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Diego Alburez-Gutierrez

Konrad-Zuse-Straße 1, 18057 Rostock, Germany
alburezgutierrez@demogr.mpg.de; www.alburez.me

I am a social scientist specialising in inter-generational demography. My work has used mathematical modeling, micro-simulation techniques, and empirical analysis to explore changes in the experience of life events such as kin availability, family bereavement, and caring responsibilities across demographic regimes.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2019 [Otto Hahn Medal](#) (2020) 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’
- LSE PhD Academy Prize (2018) awarded by the London School of Economics for research on state-sponsored massacres in Guatemala
- LSE PhD Studentship (2014-2018) awarded by the London School of Economics

EDUCATION

The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

PhD, Demography and Population Studies

2014 - 2018

- Summary: Effects of mass violence and genocide on population dynamics.
- Data collection: Genealogical surveys and in-depth interviews (1 year fieldwork)
- Mixed methods research design:
 - Quantitative analysis: Descriptive demographic, regression and survival models, network analysis
 - Qualitative analysis: Thematic and framework analysis
- Supervisors: Arjan Gjonca, Tiziana Leone, Ernestina Coast, and Michael Murphy

MSc, Social Research Methods (Distinction)

2013-2014

Practical approach with emphasis on quantitative and qualitative data analysis

Del Valle University, Guatemala

BA, Anthropology (First class)

2008-2012

Thesis on evaluation methodologies for Conditional Cash Transfer Programmes

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR), Germany

Research Scientist (post-doc) and Research Area Chair (Aging and Generational Processes), Lab of Digital and Computational Demography

Since 2018

Leading role in projects using innovative data and approaches to understand demographic change in the context of global population aging.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Denmark

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

2018

Central role in implementing UNHCR's Demographic Projection Tool.

The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

Research Assistant, Law Department

2017

Leading qualitative research on low student satisfaction

Research Assistant, Social Policy Department

2016-2017

Quantitative analysis of maternal and child health outcomes in Palestine

Research Assistant, Sociology Department

2014-2015

Qualitative coding and analysis of methodological practices in sociology of work

Research Assistant, Methodology Department

2013-2014

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

Public Opinion Program, Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala

Lead researcher

2013

Designing and implementing qualitative research for the Media Monitoring Project

The Population Council, Guatemala

Research Sub Coordinator

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

European Doctoral School of Demography (EDSD), Barcelona

Class Teacher for course “Digital Demography”

2020

Online due to COVID-19; materials and recorded lectures available [on GitHub](#)

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”
- Weekly office hours, updated course website, homework and exam marking

Class Teacher, LSE Methods Summer School

2015

- Leading seminars for the “Qualitative Research Methods” strand
- Homework and exam marking

Del Valle University, Guatemala

Class teacher, Anthropology and Sociology Department

2013

- Leading seminars for the course “Advanced qualitative data analysis”
- Course design, wrote NVivo course pack (Spanish), homework and exam marking

Class teacher, Anthropology and Sociology Department

2011

Leading seminars for the course “History of Anthropology 1”

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Plaza Pública Newspaper, Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala

Data journalist

2013

In charge of database management for data journalism focusing on local politics. Co-authored several publications.

iDISC Information Technologies, Spain/Guatemala

Language moderator for translation of Microsoft Office 2013 to K'iche' Mayan

2012-2013

- In charge of recruitment, linguistics, and project management
- Led team of six translating the MS Office Language Interface Pack 2013 — K'iche'

PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Nepomuceno, M., Acosta, E., **Alburez-Gutierrez, D.**, Aburto, J.M., Gagnon, A., and Turra, C. (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., Chandrasekharan, E., Chunara, R., Gil-Clavel, S., Hannak, A., Interdonato, R., Joseph, K., Kalimeri, K., Malik, M., Mayer, K., Mejova, Y., Paolotti, D., and Zagheni, E. (2019). "Reports of the Workshops Held at the 2019 International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media." *AI Magazine*, 40(4), 78-82. doi:[10.1609/aimag.v40i4.5287](https://doi.org/10.1609/aimag.v40i4.5287).

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(1). doi:[10.1186/s13031-019-0220-2](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13031-019-0220-2).

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).

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](https://doi.org/10.1111/irj.12171).

BOOK CHAPTERS

Alburez-Gutierrez, D., S. Aref, S. Gil-Clavel, A. Grow, D.V. Negraia, 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](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/10.29025/2018/1).

WORKING PAPERS AND PAPERS IN PROGRESS

Alburez-Gutierrez, D., E. Zagheni and M. Kolk. (November 2019) "Women's experience of child death: a global demographic perspective". SocArxiv. doi: [10.31235/osf.io/s69fz](https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/s69fz).

Smith-Greenway, E., **Alburez-Gutierrez, D.**, Zagheni, E. and Trinitapoli, J. (in progress) “Global Burden of Maternal Bereavement: A Worldwide Analysis of Maternal Cumulative Prevalence of Child Mortality”.

Williams, I. and **D. Alburez-Gutierrez** (in progress) “A formal demographic approach to child survival from a mother’s perspective: mortality change and related measures”.

Alburez-Gutierrez, D. (April 2020). “Mass killings, family support, and survival: evidence from Guatemala”.

Alburez-Gutierrez, D. (January 2020). “Fertility and pronatalism among massacre survivors in Mayan Guatemala”.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

Alburez-Gutierrez, D. (27 May 2020, postponed due to Covid-19 lockdown) “Die demografischen Auswirkungen von Massengewalt in Guatemala [The demographic consequences of Genocide in Guatemala].” Berlin, Germany (Ibero-American Institute).

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

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

Alburez-Gutierrez, D. (25 April 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).

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

OUTREACH AND SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

- 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](#))

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/Mexican: **K'iche'** (full professional C1), **Achi** (full professional C1), **Kaqchikel** (professional B1), **Q'eqchi'** (limited working A2)

ORGANISER OF INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC EVENTS

- *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

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

- *Reviewer* for academic journals: Demography; Journal of Marriage and Family; Demographic Research; Revue Quetelet/Quetelet Journal; 11th International Conference on Social Informatics (SocInfo '19)
- *Expert witness* for US asylum cases at the 'Center for Gender & Refugee Studies' Since 2018
- *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](#))
- Latin American Studies Association ([LASA](#))
- Households in Conflict Network ([HiCN](#))
- International Science, Technology, and Innovation Network of Guatemala ([REDCTI](#))