

Dr Ben Wilson

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Short biography

I am an Associate Professor (Docent) at the Stockholm University Demography Unit and a visiting fellow in the Department of Methodology at the London School of Economics. Prior to completing my PhD, I worked as a senior researcher at the Office for National Statistics. I have also worked as a statistical consultant. My research covers a range of topics relating to demography, sociology, migration studies, geography, epidemiology, political science and research methods. I have received large-scale funding for several projects that aim to understand the lives of immigrants and refugees, as well as their descendants. My recent research includes studies of family formation, health inequalities, and the impact of childhood on early adult life course trajectories. My teaching reflects my research interests, in particular topics relating to demography, migration, and research methods.

Academic and research positions

2021 - ongoing	Associate Professor (Docent), Department of Sociology, Stockholm University
2016 - ongoing	Visiting Fellow , Department of Methodology, London School of Economics
2016 - 2021	Postdoctoral researcher , Stockholm University Demography Unit
2014 - 2016	Fellow , Department of Methodology, London School of Economics
2012 - 2013	Researcher , Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics
2007 - 2010	Senior researcher , Office for National Statistics
2006	Researcher , Food Ethics Council
2005	Analyst , BG Group
2001 - 2003	Researcher , University of Brighton
2000 - 2001	Analyst , South East Water

Education

2021	Associate Professor (Docent) in Sociology, Stockholm University
2011 - 2015	PhD (Demography) , London School of Economics (LSE)
	Thesis title: <i>Origin, destination and convergence: Understanding the fertility of international migrants and their descendants</i>
	Supervisors: <i>Wendy Sigle</i> and <i>Jouni Kuha</i>
2012 - 2014	Postgraduate Certificate of Higher Education (full certificate), LSE
2010 - 2011	MSc Social Research Methods (distinction), LSE
2001 - 2003	MSc Statistical Consultancy , University of Brighton
2000 - 2002	BSc Psychology , Open University
1996 - 1999	BEng Civil Engineering , University of Leeds

Research interests

Social demography
The lives of immigrants and their descendants
Families, children and childbearing
Socioeconomic and health inequalities
Research design and methodology

Google scholar profile

Citations: 506; H-index: 14; i10-index: 19 [\[link\]](#)

Peer-reviewed publications

- 2021** Uggla, C., and Wilson, B. (2021)
Age gaps between partners among immigrants and their descendants: Adaptation across time and generations?
Population Studies, Published online: December 2021
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00324728.2021.1998583>
Previously:
Stockholm Research Reports in Demography (working paper), 2020:17
- *Saarela, J. and *Wilson, B. (2021)
Forced migration and the childbearing of women and men: A disruption of the tempo and quantum of fertility?
Demography (accepted for publication)
* Shared first-authorship
Previously:
Stockholm Research Reports in Demography (working paper), 2020:20
- Mussino, E., Wilson, B. and Andersson, G. (2021)
The Fertility of immigrants from low fertility settings: Adaptation in the tempo and quantum of childbearing?
Demography, 58 (6): 2169–2191
<https://doi.org/10.1215/00703370-9476273>
Previously:
Stockholm Research Reports in Demography (working paper), 2020:22
- Wallace, M., and Wilson, B. (2021)
Age variations and over-coverage: Is the migrant mortality advantage merely a data artefact?
Population Studies, Published online: February 2021
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00324728.2021.1877331>
Previously:
Stockholm Research Reports in Demography (working paper), 2020:02
- 2020** Batyra, E., Coast, E., Wilson, B. and Cetorelli, V. (2020)
The socioeconomic dynamics of trends in female genital mutilation/cutting across Africa
BMJ Global Health, 5 (10): e003088
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2020-003088>
Previously:
Stockholm Research Reports in Demography (working paper) 2020:25
- Wilson, B., Drefahl, S., Sasson, I., Henery, P. and Uggla, C. (2020)
Regional trajectories in life expectancy and life-span variation: Persistent inequality in two Nordic welfare states
Population, Space and Place, 26(8): e2378
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/psp.2378>
Previously:
Stockholm Research Reports in Demography (working paper) 2019:10

Niséen, J., Klüsener, S., Dahlberg, J., Dommermuth, L., Jasilioniene, A., Kreyenfeld, M., Lappegård, T., Li, P., Martikainen, P., Neels, K., Riederer, B., te Riele, S., Szabó, L., Trimarchi, A., Viciano, F., Wilson, B., Myrskylä, M. (2020)
Educational differences in cohort fertility across sub-national regions in Europe
European Journal of Population, Published online: August 2020
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10680-020-09562-0>
Previously:
MPIDR Working Paper, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, WP-2019-018

