



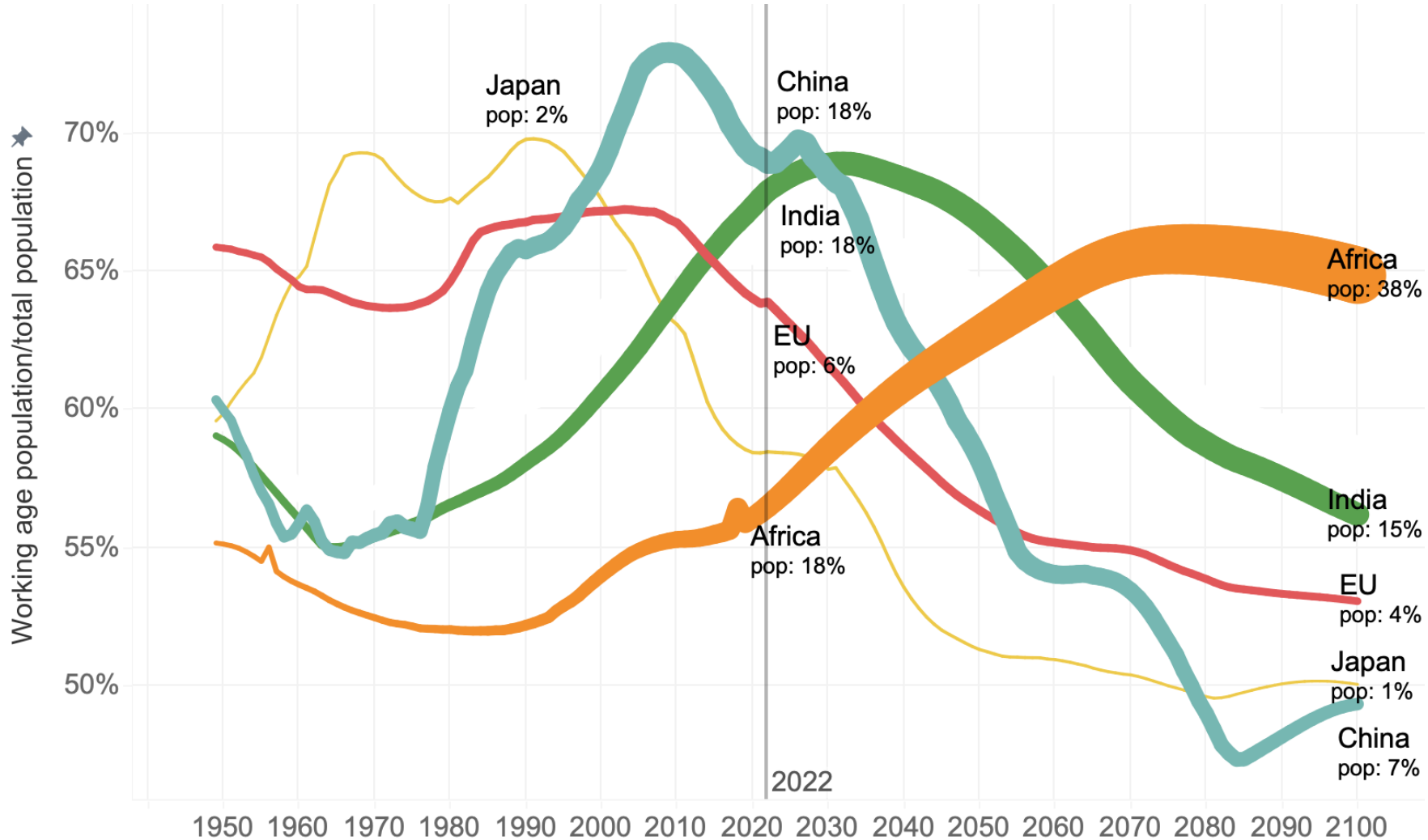
Perspectives on demographic challenges and needs for policy interventions in low and high fertility countries

Fabrizio Natale (JRC)

Workshop Global Demography Expert Survey on Drivers and Consequences of Demographic Change

