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Diego Alburez-Gutiérrez

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demography · kinship · generational processes · bereavement · modelling · microsimulation

EDUCATION

The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

PhD, Demography and Population Studies

2014 - 2018

- Title: “[Beyond excess mortality: the demographic life of a Mayan community after a war of massacres](#)”
- Primary data collection: genealogical surveys and in-depth interviews (1 year fieldwork)
- Supervisors: Arjan Gjonça, Tiziana Leone, and Ernestina Coast

MSc, Social Research Methods (Distinction)

2013-2014

Practical approach with emphasis on quantitative and qualitative data analysis

Universidad del Valle, Guatemala

BA, Anthropology (First class/Summa Cum Laude)

2008-2012

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Funding to establish the five-year [Independent Research Group on Kinship Inequalities](#) (2022) awarded by the Max Planck Society (ca. €1.5 million)
- [BSPS Early Career Award](#) (2022) awarded by the British Society for Population Studies for “*Diego’s tackling of a range of issues with a clear facility for analytical, measurement and dissemination tools, and for his empathy with Rio Negro inhabitants’ trauma carried across family memory.*”
- [Günther Beyer Award](#) (2022) awarded by the European Association for Population Studies to the best paper by an early career scholar at a European Population Conference (€400, awarded jointly with Ugofilippo Basellini)
- [Otto Hahn Medal](#) (2019) awarded by the Max Planck Society for outstanding achievement from the initial creative period of young scientists, in particular “*for methodological innovations for studying the long-term consequences of mass killings on local populations*” (€7,000)
- LSE PhD Studentship (2014-2018) awarded by the London School of Economics (£72,000 + tuition)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR), Germany

Head, [Independent Research Group on Kinship Inequalities](#)

May 2022 - present

Research Scientist (post-doc), Lab of Digital and Computational Demography

Jan 2019 - Apr 2022

Research Area Chair, Lab of Digital and Computational Demography Sep 2019 - Sep 2021
 Research-administrative role leading a group of four researchers in the ‘Aging and Generational Processes’ Research Area.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Denmark
Statistics Team Intern, Field Information and Coordination Support Section (FICSS) Mar - Jun 2018
 Central 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

Public Opinion Program, Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala
Lead researcher Jul - Nov 2013
 Designing and implementing qualitative research for the Media Monitoring Project

The Population Council, Guatemala
Research Sub Coordinator Jan - Dec 2012

- Design and implementation of qualitative research on conditional cash transfer programmes
- Led team of four ethnographers during six months of data collection in rural Guatemala

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

International Max Planck Research School for Population, Health and Data Science (IMPRS-PHDS)
Class Teacher for course “Topics in Digital and Computational Demography” 2020 - 2022

European Doctoral School of Demography (EDSD), Barcelona
Class Teacher for course “Digital 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”

Class Teacher, 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”

GRADUATE STUDENTS SUPERVISION

- Liliana Calderón. *Current PHDS mentor*. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research and Stockholm University
- Michael Lachanski. *Current PHDS mentor*. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research and University of Pennsylvania

PUBLICATIONS

[†] Publications co-authored with graduate students

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- [†] 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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

McGovern, P., and **D. Alburez-Gutierrez.** (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](#).

LETTERS

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](#).

BOOK CHAPTERS AND CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

[†] Coimbra, C., **Alburez-Gutierrez, D.**, Nepomuceno, M., and T. Theile. (2022) “Desaparecidxs: 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](#).

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](#).

Alburez-Gutierrez, D., S. Aref, S. Gil-Clavel, A. Grow, D.V. Negraia, and E. Zagheni. (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](#).

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](#). Copenhagen: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

WORKING PAPERS AND PAPERS IN PROGRESS

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](#).

Alburez-Gutierrez, D., Basellini, U., and Zagheni, E. (2022) “When do parents bury a child? Uncertainty of offspring loss across the demographic transition.” MPIDR Working Paper. Rostock: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. doi: [10.4054/MPIDR-WP-2022-016](https://doi.org/10.4054/MPIDR-WP-2022-016).

[†] 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. 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. Rostock: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. doi:[10.4054/MPIDR-WP-2021-001](https://doi.org/10.4054/MPIDR-WP-2021-001).

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Williams, I., **Alburez-Gutierrez, D.**, Song, X., and H. Caswell. (2021). “DemoKin: An R package to implement matrix kinship models in stable and non-stable populations.” <https://github.com/IvanWilli/DemoKin>.

Theile, T., **Alburez-Gutierrez, D.**, et al. (2022). “rsoc: A multi-platform R package to run and analyse demographic microsimulations using SOCSIM.” <https://github.com/tomthe/rsoc>

INVITED TALKS (SELECTED)

“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).

“Kinequality: Studies at the intersection of demography, kinship, and inequality.” Minas Gerais, Brazil (Federal University of Minas Gerais [Cedeplar], 15 June 2022).

“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)

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

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

“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).

“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).

OUTREACH AND SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

- 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

- 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: Demography; Population and Development Review; Population Studies; European Journal of Population; Journal of Marriage and Family; Population Research and Policy Review; Social Forces; Demographic Research; Journal of Population Ageing; Revue Quetelet/Quetelet Journal; Genus; Journal of the Royal Society Interface; BMC Public Health; PLOS ONE; Scientific Reports; EPJ Data Science; Frontiers in Research Metrics and Analytics
- *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](#))
- 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, Tesseract
- Other programming: Git, Python 3, SQL, Hadoop
- Demographic microsimulation: SOCSIM with applications in R
- Qualitative data analysis: NVivo, Atlas.ti
- 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)