

HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership Newsletter

Thomas G. Walsh
September 26, 2025



September 26, Volume III, Number 14



HJI/UTS Celebrates 50th Anniversary

HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership hosted a special webinar honoring the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of the founding of our institution (formerly Unification Theological Seminary) in September of 1975.

On Thursday, September 18, the event, *In The Beginning: A Look Back at HJI/UTS at the Time of its Founding in 1975* celebrated the legacy of its founders and reflected on the milestones that have shaped its journey from the start. This program was a wonderful opportunity to share in our collective history, and honor a truly significant anniversary. [Watch the Recording Here!](#)

Honoring Constitution Day
Constitutional Law and Rights

A Recorded Lecture in Remembrance of
William Lay, JD (1952-2025)
Former Adjunct Professor of Criminal
Justice and Human Security, HJI

TUESDAY SEP 30 7pm ET

Host:
Dr. Thomas Walsh
President, HJI

Commentator:
W. Farley Jones, Esq.

Commentator:
Peter Ross, Esq.
General Counsel,
Manhattan Center
Studios, Inc.

Join Our Upcoming Event Honoring Constitution Day and Remembering William Lay

We are pleased to invite you to join us for “Constitutional Law and Rights” on Tuesday, September 30 at 7pm ET. This special event honoring Constitution Day is dedicated to the memory of William Lay, JD (1952-2025), a beloved former Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice and Human Security at HJI. In remembrance of his profound dedication and contributions, we will feature a lecture on the US Constitution. **[Find out more about this event here.](#)**

Register

HJ International
GRADUATE SCHOOL for
PEACE and PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY 2025
Students, Faculty and Alumni
Thursday, November 20 • 7pm ET

- Faculty competition (\$500 award to the winner)
- Enrolled student competition (\$500 award to the winner)
- A non-competitive category for HJI alumni & others affiliated w/ HJI (winner awarded a Certificate of Excellence from HJI's Alpha Nu Pi Chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the National Religious Studies Honor Society, an affiliate of the American Academy of Religion)

Deadline for Contestant Submissions is November 7 at 11:59 PM

Submit Your Research Project for Annual Research Day!

HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership has set Thursday, November 20, 2025 as the date for the fourth annual HJI Research Day. Students, Faculty, and Alumni are invited to present an Academic Poster, a visual depiction of a research project that has been completed or is underway.

Registration is OPEN. **[Click for more information on Annual Research Day 2025.](#)**



UN Committee Addresses Fertility Decline

Research Forum on Family Policy and Population

Co-Sponsored by the NGO Committee on the Family and UPF

Professor Lynn Walsh, Diversity and Title IX Deputy Coordinator, and Lecturer in Family Counseling at HJI attended the annual UN Commission on Population Development (CPD).

During the annual CPD, the majority of the discussion is on reducing birthrates. And yet, the United Nations reports that two-thirds of people live in countries with a fertility rate below 2.1 births per woman. Population decline and ageing, which will likely impact all regions of the world at the mid-century mark, bring significant deleterious economic and social ramifications.

The NGO Committee on the Family, with UPF's co-sponsorship, organized the Research Forum on Family Policy and Population to present member states with

current research on demographics and pro-natal policies. This was held on May 1, 2024, and sponsored by the Mission of Hungary to the UN in New York. [Read more...](#)



Franco Famularo | HJI Alumnus, Doctorate of Ministry 2020, Master's in Divinity 1994 | Montreal, Canada

What inspired you to apply to HJI and your program? What do you most appreciate about being a student at HJI?

I have wanted to attend since the early days of joining the Unification Movement. My main inspiration was when Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon directly asked me to attend in 1991 and both he and his wife Dr. Hak Ja Han encouraged me over the course of several days to attend. I was very willing to attend because I had seen that the educational experience would better equip me for the mission I was involved in.

The HJI experience has broadened my perspective, helped me to dialogue more effectively with religious, political and civil society leaders as well as with people from all walks of life.