Brussels 13/12/2023

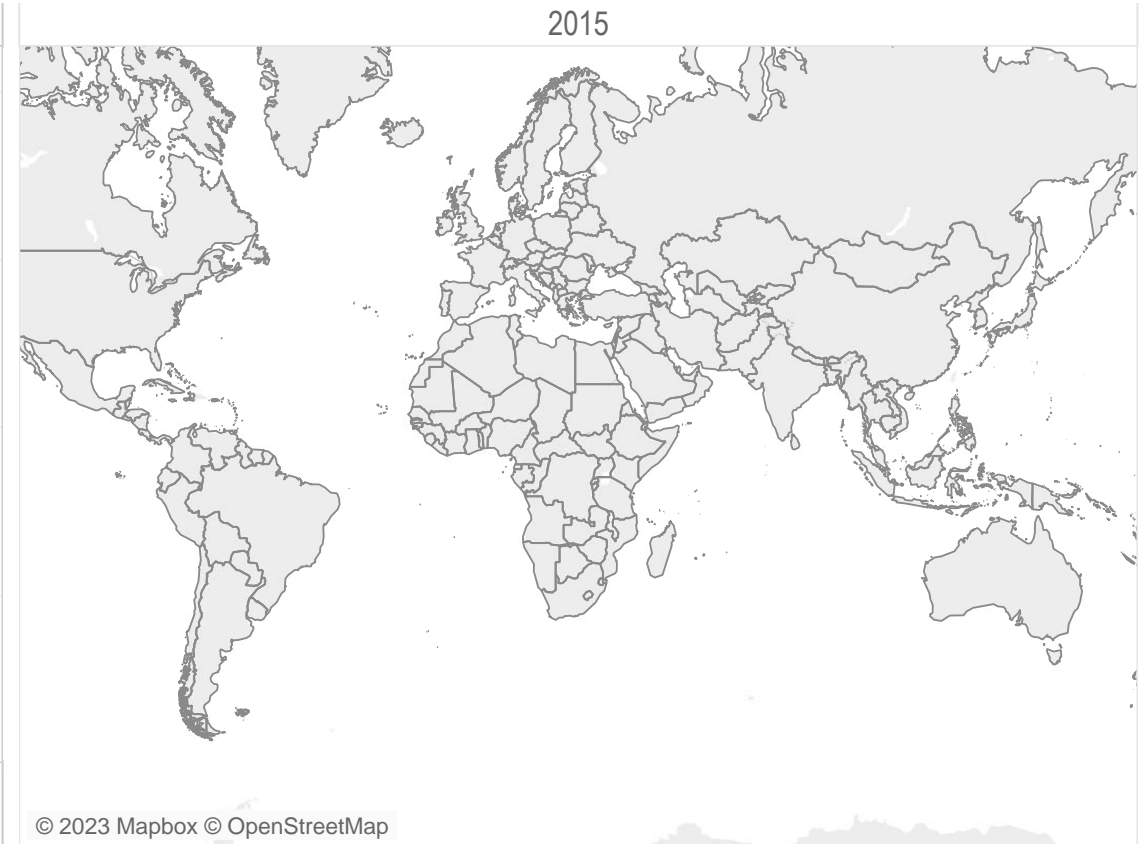
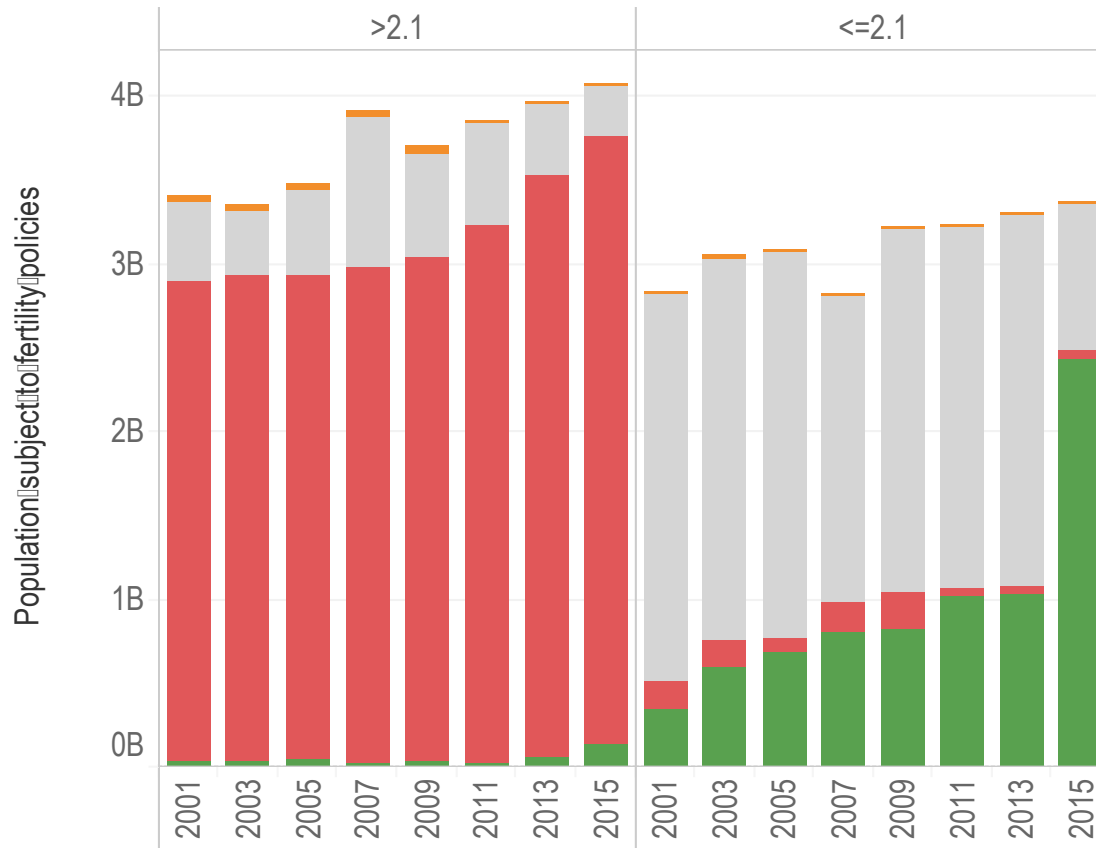
Diverging trends



