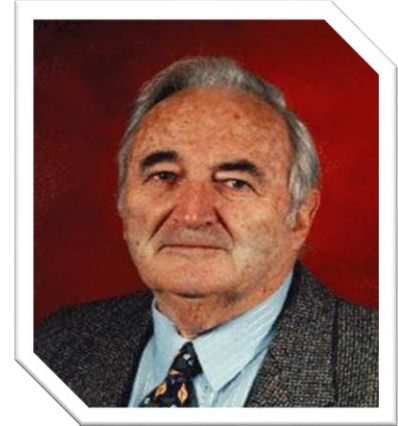


INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HEALTH (IASSH)

Seventh Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture

The Doyen of Demography, **Prof. John Charles (Jack) Caldwell**, died on 12th March 2016 at the age of 87 in Canberra. He was associated with the Department of Demography of the Australian National University (ANU) for many decades. Caldwell's seminal work included documentation of the role of mother's education in fertility limitation and child mortality decline and the role of circumcision in inhibiting the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa.



He was the president of IUSSP. He is known for his “wealth flows” theory, which relates demographic transition theory to changes in intergenerational transfers within the family. He has encouraged and mentored many young scholars from India, and a good number of them received their Ph. Ds from ANU under his able guidance. His anthropological demographic work on South India, particularly on marriage, fertility and contraception, received much research attention. At Prof. K.N.M. Raju's initiative, his students, colleagues, and friends approached the Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH) to institute a memorial lecture in his honour. Considering this request, the IASSH instituted the lecture series in memory of the most famous demographer of our times.

The Seventh Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture was held at the Convention-cum-Cultural Centre of Pondicherry University on **January 31st, 2024 during the 19th Annual conference of IASSH**. **Prof. K. Srinivasan** (former Director of IIPS, and IUSSP Laureate - 2023) chaired the session. The session began with an introduction by **Prof. T. V. Sekher**, President of IASSH, about the life and works of Prof. John



Caldwell, a renowned demographer who contributed significantly to the field of demography. The guest speaker was **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan** (currently the Chairperson of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, served as WHO's Chief Scientist and Deputy

Director-General for Programs), delivered the seventh Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture on the theme - *“Lessons from the Pandemic for Science and Public Health.”*

In her speech, Dr. Swaminathan highlighted key insights from the COVID-19 pandemic and their implications for scientific research and public health practices. She emphasized the importance of global collaboration, data transparency, and rapid response mechanisms in addressing future health crises. She elaborated on how the pandemic highlighted the existing inequalities worldwide. Dr. Swaminathan discussed the role of scientific innovation in vaccine development and the need for equitable distribution to ensure widespread protection against infectious diseases. She emphasized the significance of evidence-based decision-making and effective communication strategies in fostering public trust and adherence to public health measures. Furthermore, Dr. Swaminathan addressed the challenges such as misinformation, vaccine hesitancy, and health inequalities, calling for concerted efforts to address systemic issues to promote health equity worldwide.

At the end of the lecture, **Dr. V. Selvaraju** (Vice President, IASSH) proposed the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the guest speaker, the chairperson, and the audience for their active participation and contribution to the event. Overall, the lecture provided valuable insights into the lessons learned from the pandemic and emphasized the critical role of science and public health in safeguarding global health and well-being.



Participants at the Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture of IASSH. Prof. T. V. Sekher, Prof. K. Srinivasan and Dr. V. Selvaraju on the dais.