

Dr Heini Väisänen
Email: heini.vaisanen@ined.fr
Website: <https://heinivaisanen.com>
Bluesky: [@heinivaisanen.bsky.social](https://heinivaisanen.bsky.social)

• **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Population, sexual and reproductive health in the Global Norths and Souths, in particular abortion, miscarriage and pregnancy intentions over the life course. The effect of life course reproductive events on later health and wellbeing.

• **EDUCATION**

2016 **PhD in Demography**, Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics (LSE), United Kingdom (UK); Thesis title *A life course perspective to Abortion in Finland*
Supervisors: Professor Michael Murphy and Dr Tiziana Leone.

2014 **Postgraduate Teaching Certificate in Higher Education**, LSE, UK.

2012 **MSc in Social Research Methods** (Population Stream), Department of Methodology, LSE.

2010 **Master in Social Sciences** (Major: Sociology, minor: gender studies and statistics), Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki, Finland.

2007–2008 Erasmus exchange, **Sociology and Ethnography**, École Normale Supérieure, France.

• **CURRENT POSITION**

2020–present **Tenured Researcher** (since 14 December 2020)
Sexual and reproductive Health and Rights & Demography of the Global South units,
The French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED), France

• **PREVIOUS POSITIONS**

2015–2023 **Lecturer in Social Statistics and Demography** (full-time 2015–20, part-time 2021–23)
Department of Social Statistics and Demography, University of Southampton, UK

2015 **Research Assistant**, Department of Social Policy, LSE

2015 **Coordinator, E-conference on abortion research**, Department of Social Policy, LSE

2014 **Visiting Research Fellow**, Guttmacher Institute, New York City, United States

2012–2014 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Department of Social Policy and Department of Methodology, LSE, UK

2009–2011 **Researcher and Coordinator**, Department of Behavioural Sciences, University of Helsinki, Finland

2010 **Researcher**, Population Research Institute, Väestöliitto, Finland

2009 **Researcher**, City of Helsinki Urban Facts, Finland

• **FELLOWSHIPS AND FUNDING**

2024–2028 *European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant*: Social Inequalities in the risk and aftermath of miscarriage, principal investigator (PI), €1,26 million.

2022–2027 *United Kingdom Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)*: Centre for Population Change (CPC) Connecting Generations, co-investigator (Co-I) (PI Prof Falkingham), £8,26 million ≈ €9,8 million.

2020–2023 *United Kingdom Research and Innovation – Global Challenges Research Funds*. Rethinking the off-grid city: Expanding safe water and waste management service access to off-grid urban populations in Africa, Co-I (PI Prof Wright), £1,533,969 ≈ €1,820,250.

2019 *University of Southampton, UK, Global Research Initiator Scheme Travel Fund*: ‘Women’s health study in Accra’, PI, £3,090 ≈ €3670.

2018–2019 *University of Southampton, UK, Faculty of Social, Human and Mathematical Sciences, Strategic Interdisciplinary Research Development Fund*: ‘Medication abortion in restrictive settings: health literacy of women obtaining misoprostol’, PI, £9,745 ≈ €11,600.

2014 *ESRC Overseas institutional visit award, UK, PI* (3 months), £3,250 ≈ €3860.

2011–2015 *ESRC Doctoral Training Centre Studentship, UK, PI*, (full award with additional advanced quantitative methods stipend), PI, £77,769 ≈ €92,300.

• AWARDS

2023 **IUSSP Early Career Award (Europe)**, *the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population*

2021 **BSPS Early Career Award**, *British Society for Population Studies (BSPS)*

2016 *European Society for Health and Medical Sociology (ESHMS)* conference **best paper** prize with paper 'Timing of abortions, births and relationship transitions in Finland'

2014 **Best student poster**, *British Society for Population Studies (BSPS)*

2013 **Best MSc Dissertation**, *British Society for Population Studies (BSPS)*

• PHD SUPERVISION

2024-present Kasabiiti Jennifer Asiimwe: *Obstetric Fistula: An Indicator of Poor Obstetric Care in Uganda*. INED and University of Makerere.

2018-2022 Eunice Williams: *Women's Economic Empowerment, Child and Household Welfare in Sub-Saharan Africa with a focus on Malawi*. University of Southampton.

