Title: Population Ageing in Asia: Mitigation or Adaptation

Presenter: Professor Peter McDonald, Director ADSRI and President International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)

Because of falling fertility and mortality rates, population ageing has been occurring at a rapid rate in most Asian countries. Some of these countries have very low fertility rates (below 1.5 births per woman) and are active in trying to increase their fertility rates. Very low fertility exacerbates the problem of population ageing because the future labour supply falls more rapidly and often at the peak period of stresses arising from the growth of old age populations. Fertility in other countries is falling but we are unsure at what level fertility will stop falling. What policy approaches can be applied in countries with very low fertility? What policy approaches should be applied in countries where fertility is not yet very low?

Title: The Asian Population in Australia

Presenter: Dr Siew-Ean Khoo, ADSRI, ANU

One of the most significant demographic changes to occur in Australia since the mid-1970s is the increase in migration from Asian countries to Australia. The presentation will discuss the recent trends in this migration and the resulting changes in Australia’s population composition. Recently released data from the 2011 Australian population census will be used to examine the Asian component of Australia’s population by their country of birth and ethnic origin. Discussion will focus on the diversity in the Asian population in Australia by birthplace and ancestry and in their demographic, social and economic characteristics as shown in recent census data.

Title: An Introduction to Two Computer Microsimulation Systems: SOCSIM and CAMSIM

Presenter: Professor Zhongwei Zhao, ADSRI, ANU

Microsimulation modelling has been increasingly used in demography, anthropology and many policy-related research areas over the last 40 years. This presentation will provide an introduction to two demographic microsimulation systems: SOCSIM and CAMSIM. Both systems were originally designed to simulate the impact of demographic conditions on kinship structure and household formation, but they have also been used to address many other research questions such as people’s potential residential patterns in the past, changes in the availability of kin in the next half century, the evaluation of historical data, and the investigation of other theoretical and methodological issues. This seminar will focus on the system design of SOCSIM and CAMSIM, their major characteristics and implications. It will also provide some examples of how the two systems can be used to examine complex demographic, anthropological and social research questions that cannot be studied using more conventional approaches.
Title: An Introduction to Historical Demography

Presenter: Professor Zhongwei Zhao, ADSRI, ANU

Historical Demography is an important component of demography. Its aim is to obtain detailed information about population changes and people’s demographic behavior in the past through applying demographic methods to historical data. Since its establishment as an academic discipline in the mid-twentieth century, historical demography has advanced at a rapid pace and made significant contribution to the development of demographic theories and to our understanding of population changes in both historical and contemporary societies.

This presentation starts with the definition of historical demography, its relationship with demography and demographic history, and main reasons why historical demography established itself so rapidly in the 1950s. It then summarizes major developments in historical demography since the 1950s. Following that the primary data sources available to historical demographers and some methodological developments made in historical demography are discussed. The presentation concludes with comments on the likely future challenges and opportunities for advancing historical demography in the world.

Title: Women’s education and fertility in Islamic countries

Presenter: Professor Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi, ADSRI, ANU

Education is the main driving force of development, autonomy and demographic change. It provides women access to modern ways of thinking, confidence to engage with the modern world, reduces infant mortality, raises age at marriage and stimulates higher levels of gender equity within couple relationships. Schooling is also positively related with more favorable attitudes towards birth control, greater knowledge of contraception, and husband-wife communication. It also promotes female labour force participation in the cash economy hence raising the opportunity cost of having children.

This chapter, first, discusses the value that Islam places on women’s education, and presents the trend of female education in Muslim-majority countries. Second, country level differences as well as gender gap in education and the reasons for this diversity are reviewed. Third, fertility change in Islamic countries and the pathways by which female education has had impact on fertility (by affecting the supply, demand, and fertility regulation) is examined.

The data for this chapter is drawn from published figures particularly from the United Nations, UNESCO and Population Reference Bureau. The analysis is, however, limited to the countries that data are available for. It is worth noting that correlation analyses based on cross-sectional data are of limited usefulness in understanding demographic change, and it is important to consider trends over time. Nonetheless, the analysis presented in this chapter demonstrates the general pattern of the interrelationship between education and fertility in Islamic countries.

This chapter reiterates the emphasis that Islam puts on education for all. It also shows that the level of women’s education has increased substantially in most of the Islamic world and women have higher access to formal schooling and acquire information through various
means of communication. Thus, there is a need to reconsider many of the stereotypes indicating that Muslim societies for religious reason discriminate against women. As a consequence of educational achievements, the traditional values and norms have been weakened, although in many cases there is strong resistance to these influences. Fertility has declined in most of the Islamic countries, and there is a strong relationship between the level of female education and fertility in these countries. We find regional diversity in women’s education and fertility, and the ways in which education has affected fertility in the Muslim world.

