertainty", and Francesca Licari in "Exploring mortality patterns across territorial areas in Italy".

June 3 University of Lancashire, Carla Ventre presented a contribution on "Migrant integration in small municipalities. An assessment of the system protection for asylum seekers and refugees in Italy" at the **IMISCOE Conference**.

June 6 Sapienza University of Rome, the **XI Doctoral Day** took place with contributions from the Chair PhD students.

June 12-15 University of Edinburgh, the **European Population Conference (EPC)** was held. Contributions were presented by E. Ambrosetti, Giammarco Alderotti, Alessandro Feraldi, Daniela Foresta, Cecilia Fortunato, Giacomo Lanfiuti Baldi, Francesca Licari, Eleonora Miaci, and Eleonora Trappolini, M. Zannella.

June 17-20 University of Bari "Aldo Moro," the **52nd Scientific Meeting of the Italian Statistical Society (SIS)** was held. Contributions were presented by Elena Ambrosetti, Giammarco Alderotti, Martina Bodo, Agostino Cristofalo, Alessandro Feraldi, Cristina Giudici, Giacomo Lanfiuti Baldi, Eleonora Miaci, Cecilia Fortunato, Camilla Pangallo, Angela Paparusso, and Eleonora Trappolini.

September 26-27 Sapienza University of Rome, Donatella Strangio organised the **17th Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network—AEHN**.

September 30 NGO Committee on Ageing, United Nations, Vienna, Angela Paparusso presented a contribution on "Population ageing: data and policy implications" at the conference **"Marginalization of Older Persons in Society—A Significant Health Risk"**.

October 3-4 Sapienza University of Rome / National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), Rome, the meeting **"The Demography of Ageing"** was held under the auspices of the PNRR Research Program "Age-It." Contributions were presented by Giammarco Alderotti on "Gendered effects of partners' health on silver splits in Europe" and Eleonora Trappolini on "Job Satisfaction Among Older Workers in Italy: A Comparison Between Natives and Migrants".

October 17-20 Treviso, the Chair participated to the **StatisticAll Festival of Statistics and Demography**.

November 5-6 University of Geneva, the **LIVES - Mobility in the life course Conference** took place. Daniela Foresta presented a contribution on "Pre- and post-arrival effects on state and development of refugees' mental health in Germany".

November 19-20 Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Angela Paparusso presented a contribution on "The subjective well-being of immigrants and natives: Italy in the European context", at the workshop **"Legal integration and citizenship acquisition in Italy and Spain"**.

November 22 Sapienza University of Rome, Yves Chabrit, Emeritus professor of Demography, Université Paris Cité held a seminar on **"The Manipulation of African Demography by xenophobic ideology in France"**.

November 28-29 Swiss Institute of Rome, Angela Paparusso and Elena Ambrosetti participated to the conference **"Human Mobility as a Critical Driver of Change? Alternatives to the Populist Dilemma."** organised by nccr - on the move, contributing to the session **"Italian Perceptions: Is There a Southern View on Migration?"**

3 December Intermediate Workshop for the PRIN Project: Angela Paparusso organises the Intermediate Workshop for the PRIN project **"The subjective well-being of immigrants and natives: Italy in the European context (WELL-MIG)"**. Giorgio Alleva, Elena Ambrosetti, Martina Bodo, Daniela Foresta and Cecilia Fortunato participated to the initiative.



Activities 2024

Schools and Visitings

Academic years 2023/24 and 2024/25, Giuliana Polo attended the European Doctoral School of Demography— EDSO courses at the Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques (INED) in Paris, a.y. 2023/24. In the same Institute, Martina Bodo is attending the EDSO courses, a.y. 2024/25.

15 January- 05 February, Cecilia Fortunato spent a Research stay at the Institute for Employment Research, Nuremberg, Germany, under the supervision of Prof. Hans Dietrich. The stay was aimed at investigating the return intentions of refugees recently displaced in Germany, leveraging observational microdata from the Survey of Refugees of the German Socio Economic Panel for the years 2016-2018

February Elena Ambrosetti delivered a course on International Migration at European Doctoral School of Demography (EDSO)- INED (Paris)

11 April Elena Ambrosetti gave a lecture on "International migration as a component of population change", at the CIVIS student week Global Migration on the Ground, University of Tübingen.

24 June- 4 July, Eleonora Miaci attended the "Summer Training School: 'Research on health inequalities using longitudinal demographic data'" at Lund University.

