



WIC Hybrid Colloquium

Decline and Prosper! Why Global Birth Rates are Falling and Why We Should Worry Less.

4 July 2024,
11:00 – 12:00 (CEST)



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Abstract:

Globally, women are having half as many children as they had just fifty years ago. Why have birth rates fallen, and how will low fertility affect our shared future?

This presentation discusses the evolution of childbearing across different populations and how fertility is related to (changes in) our reproductive capacity, contraception, education, religion, partnering, policies, economics, assisted reproduction, and catastrophes. It will explore the future of family size and its impact on human welfare, women's empowerment and the environment. The presentation argues that low fertility is on the whole a good thing, while recognizing the challenges of population aging and "coincidental" childlessness. This presentation seeks to give a balanced, integrative examination of one of the most important issues of our time -- Decline and Prosper! drives home the fact that we must ultimately adapt to a world with fewer children"

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About the presenter:

Professor Skirbekk is founding principal researcher at the Center for Fertility and Health at the NIPH, and holds Professorships at the University of Oslo in Norway and Columbia University in the US. He has received numerous grants and awards including two ERC grants (including a new ERC Advanced Grant on male health), an R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health on causes of dementia, and playing a leading role in several large EU and US consortiums. He has a proven track-record of publishing innovative research as lead or senior author in top-tiered journals such as The Lancet, Science, PNAS, Nature, Intelligence, Labor Economics, Psychological Science, Sociological Quarterly, and Demography. His research includes focusing on cognitive trajectories, global religious change, causes and consequences of fertility change as well as aging. His research is frequently cited by media outlets around the world.

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.

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