2017-2020 Maria Herica La Valle: *Life events and changes in health-related behaviours: An investigation using the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing*. University of Southampton.

• TEACHING ACTIVITIES

2021 National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM), UK, online teaching resources on [binary](#), [multinomial](#) and [ordinal](#) regression.

2015– 23 Lecturer in Social Statistics and Demography
Department of Social Statistics and Demography, University of Southampton, UK
Lecturing and coordination of undergraduate and master's courses in quantitative and demographic methods, population and reproductive health. Supervision of master's and undergraduate dissertations.

2012–14 Seminar leader Department of Social Policy and Department of Methodology, LSE, UK
Introductory and intermediate-level quantitative and demographic methods

• INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

2025-2029 Member of *Evaluation Committee*, INED, France.

2021–2023 Co-organiser of 'Lundis de l'Ined' seminar series, INED, France

2019–2020 Co-director of Teaching Programmes, Department of Social Statistics and Demography, University of Southampton, UK

2016–2019 MSc programme coordinator, Department of Social Statistics and Demography, University of Southampton, UK

2015–2016 Organiser of Departmental Seminar Series, Department of Social Statistics and Demography, University of Southampton, UK

2013 Population@LSE brown bag seminar series co-organiser 2013

• ORGANISATION OF MAJOR SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

2024-25 ICPD - Sexual and reproductive rights 30 years on: lecture and film series, *Campus Condorcet, Aubervilliers, France*

2026 Session co-organiser: Studying pregnancy losses, *European Society of Health and Medical Sociology, Hamburg, Germany*

2025 Session organiser: Interplay Between Individual and Contextual Influences on Reproduction, *International Population Conference, Brisbane, Australia*

2022 *FemQuant anniversary event: Looking back, looking forward*, co-organiser and panellist.

2022 Session organiser: Contextual Influences on Fertility and Family Planning, *Population Association of America annual meeting, United States*

2021 *Beyond the Binary Variable: Feminist Approaches to Quantitative Science (FemQuant)* conference co-organiser

2019–2020 Fertility and Reproductive Health Strand organiser, *BSPS Annual conference*

2019 *Gender Data Gaps: FemQuant conference* co-organiser

2018 Feminist Quantitative Science Strand co-organiser, *BSPS Annual conference*

2014 Poster session co-organiser, *BSPS Annual conference 2014*

• EDITORIAL AND REVIEWING ACTIVITIES

2023 Expert reviewer of a *Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (RJ), Sweden*, funding application
2022–present Associate editor, *Demographic Research* journal
2021–2023 Associate editor, *Reproductive Health* journal
2021 Member of the Expert Funding Panel, DEMOGRAPHY call, *The Finnish Academy*
2021 Expert reviewer of a *European Research Council Starting Grant* application
2020–2022 Member of the *Commonwealth Scholarship Academic Adviser Panel*
2013–present Reviewer in over 20 journals e.g. *Demography, Journal of Marriage and Family, Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Population Studies*.

• MEMBERSHIPS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

2017–present *FemQuant* Network co-ordinator
2013–present Member of *British Society for Population Studies, Population Association of America, European Association for Population Studies, Union of African Population Studies, and the IUSSP*.

• PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Beaujouan, Eva, Shalini Singh, Anna Šťastná, Martin Kreidl, Daniel Dvořák, Barbora Hubatková, Darina Kmentova, Jitka Slabá, Jasmin Passet-Wittig, Alice Goisis, **Heini Väistänen** (2025). First reproductive experience: A survey module. *Demographic Research*, 53(37), 1173-1206.
2. Compans, MC, and **Heini Väistänen** (2025). Social patterns of miscarriage reporting and risk: Insights from survey data in France. *European Journal of Public Health*, DOI 10.1093/eurpub/ckaf099.
3. **Väistänen, Heini**, and Katherine Keenan (2025). Measuring social inequalities in self-reported miscarriage experiences in the United Kingdom. *Journal of Critical Public Health*, <https://doi.org/10.55016/ojs/jcpb.vi.79555>.
4. **Väistänen, Heini**, and Ewa Batyra (2024). Birth Intention Status and Infant Mortality: Fixed-effects Analysis of 60 Countries. *Population and Development Review*, 50(4), 1149-1180.
5. Williams, Eunice Mueni, Sabu S. Padmadas and **Heini Väistänen** (2024). Falling behind in school: Mother's economic empowerment and its association with children's grade progression in Malawi. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 106, 103022.
6. Leone, Tiziana, **Heini Väistänen** and Firman Witoelar (2024). Women's fertility and allostatic load in the post-reproductive years: An analysis of the Indonesian Family Life Survey. *Population Studies*, 78(1), 127-149.
7. **Väistänen, Heini**, Hanna Remes and Pekka Martikainen (2022). Perinatal health among migrant women: A longitudinal register study in Finland 2000-17. *Social Science and Medicine – Population Health*, 20, 101298.
8. Wright, J.A., S. Damkjaer, **H. Väistänen**, Q. Adama-Tettey, M. Dzodzomenyo, A.G. Hill, L.G. Okotto, J. Okotto-Okotto and P. Shaw (2022). On the use of household expenditure surveys to monitor mismanaged plastic waste from food packaging in low- and middle-income countries. *Environmental Research Letters*, 17(12), 124029.
9. Williams, Eunice, **Heini Väistänen** and Sabu Padmadas (2022). Women's economic empowerment in sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from cross-national population data. *Demographic Research*, 47(15), 415-452.
10. **Väistänen, Heini**, and Ewa Batyra (2022). Unintended pregnancy resolution among parous women in twelve low- and middle-income countries, *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 54(4), 698-724.
11. **Väistänen, H.**, A.M. Moore, O. Owolabi, M. Stillman, A. Fatusi and A. Akinyemi (2021). Sexual and reproductive health literacy, misoprostol knowledge and use of medication abortion in Lagos State, Nigeria: A mixed methods study, *Studies in Family Planning*, 52(2): 217-237.
12. Stillman, M., Owolabi, O., Fatusi, A. O., Akinyemi, A., Berry, A. L., Erifolami, T. P., Olagunju, O. S., **Väistänen, H.**, Bankole, A. (2020). Women's self-reported experiences using misoprostol obtained from drug sellers: a prospective cohort study in Lagos State, Nigeria. *BMJ Open*, 10(5): 1-10 [e034670].

13. Grundy, Emily, Sanna Read and **Heini Väistönen** (2020). Fertility trajectories and later-life depression among parents in England. *Population Studies*, 74(2): 219-240. [E-pub ahead of print in 2019.]
14. Heino, Anna, Mika Gissler, Maili Malin and **Heini Väistönen** (2020). Induced abortions by woman's country of origin in Finland 2001–2014. *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*, 48(1): 88–95. [E-pub ahead of print in 2019.]
15. **Väistönen, Heini**, Päivikki Koponen, Mika Gissler and Osmo Kontula (2018). Contraceptive use among migrant women with a history of induced abortion in Finland. *The European Journal of Contraception & Reproductive Health Care*, 23(4): 274-281.
16. **Väistönen, Heini** (2018). Does the association between teen births or abortions and educational attainment vary by socioeconomic background in Finland? *Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*, 9(2), 245-256.
17. **Väistönen, Heini** (2017). The timing of abortions, births, and union dissolutions in Finland. *Demographic Research*, 37(28): 889-916.
18. **Väistönen, Heini** (2016). Educational inequalities in repeat abortion: A longitudinal register study in Finland 1975-2010. *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 48(6): 820-832.
19. **Väistönen, Heini** (2015). Labour Force Participation and the Likelihood of Abortion in Finland over Three Birth Cohorts. *Finnish Yearbook of Population Research*, 50: 5-20.
20. **Väistönen, Heini** and Rachel Jones (2015). Using Panel Data to Examine Pregnancy Attitudes over Time. *International Journal of Population Studies*, 1 (1): 109-121.
21. **Väistönen, Heini** (2015). The association between education and induced abortion for three cohorts of adults in Finland. *Population Studies*, 69 (3): 373-388.
22. **Väistönen, Heini** and Michael Murphy (2014). Social Inequalities in Teenage Fertility Outcomes: Childbearing and Abortion Trends of Three Birth Cohorts in Finland. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 46 (2): 109-116.
23. Berg, Venla, Anna Rotkirch, **Heini Väistönen**, and Markus Jokela (2013). Personality Is Differentially Associated with Planned and Non-planned Pregnancies. *Journal of Research in Personality* 47 (4): 296-305.
24. Rotkirch, Anna, Stuart Basten, **Heini Väistönen**, and Markus Jokela (2011). Baby Longing and Men's Reproductive Motivation. *Vienna Yearbook of Population Research* 9: 283-306.
25. **Väistönen, Heini**, and Markus Jokela (2010). Fertility after Induced Abortion: a Register-Based Study in Finland 2000-2008. *Finnish Yearbook of Population Research* XLV: 25-44.

