

December 18, 2023

Diego Alburez-Gutierrez

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Google Scholar



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Research interests: population · kinship · generational processes · inequality · modelling

EMPLOYMENT

Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR), Germany

Independent Group Leader, [Kinship Inequalities Research Group](#)

May 2022 - May 2027

Post-Doctoral Researcher, [Lab of Digital and Computational Demography](#)

Jan 2019 - Apr 2022

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Denmark

Statistics Team Intern, Field Information and Coordination Support Section (FICSS)

Mar - Jun 2018

Leading role in implementing [UNHCR's Demographic Projection Tool](#).

The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

Research Assistant, Law Department

Apr - Jul 2017

Leading qualitative research on low student satisfaction

Research Assistant, Social Policy Department

Mar 2016- Jun 2017

Quantitative analysis of maternal and child health outcomes in Palestine

Research Assistant, Sociology Department

Sep 2014 - Sep 2015

Qualitative coding and analysis of methodological practices in sociology of work

Research Assistant, Methodology Department

Oct 2013 - Jan 2014

Survey of grey literature to identify common qualitative methods in International Development

Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala

Analyst, Public Opinion Program

Jul - Nov 2013

Designing and implementing qualitative research for the Media Monitoring Project

RESEARCH GRANTS

- [Kinship Inequalities Independent Research Group](#) (2022), grant awarded by the Max Planck Society (ca. €1.9 million [ca. \$2,05 million] for the 2022-2027 period)
- [LSE PhD Studentship](#) (2014-2018) awarded by the London School of Economics (ca. £145,000 [ca. \$180,000])

AWARDS

- [European Demographer Award](#) (2023), given by Population Europe to one promising and upcoming researcher who has obtained their Ph.D. within the last five years (€1,000 [ca. \$1,000])
- [BSPS Early Career Award](#) (2022), given by the British Society for Population Studies to one promising early career demographer
- Poster award (2022), British Society for Population Studies. Poster title: “Who Will Remember COVID-19? Kinship Memory after a Global Pandemic.” (Snyder, M., Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Verdery, A., and Zagheni, E.)
- [Günther Beyer Award](#) (2022), given by the European Association for Population Studies to the best paper by an early career scholar at a European Population Conference (€400 [ca. \$430], awarded jointly with Ugofilippo Basellini)
- Poster award (2021), Population Association of America Annual Meeting. Poster title: “Linking excess mortality to Google mobility data during the COVID-19 pandemic in England and Wales.” (Basellini, U., Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Del Fava, E., Perrotta, D., Bonetti, M., Camarda, C., and Zagheni, E.)
- [Otto Hahn Medal](#) (2019) given by the Max Planck Society for outstanding achievement from the initial creative period of young scientists (€7,000 [ca. \$7,600])

EDUCATION

The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

PhD, Demography and Population Studies

2014 - 2018

MSc, Social Research Methods (Distinction)

2013-2014

Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, Guatemala

BA, Anthropology (First class/Summa Cum Laude)

2008-2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

European Doctoral School of Demography (EDSD)

Lecturer for course “The Demography of Kinship”

2023 - present

Lecturer for course “Digital Demography”

2020 - 2022

International Max Planck Research School for Population, Health and Data Science

Course coordinator and lecturer for “Matrix Approaches to Modelling Kinship: Theory and Applications”

May 2023

Lecturer for course “Topics in Digital and Computational Demography”

2020 - 2022

The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

Class Teacher, Social Policy Department

2016-2017

Leading seminars for the course “Introduction to Global Population Change”

Lecturer, LSE Methods Summer School

2015

Leading seminars for the “Qualitative Research Methods” strand

Del Valle University, Guatemala

Class teacher, Anthropology and Sociology Department

2013

Leading seminars for the course “Advanced qualitative data analysis”

Class teacher, Anthropology and Sociology Department

2011

Leading seminars for the course “History of Anthropology 1”

RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION

Independent Research Group Leader, [Kinship Inequalities Research Group](#) May 2022 - May 2027
Academic supervision of PhDs and postdocs; budget planning and execution; coordination of hiring processes; collaboration with local administration; research activities reporting; committee participation.

Organiser and Mentor, [Population and Social Data Science Summer Incubator Program](#) Jun - Aug 2023
Coordinating and supervising a team of four graduate students for the ‘Crowdsourced Data’ incubator team.

