Abstract:
Despite population levels having nearly quadrupled over the 20th century, almost all of us are living longer, healthier and wealthier lives. Food production has steadily outstripped population growth, and natural resources are generally more readily available today than in the past. Are government attempts to plan and reduce populations based on a misreading of the situation? Is the 20th century’s unprecedented population growth only a result of people living longer due to better health? Can voluntary family planning programs have more impact on family size today than they have done in the past? What is the effective role of parental choice?

Bio-Sketch:
Nicholas Eberstadt, a political economist and demographer by training, is also a senior adviser to the National Bureau of Asian Research. In the US he has served on the President’s Council on Bioethics and the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Center for Health Statistics, among other capacities. He researches and writes extensively on economic development, global health, demographics, and poverty. A prolific author, he has published hundreds of articles and studies and some 20 books and monographs, ranging from Poverty In China (1979) to, most recently, A Nation of Takers: America’s Entitlement Epidemic (2012). Mr. Eberstadt earned his AB, MPA and Ph.D at Harvard and his M.Sc. at the London School of Economics. In 2012 he was awarded the Bradley Prize.