



Prof. Bernardo Maria Colombo Professor



Most important awards, prizes and academies

Awards: Gold medal for merit in education, culture and arts. *Academies:* Società Italiana di Statistica; International Union for the Scientific Study of Population; International Statistical Institute; International Association for Official Statistics; Socio effettivo, Accademia Patavina di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti; Socio effettivo, Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti; Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

Summary of scientific research

Starting from a basic preparation in statistics, Prof. Colombo, during a long career, has pursued several lines of research. After early work on the theory of hypothesis testing and original contributions to the techniques of sequential analysis, he became interested in demographic problems. In this field he has been involved both in the methodology of measurements of fertility and nuptiality, and in factual analysis, with particular reference to the startling phenomenon of the recovery of the birth rate in several countries during the last world war and to the incidence of illegal abortion in Italy. This kind of research work has gone hand in hand with his continuous attention to fundamental aspects of demographic policies in order to find reasonable lines of intervention which respect basic human rights and lead to acceptable solutions through a balance between free individual decisions and collective needs and targets. Strongly engaged in consulting

work for civil authorities, his main contribution has been suggestions about the organization of the school system and the methodology of production of good official statistics. He has also carried out biometrical research, starting with a thorough study on the primary and secondary sex ratio in man. His most recent and engaging work, with responsibility for the coordination of large undertakings at the international and national levels, centers on a subject - the biometry of the menstrual cycle and especially of fecundability - which is at the heart of the interaction of the biological and behavioural components of reproduction, that is to say the history of individuals as well as of human populations.

Main publications

Colombo, B., *La recente inversione nella tendenza della natalità*, CEDAM, Padova (1951); Colombo, B., Sulla misura della fertilità matrimoniale e sulla determinazione della sua dinamica, *Riv. Intern. di Scienze Soc.*, 61, pp. 40-58 (1953); Colombo, B., Intorno all'estrapolazione della dinamica della nuzialità, *Statistica*, 14, pp. 747-75 (1954); Colombo, B., On the sex ratio in man, *Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology*, 22, pp. 193-202 (1957); Colombo, B., Appunti di metodologia sequenziale, *Mem. Acc. Patav. di Sc., Lett. ed Arti*, 71, pp. 113-40 (1959); Colombo, B., *Prospettive per la scuola dopo l'obbligo*, Il Mulino, Bologna (1971); Colombo, B., *La diffusione degli aborti illegali in Italia*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano (1977); Colombo, B., Droits de l'homme, idéologies et politiques démographiques, *Actes, Congrès International de la Population*, Mexico 1977, Union Intern. pour l'Et. Scient. de la Pop., Liège, pp. 541-90 (1978); Colombo, B., Le statistiche demografiche, ISTAT, *Annali di Stat.*, Serie IX, 1, pp. 19-53 (1981); Colombo, B., Riflessioni sullo sfruttamento intensivo dei risultati censuari, *Statistica*, 42, 4, pp. 455-76 (1982); Colombo, B., La qualità dei dati statistici, *Atti del convegno di Trieste*, Vol. I, Soc. Ital. di Stat., pp. 25-65 (1983); Colombo, B., Politiche demografiche e politiche sociali: possibilità e opportunità d'intervento, *Secondo rapporto sulla situazione demografica italiana*, Ist. di Ric. sulla Popol., CNR, Roma, pp. 327-47 (1988); Colombo, B., Biometrical research on some parameters of the menstrual cycle, *Intern. Jl. of Gynec. and Obst.*, Suppl. 1, pp. 13-18 (1989); Colombo, B., *Resources and Population: Natural, Institutional and Demographic Dimensions of Development* (a cura di Bernardo Colombo, Paul Demeny e Max Perutz), Clarendon Press, Oxford (1996); Colombo, B. and Scarpa, B., Calendar Methods of Fertility Regulation: a rule of thumb, *Statistica*, 56, 1, pp. 3-14 (1996); Colombo, B., Evaluation of fertility predictors and comparison of different rules, *Genus*, 54, 3-4, pp. 153-67 (1998); Colombo, B. and Masarotto, G., *Daily Fecundability: First Results from a New Data Base*, www.demographic-research.org/Volumes/Vol3/5/ (2000); Dunson, D.B., Baird, D.D. and Colombo, B., Changes with age in the level and duration of fertility in the menstrual cycle, *Human Reproduction*, 17, 5, pp. 1399-403 (2002); Dunson, D.B. and Colombo, B., Bayesian Modelling of Markers of Day-Specific Fertility, *Jl. of the Amer. Stat. Ass.*, 98, 461, pp. 28-37 (2003); Colombo, B., Mion, A., Passarin, K. and Scarpa, B., Cervical mucus symptom and daily fecundability: first results from a new database, *Stat. Meth. in Medical Research*, 15, 2, pp. 161-80 (2006).