19 August- 9 September, Eleonora Trappolini spent a research period at Stockholm University - Demography Unit (SUDA). During the stay, she held a seminar titled "The migrant population in Italy: some unexplored aspects", presenting the results of some studies conducted within the Age-It research program.

8-28 September, Giuliana Polo carried out a research stay at the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex, Colchester. The visit was part of the Transnational Access Visits (TAV) Program. During the stay, GP analysed the Understanding Society Database, looking at young migrants' mental health issues related to bullying experiences in the UK.

Selected Publications

Alderotti, G., De Rose, A. & Tocchioni, V. (2024). Employment uncertainty and parenthood: quantifying the mediating role of union formation. *Journal of Population Research* 41, 27 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12546-024-09347-w>

Ambrosetti, E., Paparusso, A. (2024) What is the Relationship Between the Perceived Quality of Neighbourhood and the Self-reported Life Satisfaction in Immigrants Versus Natives in Europe?. *Int. Migration & Integration* 25, 799-826 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-023-01104-x>

Ambrosetti, E., Bodo, M., (2024). Die demografische Zukunft Europas. In *Frankreich Jahrbuch 2023* (pp. 187-212). Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG. Relazioni su Invito 2024

Feraldi, A., Zarulli, V., Mazzuco, S., Giudici, C., (2024). Functional data analysis approach in population studies: an application to the gender gap in life expectancy. *Quality & Quantity* 58, 5125-5150 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11135-023-01723-7>

Feraldi, A., Giudici, C., & Brouard, N. (2024). Estimating the Sex Gap in Depression-Free Life Expectancy Among Widowed Americans Aged 50 and Older: An Application Using the Interpolated Markov Chain Approach. *Journal of Aging and Health*, 37(1-2), 117-130.

Giudici, C., Miaci, E., & Priulla, A. (2024). Socially Responsible University in the Era of Migrations. In *Knowledge Models and Dissemination for Sustainable Development* (pp. 65-72). Springer, Cham.

Giudici, C., & Priulla, A. (2024). Gli studenti stranieri nelle università del Lazio. In *Osservatorio sulle migrazioni a Roma e nel Lazio. Diciannovesimo Rapporto* (pp. 54-57). Centro Studi e Ricerche IDOS.

Giudici, C., Trappolini, E., & Priulla, A. (2024). Cittadini del futuro: la sfida della transizione scuola-università per le nuove generazioni. In *Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2024* (pp. 200-203). IDOS.

Moretti, M., Cisotto, E., & De Rose, A. (2024). Uncovering disability-free grandparenthood in Italy between 1998 and 2016 using gender specific decomposition, *Demographic Research*, vol.50(429), 1247-1264, DOI: 10.4054/DemRes.2024.50.42

Trappolini, E., Barbiano di Belgiojoso, E., Rimoldi, S. M., & Terzera, L. (2024). Migrants' choices pertaining to informal childcare in Italy and France: A complex relationship between the origin and destination countries. *Population, Space and Place*, 30(1), e2736. DOI <https://doi.org/10.1002/psp.2736>

Trappolini E., P. Farina, L. Terzera (2024), Offspring's sex composition and childbirth timing in third child transition among Indian mothers born between 1966 and 1985, *LXXVIII n.3*, pp. 87-98

Enza Roberta Petrillo contributed to: UNICEF, 2024. Oltre l'accoglienza. Raccomandazioni della comunità di pratiche per la tutela della salute mentale e del benessere psico-sociale di giovani migranti e rifugiati/e, Rome, <https://www.unicef.it/pubblicazioni/oltre-l-accoglienza/>

Service-Learning: Intersectoral Collaboration Practices for the Development of Students' Soft Skills and Socially Engaged Universities

The "Service-Learning: Intersectoral Collaboration Practices for the Development of Students' Soft Skills and Socially Engaged Universities" project came to its conclusion. It leaves behind a legacy of strengthened collaboration between academia and civil society and enhanced soft skills among students. Designed for students, teachers, academic and administrative staff and civil society organisations, the [outcomes of the project](#) are available to be downloaded, shared and used as references.

As the project concludes, its impact will continue to resonate across European universities. By promoting the exchange of knowledge, the project has made higher education more relevant and socially engaged.



Congratulations to

Congratulations to Cecilia Fortunato and Ilaria Rocca for defending their PhD thesis on 24 September 2024, respectively on

"Disentangling return migration in a mixed-method study" and "Giovani e transizioni verso l'età adulta: l'esordio nel mercato del lavoro e l'uscita dalla famiglia".