What are some skills you gained at HJI that have served you well through your career?

Research skills. They helped provide a more balanced view of a multitude of topics. The courses I took provided me with a broader understanding of religion that in

turn helped to enhance sensitivity toward individuals or groups of Christian or other faiths. Also, the HJI experience helped me not only in my religious mission but also in my business career, as what I learned is applicable in all areas of life.

What advice would you give to current students?

- 1. Make the most of your time with HJI.
- 2. Challenge yourself to learn in areas that you may not be familiar with and invest yourself 100%.

If applicable, share about the benefits of your online learning experience

I graduated from HJI just as the pandemic became a fact in 2020 and only did the defense of my dissertation online. I believe the fact that it is now possible to do the entire program online is very beneficial to students who cannot easily travel or live in the USA. The online experience opens many doors.

Is there any other highlight or aspect of your study at HJI that you would like to share?

I developed a global network of friends and colleagues that were classmates at HJI. A very important benefit of the HJI experience.

What do you enjoy in your free time?

Reading, writing, golf, visiting museums, and traveling.

For more information about HJI, email admissions@hji.edu

To apply to HJI [click here](#)

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Annual Research Day 2025

PARTICIPANTS

Please review the details below, then register at the bottom of the page:

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The following are eligible to register in the two competitive categories:

- HJI students enrolled in the Fall 2024, Spring 2025, and/or Fall 2025 semester
- HJI full-time faculty members or adjunct faculty members who have taught a HJI course between Fall 2022 and Fall 2025

Participants will be placed in three separate categories:

- Faculty competition (\$500 award to the winner)
- Enrolled student competition (\$500 award to the winner)
- A non-competitive category for HJI alumni and others affiliated with HJI. The Winner in this category will be awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the HJI's Alpha Nu Pi Chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the National Religious Studies Honor Society, an affiliate of the American Academy of Religion.

SUBMISSIONS PROCEDURE

Your Research Day competition materials will be posted on Canvas, the Learning Management System that HJI uses. You will be invited to Canvas, once you complete the form for joining the competition.

Your submission on Canvas will consist of:

1) an academic poster and 2) a 5-10 minute recorded video presentation explaining your poster

1. Academic Poster

a. Poster Specifications (This is a virtual poster)

- Must be portrait orientation
- Must be 24 in. Width x 36 in. Height (or a 2:3 aspect ratio)
- May be submitted as a PowerPoint, PDF, PNG, JPG, or other file types, provided that you are able to screen share the poster properly during the recording of your presentation
- If you choose to use a PowerPoint, a sample template for your poster can be downloaded [here](#) (the poster does not

need to follow this exact layout, but should include all of the categories listed immediately next below in b. Poster Contents.

b. Poster Contents

- An Introduction or Abstract
- A research question or questions
- A description of methodologies/research used in conducting the research
- A description of findings so far and conclusions that can be drawn from said findings
- List of major sources used in research
- Publications or planned publications resulting from research
- Acknowledgements of colleagues who contributed to the project
- At least one image or graphic
- [See Sample Poster](#)

2. A recorded video presentation that includes an explanation of the poster

- Poster should be displayed/screen shared during the presentation
- Video should not be longer than 10 minutes
- [See Sample video](#)
- Your Slider and Video must be posted on Canvas no later than Friday, November 7 2025 at 11:59 PM.

SCORING RUBRIC

The following rubric will be used to score posters and presentations: [Scoring Rubric](#)

TIMELINE

- Registration is now OPEN. Please register using the form at the bottom of this page.
- Once you have registered, you will receive an invitation to join Canvas, a learning management platform utilized by HJI. Submissions for the Research Day competition will be collected on Canvas.
- Submissions are due in Canvas no later than, Friday, November 7, 2025 at 11:59 PM.
- Judges will review the submissions in Canvas and select the finalists. Finalists will be notified and have their posters and presentations displayed on the HJI website.
- A live Zoom session will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 7 PM to announce the winners. All competition participants and others who are interested are encouraged to attend.