Research Area Chair, [Lab of Digital and Computational Demography](#) Sep 2019 - Sep 2021
Leading a group of four researchers in the ‘Aging and Generational Processes’ Research Area.

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION

† Ongoing

- † Amanda Martins de Almeida. *PhD supervisor*. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR, Germany)
- † Andrea Colasurdo. *PhD supervisor*. MPIDR and University of Groningen (Netherlands)
- † Liliana Calderón. *PhD mentor*. MPIDR and Stockholm University (Sweden)
- † Michael Lachanski. *PhD mentor*. MPIDR and University of Pennsylvania (US)
- † Yongxin Shang. *Ad Hoc PhD Special Committee Member*. Cornell University (US)

PUBLICATIONS

Student co-authors in **bold**
(conventionally, the first author is the lead author in social sciences)

PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Basellini, U., and Zagheni, E. (accepted) “When do parents bury a child? Heterogeneity in the maternal age at offspring loss.” *Population Studies*. Temporary doi: [10.4054/MPIDR-WP-2022-016](#).

Alburez-Gutierrez, D., **Williams, I.**, and Caswell, H. (in press). “Projections of human kinship for all countries.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Temporary doi: [10.31235/osf.io/hn3zm](#).

Snyder, M., Alburez-Gutierrez, D., **Williams, I.**, and Zagheni, E. (2022). “Estimates from 31 countries show the significant impact of COVID-19 excess mortality on the incidence of family bereavement.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 119 (26): e2202686119. doi:[10.1073/pnas.2202686119](#).

Alburez-Gutierrez, D. (2022). “The demographic drivers of grief and memory after genocide in Guatemala.” *Demography*. 59 (3): 1173–1194. doi:[10.1215/00703370-9975747](#).

Stelter, R. and Alburez-Gutierrez, D. (2022). “Representativeness is crucial for inferring demographic processes from online genealogies: Evidence from lifespan dynamics.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 119(10): e2120455119. doi:[10.1073/pnas.2120455119](#).

Castro, A. and Alburez-Gutierrez, D. (2022). “North and South: Naming practices and the hidden dimension of global disparities in knowledge production.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 119(10): e2119373119. doi:[10.1073/pnas.2119373119](#).

- Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Mason, C., and Zagheni, E. (2021). “The ‘Sandwich Generation’ Revisited: Global Demographic Drivers of Care Time Demands.” *Population and Development Review*, 47(4): 997-1023. doi: [10.1111/padr.12436](https://doi.org/10.1111/padr.12436).
- Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Kolk, M., and Zagheni, E. (2021) “Women’s experience of child death: A global demographic perspective.” *Demography*, 58 (5): 1715–1735. doi: [10.1215/00703370-9420770](https://doi.org/10.1215/00703370-9420770).
- Smith-Greenaway, E., Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Trinitapoli, J., and Zagheni, E. (2021) “The Global Burden of Maternal Bereavement: Indicators of the Cumulative Prevalence of Child Loss.” *BMJ Global Health*, 6:e004837. doi: [bmjgh-2020-004837](https://doi.org/bmjgh-2020-004837)
- Martinez-Folgar, K., Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Paniagua-Avila, A., Ramirez-Zea, M., Bilal, U. (2021). “Excess Mortality during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Guatemala”. *American Journal of Public Health*, 0:e1-e8. doi:[10.2105/AJPH.2021.306452](https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2021.306452).
- Basellini, U., Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Del Fava, E., Perrotta, D., Bonetti, M., Camarda, C. and Zagheni, E. (2021). “Linking excess mortality to Google mobility data during the COVID-19 pandemic in England and Wales.” *SSM - Population Health*, 14. doi: [j.ssmph.2021.100799](https://doi.org/j.ssmph.2021.100799).
- Riffe, T., Acosta E., Alburez-Gutierrez, D., the COVerAGE-DB team. (2021) “Data Resource Profile: COVerAGE-DB: a global demographic database of COVID-19 cases and deaths.” *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 50(2): 390-390f. doi: [10.1093/ije/dyab027](https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyab027).
- Alburez-Gutierrez, D. (2021). “Vivir para contarla: un análisis demográfico de las masacres de Río Negro en Guatemala (1980-1982) [Living to tell the tale: A demographic analysis of the Rio Negro massacres in Guatemala (1980-1982)].” *Análisis de la Realidad Nacional*, 208:91–104. ISSN:[2227-9113](https://doi.org/2227-9113).
- Nepomuceno, M., Acosta, E., Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Aburto, J.M., Gagnon, A., and C. Turra (2020). “Besides population age-structure, health and other demographic factors can contribute to understanding the COVID-19 burden.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(25). doi:[10.1073/pnas.2008760117](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2008760117).
- Alburez-Gutierrez, D. (2019). Blood is thicker than bloodshed: A genealogical approach to reconstruct populations after armed conflicts. *Demographic Research*, 40(23): 627-656. doi:[10.4054/DemRes.2019.40.23](https://doi.org/10.4054/DemRes.2019.40.23).
- Leone, T., Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Gandour, R., Coast, E., and Giacaman, R. (2019). “Maternal and child access to care and intensity of conflict in the occupied Palestinian territory: a pseudo-longitudinal analysis (2000–2014).” *Conflict and Health* 13(36). doi:[10.1186/s13031-019-0220-2](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13031-019-0220-2).
- McGovern, P., and Alburez-Gutierrez, D (2017) “Who takes workplace case-study methods seriously? The influence of gender, academic rank and PhD training.” *Industrial Relations Journal* 48(2):98-114, doi:[10.1111/irj.12171](https://doi.org/10.1111/irj.12171).

