



Patrick GERLAND

CAREER JOURNEY

The views and opinions expressed in these slides are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.

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Part 1: **BA/MA and first 11 years of work**

- ♦ **Université René Descartes Paris-V Sorbonne (Paris, France)**
BA, Sociology - Sep 1982 - Jun 1985
- ♦ **Université Paris-I Panthéon Sorbonne (Paris, France)**
DESS / Master, Demography - Sep 1985 - Jun 1987
- ♦ Internship, **Electricity of France** (Paris, France)
Jun 1987 - Sep 1987 · 4 mos
- ♦ Consultant, **Statistics Canada**, Demographic Division (Ottawa, Canada)
Feb 1988 - Jul 1988 · 6 mos
- ♦ Research Analyst, **BETURE-SETAME, IAURIF** (Paris, France)
Dec 1988 - Oct 1989 · 11 mos
- ♦ **United Nations Statistics Division**, Social and Demographic Statistics Branch (New York, USA), 9 yrs 11 mos
 - ♦ Demographic Software Specialist (Nov 1989 - Dec 1998 · 9 yrs 2 mos)
 - ♦ CD-ROM Software Consultant (Jan 1999 - Sep 1999 · 9 mos)
 - ♦ Consultant on Demographic Statistics and Databases (Jul 2000 - Aug 2000 · 2 mos)

Part 2: **PhD and last 19 years of work**

- ♦ **Princeton University, Office of Population Research (NJ, USA)**

Ph.D in Population Studies - Sep 1999 - Feb 2004

(Defense in Oct. 2005, Graduation May 2006)

- ♦ **United Nations Population Division (New York, USA)**

- ♦ Population Affairs Officer, Population Estimates and Projection Section (Feb 2004 - Mar 2009 · 5 yrs 2 mos)
- ♦ Population Affairs Officer, Population Policy Section (Apr 2009 - Mar 2010 · 1 yr)
- ♦ Population Affairs Officer, Population Estimates and Projection Section (Apr 2010 - Aug 2014 · 4 yrs 5 mos)
- ♦ Chief, Mortality Section (Sep 2014 - May 2018 · 3 yrs 9 mos)
- ♦ Chief, Population Estimates and Projections Section (Jun 2018 - Present · 5 yrs)

United Nations Population Division

- The Division was established in 1946 to serve as the secretariat of the Population Commission. Over the years, it has contributed to, and supported, the global dialogue on population and development at the United Nations, producing regularly updated demographic estimates and projections for all countries as well as providing data which are essential for monitoring the status of implementation of internationally agreed development goals in the area of population, including those contained in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The Division leads and contributes to the substantive preparations and organization of major United Nations conferences and summits in the field of population and development, serves as the secretariat for the Commission on Population and Development and supports relevant intergovernmental processes in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.
- The Division prepares population estimates and projections as well as estimates of the international migrant stock for all countries in the world on a regular basis. The Division studies population dynamics, analyzes global demographic trends and monitors population policies. The analytical studies of the Division – on fertility and family planning, marriage and unions, adolescents and youth, population ageing, mortality, international migration, urbanization, household size and composition, population size and structure and population policies – are widely used by Member States, the research community, the private sector and the public at large.
- The Division participates in various interagency coordination mechanisms, including the United Nations Network on Migration and the United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME). The Division carries out capacity building activities related to its substantive work.

United Nations Population Division

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Population Division
The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs conducts demographic research, supports intergovernmental processes at the United Nations in the area of population and development, and assists countries in developing their capacity to produce and analyse population data and information.

Commission on Population and Development
A Population Commission was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 3 (III) of 3 October 1946. In its resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the Commission should be renamed the Commission on Population and Development.

India overtakes China as the world's most populous country
In April 2023, China is projected to cede its long-held status as the world's most populous country to India. UN/DESA's Policy Brief 153 examines this crossover and calls for taking into account future population trends in national development planning.