Please contact info@hji.edu if you have any questions. We look forward to assisting you.

May 1, 2024 · 3 min read

UN COMMITTEE ADDRESSES ALARMING FERTILITY DECLINE



New York, United States – During the annual UN Commission on Population Development (CPD) the majority of discussion is on reducing birthrates. And yet, the United Nations reports that two-thirds of people live in countries with a fertility rate below 2.1 births per woman. Population decline and ageing, which will likely impact all regions of the world at the mid-century mark, bring significant deleterious economic and social ramifications.

The NGO Committee on the Family, with UPF's co-sponsorship, organized the Research Forum on Family Policy and Population to present member states with current research on demographics and pro-natal policies. This was held on May 1, 2024 and sponsored by the Mission of Hungary to the United Nations in New York.

Hungarian **Deputy Amb. Anita Kokai** explained that her country's fertility rate has seriously declined to 1.25. The shrinking number of working-age citizens cannot sustain an economy productive enough to provide for the expanding aging population.

Hungary offers couples many generous benefits, such as forgivable loans for homebuyers and increasing tax breaks as their family grows. Women who stop working to care for children are guaranteed their jobs if they want to return. Childcare and maternal and parental leave are also plentiful. Hungary has invested a hefty, almost 5% of its GDP in pro-natal policies. These policies have increased the rate of female employment and gender employment parity.

Ms. Kokai reported that this huge investment has raised their fertility rate to 1.65, and increased their marriage rate. These results are significant and encouraging.

Mr. Lyman Stone, a research fellow at the Institute for Family Studies and a PhD candidate in sociology at McGill University, noted that women around the world are having fewer children than they desire. He said this fertility gap seems to be largest for highly educated women in developed countries. The average woman in the United States believes she would be happiest having about 2.5 children, but the birthrate now is 1.6.

He explained that "greater economic freedom empowers women to choose work that better fits their family life." Ideally, they would have stable jobs, adequate pay, family-friendly policies, and good benefits, supported by limited governmental business regulation and non-prohibitive taxes. Greater economic freedom empowers parents to match their work life with their desire for children, resulting in higher fertility.

Dr. Daisoon Kim, assistant professor of economics at North Carolina State University, presented his research on "Parental Leave, Fertility, and Labor Supply," conducted in South Korea. He noted that generally longer unpaid parental leave can raise both fertility and the female labor supply. However, these results are decreased by South Korean cultural attitudes toward women's employment and an imbalance in gender childcare responsibilities.

He explained that although social norms are changing, there remains a strong sentiment that mothers should be at home caring for their children rather than working. In contrast to Hungarian policies, Korean companies give no guarantee that women will have their jobs after taking parental leave. This makes working women more hesitant to have children.

Mr. Kim added that increased cash payments in South Korea, an extremely competitive country with regard to educational achievement, does not necessarily bring the expected results. According to Mr. Kim, parents may use cash payments to bolster the educational attainment of their one child instead of having another child.

Ms. Rachel Fung, a PhD candidate in economics at Princeton University, presented her research on welfare reform and fertility in the United States. Welfare reform that reduced cash payments for having children in the 1990's resulted in fertility decline in the lower socio-economic group, who relied most on the payments. She reported that this welfare reform "may explain over 24% of the decline in overall US fertility between 1992 and 2000." Those who relied less on the payments did not show a significant birth decline.

Ms. Fung noted that when women anticipated a decrease in cash payments, due to a change of administration, for example, fertility did not increase. This is because women in lower socioeconomic brackets rely on this assistance to provide for their children over the long term. When benefits appear to be temporary, women are less likely to have more children. According to Ms. Fung, cash payments for having children can be effective in increasing fertility, but only when significant and perceived as reliable for as long as they will be raising children.

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The object of this pilot program was to present current research analyses which could be useful for UN member states' pro-natal policy development.

By Lynn R. Walsh, Director, UPF Office of the Family
May 1, 2024

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