The human population: projections and predictions
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Abstract:

According to many demographers, population projections forecast populations conditional on assumed trends in births, deaths and migration, while population predictions unconditionally forecast what is expected to happen (sometimes with an associated probability or confidence). This expository, non-technical talk will review some recent innovations in population projections and population predictions, compare their methods and results, and identify where more remains to be done. From areas of general agreement, what appears to be known about the future of the human population in the 21st century? How useful are the methods of population projection and prediction in trying to influence future population?