Title: Reproductive health and gender issues in Indonesia

Presenter: Dr. Iwu Dwisetyani Utomo, ADSRI, ANU

The presentation will be based on two large studies that Dr. Utomo conducted with researchers from ADSRI-ANU. The first survey entitled “The 2010 Greater Jakarta Transition to Adulthood Survey” covered 3006 representative sample of those aged 20-34 years old followed by 81 case studies. The survey examined how young adults navigate and negotiate their life course through difficult challenges in education, employment and career development, relationship and marriage as well as starting a new family. Issues related to reproductive health behaviour and gender attitudes are also analysed and examined. The second survey called “The 2011 Indonesian Gender and Reproductive Health Survey” covered almost 9000 respondents (Year 6 and Year 12 students, teachers and school principals) examined gender and reproductive health education provided in school environment of both general and Islamic schools in both urban and rural areas. The presentation will discuss issues related to gender and reproductive behaviour and education from these two surveys. Policy papers that have been developed from the two studies are available at http://adsri.anu.edu.au/research/transition-to-adulthood and http://adsri.anu.edu.au/research/gender-in-schools.

Title: Women migrants and transition to adulthood in Greater Jakarta

Presenter: Dr. Iwu Dwisetyani Utomo, ADSRI, ANU

This paper examines the impact of internal migration, and its timing, on young women’s’ transition to adulthood. Using the 2010 Greater Jakarta Transition to Adulthood Study, we identify four key groups of women living in Greater Jakarta, those who were born there, those who migrated before the age of 10, those who migrated between ages 10 to 17, and those who migrated after age 17. Using retrospective data we examine how the age at which women migrated relates to the timing of five key adulthood markers; leaving the parental home, leaving the education system, entering the workforce, marrying, and having children. We then explore the role of such variation in education, marriage, and fertility patterns in explaining the women’s current employment outcomes. Qualitative findings are discussed to provide insights on migration motivation and the life strategies adopted by these women to navigate their transition to adulthood.

Title: The Demography of China’s 1958-61 Famine: A Closer Examination

Presenter: Professor Zhongwei Zhao, ADSRI, ANU
One of the largest famines in human history took place in China half a century ago. This disaster, lasting from 1958 to 1961 in many areas, resulted in a huge number of excess deaths. While the causes, magnitude and profound impacts of this catastrophe have been unfolded gradually in recent decades, many issues about the famine remain to be adequately examined (Ashton et al., 1984; Banister, 1987; Peng, 1987; Kane, 1988; Jowett, 1991; Li, 1997; Riskin, 1998; Chang and Wen, 1998; Yang and Su, 1998; Lin and Yang, 1998; Kung and Lin, 2003; Cao, 2005; Fan and Meng 2005; Yang 2008a; Houser et al., 2009). This paper, through further analysing data collected by China’s 1982 and 1988 fertility surveys, investigates demographic consequences of and people’s demographic responses to the famine in some of China’s most severely famine-hit provinces.

**Title: Human Security, Human Rights and Sustainable Development**

**Presenter:** Associate Professor (adjunct) Dr Helen James, ADSRI, ANU

The organizations of global governance, since establishment of the UN after World War II, have sought to articulate a vision of greater human well-being for the world’s population, now over six billion and anticipated to increase to around nine billion by 2050. These global level visionary policies have included those on human security, human rights and sustainable development, all of which underpin the Millennium Development Goals. Whilst it is often said that these are difficult to implement in practice, they establish a benchmark by which national governance can be measured. This paper examines some of the key issues associated with implementation of these important principles for enhanced human well-being.

**Title: Social capital, resilience and transformation among vulnerable groups in the Burmese delta after Cyclone Nargis**

**Presenter:** Associate Professor (adjunct) Dr Helen James, ADSRI, ANU

Social capital and leadership have been found to be the most effective elements in mobilizing collective actions to promote community and individual recovery after a disaster. The work of Nakagawa and Shaw (2004) and Shaw and Goda (2004) on the Kobe and Gujarat earthquakes and Christopher Airriess (2008) on the Vietnamese community in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina have shown how these elements are critical to enhancing the collective efficacy (Paton 2007) of communities, allowing them to respond more effectively and achieve a transformation of their pre-disaster status to a more positive situation. This paper examines the implications for these concepts with respect to the vulnerable groups, especially aged persons, in the Burmese Delta after Cyclone Nargis, and their capacities for resilience and transformation.

**Title: Pneumonia, Poverty and Immunization among Myanmar Children Under Five**

**Presenter:** Associate Professor (adjunct) Dr Helen James, ADSRI, ANU

Despite concerted government attention and support from the international community (GAVI Alliance) for increasing the coverage of immunization programs against common childhood diseases, Myanmar children under five years old continue to be severely impacted by potentially fatal illnesses which can be readily prevented by modern public health interventions. Two of these, diarrhoea and pneumonia, account for around 40 per cent of
annual fatalities (WHO 2009) in Myanmar children. Research has shown that pneumonia mortalities are tightly correlated with poverty, socio-economic vulnerability, and inequitable distribution of resources. In Myanmar, environmental factors also come into consideration. By examining key socio-economic indicators in three of the poorest areas, each of which has distinctly different climatic characteristics – Rakhine, Magwe, and Ayeyarwaddy - this paper investigates the conjunction between immunization programs, poverty, and the distribution of health resources in relation to reducing childhood mortalities arising from pneumonia amongst Myanmar children under five years old.