

Over 50 Years: The Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies

CENTER THEMES

'60s population control; water resources; reproductive biology

'70s population & resources; migration

'80s health transitions in developing countries

'90s reproductive health; common security; global burden of disease

2000s well-being of the global poor; health in Africa

2010s social & environmental determinants of population health; aging societies; workplace & well-being; social & family demography

WORLD EVENTS

1964: U.S. Congress passes Economic Opportunity Act and President Johnson declares a “War on Poverty”
1964: Civil Rights Act passes in U.S.
1965: UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
1968: Paul Ehrlich publishes “The Population Bomb” fueling fears of population explosion
1969: The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) is founded

1970: First “Earth Day” occurs on April 22
1972: First UN Environment Conference is held in Stockholm, Sweden, leading to establishment of UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
1974: Global population reaches 4 billion
1975: First World Conference on Women held in Mexico City
1976: Tangshan Earthquake kills over 240,000 in China

1981: AIDS epidemic officially begins after CDC reports U.S. outbreaks
1984: Ethiopia witnesses widespread, extreme famine
1987: Global Programme on AIDS launched by World Health Organization
1987: Global population reaches 5 billion

1990: U.S. Congress passes the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including people living with HIV/AIDS.
1992: UN Conference on Environment and Development, the “Earth Summit,” is held in Rio De Janeiro, attended by leaders from over 100 countries
1994: The International Conference on Population and Development is held in Cairo, attended by representatives from 179 countries and addressed by 249 speakers. The Conference had population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development as its overall theme
1999: Global population reaches 6 billion

2000: UN establishes Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight international development goals that include eradicating poverty and hunger, and reducing child mortality
2004: The Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami kills 235,000 in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand
2005: Hurricane Katrina devastates southern U.S., kills 2,000 and displaces 1 million people
2008: WHO establishes Commission on Social Determinants of Health

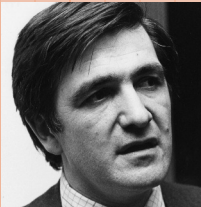
2010: Magnitude 7 earthquake hits Haiti, the poorest nation on earth, killing 300,000 people
2015: 195 countries commit to reducing emissions of heat-trapping gasses as a result of the Paris Climate Accord
China abandons a one-child policy in favor of a two-child policy
Europe is inundated with nearly a million refugees seeking to escape the Syrian Civil War or violence elsewhere
2016: Global population reaches 7.5 billion

DIRECTORS



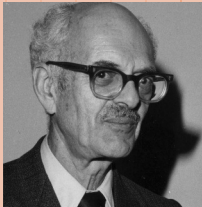
Roger Revelle
1964-1976

A trained oceanographer and natural scientist, he studied interactions between people and environments (resources). He co-founded the University of California, San Diego, and directed the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.



William Alonso
1976-1978

A demographer and sociologist, his research focused on demographic changes, in particular in very urbanized areas. He developed a mathematical model, connecting migration and the evolution of the distribution of the population.



Nathan Keyfitz
1978-1980

As a statistician and sociologist, he was a pioneer of mathematical demography. His later research focused on environmental and food security, sustainable development, the ethics of consumption, climate change, and poverty.



David Bell
1981-1988

An economist, he served under President Truman and then as director of the U.S. Bureau of the Budget and USAID under President Kennedy. His work focused on the intersection of health, population, and economic development.



Lincoln Chen
1988-1997

A medical doctor, he ushered in a new era at the Center by assertively engaging in a number of international policy research topics such as health equity, health transitions, reproductive health and rights, and global burden of disease.



Michael Reich
2001-2005

An international health policy expert, his research focused on economic, political and ethical issues in population policies and reproductive health, access to medicines in the developing world, and the neglected health problems of the global poor.



Christopher Murray
2005-2007

A physician and health economist, his work, including the inception of the Global Burden of Disease model, led to the development of new methods and empirical studies that strengthen the basis for population health measurement.



Lisa F. Berkman
2007-present

A social epidemiologist, her research has been oriented towards understanding inequalities in health related to socioeconomic status, different racial and ethnic groups, and social networks, support and isolation.

POP CENTER MILESTONES

1964: Roger Revelle and HSPH Dean Jack Snyder launch the Harvard Center for Population Studies
1964: Rose Frisch, a geneticist who studies fertility, joins the Pop Center (and by 2014, becomes longest serving Center faculty member)
1967: Revelle leads multi-year *Bangladesh Land, Water, and Power* study funded by World Bank and UNDP



1970: The Center receives a \$2 million dollar grant from USAID to train students from developing countries in population science
1976: The Center engages in a community-based study to reduce mortality rates from tetanus immunizations in Haiti, under direction of Warren and Gretchen Berggren

1985: The Center initiates a program on migration and economic development in collaboration with area universities



1990: The Center is recommissioned to include “Development” in its name
The Global Burden of Disease Study, a comprehensive regional and global assessment of mortality and disability, is established
1991: The Common Security Forum (CSF) is established as an international network of scholars and policymakers to better understand transformation of individual and transnational security
Lincoln Chen establishes David E. Bell Fellowship Program in honor of the late Center director
1994: *Population Policy Reconsidered: Health, Empowerment and Rights*, edited by Lincoln Chen, Gita Sen, and Adrienne German, is published
1998: A gift from the Dillon Family establishes a Fellowship in Population Development Studies
1999: A gift from the Mortimer Spiegelman family establishes a Fellowship in Demographic Studies

2001: First wave of Accra Women’s Reproductive Health Study gets underway, co-led by Center Faculty Allan Hill
2007: The Center undergoes extensive renovation with new directionship of Berkman
2008: The Program on the Global Demography of Aging, led by David Bloom and David Canning, joins the Center
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars program at Harvard moves to the Center
2009: Lammot Copeland gifts the Center \$1 million to support its data enclave



2011: A gift from Valerie and Jack Rowe provides support to the Bell Fellowship program
2012: The Center becomes one of six international partners in the EU-funded *INTREC* project that aims to train junior researchers in Asia and Africa on social determinants of health
2013: The Center is funded by NIA to begin a program project called *Health and Aging in Africa: Longitudinal Studies of INDEPTH communities (HAALSI)*
2014: The Center’s affiliated faculty base surpasses 70
2015: The Sloan Fellowship on Aging and Work, a program designed to address the challenges of aging societies and labor force participation in the U.S., is launched
2016: Harvard University Professor of Sociology Jason Beckfield is appointed associate director of the Center
2017: Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Center introduces The Workplace and Well-Being Initiative, a research project focused on developing a new vision of the work-health equation