

Historical demography abstracts

Strand organisers: Professor Alice Reid (University of Cambridge), Dr. Eilidh Garrett (University of Edinburgh)

9.00am Tuesday 6 September: Households, marriage and family characteristics over time

Variations in household and family structure across time and space in Great Britain 1851-1901

Kevin Schurer¹, Alice Reid¹, Hannaliis Jaadla¹, Eilidh Garrett²; ¹University of Cambridge, ²University of Edinburgh

European analysis has shown that sub-national patterns in household and family structure were linked to the economic structures of different regions (Szoltyzek et al, 2014), and we therefore expect considerable variation in household and family structure across Britain. For example, differences in the age at leaving home and co-residence may be linked to the concentration of mining and certain other industries or variation in agricultural forms, but also to regional differences in housing stock. In addition, differences in regional cultures and norms may have affected the way that households and families were constituted. However there has been little exploration of historical geographic variation in the household structure of Great Britain. Analysis has either focused on contrasts between a few small areas (Hinde), or has presented results for undifferentiated units: Great Britain (Anderson 1988) or England and Wales (Schürer et al 2018). This paper will examine geographic patterns in household and family structure across England, Wales and Scotland in the second half of the nineteenth century, using individual-level census data from the Integrated Census Microdata (I-CeM) project covering censuses from 1851 to 1901. We will examine family composition, single parent families, living alone, extended households, childhood, leaving home and marriage patterns, and our analysis will focus not only on contrasts between the three countries, but also on sub-regional patterns and similarities on either side of the borders between them.

Email: amr1001@cam.ac.uk

The life histories of the elderly poor in late-Victorian England

Tom Heritage; University of Cambridge

The elderly comprised a substantial number of welfare claimants under the New Poor Law. We know that men were more likely to receive indoor relief (workhouse accommodation) over women, who were perceived to have stronger familial ties and domestic duties, which meant that they primarily received outdoor relief (welfare paid at home). However, little is known about the actual identities of the elderly poor. What circumstances in their earlier lives account for the type of welfare received in their old age? Using the names of older people (those aged 60 years and over) recorded in outdoor relief application and report books and workhouse registers in three English counties, they are linked with their appearance in the census enumerators' books. They are then traced back across past censuses. We first compare the socio-economic background of indoor and outdoor relief claimants in 1881 and 1891, before discussing their situation three decades before (1851 and 1861). Logistic regression techniques measure the likelihood of receiving indoor and outdoor relief via occupational structure, migration and the extent of relatives in the household. We find that among men, those who were never recorded as married or raising their own families were more likely to enter the workhouse in later life. Some also had a troubled history, which included institutionalization in hospitals and workhouses. We call for future studies to consider ageing in the past as a process contingent upon the earlier stages of one's life.

Email: th648@cam.ac.uk

Like father like son? Intergenerational occupational immobility in England, 1851-1911

Ziming Zhu; London School of Economics

The current literature on historical social mobility in England remains conflicted about the extent of mobility in the nineteenth century. Conventional estimates of intergenerational mobility, which entail calculating intergenerational elasticities by regressing sons' outcomes on fathers' outcomes or measuring the association of sons' status and fathers' status in a two-way contingency table, point to Victorian England being a mobile society. On the other hand, name-based estimates of intergenerational wealth elasticities suggest that mobility was limited past and present. Recent development in automated census linkage and the digitalisation of complete-count censuses precipitate new opportunities to address the question of Victorian social mobility with an improved dataset. This paper uses a linked sample of between 67,000 and 160,000 father-son pairs between 1851 and 1911 to provide revised estimates of intergenerational occupational mobility in England. After correcting for classical measurement errors using instrumental variables, I find that conventional estimates of intergenerational elasticities could severely underestimate the extent of father-son association in socioeconomic status. Instrumenting one measure of the father's outcome with a second measure of the father's outcome raises the intergenerational elasticities (β) of occupational status to between 0.62 and 0.68. Victorian England was therefore a society of limited social mobility. The implications of my results for long-run evolution in, and international comparisons of, social mobility in England are discussed.

Email: z.zhu11@lse.ac.uk

"Door in Door": Assortative mating of elite in Imperial China, 1674-1854

Xizi Luo; London School of Economics

Imperial China had a lower level of mobility than earlier studies had predicted. Marriage alliance was the other pathway that will assist a family in accessing positions of power. There was a proverb “门当户对”, which means marrying people with same social status. This is the first study to quantify the level of assortative mating among families in imperial China. It testifies how vital a marriage connection was for them to maintain their status through generations. It constructs a new national marriage dataset based on 6086 households between 1618 and 1854. I estimate assortment by degree and occupational positions in government, and the intergenerational correlation of status between fathers-in-law and grooms. There is strong evidence of matching among families and a significant correlation between fathers-in-law and grooms. Furthermore, I show that maternal grandfathers and relatives are important on men's social status. Thus, marriage played a role in maintaining status in imperial China.

