

# Human Fertility Database: Origins and Ambitions of the HFD

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# Imitation: the sincerest form of flattery

- Human Mortality Database (HMD) a great success. Launched 100s of papers on mortality change at the population level.
- HFD aims to do the same thing
- When moved to Max Planck in 2007, I immediately had two partners: Vladimir Shkolnikov (already with HMD) and Tomas Sobotka (VID)
- “Let’s do it”

# Brief history

- 2007 Launched, joint-project of MPIDR and VID
- 1<sup>st</sup> HFD Symposium 2011 in Rostock
- Since then we have many new countries and continual updates
- 2013 HFC (Human Fertility Collection) of data from 89 countries building on data collected by Jean-Paul Sardon

# Intellectual goals of HFD

To foster

- *Population-level analysis* of birth rates
- *Comparative analysis* across countries and over time
- *Replicable research* with open source data

By providing

- A *gold standard* in terms of accuracy and consistency
- *Detail* on age and parity
- *Historical* depth

# Uses

- Study of fertility change
- Development of new measures
- Development of new models and forecasts
- Open source data for exploitation by researchers around the world for their own creative uses

# Plan for today

1. Introduction and overview
2. Examples of applications and extensions
3. Input and dialogue from the community of researchers