

Report of activities
IUSSP Scientific Panel on Nuptiality
January 2011 – December 2015

Chair: Julieta Quilodrán (Chile/Mexico)

Members: Narayanaswamy Audinarayana (India); Andrew Cherlin (USA); Clara Cortina (Spain); Bilampoa Ghomou (Burkina Faso); Benoît Laplante - since october 2013- (Canada)

Council Liaison: Véronique Hertrich (2011-2013)
Sajeda Amin (2014-2015)

The creation of this Panel set out with the application submitted to the IUSSP Council for its formation in August 2010. The formal acceptance occurred late in the same year and its activities began early in 2011. It was initially meant to last for a period of three years but this term was extended to December 2015 in consideration of the activities that came about as the initial goals were being met.

During **2011** intensive activities were conducted to define the Panel's Program and to reach the established objectives. During this process all Panel members participated together with Véronique Hertrich, who acted as Council Liaison. The Panel planed out to organize its activities around the following topics: the tempo and quantum of different kinds of conjugal unions around the world; the conjugal trajectories; matching patterns and the gender imbalance of the marriageable population. Also during 2011 the venue for the first Seminar was secured. The negotiations to obtain the necessary funds for its organization began and the corresponding Call for Papers prepared..

The year **2012** began with the selection of abstracts and the negotiations to obtain funds for the "**International Seminar on First Union Patterns Around the World**". This **Seminar** was held that same year in Madrid, Spain, on June 20-22 at the headquarters of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC). Proposals reached the number of 90; 21 papers and a Round Table were presented, with a total of 29 assistants. At the end of the Seminar the participating Panel members (Cherlin, Cortina and Quilodrán) and V. Hertrich IUSSP Liaison selected a set of papers that A. Cherlin would seek to publish in *Population Research and Policy Review*. This purpose was successfully attained and those papers with a good evaluation appeared in Volume 33, Issue 2, of April 2014. This special issue had Andrew Cherlin as Guest Editor and contains the excellent Introduction he wrote. The Working Papers as well as the reports prepared by Clara Cortina –local organizer—and Julieta Quilodrán are available at the IUSSP website.

In **2013** the Panel was invited to participated in the Program of the IUSSP General Conference held at Busan, Korea, with the organization of *Meeting S05-08* "The changing patterns of marriage and partnerships and their effects on fertility" (24 proposal were

received). The number of proposals and the quality of proposed summaries led me to ask the Convener of topic 5 (Shelley Clark) to accept an Additional Session "The meaning of cohabitation". The Additional Session and the suggested authors were accepted.

In line with the objectives of our Program, we were able to organize in **2015** a Second Seminar. This was hosted by the Institut National de Recherche Scientifique of Canada (INRS). The **International Seminar on Union Breakdown and Repartnering around the World** took place in Montreal, Canada, in May 4-6 2015. Its preparation began in 2014, and the same as for the preceding Seminar, the Panel members were in charge of selecting the most promising abstracts that replied to the Call for Papers, and subsequently of allocating funds. About 90 proposals were submitted, 24 papers were presented and an Overall Report. The total number of assistants was 33. Tom Legrand President in charge of IUSSP was present on the Open Ceremony.

The same as in the first Seminar, the participating Panel members (Cherlin, Cortina, Ghomou, Laplante, Quilodrán) selected a number of papers that were proposed for publication as a Series in the online journal of *Demographic Research*. Procedures in charge of B. Laplante and A. Cherlin are underway. The Series was accepted as such and the revised versions of the selected papers are being collected. The program of this meeting can be consulted at IUSSP's website, as well as the submitted papers and the full report prepared by the Seminar's organizers, Benoît Laplant and Christine Proulx.

It is worth mentioning that the participation of IUSSP President's in both Seminars – P.McDonald and T.Legrand-, the speakers considered in the Program, prominent discussants and assistants produced a combination of solid research experience and the approaches especially from young participants belonging to different latitudes.

The present evaluation of the activities conducted by the Panel during the five years of its duration shows that the proposed objectives were successfully met. We organized two Seminars that aroused interest. Participation and the quality of the submitted papers remained within the expected range; the reports and discussions, as well as the Conferences reached a good quality level and those papers that received the best ratings have been already published or are on the way for publication. We also attended the Busan Conference where we were responsible for the organization of two Sessions on our subjects of interest. This adds to the extensive collaboration among Panel members, which enabled a collegiate management of decisions and proposed tasks. However, an important part of this success should be shared with the members of IUSSP Headquarters –in the case of our Panel particularly with Paul Monet— without whose support the realization of Panel projects would have been impossible. Another important contribution came from the financial support received from different agencies of the countries that hosted our Seminars, and the efforts of their staffs in support of local organizers.

Finally, it should be noted that while the knowledge accumulated over these years is important for those of us who study the topic of nuptiality, its significance is closely related to its permanence in the Agendas of future Conferences and Seminars in which organization IUSSP plays an essential role.