- **WORKING PAPERS AND PRE-PRINTS**

1. Köksal, Selin, MC Compans, **Heini Väistönen** (2026). Miscarriage reporting in longitudinal and cross-sectional surveys in Great Britain. *SocArXiv*, DOI: 10.31235/osf.io/e86sp_v1.
2. **Väistönen, Heini**, Hanna Remes, Lara Lehtoranta, MC Compans, Pekka Martikainen (2025). Measuring miscarriages: A comparison of self-reported and healthcare register data in Finland. *SocArXiv*, DOI: 10.31235/osf.io/k3cxg_v1.
3. **Väistönen, Heini**, and Ewa Batyra (2022). The Effect of Birth Intention Status on Infant Mortality: A Fixed Effects Analysis of 60 Countries. *MPIDR Working Papers*, WP-2022-032.
4. **Väistönen, Heini** and Jason Hilton (2018). Indirect estimation of age-specific induced abortion rates in Sub-Saharan Africa. *IUSSP Working Paper*.
5. **Väistönen, Heini** (2014). The Association of the Timing and Outcome of the First Pregnancy with Socioeconomic Position Later in Life in Finland. *IUSSP Working Paper*.

- **POLICY BRIEFS AND POPULARISATION OF SCIENCE**

1. Duthé, Géraldine, Arlette Simo Fotso and **Heini Väistönen** (2025). Arrêt de l'USAID : un grand frein aux recherches sur la santé et le développement. *AOC (Analyse Opinion Critique)*.
2. **Väistönen, Heini** and Ewa Batyra (2024). Infant mortality after an unintended birth, *N-IUSSP News Magazine*, 25/11/2024.

3. Becquet, Valentine, Mireille Le Guen, Céline Miani, Virginie Rozée and **Heini Väistönen** (2024). Sexual and reproductive rights 30 years after the Cairo Conference on Population and Development, *Population & Societies* 625: 1-4. (French version)
4. Duthé, Géraldine, Laurence Fleury, France Meslé and **Heini Väistönen** (2024): L'espérance de vie humaine va-t-elle continuer à augmenter ? Pour qui ? *Les impropositus du LPED : Digressions*, No. 8: 173-179.
5. Becquet, Valentine, **Heini Väistönen**, Isaure Martinot-Lagarde, Anne Roos-Weil, and Clémentine Rossier (2021). Making abortion safer: a vital necessity. *AFD Editions* No 10/2021. (Versions in French, Spanish and Portuguese).
6. **Väistönen, Heini** (2018). Relationship stability is important for abortion decisions in Finland, N- *IUSSP News Magazine*, 29/01/2018.

- **COMMENTARIES AND EDITORIALS**

1. Yang, F., Caroline Cardona, **Heini Väistönen** (2026). Reproductive health research in the Global South. *China Population and Development Studies*. DOI: 10.1007/s42379-025-00209-3.
2. Yang, Fan, **Heini Väistönen** (2026). Reproductive health at crossroads: progress and challenges since the international conference on population and development in Cairo. *China Population and Development Studies*, DOI: 10.1007/s42379-025-00208-4.
3. **Väistönen, Heini**, and Hanna Remes (2025). Estimating Pregnancy Loss Trends: Important Work With Imperfect Data. *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology*, 39(8), 642-644, DOI: 10.1111/ppe.70092.

- **THESES**

1. **Väistönen, Heini** (2016). *A Life Course Perspective to Abortion in Finland*. PhD Thesis. London School of Economics and Political Science, UK.