Diverging policy rationales

Rowing with the flow of modernisation

Rowing against the flow of modernisation



Direction of policy

- no reply
- maintain
- lower
- raise

Scope of population policies

1. Intervention on the direct drivers of fertility, mortality, migration
2. Intervention on the proximate drivers
3. Addressing (mainstreaming) the consequences of demographic change in various policy domains

Strictly speaking the scope of population policies

Interventionism or abstentionism?
Adaptation or mitigation?

24 statements from key papers in the literature

Changing the perspective on low birth rates: why simplistic solutions won't work

Stuart Gietel-Basten, Anna Rotkirch, and Tomáš Sobotka argue that policies responding to population decline and ageing should enable reproductive choice and maximise the potential of all citizens

Slow down population growth

Within a decade, women everywhere should have access to quality contraceptive services, argues **John Bongaarts**.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Global warming policy: Is population left out in the cold?

Population policies offer options to lessen climate risks

By **John Bongaarts¹** and **Brian C. O'Neill^{2,3}** | International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the primary source of scientific information

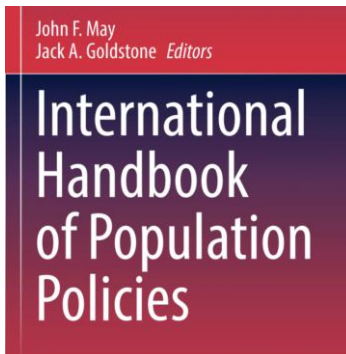
A Population Policy Rationale for the Twenty-First Century

WOLFGANG LUTZ

ECONOMIC DEMOGRAPHY

Is low fertility really a problem? Population aging, dependency, and consumption

Ronald Lee,^{1*} Andrew Mason,^{2,3*} members of the NTA Network†



“ *All our environmental problems become easier to solve with fewer people, and harder — and ultimately impossible — to solve with ever more people.* ”

