

EMPA-E1024 Demographic Change & Policy Challenges**1. General Information**

Dates:	27-30 January 2025
Room:	Room 3.32
Instructor	Prof. Dr. Michaela Kreyenfeld
Instructor's e-mail	kreyenfeld@hertie-school.org
Office Hours	Personal appointment for setting a time, send email to instructor
Assistant (if applicable)	Alwine Hoppe hoppe@hertie-school.org

Link to [Module Handbook](#) and [Study, Examination and Admission Rules](#)

This Executive MPA course is also a [CIVICA Honours Seminar](#), which means that students from other universities within the CIVICA network will have the opportunity to participate. CIVICA Honours Seminars offer graduate students' engagement in addressing current global issues leveraging upon interdisciplinary, transnational and research-intensive approaches, while strengthening and promoting common European values and further enhancing a shared sense of belonging through social/cultural activities.

2. Instructor and Guest Speaker Information

Michaela Kreyenfeld is Professor of Sociology at the Hertie School. Her research focuses on family sociology and family demography. Until 2016, she led the research group Life Course, Social Policy and the Family at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock. She is a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, curatorium board member at the German Institute for Population Research (BiB) and advisory board member at the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) as well as member of the Scientific Advisory Board for Family Issues of the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. She is currently heading the 10th commission of the German Family Report.

3. Course ContentsCourse content

Demographic ageing and population change is a pressing problem in a growing number of countries. This course introduces participants to core demographic theories, data, measures, and methods. Participants will be informed where to locate high quality demographic data. We will learn how to calculate and correctly interpret demographic indicators such as the fertility rate, the mortality rate, and measures that can be derived from migration statistics. Moreover, we will learn how to forecast populations (using the cohort-component model). There is also time devoted to debating policy-relevant themes. For example, is population decline a challenge for local and national governments? In light of climate change, should we worry about a further increase in world population? What would

be appropriate policies to address the challenges that come with demographic ageing and population decline?

Teaching style:

We mainly use hands-on exercises to understand and practice the techniques. Excel will be used for the calculations.

Main learning objectives

- Introduction into demographic theories and concepts (including period/cohort approach, Lexis-diagram)
- Introduction to demographic methods and indicators (i.e., difference between tempo and quantum effects)
- Introduction into population forecasting (using the cohort-component model)

Recommended skills or prior course work (if applicable)

All students should bring a laptop to class. We will mainly use Excel for the calculations of measures. Some basic Excel-skills are useful.

Diversity Statement:

Understanding and respect for all cultures and ethnicities is central to the teaching at Hertie. Being mindful of diversity is an important issue for policy professionals in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programmes designed for specific groups, populations, or communities. Diversity and cultural awareness will be integrated in the course content whenever possible.

4. Grading and Assignments

This information is only valid for participants in the Executive MPA master’s programme, exchange students and participants in the certificate programme, as well as for Executive Seminar participants who are taking the course for credit.

Composition of Final Grade:

	Deadline:	Submit via:	Weight:
Assignment 1:	03-02-2025 (17:00)	Moodle	25%
Assignment 2: Panel discussion	Session 5 & 8	Does not apply	15%
Assignment 2: Group presentation	Session 11	Slides to be uploaded on Moodle	15%
Participation grade:			45%

Assignment Details

Assignment 1

Students will complete problem sets in class. One problem set needs to be worked out further and uploaded for grading. Please inform the instructor which problem set you plan to upload.

Assignment 2

In session 5 and 8, students will organize a panel discussion. Each party starts with a keynote speech (5 minutes) in which the speaker tries to convince the audience of his or her point of view. The "opponent group" will also have 5 minutes. There will be 10-20 minutes of discussion with the audience after both keynotes. The topics will be developed together with the instructor.

Assignment 3

Students will team up in a group of 2-3 students. They will carefully examine and explore the population projection for a country of choice. The group project is presented at a workshop in session 11.

Participation grade

The participation grade assumes that students take part, not as passive consumers of knowledge, but as active participants in the exchange, production, and critique of ideas—their own ideas and the ideas of others. Therefore, students should come to class not only having read and viewed the materials assigned for that day but also prepared to discuss the readings and to contribute thoughtfully to the conversation. Students should be prepared to present group work to the class. This might include putting together slides and presenting them to the class. They may also be asked to summarize readings as part of the participation grade. Participation is marked by its active nature, its consistency, and its quality.

