Historical and recent changes in human populations, international development and the global environment are closely interconnected. These changes have brought the world to a population of 7 billion with both unprecedented prosperity and resilient poverty, whose actions have led to a changing climate and declining biodiversity. However this century is likely to witness a peak in the global human population, declining poverty and net reforestation globally. We will examine these processes through the lens of population geography, a quantitative and people-focused perspective, to ask how individual decisions contribute to global outcomes as well as how individuals are affected by global change.