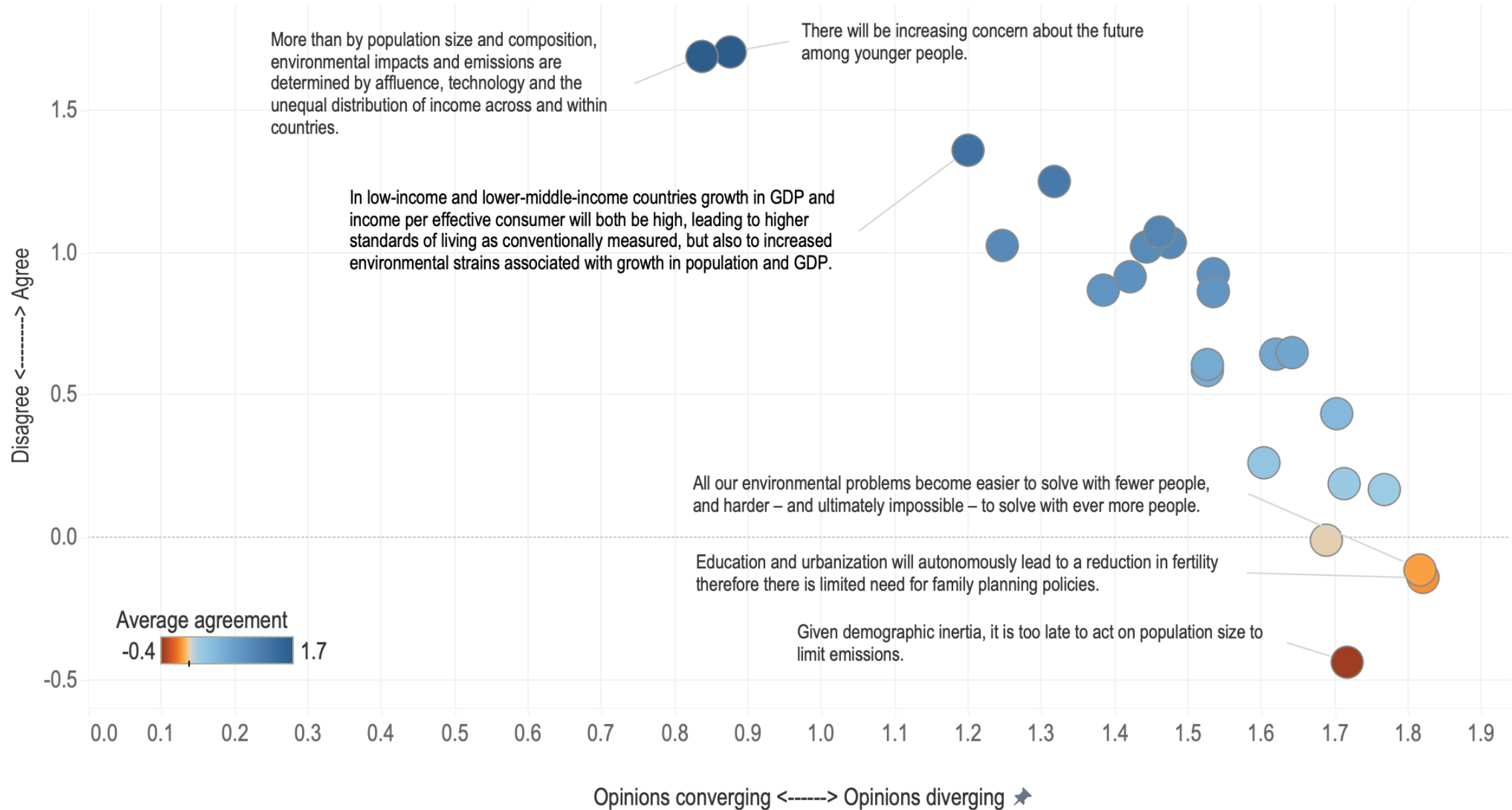
Sir David Attenborough, *Population Matters* patron

