

# Writing Population History in a Time of Planetary Crisis

2<sup>ND</sup>-3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2025, UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

Venue: Digital Humanities Lab, Queen's Building, University of Exeter  
(Streatham Campus)



Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	
9.30-10.00	Welcome & Coffee
10.00-10.20	Introduction/Opening Remarks: Dr. Rebecca Williams (University of Exeter)
10.20-12.00 Panel 1	Modelling, Mapping, and Othering <i>Chair: Dr. Kalathmika Natarajan (University of Exeter)</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Mileena Saju (Jawaharlal Nehru University), 'Making the 'Kerala Model': Anxieties and Absences in Early Population Debates'—online</li><li>2. Prof. Mohan Rao (Jawaharlal Nehru University, retired): 'Creating Demographic Anxieties: Love Jihad in India'</li><li>3. Dr. Aprajita Sarcar (University of New South Wales), 'Mapping World Populations: A Visual History'</li></ol>
12.00-12.45	Lunch
12.45-2.15 Panel 2	Population Politics in the US <i>Chair: Dr. John Lidwell-Durnin</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Prof. Carole McCann (University of Maryland), 'Scant Data: Reflections on Trumps' Dismantling of Global Population Knowledge'</li><li>2. Dr. Anna Hartnell (Birkbeck), 'Population Boom or Bust: some thoughts on population discourse at the crossroads in twenty-first century America'</li></ol>
2.15-2.30	Break
2.30-4.00 Panel 3	Counting and Controlling <i>Chair: Dr. Camille Mathieu (University of Exeter)</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Dr. Bastiaan Nugteren (University of Groningen), 'Coolies, Vagrants, and Settlers: Chinese migration and demographic</li></ol>

	<p>anxieties in Dutch and British Colonial Southeast Asia, 1870-1914’</p> <p>2. Dr. Kristy Warren (University of Lincoln), “‘The Interest of the White Inhabitants of this Colony’: Race and Subjecthood in Early 19th Century Bermuda’—online</p> <p>3. Dr. Daksha Parmar (DY Patil University): ‘Laying the Foundations of Population Studies: Role of Demographic Training and Research Centre (DTRC) in Bombay, India(1950-80s)’—online</p>
4.00	Day 1 Finish
Monday Evening: Dinner for Speakers & Chairs, Dinosaur Café, 6.30pm	
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	
9.15	Coffee
9.30-11.00 Panel 4	<p>Before and After Malthus</p> <p><i>Chair: Dr. Gemma Clark (University of Exeter)</i></p> <p>1. Prof. Catherine Rider (University of Exeter), ‘How and Why Environments Shape Fertility: Medieval Perspectives on a Modern Question’ (Tuesday)</p> <p>2. Eloïse Richard (University of Geneva), ‘Depopulation and Overpopulation Anxieties: The Appropriations of Malthusian Discourses in Postwar France (1950s-1960s)’</p>
11.00-11.20	Break/Coffee
11.20-1.00	<p>Keynote</p> <p>Prof. Alison Bashford (Laureate Centre for Population &amp; History, University of New South Wales), ‘Slowing and Growing: Global Fertility Decline and Modern World History’</p> <p><i>Q&amp;A Chair: Prof. Kate Fisher (University of Exeter)</i></p>
1.00-2.00	Lunch
2.00-3.30	Roundtable Discussion – Writing Population History: Challenges and Possibilities
3.30	Closing Remarks
4.00	Workshop Finish