BOOK CHAPTERS AND CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- Coimbra, C.**, Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Nepomuceno, M., and T. Theile. (2022) “Desaparecidos: characterizing the population of missing children using Twitter.” In *14th ACM Web Science Conference 2022 (WebSci '22)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 185–190. doi:[10.1145/3501247.3531589](https://doi.org/10.1145/3501247.3531589).

Kashyap, R., Rinderknecht, R. G., Akbaritabar, A, Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Gil-Clavel, S., Grow, A., et al. (forthcoming). “Digital and Computational Demography.” In J. Skopek (Ed.). *Research Handbook of Digital Sociology*. Preprint: doi:[10.31235/osf.io/7bvpt](https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/7bvpt).

Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Aref, S. **Gil-Clavel, S.**, Grow, A., Negraia, D.V., and Zagheni, E. (2019). “Demography in the Digital Era: New Data Sources for Population Research.” *Proceedings of the 2019 Conference of the Italian Statistical Society*. doi: [10.31235/osf.io/24jp7](https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/24jp7).

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Alburez-Gutierrez, D. and Segura Garcia, C. (2018). “The UNHCR Demographic Projection Tool: estimating the future size and composition of forcibly displaced populations.” *UNHCR Statistics Technical Series*: [2018/1](https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/24jp7). Copenhagen: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

WORKING PAPERS

Pojman, E., Mwedzi, D., Olaya Bucaro, O., Zhang, S., Chong, M., Alexander, M., and Alburez-Gutierrez, D. (2023). “Leaving for life: Using online crowd-sourced genealogies to estimate the migrant mortality advantage for the United Kingdom and Ireland.” MPIDR Working Paper WP-2023-050. Rostock: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. doi: [10.4054/MPIDR-WP-2023-050](https://doi.org/10.4054/MPIDR-WP-2023-050).

Calderón Bernal, L. P., Alburez-Gutierrez, D., and Zagheni, E. (2023). “Analyzing biases in genealogies using demographic microsimulation.” MPIDR Working Paper WP-2023-034. Rostock: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. doi: [10.4054/MPIDR-WP-2023-034](https://doi.org/10.4054/MPIDR-WP-2023-034).

Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Barban, N., Caswell, H., Kolk, M., Margolis, R., Smith-Greenaway, E., Song, X., Verdery, A., and Zagheni, E. (2022). “Kinship Approaches in Demography: Review and Key Areas for Future Development.” SocArxiv. doi: [10.31235/osf.io/fk7x9](https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/fk7x9).

Chong, M., Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Del Fava, E., Alexander, M., and Zagheni, E. (2022). “Identifying and correcting bias in big crowd-sourced online genealogies.” MPIDR Working Paper WP-2022-005. Rostock: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. doi: [10.4054/MPIDR-WP-2022-005](https://doi.org/10.4054/MPIDR-WP-2022-005).

Williams, I. and Alburez-Gutierrez, D. (2021). “Mortality change and its impact on child survival.” MPIDR Working Paper WP-2021-001. Rostock: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. doi:[10.4054/MPIDR-WP-2021-001](https://doi.org/10.4054/MPIDR-WP-2021-001).

