Fundación BBVA

Demography TODAY

**The BBVA Foundation and the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)
are pleased to invite you to the lecture:**

How Late Is Too Late? Parental Age and Child Outcomes

Prof. Mikko Myrskylä

**Director of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR), Germany
and Professor of Social Statistics at the University of Helsinki, Finland.**

Summary:

A major demographic trend in the latter half of the 20th century, and the early 21st century, has been postponement of childbearing. The mean age at first birth has passed 30 in several European countries and the proportion of children born to women aged 40 has reached 5 percent and is increasing. The postponement of fertility has motivated research on the causes of later childbearing as well as on the consequences, particularly on child well-being. The medical literature, which has primarily focused on the reproductive ageing process associated with advanced parental age, presents advanced maternal or paternal age as a risk factor for child health. In contrast, the social scientific literature, which has primarily focused on the social aspects associated with advanced age, suggests that childbearing postponement can result in positive effects for children, as older parents may have socioeconomic advantages that are transmitted to the children. My presentation consolidates the two perspectives and documents how it would be misleading to talk about "the effect" of parental age on child outcomes, as the effect varies strongly across time and place. I will further analyze what type of contextual factors are important in understanding the heterogeneity in the impact of parenthood postponement on child outcomes.

Biography:

Mikko Myrskylä is Director of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) and Professor of Social Statistics at the University of Helsinki. He joined the MPIDR from the London School of Economics where he served as Professor of Demography, and where he continues to work as Research Professor and lead a research group funded by the European Research Council. Professor Myrskylä holds a PhD in Demography from the University of Pennsylvania, and a PhD in Statistics from the University of Helsinki. His work focuses on population health, analysis of contemporary fertility trends, and demographic forecasting.

The **Demography Today** lecture series aims to **promote and communicate** scientific work on demography through the dissemination of research and the **training of specialists** in issues related to demography, Big Data, longitudinal records and health, while informing society, in an accessible way, about issues currently in the foreground of scientific and political debate, such as the limits to longevity, pension systems, ageing, emerging diseases, migration and low fertility.

This lecture series enjoys the exclusive support of the BBVA Foundation and has been co-organized with the Spanish National Research Council and the LONGPOP project (Methodologies and Data Mining Techniques for the Analysis of Big Data based on Longitudinal Population and Epidemiological Registers).The LONGPOP project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under a Marie Sklodowska-Curie grant.

All **lectures** are **available for viewing** on the interactive platform: **www.demografia.tv**

The lecture series also forms part of the Postgraduate Courses run by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC).

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Tuesday, May 28 at 19:00
Fundación BBVA
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REQUEST ATTENDANCE

Please confirm attendance. Limited seating
e-mail: confirmaciones@fbbva.es
The lecture will be delivered in English without translation