

Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue gave a presentation at a US National Academy of Science workshop on Sustainability Science. The title of the workshop was "Can Earth and Society's Systems Meet the Needs of 10 Billion People?" The title of his talk (abstract below) was Population-Inequality-Sustainability: Beyond IPAT.

Summary

*Is a 10-billion planet sustainable? What are the implications of continued population growth and economic inequality? In this presentation, we argue that a full understanding of the relations between population and sustainability requires a broader perspective that moves beyond restrictive 'IPAT' frameworks. One such perspective (labeled PIES) is sketched herein and it rests on three tenets: 1) population is broader than population size or growth; 2) sustainability likewise encompasses both ecological and socioeconomic sustainability; 3) the effects of population on sustainability are mediated in part through its effects on economic inequality. Beyond breadth, a PIES perspective has two additional merits: it connects population to current debates on global inequality; and it avoids blaming 'the population problem' on poor countries. We discuss and test key the links in this perspective, including the effects of various population processes on different dimensions of inequality. The review suggests that (1) **population age structure** is the key demographic variable affecting global between-country inequality; while (2) **differential fertility behavior** shapes inequality within high fertility countries, and (3) **family structure** and differential patterns of family formation are key within lower fertility countries.*