Email: x.luo10@lse.ac.uk

1.15pm Tuesday 6 September: Sickness and death in the past: patterns and consequences

Ways of dying in the past: A demographic evaluation of the first Norwegian causes of death nomenclature

Hilde L. Sommerseth; UIT the Arctic University of Norway

This paper discusses the progress towards the first Norwegian causes of death nomenclature, adopted in 1861. The timing – 1861 – coincided with a contemporary strong notion of the significance of statistics as the true science both within Norway and internationally. In addition, the aftermath of the 1854 cholera epidemic had raised concerns for a coherent way of monitoring the paths of infectious diseases. With the emergence of a public health service that manifested itself in the Public Health Act of 1860, the premises of a transparent national system were optimistic. Did they succeed? By comparing causes of death registration prior to and after 1861, this paper aims to detect possible variance in the terms used, and of particular interest is to investigate to what extent the nomenclature worked seamlessly regardless of the sex and age of the deceased.

Email: hilde.sommerseth@uit.no

Subnational mortality patterns in Great Britain, 1861–1901

Hannaliis Jaadla¹, Alice Reid¹ and Eilidh Garrett²; ¹University of Cambridge, ²University of Edinburgh

This paper will use newly generated subnational mortality data to explore spatial and temporal variations in mortality in Great Britain from 1861 to 1901. It is well established that there is considerable subnational variation in mortality patterns, however, up to now, much of the research in historical context has focused on local and regional patterns within Scotland and England and Wales separately. Our aim is to take a more holistic approach and to consider mortality developments across the whole of Great Britain to investigate the possible local demographic continuities straddling national borders and the importance of local economic, occupational or cultural settings in influencing levels of mortality across space. The main data sources for this analysis are a combination of published and individual-level mortality statistics (the published Quarterly and Decennial Reports of the Registrar General for England and Wales (Woods and Shelton 1997, Jaadla and Reid 2017); individual-level vital statistics for Scotland provided by Digitising Scotland project) and individual-level census data from the Integrated Census Microdata (I-CeM) project. Preliminary results indicate that there was considerable subnational variation in infant and early childhood mortality across districts of Great Britain (see PopulationsPast.org). Infant mortality rates in most Scottish registration districts were much lower than those in other parts of Great Britain and this pattern continued until early 20th century. However, we expect to find the Scottish age-specific death rates at almost all other ages to be higher than those in England and Wales (Anderson, 2018).

Email: amr1001@cam.ac.uk

150 years of postal sickness and health

Nicola Shelton¹ and the Addressing Health Team²; ¹University College London, ²Kings College London, CL, Derby, University College London

This paper will draw together findings from the Addressing Health project <https://addressinghealth.org.uk/> For 1861-1901 this paper uses a new dataset with individual's cause of death and their health prior to death, derived from three sources. First, the death certificates of UK postal workers who retired in 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901. Second, a sample of several thousand pensioners whose year of death is known. Thirdly, the pension application form for these workers. This form gives the cause of their retirement (giving precise conditions where retirement was caused by ill health) and information on the number of days off for sickness taken in each of the ten years prior to their retirement, as well as information on their occupation, place of work, age, gender and length of service. The period from 1890-1980 then draws on the work of Taylor and Burrige who looked at the medical causes of retirement and death of UK postal workers. Then from 1971-2011 this paper explores the limiting long term illness status in 1991 of current and former postal workers in 1971 in England and Wales and their work exit and mortality with cause of death, comparing them to other public sector workers and the wider workforce using the Office for National Statistics Longitudinal Study (ONS LS). This paper uses these data to examine the relationship between health status, cause of retirement and cause of death, between sickness profile and cause of death, and between cause of retirement and longevity.

Email: n.shelton@ucl.ac.uk

Did the 1918 pandemic cause a 1920 baby boom in Europe?

Hampton Gaddy¹, Mathias Mølbak Ingholt²; ¹University of Oxford, ²Roskilde University.

In the two years following the 1918 influenza pandemic, European countries that were neutral in World War I saw a small baby bust followed by a small baby boom. The limited literature on this topic has attributed the 1919 bust to individuals postponing pregnancies during the pandemic's peak and the 1920 boom to them recuperating their fertility. Using data from the six major neutral countries in Europe, we present novel evidence contradicting the narrative of mass recuperation in 1920. In fact, the subnational populations and age groups whose fertility was initially hit hardest by the pandemic were still experiencing below-average fertility in 1920. Our demographic evidence and review of the known post-pandemic fertility trends outside of Europe suggest that the 1920 boom was caused by the end of World War I, not the end of the pandemic. Our

findings also have relevance to the literature on the social and demographic recovery from pandemics and on the effects of in utero exposure to the 1918 pandemic.

Email: hampton.gaddy@nuffield.ox.ac.uk
