

# The 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of Young Demographers

Like every year, even 2021 was busy for the Young Demographers. In February, we were forced to move the conference to the online setting by the pandemic situation, leaving us hoping for meeting in person in the summer. However, that appeared too optimistic, and even the June conference could not happen in person.

With summer approaching and restrictions slowly easing down all-around Europe, we were hesitant to plan another three days on ZOOM. Therefore, we have decided to use the Gather Town platform and do an all-poster conference. Gather town is a videochat platform that is made for online conferences, parties, and other gatherings. Each participant can choose an avatar and walk around the virtual conference space, talking to others and even visit posters.

Three poster sessions were held over three days of the conference (Wednesday to Friday 23–25 June 2021). In each session, there was a mix of topics from all fields of demography and population sciences. Presenters had the chance to introduce themselves and their topics in flash session shortly, and all participants moved to the poster rooms, where they had enough time for discussion. Over 30 posters covered everything from Spanish flu and partnership dynamics, through mortality convergence in reunified Germany and epilepsy impacts on life quality of women, to the social mobility of Jews in pre-war Amsterdam.

Thursday evening was dedicated to an informal social event called “How I’ve got here...”. We have invited three guests Dr. Mariona Lozano Riera (CED UAB), Dr. José Manuel Aburto (University of Oxford, SDU), and Dr. Ilya Kashnitsky (SDU)

to talk about their academic journeys. Dr. Aburto shared his lifehacks for surviving the academic life and advised us to have a clear career goal but have a “normal life” as well. Dr. Lozano talked about the imposter syndrome and how the journey of success can sometimes feel more like a collection of fails from the inside. However, she gave a great encouragement to all of us. Dr. Kashnitsky used a series of bittersweet memes and comics to describe the life of early career researchers. The incredible openness and genuineness of our guests left many of us (including the moderator) speechless, and even almost in tears but laughing at the same time. Even from the distance of the ZOOM meeting, the whole event felt friendly and warm. As we know the Ph.D. life is not easy, but it has many bright sides, and it was great to share them with others.

We want to thank all our participants and guests for joining us for the second time in one year. The whole event was packed with new information about the current research of young demographers from all over the world. Finally, we would like to invite you to the 13th Conference of Young Demographers, which will take place on 1–4 February 2022 in Prague and will be co-organized by the Young Demographers and the Association for the Young Historical Demographers.

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Anna Altová, Klára Hulíková, Barbora Janáková,  
Kateřina Maláková, Jitka Slabá, Martin Vondrášek  
as the team of the Young Demographers

Contact: [yd.demographers@gmail.com](mailto:yd.demographers@gmail.com),  
[youngdemographers.github.io](https://youngdemographers.github.io)