IUSSP Scientific Panel on Digital Demography (2018-2021)

Report for the IUSSP General Assembly

Panel Chairs:
Emilio Zagheni – Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research;
Francesco Billari – Bocconi University;

Panel Members:
Monica Alexander – University of Toronto;
Ridhi Kashyap – Oxford University;
Dennis Feehan – University of California, Berkeley;
Ingmar Weber – Qatar Computing Research Institute;
Yelena Mejova – ISI Global Science Foundation;
Diego Ramiro Farinas – Spanish National Research Council.

Council Liaison:
Thomas LeGrand (University of Montreal)

The Digital Demography panel built on the work of its predecessor (the panel on Big Data and Population Processes - https://iussp.org/en/panel/big-data-and-population-processes - in order to consolidate the field of Digital Demography and to promote exchange and collaboration between demographers, computer scientists and social scientists, broadly defined.

In three years (2018-2021), the panel organized workshops, tutorials, short courses and webinars, as side events at major conferences, or as standalone meetings. An additional tutorial on text analysis was scheduled to be held at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America (2020), but was cancelled due to the cancellation of the conference as a result of the pandemic. Related materials were then posted online and made available to anyone.

Some of the workshops focused on training; others on fostering research collaborations. Some were held at population conferences, others at venues attended by computer scientists, or at United Nations events. Given the pandemic, all events scheduled after March 2020 have been held online and reached an even broader audience, especially

in low- and middle-income countries. One of the outcomes of the panel activities is a growing community of demographers trained in computation and computer scientists trained in demography.

This community is very energetic, and the panel helped sustain it and consolidate it. The digital demography panel also expanded the scope of the previous panel by promoting not only the use of digital trace data for demographic purposes, but also by improving our understanding of the implications of the digitalization of life for health, well-being and demographic behavior.

List of Panel Activities:

UN World Data Forum session on "Innovative use of Social Media for Remote Sensing and SDG Monitoring" - on-demand video

- **Live Q&A session** 5 October 2021 - 13:00-14:00 UTC

UN World Data Forum session on "Innovative use of Social Media for Remote Sensing and SDG Monitoring" - on-demand video

- **Live Q&A session** Monday 19 October 2020 - 15:00-16:00 UTC

IUSSP Webinar: Digital and computational approaches to study determinants and consequences of the spread of COVID-19

Zoom, 8 July 2020 - 13:30-15:00 UTC (9:30-11:00 New York; 15:30-17:00 Paris)

- **Webinar report & recording**

Workshop on Text Analysis for Demographic Research at PAA 2020

Washington D.C., United States, 22 April 2020 from 8:30am to 5:00pm

(cancelled) → Materials from a related event have been made available by Monica Alexander on the following page: https://mjalexander.github.io/social_media_workshop/

Introduction to Digital Demography - Online course for the 2019-2020 European Doctoral School of Demography (EDSD) in Barcelona

by **Diego Alburez**, Research Scientist at the Laboratory of Digital and Computational Demography, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR).

Workshop on New computational methods and data sources for migration research in the digital era at the 11th Social Informatics Conference (SocInfo 2019)

Doha, Qatar, 18 November 2019

- **Report**

Workshop on Migration Data and Models for a Better World: Perspectives from social scientists, data scientists and international organizations at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA)

New York, United States, 9 August 2019

- **Report**
- **Description**

Workshop on Demographic Research with Web and Social Media Data at the International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)

Munich, Germany, 11 June 2019

- **Report**

Research Workshop on Digital Demography in the Era of Big Data

Seville, Spain, 6-7 June 2019

- **Report**
- **Programme**