WORK IN PROGRESS

Hünteler, B. and Alburez-Gutierrez, D. (in preparation). “Generational Placement Trajectories in Norway: Combining Empirical and Simulated Data.”

Van Damme, M., Castro, A., and Alburez-Gutierrez, D. (in preparation). ‘Research note: Estimating kinship size of older adults in Europe with models and surveys.’

Hexel, O., Alburez-Gutierrez, D., and Zagheni, E. (in preparation). “Kinship structure and bequest inequalities between black and white households in the United States, 1989-2019.”

Colasurdo, A., and Alburez-Gutierrez, D. (in preparation). “Transnational kin networks over time: An analysis based on crowdsourced online genealogies.”

Polizzi, A., and Alburez-Gutierrez, D. (in preparation). “Kin loss due to violent death in Mexico: a subnational microsimulation approach.”

Snyder, M., Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Verdery, A., and Zagheni, E. (in preparation) Who Will Remember COVID-19? Kinship Memory after a Global Pandemic.”

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Theile, T., Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Snyder, M., Calderón-Bernal L. P., and E. Zagheni. (2022). “rsocsim: An R package to run demographic microsimulations using SOCSIM.” <https://github.com/MPIDR/rsocsim>.



Williams, I., Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Song, X., and H. Caswell. (2021). “DemoKin: An R package to implement demographic matrix kinship models.” <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/DemoKin/>.



INVITED TALKS (SELECTED)

“Projections of human kinship for the entire world.” [Department of Human Behavior, Ecology and Culture](#). Leipzig, Germany (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, June 28, 2023).

“Demographic rates cast long shadows: The case for a demography of kinship.” [Centre for Family and Population Research](#). Singapore (National University of Singapore, 31 March 2023, online).

“A practical introduction to kinship demography using the DemoKin R package.” [CEDEPLAR](#). Belo Horizonte, Brazil (Federal University of Minas Gerais [UFMG], 22 December 2022).

“Death is not the end: Model-based studies of kin loss” [Centre for Economic Demography](#). Lund, Sweden (Lund University, 22 November 2022).

“Inferring demographic processes from non-representative online genealogies.” [GENPOP/POPCLIMA Seminar Series](#). Bologna, Italy (University of Bologna, 20 October 2022).

“North and South: Naming practices and the hidden dimension of global disparities in knowledge production.” [Summer Institute in Computational Social Science](#). Ogun State, Nigeria (Covenant University, 21 June 2022, online).

“Kinequality: Studies at the intersection of demography, kinship, and inequality.” [CEDEPLAR](#). Belo Horizonte, Brazil (Federal University of Minas Gerais [UFMG], 15 June 2022, online).

“Formal demography of kinship: theory and applications.” [Formal Demography Working Group](#) (25 February 2022, online, co-presentation with Hal Caswell) [[recording](#)] [[code](#)].

“Kinship inequalities and the persistence of memory after genocide.” [Center for Demography and Ecology](#), Wisconsin, USA (University of Wisconsin–Madison, 01 February 2022, online).

“The Demographic Drivers of Grief and Memory After Genocide in Guatemala.” [UW Seminar Series](#). Seattle, USA (University of Washington, 20 April 2021, online).

“Linking excess mortality to Google mobility data during the COVID-19 pandemic.” Mexico City, Mexico (El Colegio de Mexico, 16 April 2021, online).

“The ‘Sandwich Generation’ Revisited: Global Demographic Drivers of Care Time Demands.” Population and Health Research Group Seminar Series, St Andrews, Scotland (University of St Andrews, 08 Dec 2020).

“Women’s experience of child death: a global demographic perspective.” [ISER External Seminar](#), Colchester, UK (Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, 27 November 2019, online).

“The Demographic Foundations of the Lived Experience of Kin Death: A Genealogical Reconstruction.” [SUDA Demographic Colloquium Series](#), Stockholm, Sweden (Stockholm University, 23 May 2019).

“Ciencias Sociales Computacionales: Retos y oportunidades en la era digital [Computational Social Sciences: challenges and opportunities in the Digital Age]”. Guatemala City, Guatemala (Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, 25 April 2019).

“Mass killings, family support, and survival: evidence from Guatemala.” [SUDA Demographic Colloquium Series](#), Stockholm, Sweden (Stockholm University, 8 February 2018).