Activities 2025

MAPS Project: A collaborative step toward understanding migration in Sub-Saharan Africa

It is with pride that we celebrate the upcoming launch of the MAPS Project, an ambitious initiative poised to enrich the understanding of migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Led by the UNESCO Chair in Migrations, Population, and Development of the Sapienza University of Rome under the guidance of Professor Cristina Giudici, and funded under the highly competitive EuropeAid call for proposals EuropeAid/181237/ACT/MULTI, this achievement aims to mark a significant milestone in international research and migration policy development. Securing funding under such a rigorous selection process underscores the European Union's confidence in the MAPS Project and its alignment with the EU's external action objectives. This call aims to support innovative solutions to critical challenges in migration and displacement, bridging gaps in knowledge, fostering collaboration, and advancing sustainable development. The funding framework emphasizes evidence-based research and partnerships with NGOs, academic institutions, and stakeholders to produce tangible, impactful outcomes.

The MAPS Project distinguishes itself through a multifaceted strategy built around four key pillars: Peace, People, Planet, and Prosperity. Operating in ten Sub-Saharan African countries, it will address critical issues such as the impact of climate change, conflict, and socio-economic inequalities on migration. Special attention will be given to vulnerable groups, including women, children, minorities, and persons with disabilities. Through the MAPS Laboratory, a collaborative network of researchers, policymakers, and local actors will identify and address knowledge gaps. By integrating qualitative and quantitative methods, including surveys, interviews, and focus groups, the project ensures that its findings are robust and context-specific.

The project's knowledge-sharing platforms, such as the DigiMAPS platform, will be key for disseminating research findings, fostering dialogue, and informing policy. These tools, alongside annual conferences and forums, will amplify the project's reach, influencing decision-making and public opinion on migration and displacement. Equally noteworthy is MAPS' commitment to building local capacity. By offering scholarships, mentorships, and professional training to early-career scientists in Sub-Saharan Africa, the initiative ensures the development of local expertise and long-term sustainability.

At the heart of this initiative the collaborative efforts of partners like Italian UNESCO Chairs, the University of Barcelona, and esteemed African institutions. Together, they exemplify the power of interdisciplinary and transcontinental collaboration in addressing global challenges. As the MAPS Project embarks on its journey, it carries the promise of redefining migration not as a crisis but as a structural phenomenon requiring nuanced, sustainable responses. Its innovative approach will not only bridge critical knowledge gaps but also will empower local communities to actively participate in shaping their futures.

The intervention relies on the interdisciplinary expertise of eight UNESCO Chairs which will contribute to the project with a top-level interdisciplinary work team made up of academics with experience in the fields of demography, statistics, engineering, architecture, health, comparative economics, law, sociology, anthropology, education and social work.

A cycle of Maps Webinars will be launched in 2025 aimed at sharing findings and discussing ideas on migration and forced displacement dynamics in the Sub-Saharan region in the framework of the SDGs. Maps Webinars will facilitate the establishment of a network of Sub-Saharan Africa UNESCO Chairs, further enhancing dialogue on political, economic, cultural and social aspects of migration and forced displacement, and strengthening links among civil society, experts, decision-makers and media.



Upcoming Events

January 15th: Migration and Displacement Action Plan for Sub-Saharan Africa (MAPS). Developing policy-oriented research on Migration and Displacement in the Sub-Saharan Region . Inception meeting, On line event.

February: 5-7: the Chair PHD Students will participate to the annual international Conference of Young Demographers, at the Faculty of Science, Charles University.

April 10-13, Giuliana Polo, Agostino Cristofaro, Alessandro Feraldi, Cecilia Fortunato and Giacomo Lanfiuti Baldi will contribute to the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Washington, DC, Marriott Marquis.

May, the Chair will co-organise the first MAPS Communication Conference, University of Dodoma, Tanzania.

June, 4-6, the Chair will participate to the 15th edition of Pop Days—Italian Association for Population Studies (SIS-AISP), University of Cagliari.

July 13-18, Elena Ambrosetti, Alessandra De Rose, Alessandro Feraldi, Cristina Giudici, Giuliana Polo, and other Chair members will contribute to the 30th International Population Conference of the International Union of the Scientific Study of Population—IUSSP, Brisbane.

June 16-18, The Chair will contribute to the 2025 Italian Statistical Society 2025 Interim Conference "Statistics for Innovation", Genoa (Italy).

October, the Chair will organise the 1st MAPS Webinar on the thematic area of "People" with the participation of African UNESCO Chairs,

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