Highlights

New publications
[Policy brief: India overtakes China as the world's most populous country](#)
[Commission on Population and Development, fifty-sixth session: Ten key messages](#)
[Policy brief on Population, education and sustainable development: interlinkages and select policy implications](#)
[World Social Report 2023](#)
[World Family Planning 2022](#)
[Technical paper on Method protocol for the evaluation of census population data by age and sex](#)
[Policy brief on international migration](#)
[Technical paper on Selecting adolescent birth rates for monitoring and reporting on SDGs](#)
[Manual of National Transfer Accounts \(NTA\) \[English\] \[Russian\] \[Spanish\]](#)
[World Population Prospects 2022](#)

Recent and upcoming events
[Commission on Population and Development, fifty-seventh session, 29 April - 3 May 2024](#)
[Commission on Population and Development, fifty-sixth session, 10-14 April 2023](#)
[3rd International Forum on Migration Statistics, Santiago, Chile, 24-26 January 2023](#)
[Launch of the World Social Report 2023, 12 January 2023](#)
[International Migrants Day, 18 December 2022](#)
[Day of Eight Billion, 15 November 2022](#)
[Informal briefing on preparations for CPD56, 27 October 2022](#)
[Expert group meeting on population, education and sustainable development, 6-7 September 2022](#)
[World Population Day, 11 July 2022: Launch of WPP 2022](#)
[International Migration Review Forum, New York, 17-20 May 2022](#)
[IMRF: Side event on Enhancing the contribution of migrants in the post Covid-19 era, 17 May 2022](#)

Datasets
[World Population Prospects 2022](#)
[Household Size and Composition 2022](#)
[Living Arrangements of Older Persons 2022](#)
[Family Planning Indicators 2022](#)
[World Population Policies 2021](#)
[International Migrant Stock 2020](#)

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Commission on Population and Development



A Population Commission was established by the **Economic and Social Council** in its resolution 3 (III) of 3 October 1946. In its resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the Commission should be renamed the Commission on Population and Development. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that it, the Council and the Commission should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Council, would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

Under its terms of reference the Commission is to assist the Council by:

1. Arranging for studies and advising the Council on:
 - Population issues and trends;
 - Integrating population and development strategies;
 - Population and related development policies and programmes;
 - Provision of population assistance, upon request, to developing countries and, on a temporary basis, to countries with economies in transition; and
 - Any other population and development questions on which either the principal or the subsidiary organs of the United Nations or the specialized agencies may seek advice.
2. Monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the national, regional and global levels, identifying reasons for success and failure, and advising the Council thereon;
3. Providing appropriate recommendations to the Council on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports and issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

The Commission is composed of 47 Member States elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years on the basis of geographic distribution. Representatives should have a relevant background in population and development. It met typically every two or three years until 1994, after which it has met once a year.

Fifty-seventh Session

Previous Sessions

Resolutions and Decisions

Composition of the Commission

Rules of Procedure



General Assembly



Population

Since the United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, three world conferences on population have been held.

- The World Population Conference, held in Bucharest in 1974, led to the adoption of the [World Population Plan of Action](#).
- In Mexico-City in 1984, the international community agreed on a set of [Recommendations for the Further Implementation of the World Population Plan of Action](#) at the International Population Conference.
- The International Conference on Population and Development, convened in Cairo, Egypt, held from 5 to 13 September 1994, adopted the [Programme of Action](#) which gave prominence to reproductive health and the empowerment of women.

Two other conferences on population have been convened: the first one in Rome in 1954, the second one in Belgrade in 1965.

In 1999, the General Assembly adopted the [key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action](#).

International migration

Successive world population conferences have examined various aspects of international migration.

Between 2006 and 2018, the General Assembly devoted four high-level meetings to international migration:

- In 2006, the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development led to the creation of the State-led Global Forum on Migration and Development.
- The Declaration of the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in October 2013, paved the way for including international migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Events

[Resolutions, reports and events on international migration and development](#)

[Resolutions, reports and events on population and development](#)

United Nations Population Division

Themes



Adolescents and Youth

Globally, the number of adolescents and young people is at an all-time high. While the number of young people has been declining in the more developed regions since it peaked around 1980, it has been increasing in the less developed regions and is expected to continue to grow over the next few decades.



