

Research Seminar 12 December 2006, 13:15-16:00

Will information on education improve mortality forecasting?

Mortality projections are an essential input for projections of the financial development of pension schemes. Governments and insurance companies all over the world rely on good mortality projections for efficient administration of their pension commitments. Financial issues related to future demand on health and sick care relies, likewise, on reliable mortality projections. Ideally, the expected value of the difference between outcomes and projections would be close to zero. In practice, during recent decades, demographers have continually underestimated improvements in life expectancy for persons 60 and older. The demographic models used in projecting mortality are usually based on statistical modelling of historical data. The question is, it is possible to bring the results of mortality modelling closer to the ideal, and if so, what do demographers need to do to achieve this result?

This is the question that provided the impetus for this seminar. Professor Wolfgang Lutz, Director of the Population Division at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analyses, Austria contributes with a presentation of new worldwide mortality forecast which, among other things, makes use of information on the connection between educational levels and health into account. Ilija Batljan, researcher at the Aging Research Center, Karolinska Institute and PhD candidate at Department of Social Work Stockholm University add to the same topic using Swedish data.

The seminar is organized by the Swedish IIASA Committee at Formas and the Stockholm Committee on Mortality Forecasting at the Swedish National Insurance Board.

13:15-14:30

Wolfgang Lutz, IIASA, Laxenburg "Reconstructing and projecting the population by age, sex and educational attainment for 120 countries: the role of educational fertility and mortality differentials".

14:30 Coffee break

14:45-16:00

Ilija Batljan, Aging Research Center, Karolinska Institute/Stockholm University: "Educational Mortality Differentials and Future Elderly Population in Sweden"

Place: Westmanska Palatset, the Karl Johan room, Holländargatan 17, Stockholm.