Late submission of assignments: In case of late submission of assignments, students shall submit a written explanation to the course lecturer. The instructor will review the explanation and make a decision on whether the assignment will be accepted. If the assignment is accepted, the lateness is penalised with a grade reduction. For further information please consult the [Examination Rules](#) §9.

Attendance: Participation in the entire course is mandatory. In case of non-attendance, students shall submit a written explanation to their course lecturer in advance. The lecturer shall decide on the justification of the reasons given. If more than 20% of the course is missed, the course instructor shall decide if the student fails the course or if they can meet the learning objectives by fulfilling additional requirements. For further information please consult the [Examination Rules](#).

Academic Integrity: The Hertie School is committed to the standards of good academic and ethical conduct. Any violation of these standards shall be subject to disciplinary action. Plagiarism, deceitful actions, as well as free-riding in group work, are not tolerated. For further information please consult the [Examination Rules](#) §15 and the Hertie [Plagiarism Policy](#). If working with AI please also consult the Hertie [AI Guidelines](#).

Compensation for Disadvantages: If a student proves that they are unable to fulfil an assignment in the manner required in whole or in part due to disability or permanent illness or in case of impairments due to caregiving reasons of a first degree relative, the Examination Committee shall upon written

request and in consultation with the student determine measures by which the assignments' condition can be adjusted to compensate for the disadvantage. For further information please consult the Examination Rules §13.

Extenuating circumstances: The course instructor may grant a deadline extension of the assignment in case of extenuating circumstances (i.e., for reasons like illness, personal loss or hardship, or caring duties). In such cases, please contact the course instructors in advance of the deadline.

5. General Readings

Mandatory readings by session can be found in the detailed schedule below.

In addition to the mandatory readings, the literature listed below may be consulted as a general introduction or further reading on the course subject. It is not mandatory to read the general readings.

- Dorling, D. and Gietel-Basten, S.A. (2017) *Why Demography Matters* Cambridge: Polity.
- Goerres, A., & Vanhuysse, P. (2021). *The Politics of Population Change*: Palgrave. Open Access: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-73065-9>
- Preston, Samuel et al. (2001). *Demography: Measuring and Modeling Population Processes*: Blackwell.
- Wachter, K. W. (2014). *Essential Demographic Methods*: Harvard University Press.

6. Session Overview

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
9-11 h	TBD: 9:30 Campus tour for CIVICA students (optional – EMPA students also welcome)	Session 3 Mortality: Measures, data, and methods	Session 6 Migration: Measures, data and methods	Session 9 Census data and classification struggles
11-13 h	Session 1 The demographic perspective	Session 4 World population	Session 7 Public policy and migration	Session 10 Population projection
13-14h	TBD: Joint EMPA/CIVICA lunch (optional)	Break	Break	Break
14-16 h	Session 2 Fertility: Measures, data, and methods	Session 5 Podium Discussion I	Session 8 Podium Discussion II	Session 11 Workshop (with catering)
16-18h		TBD: Visit to the Berlin Wall Memorial (optional)		
18h-20h		TBD: EMPA/CIVICA Joint Dinner		

7. Course Sessions and Readings

All course readings can be accessed on the course Moodle page.

Session 1	Day 1 Topic: The demographic perspective
Lecturer	Michaela Kreyenfeld
Content	This session introduces the students to basic demographic concepts. What defines a demographic perspective? How does it add to our understanding of societal change? What is the difference between a period and a cohort approach? What defines a "generation"? How useful is the Lexis-diagram to visualize demographic processes?
Readings	Ryder, N. B. (1965). The cohort as a concept in the study of social change. <i>American Sociological Review</i> , 30: 843-861.

Session 2	Day 1 Topic: Fertility: Measures, data, and methods
Lecturer	Michaela Kreyenfeld
Content	This session provides an overview of demographic measures. Based on the example of the period total fertility rate, we elaborate the problem of "tempo effects" in demographic measures. We also get familiar with the concept of the second demographic transition theory, a prominent theoretical model that seeks to predict fertility change.
Readings	Zaidi, B., Morgan, P.S. (2017). The Second Demographic Theory: A review and appraisal. <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> , 43: 473-492.

