The seed of the Institute began in September 1994 when as a professor of public policy at the University of Chicago, I was invited to join the Chicago’s newly established NIA funded Center on the Demography and Economics of Aging, directed by Linda Waite. This was part of a series of centres being established across the US, the brain child of Dr Richard Suzman from the National Institute of Aging in a move to firmly establish that ageing was a demographic and economic phenomenon, as well as an individual experience. On returning to Oxford, the NIA awarded me a small starter grant in 1998 to establish the first such population centre outside the US, based at the University of Oxford.

The Institute has developed and flourished since that small beginning. Key to our success has been the ability to attract senior academics committed to inter-disciplinary research, who form the core of our work, and also a group of bright, energetic, innovative post-docs whose two to three year fellowships with us have continually injected new ideas and ways of working into our academic community. In recent years the development of our regional research networks has enabled international collaborations to be forged, and brought a wide range of visitors to the Institute. This has enabled a vibrant academic community to sustain our supervision of masters and doctoral students.

The Institute's relationship with the Oxford Martin School has also been central to our progression. The School was founded with the belief that this century, and specifically the next two decades, is a crucial turning point for humanity, and the Institute formed one of the Martin School’s founding Institutes in 2005. However, the Institute would not have developed without strong support from the University of Oxford itself. In particular Vice-Chancellors John Hood and Andrew Hamilton; Registrars David Holmes and Ewan Mackendrick; Divisional Deans Andrew Buchan, Michael Spence, Donald Hay and Roger Goodman; Ian Goldin Director of OMS; Jonathan Michie, President of Kellogg College, David Bradley and Mike Sixsmith from the University Development Office have played a central role in supporting the activities and development of the Institute.

We are also grateful for the vision and support of our key donors, in particular the late James Martin, Dame Vivien Duffield, Michael Lake, and Professor Desme Colen.

Sixteen years ago we started out as four academics undertaking family research, located in two rooms at Barnett House, in the Department of Social Policy. Now we occupy our own building housing over 40 academics, support staff, students and visitors, forming part of the Oxford Martin School and Kellogg College, working in six research strands focusing on the drivers of population ageing – the global shift from young to older populations – and the implications of this for our economies and societies.

Our six research strands focus on the drivers of population ageing – the global shift from young to older populations – and the implications of this for economies and societies.
Aims and Objectives

1. To engage in world-class multidisciplinary academic research, to enhance understanding and address the global challenges of population change.

2. To promote and facilitate international collaborative ties between researchers, policy makers and others.

3. To disseminate information and facilitate networking and debate among those interested in the future shape of society, through conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures and symposia.

4. To enable the acquisition of knowledge and new skills relating to population change through the development of educational programmes.

The Oxford Institute of Population Ageing is committed to:

- Production of cutting edge leading research
- Creation of dynamic partnerships with government, business, NGOs and the public
- Wide dissemination of policy relevant findings
- Training of tomorrow’s researchers and professionals
Research Questions

1. The impact of fertility, mortality and migration on the age composition of populations

2. The interaction of demographic dynamics with social organization in the shaping of human production and reproduction

3. The role of population consumption and environmental change in the 21st Century

Research Impact

Developing methodological tools
- Global Ageing Survey
- WorkAbility UK
- Input into ELSA – English Longitudinal Study of Ageing
- Input into Global Ageing Index and European Ageing Index

Developing education programmes
- Dynamics of Population Development at the University of Guanajuato-Leon, Mexico
- Global Opportunities and Threats (GOTO) Programme: an e-learning programme at Saïd Business School
- Training workshops for Singapore government

Modelling
- Modelling longevity and projecting growth in number of centenarians
- Modelling future fertility rates and global impact on food production
- Modelling global trends in future inter-generational transfers of finance and support
- Modelling inequalities in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy

Institute members serve on:
- The Prime Minister’s Council for Science and Technology
- The Scientific Advisory Board of Natural England
- UK Government Forecasts Review on Ageing Societies
- European Science Academies’ Demographic Change in Europe Panel
- Council of Advisors of Population Europe
- Advisory Board of the World Demographic Association
Introduction

Research Programmes

1. Understanding Demographic Change

Rapid population growth and high fertility threaten the well-being of individuals and communities in the poorest developing countries. While Family Planning/Sexual and Reproductive Health programmes have made significant advances globally in helping women achieve the family size they desire, in some parts of the world, in particular parts of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, fertility decline is slowing or even stalling. Our research in this area explores the drivers behind the uptake of family planning methods, and in particular the role that education and environment can play.

Son preference is well documented in South Asia. I have been working with colleagues in Kathmandu, Nepal, using census data to quantify the potential number of sex-selective abortions. We hope to identify the determinants of sex-selective abortion in order to help policy makers combat this phenomenon whilst safeguarding maternal, and sexual and reproductive health services. In Pakistan, where the demographic transition lags behind most other Asian countries, research on son preference is especially pertinent since the phenomenon can delay fertility transition and depress contraceptive use.

Initial analysis indicates that contraceptive use in Pakistan is at least 20% lower than it would have been in the absence of son preference.