Tønnessen, M. and Wilson, B. (2020)
Visualising immigrant fertility profiles of childbearing and their implications for migration research
Journal of International Migration and Integration, Published online: July 2020
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-020-00762-5>
Previously:
Stockholm Research Reports in Demography (working paper) 2019:23

Cetorelli, V., Wilson, B., Coast, E. and Batyra, E. (2020)
Female genital mutilation/cutting in Mali and Mauritania: Understanding trends and evaluating policies
Studies in Family Planning, 51(1), 51-69
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/sifp.12112>

Bijlsma, M. and Wilson, B. (2020)
Modelling the socio-economic determinants of fertility: A mediation analysis using the parametric g-formula
Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A, 183(2), 493-513
<https://doi.org/10.1111/rssa.12520>
Previously:
Stockholm Research Reports in Demography (working paper) 2017:08 and MPIDR Working Papers, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, WP-2017-013

Wilson, B. (2020)
Understanding how immigrant fertility differentials vary over the reproductive life course
European Journal of Population, 36, 465-498
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10680-019-09536-x>

2019 Wallace, M. and Wilson, B. (2019)
The search for selection: Comparing migrant mortality versus origin
Population and Development Review, 45(4), 767-794
<https://doi.org/10.1111/padr.12298>

Mendola, D., Busetta, A., Cetorelli, V. and Wilson, B. (2019)
Asylum seekers and refugees in informal settlements in Italy: A multidimensional vulnerability assessment
Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Published online: 10 May 2019
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2019.1610368>

Naci, H., Salcher-Konrad, M., Mcguire, A., Berger, F., Kuehne, T., Goubergrits, L., Muthurangu, V., Wilson, B. and Kelm, M. (2019)
Impact of patient-specific computational modelling on treatment decision making: A randomized controlled trial in congenital heart disease
Nature NPJ Digital Medicine, 2: 17
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41746-019-0085-1>

Bijlsma, M.J., Wilson, B., Tarkiainen, L., Myrskylä, M. and Martikainen, P. (2019)
**The impact of unemployment on antidepressant purchasing:
Combining the parametric g-formula and individual intercepts
to adjust for time-varying confounding and unobserved selection**
Epidemiology, 30(3), 388-395
<https://doi.org/10.1097/EDE.0000000000000985>

Wilson, B. (2019)
**The intergenerational assimilation of completed fertility:
Comparing the convergence of different origin groups**
International Migration Review, 53(2), 429-457
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0197918318769047>

2017 Wilson, B. and Kuha, J. (2017)
Residential segregation and the fertility of immigrants and their descendants
Population, Space and Place, 24(3): e2098
<https://doi.org/10.1002/psp.2098>

Busetta, A., Cetorelli, V. and Wilson, B. (2017)
**A universal health care system?
Unmet need for medical care among regular and irregular immigrants in Italy**
Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health, 20(2), 416-421
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-017-0566-8>

2016 Wilson, B. and Dyson, T. (2016)
Democracy and the demographic transition
Democratization, 24(4), 594-612
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2016.1194396>

2012 Adserà, A., Ferrer, A. M., Sigle-Rushton, W. and Wilson, B. (2012)
**Fertility patterns of child migrants:
Age at migration and ancestry in comparative perspective**
The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 643(1), 160-189
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0002716212444706>

2010 O'Leary, L., Natamba, E., Jefferies, J. and Wilson, B. (2010)
Fertility and partnership status in the last two decades
Population Trends, 140, 5-35

Wilson, B. (2010)
Children with a non-resident parent
Population Trends, 140, 53-81

Wilson, B. and Stuchbury, R. (2010)
**Do partnerships last?
Comparing marriage and cohabitation using longitudinal census data**
Population Trends, 139, 37-63

2009 Wilson, B. (2009)
Estimating the cohabiting population
Population Trends, 136, 21-27

2008 Wilson, B. and Smallwood, S. (2008)
Age differences at marriage and divorce
Population Trends, 132, 17-25

Wilson, B. and Smallwood, S. (2008)
The proportion of marriages ending in divorce
Population Trends, 131, 28-36

2007 Wilson, B. and Smallwood, S. (2007)
Understanding recent trends in marriage
Population Trends, 128, 24-32

Books

2007 Smallwood, S. and Wilson, B. (2007)
Focus on Families 2007
London: Palgrave Macmillan

Book chapters and other publications

2015 Wilson, B. (2015). **Origin, destination and convergence: understanding the fertility of international migrants and their descendants.** *PhD thesis*, LSE

