

## IAED Webinar: Are Birthrates The Most Important Economic Issue Today?

Roger Wetherall  
May 16, 2024

Tuesday, May 21, 2 – 3 PM (EST)

# Are birthrates the most important economic issue in the world today?

“A look at the economic impact of changing demographics as a result of declining birthrates in the world and paths forward”

■ Above-replacement ■ Below-replacement



Source: United Nations 2022 Revision of World Population Prospects and national statistics agencies.

 A Flourish data visualization

Dear

Are birthrates the most important economic issue in the world today? Most countries of the developed world today have birth rates significantly less than replacement levels. In some countries, such as South Korea and China it is less than half the number required to sustain their current populations. Within the next 20 years, this shift will result in a massive transfer of economic and political power to those countries with younger populations. Meanwhile much of Europe and Asia will be struggling to take care of their aging populations with a rapidly declining cohort of younger workers. This massive realignment will have huge consequences both locally and internationally for much of the world. Join us with two of the foremost experts in this area of demographics to consider the effects of this decline in childbearing and consider what can be done to reverse this trend and prepare for the economic impact of this demographic shift that will be larger than that caused by Climate Change.

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**Daniel Hess**  
**@MoreBirths @ X.COM**

Daniel Hess is a father of 6 children. A graduate of Cornell University Engineering, he has worked in intellectual property for many years, but became focused on demography after the realization that many of the most innovative countries, such as Japan and Korea, have extremely low and falling birthrates that threaten the future of technological innovation. Daniel has writes on the popular X account [@MoreBirths](#), and his following has grown to around 10,000 as he writes about the low birthrate crisis and its solutions to a large audience.



**ROBIN HANSON**  
**Associate Professor of Economics, George Mason University**

He is also a research associate at the Future of Humanity Institute of Oxford University. He has a PhD in social science from Caltech, Master's in physics and philosophy from U. Chicago, and worked for nine years in artificial intelligence as a research programmer at Lockheed and NASA. He helped pioneer the field of prediction markets, and recently published [The Age of Em: Work, Love and Life when Robots Rule the Earth](#). He's had sixty academic publications, [3660 citations](#), 720 media mentions, given 320 invited talks, and blogs at [OvercomingBias.com](#). More [here](#).



**Roger Wetherall**  
**Moderator**  
US Coordinator,  
International Association for Peace and  
Economic Development

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We look forward to your participation and engagement in this event.

Thank you,

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and Economic Development - USA**

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## Are birthrates the most important economic issue in the world today?

Date & Time May 21, 2024 12:00 PM in [Mountain Time \(US and Canada\)](#)

Description Most countries of the developed world today have birth rates significantly less than replacement levels. In some countries, such as South Korea and Japan it is less than half the number required to sustain their current populations. Within the next 20 years, this shift will result in a massive transferral of economic and political power to those countries with younger populations, especially in Africa and the Middle East. Meanwhile much of Europe and Asia will be struggling to take care of their aging populations with a rapidly declining cohort of younger workers. This massive realignment will have huge consequences both locally and internationally for much of the world. Join us with two of the foremost experts in this area of demographics to consider the effects of this decline in childbearing and consider what can be done to reverse this trend and prepare for the economic impact of this demographic shift that may be equal to, or larger than that caused by Climate Change.



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