



After the Spike

Today →
8 Billion
of us

Population, Progress, and the Case for People

Dean Michael
Spears Geruso



After the Spike: Population, Progress and the Case for People

Michael Geruso, Ph.D.

Economic demographer, public economist, and Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Texas at Austin.

Katy Milkman, Ph.D.

James G. Dinan Professor at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and author of the national bestseller *How to Change*.

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 7:00 PM

Register: www.bit.ly/GerusoFANWebinar

BONUS BOOK GIVEAWAY, sponsored by FAN!

Details on Zoom registration page.



This event is #freeandopentothepublic and will be recorded.
Suitable for youth 12+

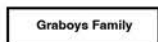
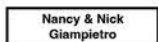
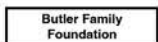
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MICHAEL GERUSO, Ph.D. – ON ZOOM

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Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 7:00 PM CT, After the Spike: Population, Progress, and the Case for People, a FAN webinar featuring Michael Geruso, Ph.D., in conversation with Katy Milkman, Ph.D.

REGISTER: www.bit.ly/GerusoFANWebinar

BONUS BOOK GIVEAWAY! FAN is giving away copies of *After the Spike* to randomly selected Zoom attendees. Details on the webinar registration page.

Most people on Earth today live in a country where birth rates already are too low to stabilize the population: fewer than two children for every two adults. In *After the Spike: Population, Progress, and the Case for People*, economists Dean Spears, Ph.D., and **Michael Geruso, Ph.D.**, sound a wakeup call, explaining why global depopulation is coming, why it matters, and what to do now.

It would be easy to think that fewer people would be better—better for the planet, better for the people who remain. This book invites us all to think again. Despite what we may have been told, depopulation is not the solution we urgently need for environmental challenges like climate change. Nor will it raise living standards by dividing what the world can offer across fewer of us. Spears and Geruso investigate what depopulation would mean for the climate, for living standards, for equity, for progress, for freedom, for humanity's general welfare. And what it would mean if, instead, people came together to share the work of caregiving and of building societies where parenting fits better with everything else that people aspire to.

With new evidence and sharp insights, Spears and Geruso make a lively and compelling case for stabilizing the population—without sacrificing our dreams of a greener future or reverting to past gender inequities. They challenge us to see how depopulation threatens social equity and material progress, and how welcoming it denies the inherent value of every human life. More than an assembly of the most important facts, *After the Spike* asks what future we should want for our planet, for our children, and for one another.

Geruso is an economic demographer, public economist, and associate professor of economics at the University of Texas at Austin. He served as a senior economist at the White House Council of Economic Advisers, where he advised on issues of health and demography. He holds bachelor's degrees in engineering, political science, and philosophy, and earned his Ph.D. in economics from Princeton.

Geruso will be in conversation with **Katy Milkman, Ph.D.**, the James G. Dinan Professor at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and the host of Charles Schwab's popular behavioral economics podcast *Choiceology*. She is also the co-founder and co-director (with Angela Duckworth, Ph.D., FAN '12, '16) of the Behavior Change for Good Initiative at Penn.

This event suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded and available on FAN's website and YouTube channel.

Sponsored by **FAN**, in partnership with The Avery Coonley School, Baker Demonstration School, Beacon Academy, Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, British International School of Chicago, Catherine Cook School, Compass Health Center, Evanston Township HS D202, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, Family Service Center, The Frances Xavier Warde School, Francis W. Parker School, Glencoe D35, Glenview Public Library, Gorton Center, Hyde Park Day School, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Kenilworth D38, Lake Bluff D65, Latin School of Chicago, Leo Catholic High School, Libertyville D70, Lycée Français de Chicago, North Shore Country Day, Northwestern University Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Pope John XXIII School, Psychgeist Media, Regina Dominican High School, Resurrection College Prep High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, Santa Clara University School of Law, Science & Arts Academy, Stevenson High School D125, Township High School D113, Wilmette Public Library, Wintrust Financial, Woodlands Academy, Youth & Opportunity United.