Family Planning

The Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development affirmed the basic right of couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so.



Mortality

Reducing mortality, increasing life expectancy, and improving the health of populations are key objectives of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the General Assembly in September 2015, provides an ambitious set of goals whose achievement will set humanity on a path towards sustainability.



Ageing

When fertility begins to decline from elevated levels, the population distribution by age changes. Initially, the reduction in fertility leads to an increase in the relative size of the population at working ages, creating a favourable age distribution that may help to accelerate economic growth per capita, resulting in a "demographic dividend".



Fertility and Marriage

Continued high fertility in some countries is the major driver of population growth, while in other countries the decline of fertility to historically low levels propels changes in the age distribution, including the gradual ageing of the human population.



Population Policies

Well-designed government policies are critical for implementing the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



Urbanization

The world is becoming increasingly urbanized. Today, more than half of the global population lives in urban areas, while the urban share worldwide is rising from around one third in 1950 to around two thirds in 2050.



Capacity Development

The Population Division builds and strengthens national capacities to estimate and analyse population levels and trends and other demographic indicators for formulating and implementing national policies and programmes related to population and development.



International Migration

It is widely recognized that migrants make a positive contribution to inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin and destination.



Population Trends

Timely and accurate information about changes in the size and characteristics of a country's population is needed by national governments, the United Nations, international organizations and civil society to formulate, implement and evaluate policies and programmes in almost all spheres of life.

Branches, Sections and Units

Front Office

The Director, two Branch Chiefs, and three Units comprise the front office.

Programme Management Unit

The Programme Management Unit supports programme management, including by preparing and monitoring the programme plan and budget, reporting on staff performance, overseeing personnel matters and coordinating responses to internal and external requests. The Unit also coordinates the Division's participation in departmental or systemwide activities.

Publications, Outreach and Support Unit

The Publications, Outreach and Support Unit manages the Division's publications programme, develops and implements strategies for dissemination and outreach, and supports the planning and coordination of intergovernmental processes, including for the Commission on Population and Development. The Unit takes the lead or participates in substantive projects, supports the organization of expert group meetings and provides administrative support to the Division.

Population Data Unit

Through the grant Making Family Planning Count provided by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (2014-2021), the Population Data Unit aims to strengthen global monitoring of progress in meeting the need for family planning as well as to improve accessibility and transparency of underlying demographic data and methods. In addition, the Unit coordinates the contribution of the grant towards strengthening the Division's major demographic databases and data portals.

Population Policies and Development Branch

Fertility and Population Ageing Section

The Fertility and Population Ageing Section prepares or contributes to analytical reports and parliamentary documentation on fertility, nuptiality, family planning, population ageing and intergenerational support. The Section also reviews and assesses the impact of government policies related to fertility, family planning and population ageing, and participates in inter-agency coordination activities on these topics. The Section organizes expert group meetings in its areas of expertise and assists in the substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings.

Migration and Urbanization Section

The Migration and Urbanization Section monitors progress in meeting internationally agreed goals and objectives on migration and urbanization, analyses emerging trends in migration and urbanization and assesses their demographic and development impacts. The Section also reviews and assesses the impact of government policies related to migration and urbanization, and participates in inter-agency coordination activities on these topics. The Section organizes expert group meetings in its areas of expertise and assists in the substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings.

Population Trends and Analysis Branch

Demographic Analysis Section

The Demographic Analysis Section prepares estimates and develops and implements demographic methods for the analysis of fertility, mortality and migration, including for the estimation of infant, child and adult mortality using direct or indirect methods. The Section participates in inter-agency coordination activities on these topics. The Section organizes expert group meetings in its areas of expertise and assists in the substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings.

Population Estimates and Projections Section

The Population Estimates and Projections Section prepares population estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world, depicting trends in the global population from 1950 to 2100. The Section also prepares estimates and projections of urban, rural and city populations. The Section participates in inter-agency coordination activities on these topics. The Section organizes expert group meetings in its areas of expertise and assists in the substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings.

