Leiwen Jiang
Chinese, PhD from Amsterdam, previously Brown Univ., IIASA and Peking Univ., currently NCAR

He has been appointed as the founding director and also leads the pillar on population and environment/climate studies. His research has involved methodological work on improving demographic components of integrated climate assessment models and exploring the environmental implications of demographic dynamics. He served as panel member of International Union for Scientific Studies of Population (IUSSP) Scientific Panel on Climate Change, lead author of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report, and coordinator of IPCC Scholarship Program Working Group III.

Samir KC
Nepalese, PhD from the Groningen, currently IIASA

He has joined the institute (continuing part time at IIASA) and will lead the pillar on population dynamics and human capital. His research interests focus on developing and applying multi-state population multi-state population models in demographic analysis and projections with a particular focus on modeling human capital formation in education and health, and differential vulnerability to natural disasters. Currently, he is working on developing methods of population projections at sub-national levels. He has published in Science magazine (2011) and other peer-reviewed journals.

Guy Abel
English, PhD from Southampton, currently Vienna Institute of Demography

He has agreed to join the institute and lead the pillar on international migration. His research interests cover estimating migration and applying statistical methods to better forecast components of population change. He recently published an article in Science Magazine that uses indirect estimate methods to quantify global bilateral migration flows between all countries for the first time.

Yu Zhu
Chinese, PhD Australia National

He has agreed to lead the pillar on internal migration and urbanization and split his time between Shanghai Univ. and Fujian Normal Univ. His research straddles the two disciplines of demography and human geography, focusing on issues related to migration and urbanization. He served as Chair of the IUSSP Scientific Panel on the Impact of Internal Migration and Urbanization in Developing Countries; and is currently member of the International Advisory Board of UN Habitat’s World Cities Report (2015). He is also Member of the Editorial Board of International Migration Review and Asian and Pacific Migration Journal.

An International Scientific Advisory Board will provide guidance and support for all scientific and networking activities. The board members are distinguished scholars from major research institutions globally and from different sub-regions of Asia. Wolfgang Lutz, Honorary Professor of Shanghai University, has agreed to chair the Board.

Wolfgang Lutz is Founding Director of the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital. He is director the World Population Program at IIASA, director of the Vienna Institute of Demography (VID) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and since 2008, and Full Professor of Applied Statistics (part time) at the WU. He is also principal investigator of the Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis. Lutz is author and editor of 27 book and more than 200 refereed articles, including seven in “Science” and “Nature”. In 2008 he received an ERC Advanced Grant, in 2009 the Mattei Dogan Award of the IUSSP, and in 2010 the Wittgenstein Prize, the highest Austrian science award. He is elected full member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and of the German National Academy Leopoldina as well as a member of the Committee on Population of the US National Academy of Sciences.

The base funding contributed by Shanghai University to the institute is 30 million RMB (about 5 million US$) for the first three years. The Shanghai municipal government, the Natural Science Foundation of China and other national government funding organizations will also provide additional support.

Confirmed board members include: Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi (Univ. of Teheran), Do-Sub Kim (Hanyang, South Korea), Peter McDonald (ANU), Xizhe Peng (Fudan, Shanghai), Vipan Prachuabmoh (Chula, Bangkok), Michael White (Brown), Brenda Yeoh (NUS, Singapore).

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Shanghai University, a renowned Chinese academic institution, has decided to establish a new population research institute – the Institute for Asian Demographic Research. The formal decision to establish the institute was made on July 1, 2015.

The new initiative is inspired by the fundamental demographic and socioeconomic changes that have been experienced by China and other Asian countries over the past decades and the absence of research institute that comprehensively addresses these changes in a comparative manner. Demography as a scientific discipline has recently seen great progress in many Asian countries but the existing institutions tend to have a predominantly national focus. There is a clear need for in-depth comparative analysis in Asia using the most advanced demographic methods and the best available data in order to identify commonalities and differences among the populations that make up more than half of the world population.

Shanghai’s position as an international economic, financial and trade center, makes it an ideal choice for hosting an international institute that aspires to contribute to the advancement in demographic research in the Asian region and beyond.

Formal demography will be at the core of the scientific foundation of the institute. Building on the methods of multi-dimensional demography it will study population dynamics by age, gender, education, rural/urban residence, household status, and health condition. These formal models cater for a wide range of policy relevant topics in population research and population-economy-environment interactions.

The new institute will also create a platform for regional collaboration in demographic research and training, through fostering research projects of common interest, holding annual Asian Population Fora, organizing demographic training workshops around the region, and hosting international visiting scholars. It has also reached a collaborative agreement with the principal Investigators of the Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development and will function as the new headquarter of the MetaCentre (see www.populationasia.com). The MetaCentre was established in 2000 with initial funding from the Wellcome Trust as a regional center of excellence in population which organized many international seminars and training workshops. This new initiative will revitalize and broaden its activities with the focus on organizing relevant workshops, providing training for skills development, engaging in research projects and hosting the MetaCentre website.

The institute will have a faculty of around 15 scientists with international training who is being recruited internationally. The goal is that about half of the faculty will be non-Chinese. The working language will be English and Chinese. All the courses for graduate students at PhD and Master degree levels will be taught in English and the teaching materials will be adopted from American and European universities. Graduate students and post-doc fellows will also be recruited globally. In order to be able to recruit international faculty members and post-doc fellows the institute will offer competitive salaries and allowances.

A group of renowned formal demographers and broader population experts has already agreed to take leading positions in the institute contributing to its main research areas.