MEDIA, OUTREACH, AND SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

- Newspaper coverage: “[The glory of grandparents](#)” and “[The age of the grandparent has arrived](#)” (The Economist, 14 Jan 2023)
- News magazine: “Generational overlap places a heavy burden on parents in the global South” (News magazine of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, [n-IUSSP](#), Jan 2022)
- News magazine: “Global trends in child loss: less and later” (News magazine of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, [n-IUSSP](#), Nov 2021)
- Podcast episode: “Demografía y la experiencia de muerte [Demography and the experience of death]” ([Divulga Podcast](#), [episode 31](#), May 2021)
- Academic video: “How Can We Quantify the Immediate and Lingering Impact of Genocide on Local Populations?” ([Latest Thinking](#), Apr 2020)
- Opinion piece: “Coronavirus: a warning to Latin America and the Caribbean to dramatically increase COVID-19 testing” ([The Conversation](#), UK, Apr 2020)
- Blog post: “Genocide is the tip of the iceberg: Reviewing the Guatemalan case” ([LSE Human Rights Blog](#), Feb 2016)

ORGANISER OF INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC EVENTS

- *Organiser*: [Workshop: Demographic microsimulations in R using SOCSIM: Modelling population and kinship dynamics](#), Annual Congress of the Population Association of America (PAA), New Orleans, USA Apr 2023
- *Organiser*: [Workshop: Demografía del Parentesco: Introducción a Temas y Métodos](#), X Congress of the Latin American Population Association (ALAP), Valparaíso, Chile 2022
- *Organiser*: [Workshop: The Formal Demography of Kinship: Theory and Application](#), Dutch Demography Day, Utrecht, Netherlands (with Hal Caswell) 2022
- Coordinator of the [Seminar Series of the Lab of Digital and Computational Demography](#), Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. 2020-2021
- *Organiser and moderator*: [Panel Discussion on Digital and Computational Demography](#), IX Conference of the Latin American Association for Population Studies, Santiago, Chile (online) 2020
- *Organiser*: [Rostock Open Science Workshop](#), Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR), Rostock 2019

- *Organiser*: [Workshop on Demographic Research with Web and Social Media Data](#), 13th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), Munich 2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- *Associate Editor* for journal Demographic Research (Apr 2022 - Apr 2025)
- *Reviewer* for academic journals: BMC Public Health; Demographic Research; Demography; Dialogues in Health; EPJ Data Science; European Journal of Population; Frontiers in Research Metrics and Analytics; Genus; International Migration Review; Journal of Marriage and Family; Journal of Population Ageing; Journal of the Royal Society Interface; Nature Human Behavior; PLOS ONE; Population and Development Review; Population Research and Policy Review; Population Studies; Review of Economics of the Household; Revue Quetelet/Quetelet Journal; Scientific Reports; and Social Forces
- *Organiser* of the ‘Social Policy Qualitative Research Group’, London School of Economics 2017-2018
- *President* of the ‘Methodology Student Union’, London School of Economics 2013-2014
- *President* of the ‘Social Sciences Student Union’, Del Valle University (Guatemala) 2011-2012

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- International Union for the Scientific Study of Population ([IUSSP](#))
- IUSSP Panel on Digital and Computational Demography ([link](#))
- British Society for Population Studies ([BSPS](#))
- Population Association of America ([PAA](#))
- European Association for Population Studies ([EAPS](#))
- Latin American Association for Population Studies ([ALAP](#))
- Latin American Studies Association ([LASA](#))
- Households in Conflict Network ([HiCN](#))
- Population Health and Armed Conflict Network (PHAAC)
- International Science, Technology, and Innovation Network of Guatemala ([REDCTI](#))

SKILLS

- Statistical programming: R (`base`, `tidyverse`, `data.table`, `parallel`, `shiny`), Stata, Excel
- Text processing and web: \LaTeX , MS Office, (r)markdown, HTML, JavaScript
- Other programming: Git, Python 3, SQL
- Experience in qualitative, quantitative, and online data collection

LANGUAGES

- International: **Spanish** (native), **English** (full professional C2), **German** (full professional C1), **Swedish** (beginner A1)
- Guatemalan: **K’iche’** (full professional C1), **Achi** (full professional C1), **Kaqchikel** (professional B1), **Q’eqchi’** (limited working A2)