

February 24, 2023

Diego Alburez-Gutiérrez

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population · kinship · families · generational processes · inequality · demographic models

EDUCATION

The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

PhD, Demography and Population Studies

2014 - 2018

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 [Kinship Inequalities Independent Research Group](#) (2022) awarded by the Max Planck Society (ca. €1.9 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 (ca. £72,000 + tuition)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR), Germany

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

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 <i>Statistics Team Intern</i> , Field Information and Coordination Support Section (FICSS) Central role in implementing UNHCR's Demographic Projection Tool.	Mar - Jun 2018
The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK <i>Research Assistant</i> , Law Department Leading qualitative research on low student satisfaction	Apr - Jul 2017
<i>Research Assistant</i> , Social Policy Department Quantitative analysis of maternal and child health outcomes in Palestine	Mar 2016- Jun 2017
<i>Research Assistant</i> , Sociology Department Qualitative coding and analysis of methodological practices in sociology of work	Sep 2014 - Sep 2015
<i>Research Assistant</i> , Methodology Department Survey of grey literature to identify common qualitative methods in International Development	Oct 2013 - Jan 2014
Public Opinion Program , Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala <i>Research Scientist</i> Designing and implementing qualitative research for the Media Monitoring Project	Jul - Nov 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

European Doctoral School of Demography (EDSD), Barcelona <i>Lecturer for course "The Demography of Kinship"</i> <i>Lecturer for course "Digital Demography"</i>	2023 - present 2020 - 2022
International Max Planck Research School for Population, Health and Data Science (IMPRS-PHDS) <i>Course coordinator and lecturer for "Matrix Approaches to Modelling Kinship: Theory and Applications"</i> <i>Lecturer for course "Topics in Digital and Computational Demography"</i>	May 2023 2020 - 2022
The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK <i>Class Teacher</i> , Social Policy Department Leading seminars for the course "Introduction to Global Population Change"	2016-2017
<i>Lecturer</i> , LSE Methods Summer School Leading seminars for the "Qualitative Research Methods" strand	2015
Del Valle University, Guatemala <i>Class teacher</i> , Anthropology and Sociology Department Leading seminars for the course "Advanced qualitative data analysis"	2013
<i>Class teacher</i> , Anthropology and Sociology Department Leading seminars for the course "History of Anthropology 1"	2011

GRADUATE STUDENTS SUPERVISION

- Andrea Colasurdo. *Main PhD supervisor*. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) and University of Groningen (Netherlands)

- Liliana Calderón. *PHDS mentor*. MPIDR and Stockholm University (Sweden)
- Michael Lachanski. *PHDS mentor*. MPIDR and University of Pennsylvania (US)

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](https://doi.org/10.2227-9113).
- 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](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 **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).

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](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2008760117).

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., 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](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. 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](https://doi.org/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.

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://github.com/IvanWilli/DemoKin>.



INVITED TALKS (SELECTED)

“Demographic rates cast long shadows: The case for a demography of kinship.” Seminar at the [Centre for Family and Population Research](#). Singapore (National University of Singapore, 31 March 2022, online).

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

“Death is not the end: Model-based studies of kin loss” Seminar at [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.” Seminar at [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: 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; Review of Economics of the Household; Journal of the Royal Society Interface; BMC Public Health; Dialogues in 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](#))
- 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, Tesseract
- Other programming: Git, Python 3, SQL, Hadoop
- 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)