

## Call for applications

### Workshop “An introduction to the analysis of population-level kinship structures”

24th November - 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, India

Sponsored by the [Kinship Inequalities Research Group](#) of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) and the [Scientific Panel Kinship Structures, Dynamics and Inequalities](#) of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP).

### Overview

The formal study of kinship in demography traces back to the work of Goodman, Keyfitz, and Pullum<sup>1</sup>, who introduced mathematical models to estimate kinship structures in theoretical populations. This laid the foundation for numerical kinship analysis, which has since evolved with advancements in formal and computational methods. Building on these early models, researchers have developed sophisticated tools to model the number and characteristics of kin across different populations.

Participants in this workshop will become familiar with the R package *DemoKin*, which uses aggregate fertility and mortality rates to model population-level kinship structures. [Multiple studies](#) have used the package to study how demographic shifts influence kin availability and family compositions. The workshop will cover both theoretical and methodological aspects of kinship estimation, integrating lectures, hands-on practical sessions, and exercises. Participants are expected to attend the full program, which will span four days with structured daily sessions.

### General Objective

This workshop will introduce participants to the study of kinship structures and dynamics using cutting-edge demographic methodologies.

### Specific Objectives

1. Learn how to compute kinship structures using demographic information as input. Hands-on sessions will use the R package *DemoKin* to study kinship in India and other south Asian countries.
2. To introduce a methodology for projecting kinship structures with an emphasis on India.

### Prerequisites for Applicants

This workshop is designed for PhD scholars and postdoctoral researchers at IIPS interested in studying family structures beyond co-resident kin. Participants should be enrolled in or have completed a PhD program and currently be associated with IIPS. We will prioritize advanced

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<sup>1</sup> Goodman, Leo A., Nathan Keyfitz, and Thomas W. Pullum. 1974. “Family Formation and the Frequency of Various Kinship Relationships.” *Theoretical Population Biology* 27. doi:10.1016/0040-5809(74)90049-5.

students (second year or above) with solid demographic training. Students should be familiar with basic demography (human, plant, or animal), including life tables, mortality, and fertility schedules, population projections, and their applications. Students should be fluent in R (all computer exercises will be in R). Participants are expected to bring their own laptops. A maximum of 20 participants will be accepted.

## **Funding**

The organizers cannot provide any funding for participants.

## **Instructors**

The in-person workshop will be led by Dr. Saroja Adhikari (Research Scientist) and Dr. Diego Alburez- Gutierrez (Research Group Leader; tentative), both from the Kinship Inequalities Research Group of the MPIDR, Germany. Online participation is not possible.

## **Application Procedure**

Participants will be selected based on the information provided in their applications. Those interested in attending the workshop must submit their applications via this [survey form](#) by August 30, 2025. Late applications will not be considered. The application should include a brief statement (max 150 words) explaining their motivation for applying, along with their CV. Please do not include any images of yourself in your CV. Selected applicants will receive a confirmation email regarding their registration status. If you need any other information regarding workshop email us at [kinship@demogr.mpg.de](mailto:kinship@demogr.mpg.de).

## **Key Dates**

- Call for applications: 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025
- Application deadline: 30<sup>st</sup> August 2025
- Notification of acceptance by: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025
- Workshop dates: 24th November - 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 (10 am – 3:30 pm with breaks for lunch 12-1)