

## Massimo Livi-Bacci: a Short Biography

Massimo Livi-Bacci was born in Florence on November 9, 1936 to a family of scholars. His father, Livio Livi, his grandfather, Ridolfo, and his great-grandfather, Carlo, were prominent scholars in the fields of statistics and social science, anthropology and psychiatry. Following his classical studies, he graduated (1960) from the Faculty of Political Science “Cesare Alfieri” of the University of Florence. In 1960-61 he studied at Brown University, supported by a Fulbright fellowship. His academic career began at the University of Rome, and in 1966 he went to Florence with a full professorship in Demography in the Faculty of Economics and later (1984) in the Faculty of Political Science “Cesare Alfieri”. He has spent periods teaching and conducting research in the United States, in Mexico, in Brazil and in various European countries. He has received *honoris causa* doctorates at the University of Liège and at the Universidad Complutense of Madrid. He is a member of the national “Lincei” Academy of Rome (since 1985), of the American Philosophical Society (since 2004) and of the Japan Academy (2008). In 2001 he was a recipient of the prestigious Invernizzi prize for economic and social science. He is Professor Emeritus of the University of Florence.

In his long career Massimo Livi-Bacci has published a number of scientific books, essays and articles; has organized meetings and conferences; has directed and coordinated research groups; has co-founded scientific societies; and has been a consultant to many institutions, in Italy and abroad. For twenty years he was at the head – first as Secretary General, later as President – of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), the world association of demographers. He has been responsible for the scientific organization of the major world population conferences sponsored every four years by IUSSP, in Mexico (1977), Manila (1981), Florence (1985), New Delhi (1989) and Montreal (1993) and initiated the contacts for the conference held in Beijing in 1997. He is currently honorary president of IUSSP.

His scientific activity has dealt with various aspects of Italian and world population, in its current development as well as in a historical perspective. He is a convinced supporter of an interdisciplinary approach to population studies and believes that expansion into other fields, beyond demography, is essential for a comprehensive explanation of major research issues. At present (2010), he is following two major lines of

investigation. The first, of a historical nature, deals with the native populations of Iberian America after the conquest; the second deals with contemporary issues, namely the interaction between population change and social policies. Among the books he has published in the last decade are “The Population of Europe. A History” (Blackwell, 1999); “Conquest. The Destruction of Native Americans” ( Polity 2008); “A Concise History of World Population” (fourth edition: Blackwell, 2006). “Eldorado in the Marshes. Gold, Slaves and Souls between the Andes and the Amazon” (Polity, 2010). They are all translated in many languages, and the third of the four is a favourite assignment in a great number of courses in economic history, social history, anthropology and demography.

He has been, since 2006, a member of the Senate.

Massimo Livi-Bacci is married to Niccoletta, has two children, Lorenzo and Caterina, and four grandsons, Pietro, Giovanni, Dario and Matteo.