

## IAED USA Webinar: Headwing Economic Summit: The Crisis of Family Formation

Roger Wetherall  
February 23, 2026



Dear,

Today we are experiencing a global fertility crisis that many are calling “the most crucial economic issue of our time”. Focusing resources behind family formation policies is essential to addressing many pressing contemporary challenges that result from declining birth rates, including mental health crises, spiraling welfare costs, and poverty. An aging and declining population becomes a serious financial threat for governments to meet the essential needs for social security expenditure, infrastructure, debt financing, defense spending and more.

IAED has developed a “Headwing Economics” Framework outlining a roadmap toward an economy of Freedom, Peace and Shared Prosperity. We highlight the importance of an economy where the cultural sphere informs the economic and political spheres to create an environment where healthy families grounded in strong values can flourish.

This program looks deeper into the root causes of our fertility crisis, the delaying of marriage and child-rearing and examines the impact to our economy and social harmony. What are the demographic trends involving marriage and child-rearing? What policies should our governments pursue? Are the obstacles to reversing these trends primarily economic or cultural? The U.S. does not currently have a national strategy for family formation to address this crisis. Should it?

Register for the Webinar

New York, USA (EST): Friday, February 27, 2026 at 6:00:00 pm  
Sydney, Australia (AEST): Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 10:00:00 am  
Seoul, Korea (KST): Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 8:00:00 am  
Click here for [webinar times in other time zones](#)

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# Dan Hess

@MoreBirths

## **The Great Crisis of Low Birthrates Threatening our Future and the Biggest Levers to Reverse It.**

**Daniel Hess** is a data analyst, engineer, and pronatalist advocate renowned for creating and writing the widely followed [@MoreBirths](#) X account with over 40,000 followers and Substack, where he dissects the global fertility collapse through empirical data and evidence-based solutions.

Drawing from his high-tech background, Hess explores drivers like cultural individualism, urban density, and policy gaps, framing low birthrates as civilization's greatest threat. He is a frequent guest on podcasts, including Razib Khan's [Unsupervised Learning](#) and Aaron Renn's Urban Future, to discuss fertility trends and reversal strategies.

He is a father of six living in the Washington, DC area



# Dr. Lyman Stone

Institute for Family Studies

## **Causal Factors of the Fertility Gap, its Threat to Economic and Social Stability and Pro-Natalism Policies: What Needs to be Done**

**Lyman Stone** is an American demographer and public policy commentator. He currently serves as Director of the [Pronatalism Initiative](#) at the [Institute for Family Studies](#) and Director of Research for population consulting firm Demographic Intelligence, Charlottesville, Virginia. He also serves as Research Director at the population consultancy "Populi Information." He received his PhD in sociology (population dynamics) at McGill University, researching topics including fertility intentions and realization, fertility policy, and family formation.



# Delano Squires

## Heritage Foundation

### **Crossroads: Why America's Next 250 Years Will be Determined by the Strength of its Families**

**Delano Squires** is Director of the Richard and Helen DeVos Center for Human Flourishing, where he focuses on policies and social norms that promote marriage, fatherhood, and healthy families.

Squires is the author of the forthcoming book [The Vanishing Black Family: How Welfare and Feminism Made Marriage Optional and Children Vulnerable](#). His writings have been published by Newsweek, National Review, The American Conservative, The Federalist, The New York Post, World, The Institute for Family Studies, Black Enterprise, Blaze Media, Black and Married with Kids, The Root, and The Grio.

Squires earned his bachelor of science degree in computer engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and a graduate degree in public policy from The George Washington University. He resides in Maryland with his wife and four children.



# Dr. Robert Kittel

## World Christian Leadership Conference

### **A Theology of Marriage**

**Dr. Robert S. Kittel** has lived and worked in Asia since 1975. Currently, he is the Director of Education for the World Christian Leadership Conference (WCLC). He received his Doctoral Degree from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut, USA, in 2004 specializing in family-values-based character education for adolescents. During his nearly five decades of living and working in Asia, he has published 14 books, articles, curricula, and in-depth research papers, along with being a photo-journalist with stories running in seven international publications. Additionally, Dr. Kittel has been a

guest speaker and educator in schools, colleges, universities, and faith-based organizations, teaching hundreds of thousands of students in more than 40 nations. Currently, he is living in Chicago with his wife, along with three beautiful grandchildren, ages 5 to 1.5 years old.

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**Lynn Walsh**  
**Universal Peace Federation's Office of the Family**

**Respondent**

**Lynn Walsh**, MSW, MDiv, is the Director of the Universal Peace Federation's Office of the Family and is a UPF UN representative. Lynn serves as the Co-chair of the NGO Committee on the Family, NY at the UN. She has a Masters in Clinical Social Work from Fordham University and Masters in Divinity from HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership (HJI).



**Alan Jessen**  
**Moderator, IAED**

**North American Coordinator**  
International Association for Peace and Economic Development

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We look forward to your participation and engagement in this event.  
You can download our framework document at the link below.

[Headwing Economics Framework](#)



## International Association for Peace and Economic Development

We affirm our belief that business leaders have the opportunity and responsibility to work in collaboration with other sectors of society to make the world a better place, addressing its most significant challenges, and promoting world peace, long-term mutual prosperity and truly sustainable development

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