Dr Melanie Channon, Research Fellow

2. Demography, Science and Innovation

The socio-economic-demographic characteristics of each cohort reflect life-course experiences and societal development. In turn, these characteristics determine the skills set of individuals in different cohorts and therefore determine their potential for full and active citizenship across the life-course. Our work around innovation covers education, skills, and new technologies and has included cross-disciplinary research into the impact of robotics, the digital world and engineering.

The AKTIVE project was funded by the UK Technology Strategy Board, the ESRC and the NIHR, and explored the everyday lives of older people and their carers examining the benefits and limitations of telecare. The aim was to provide intelligence on ways to reduce avoidable costs and to reduce the incidence of common hazards which threaten wellbeing in older age. Working with fellow academics, policy makers and corporates was really enlightening as to how academic research might inform policy. The project was also used to brief the Cabinet Office about using technology to help older people live well at home.

Dr Kate Hambri, Research Fellow
4. Demography and Society

Key questions:

- Will there be sufficient children to care for the number of parents, grandparents or even great-grandparents alive in each family?
- Will new extended families still have a strong sense of obligation to their new family members?

South Africa currently has an estimated 1.2 million HIV/AIDS orphans – a figure predicted to rise to 2.3 million by 2020. Many older women find themselves as constant carers to both their infected adult children as well as to their orphaned grandchildren. The research comprised a challenging year as I combined my responsibilities as an Oxford academic, with field research back in South Africa. I collected a series of narratives from different generations in the community of Mpumalanga, South Africa and through these explored the complexity of these responsibilities and how these relate to the understanding of the intergenerational contract.

It is only through detailed ethnographic research that I believe you can fully understand such dynamics.

Dr Jaco Hoffman, Senior Research Fellow

Research Programmes

3. Bio-demography and Health

The Institute has a diverse set of research projects underway or in development on topics related to health and longevity. There are projects looking at the policy implications of ageing populations for health and long-term care, as well as quantitative and qualitative research on various topics including health determinants in later life, the experience of e-health, and services for independence and healthy ageing.

Since 2007 I have been overseeing, with Sarah Harper, Oxford’s contribution to the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) initiative on Ageing, Longevity and Health. IARU is a collaboration between ten of the world’s leading research-intensive universities. We have been working particularly closely with colleagues at the National University of Singapore and the Centre for Healthy Ageing at the University of Copenhagen. Our research here has analysed societal adjustment to the health consequences of demographic ageing and developed a framework for assessing the effectiveness of different health and long-term care models.

In the last couple of years the collaboration has focused on academic exchange including the opportunity to visit Copenhagen for seminars and student supervisions in the Danish Centre for Healthy Ageing.

Kenneth Howse, Senior Research Fellow

Research Programmes
Two major surveys at the Institute address our understanding of how governments, employers, individual communities, and families, are preparing for longevity and aging. In both these pieces of research we collaborated with large corporations – HSBC plc and MetLife. The first research provided two sets of outputs. The Future of Retirement Reports are of particular interest to other employers, governments and consumers. The Global Ageing Survey, was published as a series of academic papers. In both cases we based our evidence on a large interview survey of some 44,000 people in 24 counties from across the globe.

The second piece of similar research is The Critical Decade carried out in collaboration with the US, MetLife Mature Market Institute. Here we interviewed 1000 people born between 1952-1962 in the United Kingdom. Dr George Leeson, Co-Director, and Senior Research Fellow.

The best part of this project is my interaction with people from a variety of disciplines. Some close to home, like international development and demography, and some that I have a lot more to learn about, like anthropology and zoology for example. I am most excited about developing an agent-based model, which is a method of computer simulation that is both challenging and at the same time very easy to communicate, because it is a highly visual tool and very intuitive to interact with.

I am about to go to Vietnam to further develop the model together with the Vietnamese farmers themselves. That is probably the aspect of this research that I am most looking forward to, getting out from behind the computer, looking at the data, and actually seeing the site and meeting the people themselves, which I think is the crucial element that makes this project truly relevant and rewarding.

Dr Maja Založnik, Research Fellow

The challenge raised by the interactions of global climate change and rapidly changing demographic structures throughout the world carries both opportunities, if successfully managed, and significant risks if public policy interventions fail. One of our most exciting projects in this area comprises joint research with the Department of Zoology exploring how changes in the age and educational structure of farming populations interact with changing pest populations to affect food security.

Dr Maja Založnik, Research Fellow
Collaborative Institutes:

1. Instituto do Envelhecimento, University of Lisbon (Lisbon)
2. The Africa Unit for Transdisciplinary Health Research, North West University, South Africa (Potchefstroom)
3. Centre for Ageing Studies, University of Indonesia (Jakarta)
4. University of Guanajuato, Mexico (Guanajuato)

Research Regions and Networks

EAST

**Eastern-European Ageing Societies in Transition**

EAST is a hub for information exchange between its members, numbering almost 200 individuals and institutions who undertake research into migration and population ageing in Eastern European countries.

LARNA

**Latin American Network on Ageing**

The Latin American Research Network LARNA supports conferences, seminars and meetings for those interested in demographic ageing in the region, and facilitates collaborative research.

