



## WIC Hybrid Colloquium

# Childbearing desires and models of “good” parenthood among U.S. young adults

**Tuesday, 4 June 2024,  
11:00 – 12:00 (CEST)**



**Sarah R. Hayford**

Ohio State University

### Abstract:

Abstract: After many years of stability, birth rates in the United States have declined to their lowest recorded level. This decline has been attributed in part to increasing economic precarity, particularly among young adults, coupled with high demands for investment in children. Still, most young people in the U.S. want to have children at some point. Understanding young people's plans and goals for childbearing is important for predicting future demographic trends. It can also shed light on the social meanings that young people assign to parenthood. In this talk, I draw on data from in-depth interviews with childless young adults to describe how young people envision “good” parenting and the extent to which these ideals are related to plans for childbearing. Results suggest that young people feel a responsibility to provide emotional support as well as economic support to potential future children. The perceived emotional demands of parenting serve as a motivation to delay parenthood.

Please click [here](#) to register.

Login information will be sent to registered participants shortly before the presentation.

### About the presenter:

Sarah Hayford is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Institute for Population Research at Ohio State University. She studies childbearing, family formation, and reproductive health, primarily in the United States and sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on desires and intentions.

The Wittgenstein Centre is a collaboration among the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the University of Vienna.