Demographic Data Systems Unit

The Demographic Data Systems Unit builds and maintains the Division's information technology infrastructure, coordinating the technical development, implementation and maintenance of the Division's major databases, preparing data for various clients and data portals, including UN Data, and supporting the dissemination of data and other outputs. The unit provides advice on the implementation of demographic methods and assists in their development. The Unit also assists in the substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings.

Opportunities/entry points for PhD students in the field of population studies

♦ <https://careers.un.org/>

1. Young Professionals

Programme: held once a year in different subject areas, depending on the needs of the UN, open to nationals of participating countries.

Application period typically opens in June each year

<https://careers.un.org/lbw/home.aspx?viewtype=NCE&lang=en-US>



Opportunities/entry points for PhD students in the field of population studies

♦ <https://careers.un.org/>

2. Junior Professional Officer Programme: requirements

- an advanced university degree
- a minimum of two years of relevant work experience
- strong command of one of the working languages of the United Nations, English or French; an additional official language is an asset
- normally 32 years of age or younger, but this varies by donor country

<https://careers.un.org/lbw/home.aspx?viewtype=AEP&lang=en-US>

As a JPO you are recruited under bilateral agreements between the United Nations and donor countries.

The following countries are currently participating in the UN JPO Programme:

Australia	Egypt	Iceland	Morocco	Saudi Arabia	United Arab Emirates
Austria	Estonia	Italy	Netherlands	Singapore	United Kingdom
Bahrain	Finland	Japan	Norway	Republic of Korea	USA
Belgium	France	Kazakhstan	Poland	Spain	
China	Germany	Kuwait	Qatar	Sweden	
Denmark	Hungary	Luxembourg	Russian Federation	Switzerland	

The number of sponsored positions varies from year to year and by donor country. Initially you are granted a one-year appointment which may be extended, with the agreement of the donor country, and on the basis of good performance. There is no expectation of being selected for a regular staff position, but as a JPO you may apply for such positions as any other external candidate.

The following disciplines are some of those considered by donor countries for the United Nations JPO Programme:

Political science	Human Rights	Economic Affairs
Social science	Programme Management	Environmental Affairs
Law	Public Administration	Gender Affairs

Other specialties may be required by specialized Agencies of the United Nations System and sponsored by the donors under their programmes.

Opportunities/entry points for PhD students in the field of population studies

- ♦ <https://careers.un.org/>

3. Professional Staff:

<https://careers.un.org/lbw/home.aspx?viewtype=SC&lang=en-US>

4. Additional temporary options:

- [Volunteer programme](#)
- [Internship programme](#)
- [Temporary jobs](#)
- [Consultants](#)

What education do I need?

Normally, it is required that you have an [advanced university degree](#) for the professional and director level positions. It is, however, frequently accepted that if you have a first-level university degree, combined with qualifying work experience, you meet the educational requirements.

Positions in certain job families, including military, civilian police, medical, conference services may have different standards for the minimum educational requirements, which are accordingly reflected in their respective job openings. Positions from job families that require specialized studies, e.g. Medical Doctors, require an advanced university degree, which cannot be substituted by a combination of a first-level university degree and experience. Positions in some other areas, mainly language positions, might require only a first-level university degree for the minimum educational requirements.

What work experience do I need?

Your work experience should be relevant to the job for which you are applying; each job may also have specific requirements, which are specified in the opening. For mid-career and senior level positions, progressively responsible work experience is required. As you acquire more relevant work experience you can progressively apply for higher positions.

Entry level professionals

P-2 minimum 2 years of work experience

No experience is required if applying to the young professionals programme

P-3 minimum 5 years of work experience

Mid-level professionals

P-4 minimum 7 years of work experience

P-5 minimum 10 years of work experience

Senior level professionals

P-6/D-1 minimum 15 years of work experience

P-7/D-2 more than 15 years of work experience

What if I recently graduated from university and have no relevant work experience?

If you recently graduated from university and you have limited or no work experience, you [may](#) qualify to take the [young professionals programme recruitment examination \(YPP\)](#).