Session 3	Day 2 Topic: Mortality: Measures, data, and methods
Lecturer	Michaela Kreyenfeld
Content	This session gives an overview on mortality trends across European countries and worldwide. We will get to know the structure of the life table, calculate death rates and life expectancy at birth, and remaining life expectancy at different ages. We will also get to know the concept of "healthy life expectancy".
Readings	Dong, X. et. al. (2016). Evidence for a limit to human lifespan. <i>Nature</i> , 538: 257-259. Vaupel, J. W. et al. (2021). Demographic perspectives on the rise of longevity. <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America</i> , 118: e2019536118.

Session 4	Day 2 Topic: World population
Lecturer	Michaela Kreyenfeld
Content	We will take a global perspective on population development. We will revisit the "Population Bomb". How have perceptions and discussions changed since the publication of this seminal book? To what extent is population growth still a global challenge? How does it relate to the challenges related to the climate crisis?
Readings	Lam, D. (2011). How the world survived the population bomb: Lessons from 50 years of extraordinary demographic history. <i>Demography</i> , 48: 1231-1262.

Session 5	Day 2 Topic: Podium Discussion I
Content	A panel will discuss whether we should be more concerned about population growth in the face of climate change.
	Crist, E. et al. (2017). The interaction of human population, food production, and biodiversity protection. <i>Science</i> , 356: 260-264. Lutz, W. (2023). Population decline will likely become a global trend and benefit long-term human wellbeing. <i>Vienna Yearbook of Population Research</i> , 21: 41-55. Rees, E. (2023). The human eco-predicament: Overshoot and the population conundrum. <i>Vienna Yearbook of Population Research</i> , 21: 21-39.

Session 6	Day 3 Topic: Migration: Measures, data and methods
Lecturer	Michaela Kreyenfeld
Content	This session gives an overview of current and past migration trends in Europe and worldwide. We discuss key theoretical concepts that try to explain migration processes and discuss the manifold shortcomings of migration data.
Readings	Masse, D.S. (2023). The shape of things to come: International migration in the twenty-first century. In: Lerpold, L. Et al. (eds.): Migration and Integration in a Post-Pandemic World. Cham: 29-82.

Session 7	Day 3 Topic: Public policy and migration
Lecturer	Michaela Kreyenfeld
Content	We will discuss the question of whether and how migration flows can and should be influenced by migration policies.
Readings	Czaika, M., & Haas, H. D. (2013). The effectiveness of immigration policies. Population and Development Review, 39: 487-508.

Session 8	Day 3 Topic: Podium Discussion II
Content	A panel will discuss a topic related to the area of migration. The topic is developed together with the instructor.
	Brambilla, C., Reece, J. (2020). Rethinking borders, violence, and conflict: From sovereign power to borderscapes as sites of struggles. Environment and Planning D: Society and Space, 38: 287-305.
	Haas, H.D., Czaika, M., Flahaux, M., Mahendra, E., Natter, K., Vezzoli, S., Villares-Varela, M. (2020). International migration: Trends, determinants, and policy effects. Population and Development, 45, 885-922.
	Scott FitzGerald, D. (2020) Remote control of migration: theorising territoriality, shared coercion, and deterrence, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 46: 4-22.

Session 9	Day 4 Topic: Census data and classification struggles
Lecturer	Michaela Kreyenfeld
Content	This session is about census data collection. How is census data collected? How are population sizes calculated in the inter-censal period? How is migration background and ethnicity captured in the data? What are the challenges of changing definitions?
Readings	Prewitt K. (2018). The census race classification: Is it doing its job? <i>The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> , 677, 8-24. Snipp, C.M. (2003). Racial measurement in the American census: Past practices and implications for the future. <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> , 29: 563-588.

Session 10	Day 4 Topic: Population projection
Lecturer	Michaela Kreyenfeld
Content	How can we project future population size by country? How sensitive are population projections to different assumptions? We will conduct population projections for selected countries. Further, we engage with the current UN-World Population Prospects.
Readings	https://papp.iussp.org/sessions/papp101_s10/PAPP101_s10_010_010.html

Session 11	Day 4 Topic: Workshop
Lecturer	Michaela Kreyenfeld
Content	Students present and discuss their population projections for a selected country of their choice.