

# Human Fertility Database: Expanding research opportunities

Member-initiated meeting, PAA 2015 Annual Meeting

Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Hilton San Diego Bayfront, room Aqua E

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This meeting will give an update on the existing data, methods, research possibilities, and the ongoing expansion of two important repositories of data on fertility: the Human Fertility Database (HFD, [www.humanfertility.org](http://www.humanfertility.org)) and the Human Fertility Collection (HFC, [www.fertilitydata.org](http://www.fertilitydata.org)). It aims to bring together the users, potential users and the researchers responsible for creating and maintaining these databases. The session will briefly introduce the rationales behind these databases, their goals and their organizing principles and highlight some features that make them unique compared to the other existing data sources. We will also briefly present some of the less conventional methods used to produce, standardize and organize these data. Most of the session will be devoted to discussing the examples of using these data, new research opportunities they offer, but also their potential pitfalls and drawbacks. We expect to generate a lively exchange of ideas and information between the database users and creators. Finally, future expansion plans and users' needs will be debated.

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Session Chair: Joshua R. Goldstein

- 9:00 – 9:25 Joshua R. Goldstein: *Human Fertility Database: origins and ambitions of the HFD*  
Dmitri Jdanov & Tomas Sobotka: *The HFD and HFC in a nutshell*
- 9:25 – 9:50 Tomas Sobotka & Dmitri Jdanov: *The HFD user's guide: available data and indicators, examples and illustrations*
- 9:50 – 10:10 Pavel Grigoriev & Dmitri Jdanov: *Splitting abridged fertility data using different interpolation methods. Is there the optimal solution?*
- 10:10 – 10:30 *coffee break*
- 10:30 – 11:30 Short presentations:  
Joshua R. Goldstein & Thomas B. Cassidy: *Four mathematical models of fertility change*  
Carl Schmertmann: *Mining the HFD for robust fertility patterns over age and time*  
Tim Riffe: *Getting HFD/HFC data into R*  
Everton E. Lima & Mathias Nathan: *Developing fertility database for Latin America: A brief overview*
- 11:30 – 11:45 Dmitri Jdanov & Tomas Sobotka: *The HFD and HFC: future plans*
- 11:45 – 12:00 Q & A, Final discussion