AFRAN

**African Research on Ageing Network**

The African Research Network AFRAN links African researchers with colleagues at Oxford and facilitates research into the ageing of the African population.

APPRA

**Asia Pacific Research Network on Ageing**

The Asian-Pacific Network maintains a thriving visitors programme to bring scholars from Asia and the Pacific to work with colleagues in Oxford.
Oxford University Members

**Humanities**

- **Dr Deborah Osinw**  
  Faculty of History

- **Professor Helen Small**  
  Faculty of English

**Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences**

- **Dr Radu Aricescu**  
  Division of Structural Biology

- **Dr Lynne Cox**  
  Department of Biochemistry

- **Dr Tipu Aziz**  
  The Nuffield Department of Surgery

- **Professor Klaus Ebmaier**  
  Department of Psychiatry

- **Professor Ray Fitzpatrick**  
  Division of Public Health and Primary Health Care

- **Professor Charles Godfray**  
  Department of Zoology

- **Professor Baroness Susan Greenfield**  
  Institute for the Future of the Mind (James Martin School)

- **Dr John Ryan**  
  Department of Physics

- **Prof Andrew McMichael**  
  Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine

- **Dr Rupert McShane**  
  Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine

- **Professor Peter Rothwell**  
  Clinical Neurology

- **Professor A. David Smith**  
  Department of Physiology

- **Professor Alastair Gray**  
  Health Economics Research Centre

- **Professor Peter Jezzard**  
  Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences

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  Director

- **Dr George Lesson**  
  Senior Research Fellow

- **Kenneth House**  
  Senior Research Fellow

- **Dr Jian Hoffman**  
  Senior Research Fellow

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  Research Fellow

- **Charles Alexander**  
  Research Fellow

- **Paul Ayerza**  
  Research Fellow

- **Dr Emanuela Bianchera**  
  Research Fellow

- **Professor Reddyh Davies**  
  Honorary Life Fellow

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  Research Fellow

- **Dr Kate Hamlin**  
  Research Fellow

- **Dr Lauren Hsu**  
  Research Fellow

- **Dr Hafez Khan**  
  Visiting Research Fellow

- **Dr Alejandro Klein**  
  Research Fellow

- **Nana Nanitashvili**  
  Senior Research Fellow

- **Dr Katia Padvalkava**  
  Senior Research Fellow

- **Dr Maja Založnik**  
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  Zittau-Görlitz University, Germany

- **Prof Wolfgang Lutz**  
  Vienna Institute of Demography

- **Dr Ruben Mann**  
  University of Bielefeld, Germany

- **Dr Vera Resch**  
  North-West University, South Africa

- **Dr Mahmet Tusun**  
  University of Nevada, USA

- **Dr Long Thanh Giang**  
  National Economics University (NEU), Vietnam

**Research Support**

- **Debbie Alder**  
  Institute Administrator

- **Anne Mackintosh**  
  Publications Officer

- **Caroline Harper-Donnally**  
  Institute Secretary

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- **Professor Sudhir Anand**  
  Department of Economics

- **Dr Tony Atkinson**  
  Deanship of Public Health

- **Dr Peter Jezzard**  
  Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences

**Oxford Institute of Population Ageing**

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  Director

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  Senior Research Fellow

- **Kenneth House**  
  Senior Research Fellow

- **Dr Jian Hoffman**  
  Senior Research Fellow

**Team**

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    Director

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    Senior Research Fellow

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The Oxford Institute of Population Ageing

Tracking our Progress

Oxford Centre of Population Ageing established
US National Institute of Aging
Barnett House
Nuffield College
Little Gate House
Littlegate House Social Sciences Building, Manor Road
66 Banbury Road

Family
Family, Work & Health
Family, Work, Health, Innovation, Demography & Environment
Family, Work, Health, Innovation, Demography

Key Donors
- HSBC
- James Martin Foundation
- Local Sciences Building, Manor Road
- Help the Aged
- Oxford Institute of Ageing established
- Barnett House
- Nuffield College
- Little Gate House
- Littlegate House Social Sciences Building, Manor Road
- 66 Banbury Road

Key Research Strands
- Program to develop ELSA launched with NIA
- Ageing Horizons Generations Review
- AFRAN established
- Joined Oxford Martin School
- EAST and AFRAN established
global ageing survey 2006-9
- Joined International Alliance of Research Universities Demography and Ageing Research Programme
- Royal Society for Public Health Arts and Health Research Award
- Collaboration with the Centre for Ageing Studies, University of Indonesia
- Collaboration with Third Age Council, Singapore Government
- Collaboration with Third Age Council, Singapore Government
- AFRAN Standing Committee of the UN
- Population Horizons Handbook on Ageing and Public Policy

Life Sciences Research Partners
- Help the Aged
- HSBC
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- Nuffield College
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- 66 Banbury Road

- AFRAN Standing Committee of the UN
- Population Horizons Handbook on Ageing and Public Policy
- Collaboration with IPPF
- Collaboration with University of Guanajuato, Mexico

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