2011 Wilson, B. (2011). **Migrant fertility in England and Wales: Measuring fertility convergence.** *Masters dissertation*, LSE

2009 ONS (2009) **Households, Families and Children.** *Social Trends* 39 (pp. xxvi-xxx)

2007 McConnell, H., & Wilson, B. (2007). **Families.** In S. Smallwood & B. Wilson (Eds.), *Focus on Families 2007* (pp. 1–18). London: Palgrave Macmillan

Wilson, B., & Smallwood, S. (2007). **Family geography.** In S. Smallwood & B. Wilson (Eds.), *Focus on Families 2007* (pp. 71–86). London: Palgrave Macmillan

Working papers and work in progress

2021 Wilson, B. (2021)
The childbearing of immigrants who arrived as children: Understanding the role of age at arrival for women and men
Stockholm Research Reports in Demography (working paper), 2021:29
https://su.figshare.com/articles/preprint/The_childbearing_of_immigrants_who_arrived_as_children_Understanding_the_role_of_age_at_arrival_for_women_and_men/17705138

Pupaza, E., Hofstetter, S. and Wilson, B. (2021)
Economic Effects of Partner Loss: Examining vulnerability at the intersection of gender and nativity
Stockholm Research Reports in Demography (working paper), 2021:26
https://su.figshare.com/articles/preprint/Economic_Effects_of_Partner_Loss_Examining_vulnerability_at_the_intersection_of_gender_and_nativity/16691311

Wilson, B., Bijlsma, M.J., Aradhya, S. and Goisis, A. (2021)

Problems in the family:

Controlling for age, period or cohort in sibling comparison designs

Stockholm Research Reports in Demography (working paper), 2021:4

https://su.figshare.com/articles/preprint/Problems_in_the_family_Controlling_for_age_period_or_cohort_in_sibling_comparison_designs/14055407

2020 Wallace, M., Wilson, B. and Darlington-Pollock, F. (2020)
The Children of the Windrush: Social Inequalities across Multiple Domains of Life
Stockholm Research Reports in Demography (working paper), 2020:40
https://su.figshare.com/articles/preprint/The_Children_of_the_Windrush_Social_Inequalities_across_Multiple_Domains_of_Life/12932810

2019 Niséen, J., Bijlsma, M. J., Martikainen, P., Wilson, B., Myrskylä, M. (2019)
The gendered impacts of delayed parenthood on educational and labor market outcomes: a dynamic analysis of population-level effects over young adulthood
MPIDR Working Paper, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, WP-2019-017
<https://www.demogr.mpg.de/papers/working/wp-2019-017.pdf>

Wilson B., Marten L., Marbach M., Hangartner D. and Hainmueller J. (2019)
Age at arrival and the integration trajectories of childhood refugees
(available on request)

Wilson B., Goisis A. and Aradhya S. (2019)
The impact of early parenthood on the integration of childhood refugees
(available on request)

2018 Wilson, B. and Sigle, W. (2018)
Defining and testing the convergence of migrant fertility
(available on request)

Grants, funding, and consultancy

2020 European Research Council (ERC) **Principal applicant**
A Better Life for the Children of Exile:
Intergenerational Adaptation of the Descendants of Refugees (REFU-GEN)
1.4m Euros (\$1.7m)

2018 Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Sweden) **Co-applicant**
The Neighbourhood Revisited:
Spatial Polarization and Social Cohesion in Contemporary Sweden
40.2m SEK (\$4.5m)

FORTE (Sweden) **Co-applicant**
Influences of origin and destination on migrant fertility
3.7m SEK (\$430,000)

2017 Swedish Research Council (VR) **Principal applicant**
Exposure to Swedish society and immigrant integration:
The family formation of immigrants who arrived as children
3.4m SEK (\$420,000)

- 2016** FORTE (Sweden) **Co-applicant**
Migrant Trajectories: Geographical Mobility, Family Careers, Employment, Education, and Social Insurance in Sweden 1990-2016
9m SEK (\$1.1m)
- LSE RIIF (UK): **Co-investigator**
Funding to carry out the first wave of a longitudinal survey of Syrian and Iraqi refugees arriving in Greece
£30,000 (\$39,000)
- STICERD Grant (UK) **Co-applicant**
Seed funding for a project to understand trends and evaluate policies relating to female genital mutilation in Africa
£5,000 (\$6,000)
- FP7-funded project, CARDIOPROOF (Europe) **Consultant**
Design, conduct, and analysis of a randomized survey-based experiment
£2,000 (\$3,000)
- 2015** BBC Media Action (UK) **Consultant**
(1) Longitudinal analysis to evaluate the impact of targeted public broadcasting on reproductive health outcomes in Ethiopia
(2) Propensity score matching to evaluate the effects of media exposure on governance outcomes in Kenya
£4,000 (\$5,000)
- LSE RIIF (UK) **Co-investigator**
Seed funding to pilot a longitudinal survey of refugees who arrive in Lesbos, Greece
£3,000 (\$4,000)
- 2013** ESRC (UK) **Consultant**
Analysis of UK data sources for the EU Joint Programming Initiative, "More Years, Better Lives - The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change"
£3,000 (\$4,000)