The Toxification of Population Discourse. A Genealogical Study

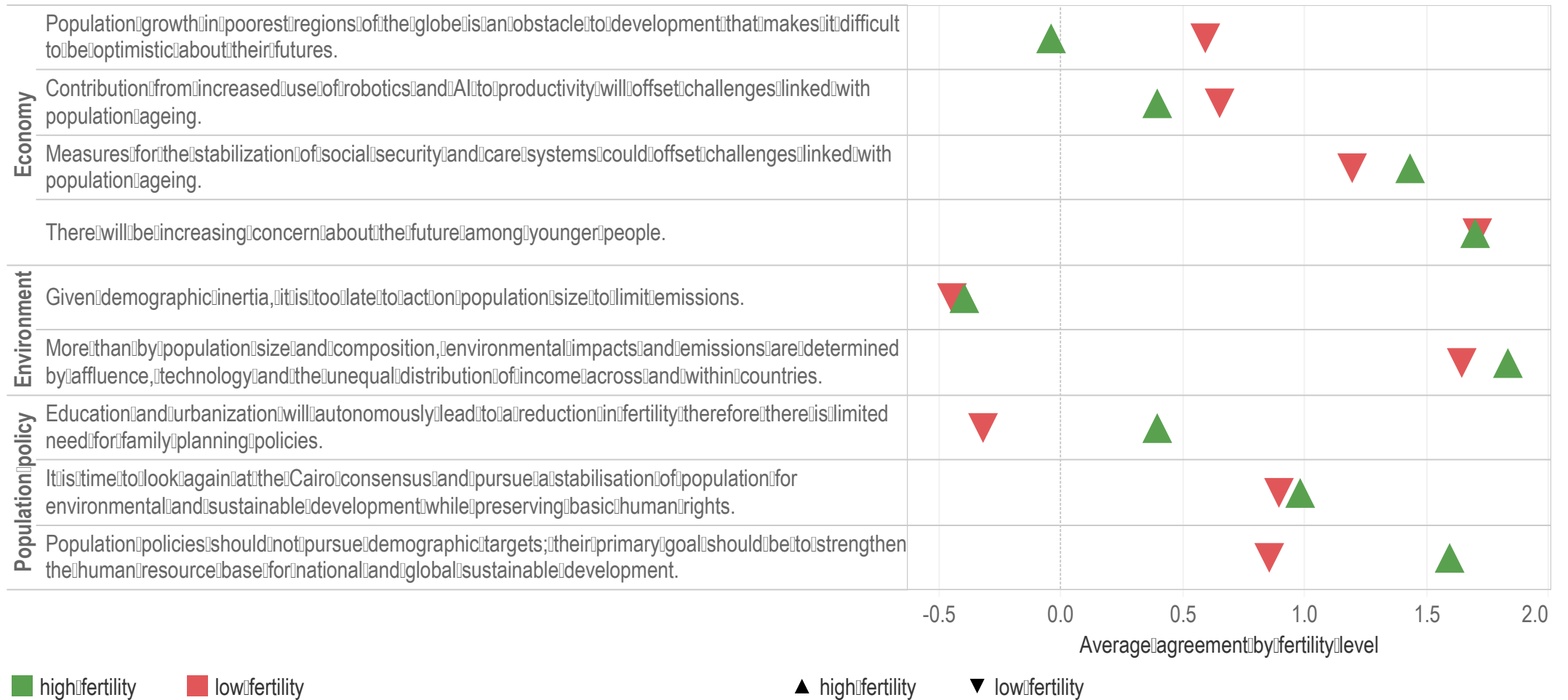
DIANA COOLE

Political and Social Theory, Birkbeck, University of London, London, UK

Agreement and convergence in opinions



Different opinions between low and high fertility regions



How the role of policy correlates with the salience of the issues

Implications from demographic change

PO_210 All our environmental problems become easier to solve with fewer people, and harder—and ultimately impossible—to solve with ever more people.

PO_207 Population growth in poorest regions of the globe is an obstacle to development that makes it difficult to be optimistic about their futures.

PO_216 More than by population size and composition, environmental impacts and emissions are determined by affluence, technology and the unequal distribution of income across and within countries.

Role of population policies	PO_210	PO_207	PO_216
PO_223 Education and urbanization will autonomously lead to a reduction in fertility therefore there is limited need for family planning policies.	-0.04	-0.20	0.11
PO_222 Population policies should not pursue demographic targets; their primary goal should be to strengthen the human resource base for national and global sustainable development.	-0.20	-0.29	0.22
PO_221 It is time to look again at the Cairo consensus and pursue a stabilisation of population for environmental and sustainable development while preserving basic human rights.	0.25	0.35	-0.06

Conclusions

With population growth slowing down, new pronatalist stances emerging and pressing need to act on climate change, global population policies need to balance a more complex and less clear-cut set of priorities

Should policies pursue demographic targets in the first place?

Can population policies be effective at all in modifying long-term processes of demographic transition linked modernisation/urbanisation/development?

Should we more simply start adapting to low fertility and ageing society?

Thank you



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