

CANDIDACY STATEMENT FOR IASP ELECTION 2024

Dr. Debasis Barik

I received Ph.D. in Population Studies from IIPS Mumbai in 2014, specializing in economic demography and aging. Since then, I have been employed at the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and hold the post of Senior Fellow.

I worked mostly in the area of survey methodology and implementation of large-scale panel studies. At NCAER, I am part of the core team, working on designing and implementing the nationwide panel study the IHDS wave 3. I have been serving on the expert committee of the NHA. I have published in some reputed journals like World Development, Health Economics, Feminist Economics, Demographic Research, EPW etc.

I have been associated with the IASP since 2009 and participated in several annual conferences in the past. Currently, I am serving as a life member of IASP in addition to being a member of the PAA and IUSSP. IASP has touched a new height through the able leadership of its past and present office-bearers and supporters. I want to contribute to its growth and help it realize its untapped potential.

Indian demography faces interesting challenges that require agile positioning and interdisciplinary approaches. With fertility decline, fears of population explosion have subsided but there remain serious challenges of successfully harvesting demographic dividend, addressing the ageing challenges, and dealing with growing threats of non-communicable diseases while ensuring we continue to meet the reproductive health needs of the population. At a time when data are most needed to ensure evidence-informed policy, the Indian data ecosystem seems to be weakening. IASP will have a large role to play in shaping public discourse, encouraging thoughtful research, and most importantly, developing and maintaining linkages with policymakers.

This requires a concerted effort at all levels, a few of which include - enhancing credible networks, collecting evidence, and publishing in reputed journals, books, and mainstream newspapers. The annual conference can be a meeting space for policymakers to learn about the recent demographic trends and their implications for the Indian economy and society.

I believe that my engagement with major data collection projects, interdisciplinary training and location in a premier public policy institution place me in a favorable position to contribute to IASP's mission.