Selected conference presentations

Socioeconomic mediators of immigrant childbearing: The direct and indirect effects of age at arrival, *Population Association of America conference*, Online, May 2021

The life course trajectories of immigrants who arrive as children, *IMISCOE (International Migration Research Network) annual conference*, Online, July 2021

Also presented at: *Nordic Migration Research Conference*, Online, January 2021

The fertility of child migrants: Understanding the role of age at arrival for women and men, *British Society for Population Studies conference*, Online, September 2020

The Impact of Early Parenthood on the Integration of Childhood Refugees, *Population Association of America conference*, Austin, April 2019

Age at Arrival and the Integration Trajectories of Childhood Refugees, *European Population Conference*, Brussels, Belgium, June 2018

The impact of unemployment on depression: combining the parametric g-formula and individual intercepts to adjust for time-varying confounding and unobserved selection, *The Scientific Meeting of the Italian Statistical Society (SIS)*, Palermo, Sicily, June 2018

Regional inequalities in length of life: A Nordic comparison, *Workshop on Inequality and Uncertainty in Length of Life*, Tel Aviv, Israel, May 2018

Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Informal Settlements in Italy: A Multidimensional Vulnerability Assessment, *Chaire Quetelet*, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, November 2017

A new approach to understanding the socio-economic determinants of fertility over the life course, *Population Association of America* conference, Chicago, April 2017

What is the influence of childhood exposure to cultural norms? The role of segregation and community composition in explaining migrant fertility, *Conference of the Italian Association for Population Studies (AISP)*, Florence, February 2017

What does the recent refugee crisis mean for the future of European demography? From policies and statistics to the voices of Syrian refugees, *British Society for Population Studies* conference, Winchester, September 2016

Female genital mutilation/cutting in Mali and Mauritania, *British Society for Population Studies* conference, Winchester, September 2016

What is the influence of childhood exposure to cultural norms? The role of segregation and community composition in explaining migrant fertility, *European Population Conference*, Mainz, September 2016

The interplay between socio-economic background and unmarried parental cohabitation: The case of France and Britain, paper presented at *The Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association (ISA) Summer Conference*, Philadelphia, August 2015

A conceptual framework for migrant fertility, paper presented at the *European Population Conference*, Budapest, June 2014

Disentangling the quantum and tempo of immigrant fertility, paper presented at the *International Union for the Scientific Study of Population* conference, Busan, August 2013

Understanding the Fertility Convergence of Migrant Generations, paper presented at the *International Union for the Scientific Study of Population* conference, Busan, August 2013

Disentangling the quantum and tempo of immigrant fertility, paper presented at the *International Conference of Population Geography*, Groningen, June 2013

The quantum convergence of migrant fertility in the UK, paper presented at the *Population Association of America* conference, New Orleans, April 2013

Migration and fertility convergence, paper presented at the *British Society for Population Studies* conference, Nottingham, September 2012

Generational fertility convergence in England and Wales: Assessing the own-child method, paper presented at the *European Population Conference*, Stockholm, June 2012

Migrant fertility in England and Wales, paper presented at the *British Society for Population Studies* conference, York, September 2011

Migrant fertility: origins, generations, and convergence, paper presented at the postgraduate demography conference *Popfest*, Groningen, July 2011

Do partnerships last?, *European Population Conference*, Vienna, June 2010

Age difference at marriage and divorce, *European Network for the Sociological and Demographic Study of Divorce* conference, Oslo, April 2008

Cohabitation ending in separation, *British Society for Population Studies* conference, Manchester, September 2008

Marriages ending in divorce, *GSS methodology conference*, London, April 2008

Age difference and trends in marriages ending in divorce, *British Society for Population Studies* conference, Manchester, September 2007

Invited presentations

The fertility of child migrants later in life: Understanding the role of age at arrival for women and men, *Penn Population Studies Center*, Online seminar, April 2021

The fertility of child migrants later in life: Understanding the role of age at arrival for women and men, *Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI)*, Online seminar, March 2021

Understanding the lives of immigrants and their descendants: From selection to adaptation, *School of Governance, Law and Society*, Tallinn University, September 2019

Age at Arrival and the Integration Trajectories of Childhood Refugees, *Institut national d'études démographiques (INED)*, Paris, January 2018

What is the influence of childhood exposure to cultural norms? The role of segregation and community composition in explaining migrant fertility, *Centre for Economic Demography*, Lund University, Lund, February 2017

The quantum convergence of migrant fertility in the UK, *Oxford Fertility Seminar Series*, Oxford, February 2013

Migration and fertility convergence, *Demographic Liaison Group*, City Hall, London, April 2011

Family trends using the General Lifestyle Survey, *GLF user group*, London, April 2009

Social Trends: Families and households, presentation to the *UK media*, London, April 2009

The proportion of marriages ending in divorce, presentation to the charity *OnePlusOne*, London, April 2008

Awards

Economic and Social Research Council Studentship 2010-2014

LSE Departmental Teaching Prize (Methodology) 2013

Best Overall Performance: MSc Social Research Methods 2011

Teaching experience

I have more than 750 hours of experience in teaching for higher education, including courses for undergraduates, postgraduates, faculty, and professional researchers. I have a degree in teaching and have designed several courses, most recently a summer school in survey research methods.

A summary of my teaching experience is as follows:

2016-ongoing Lecturer and course leader/organiser, London School of Economics

Survey research methods: from design to analysis (summer school)

Event history methods for the social sciences

2017-ongoing Lecturer, Stockholm University

Migration, ethnicity and integration

Complex Inequalities

2019 Lecturer and course organiser, Tallinn University

Methods Masterclass: Causal inference in the social sciences

2014-2016 Fellow, Department of Methodology, London School of Economics

Fundamentals of social science research design

Survey methodology

Causal inference for experimental and observational studies

Statistical analysis of survey data and the use of survey weights

Event history analysis

Introduction to quantitative analysis

Applied regression analysis

Dissertation supervision

2011-2014 Graduate Teaching Assistant, London School of Economics

Causal inference for experimental and observational studies

Assessing social progress

Applied regression analysis

Introduction to linear regression

Introduction to quantitative analysis

Survey methods (LSE methods summer school)

2013 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Essex Summer School

Logit and probit models

2012-2013 Graduate Teaching Assistant, ICPSR Summer Program, Berkeley

Causal inference for the social sciences

Professional memberships

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population

European Association for Population Studies

Population Association of America

British Society for Population Studies

Swedish Demographic Association

Italian Population Association

Fellow of the Higher Education Academy

Professional service

- Service as expert:** I have served as an expert for the following groups:
Expert advisory panel: National population projections (UK)
Mapping research on segregation (Swedish Research Council)
- Project management:** I am a member of the steering committee for the RJ programme:
'The Neighbourhood Revisited: Spatial Polarization and Social Cohesion in Contemporary Sweden'
- I am also currently managing my own ERC project on the
'Intergenerational Adaptation of the Descendants of Refugees'
- Previously, I have managed a 3-year VR-funded project on *'Exposure to Swedish society and immigrant integration'* and co-managed two LSE-funded projects, including a survey of Syrian and Iraqi refugees arriving in Greece from 2015-16.
- Work as a referee:** I have refereed more than 40 articles for journals including:
Advances in Life Course Research, Canadian Journal of Political Science, Democratization, Demographic Research, Demography, European Journal of Population Studies, Genus, International Migration, International Migration Review, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Journal of International Migration and Integration, Plos One, Population, Population and Development Review, Population Research and Policy Review, Population Space and Place, Population Studies, and Population Trends
- Many of these are summarised on my [publons profile](#)
- Research networks:** Founder member and editor of *'demotrends'*, a collaborative blog for population researchers
Member of *'research network for the study of migration and fertility'*
Former member of *'European network for the sociological and demographic study of divorce'*

Conference and seminar organisation:

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| 2013 | Methodology: multi-level modelling session organiser
<i>British Society for Population Studies</i> |
| 2012-2013 | Population studies seminar organiser
<i>London School of Economics</i> |
| 2012 | Methodology: event history session organiser
<i>British Society for Population Studies</i> |
| 2012 | Families and households strand organiser
<i>British Society for Population Studies</i> |
| 2008-2010 | Families and households strand organiser
<i>British Society for Population Studies</i> |

Languages

Advanced: English;
Basic: Swedish, Danish, Norwegian and French

References available on request