

Editor: Melanie Frost

The British Society for Population Studies Newsletter

## Conference Edition: Welcome to Winchester!

As summer waves us all a hasty goodbye and a new academic year beckons many of us are descending upon the University of Winchester for the 2014 Conference. I'm hoping to get the opportunity to catch up with as many of you as possible, especially at the quiz on Tuesday evening after dinner, which I volunteered to write along with Amos Channon the previous newsletter editor.

We are saying goodbye to some much loved members of the council at this year's AGM (please make sure you attend). Roy Lewis has been treasurer for many years and to mark his departure we've caught up with him in the "5 minutes with..." segment. Julia Mikolai will no longer be postgraduate student rep. She has been a fantastic help with this newsletter and will be greatly missed, though I'm sure her replacement will be equally fantastic. Finally, Sylvie Dubuc will be leaving the council as her term has come to an

end. Roy, Julia and Sylvie will all be at the conference if you wish to say hello.



Anthony Gormley's statue in  
Winchester Cathedral

At the conference you can also look forward to two exciting plenary sessions: one from David Satterthwaite and one from Eilidh Garrett. David will be talking about the issues surrounding finite resources in an urbanising world. Take a look at the links on page 2 to read some of his fascinating blog posts. Eilidh will be talking about historical demography from a genealogists perspective.

As always do let me know if you have any suggestions for the newsletter—especially if you want to write an article. But, more importantly enjoy the conference!

**Contact me:**  
[melanie.frost@ageing.ox.ac.uk](mailto:melanie.frost@ageing.ox.ac.uk)  
**Tweet us:** @bspsuk

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# Postgraduate Student Representative

Welcome to all BSPS student members ..... and goodbye!

For the last two years, I have had the pleasure of being the postgraduate student representative of BSPS. I met many of you at the career-mentoring breakfast, at the poster session and at the student member drinks at the BSPS conference last year and I had e-mail or Facebook contact with most of you. I really enjoyed meeting all of you and I hope that you found your time as BSPS student member beneficial.



below. Please do come along to introduce yourself! As usual, the Spotlight on Research section introduces one of our student members, Fran Darlington from the University of Leeds.

I would encourage you to get in touch and let your new student representative know if you have any additional ideas for student member socials or BSPS day meetings or if you have a suggestion of how BSPS could engage more with students and/or early career researchers.

Additionally, if you have not already done so, join the BSPS Student Members' Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/300124886760445/>

I can still be contacted at the following e-mail address: [jm1e11@soton.ac.uk](mailto:jm1e11@soton.ac.uk)

Together with my PhD, my postgraduate role is coming to an end. Therefore, BSPS has recruited a new student representative. You will have the opportunity to find out who s(he) is and to meet him/her at the annual conference (for more information see

## Meet your new postgraduate student representative!

As announced in the previous issue of the BSPS Newsletter, Julia Mikolai will finish her PhD very soon. Therefore, BSPS was looking for a new student representative. Do you want to know who (s)he is? Come and meet us on **8 September**



(Monday) in the **Winchester bar** (Vault J Bar at the ground floor of University Centre) at **9.30pm. One drink is on us!**

Hope to see many of you there!

## A Little Light Reading from Around the Web

Here is a roundup of a few interesting blog posts and articles from around the web, including a couple of recent posts from plenary speaker David Satterthwaite.

[Flooding Across Borders? Are Environmental Problems Causing International Migration?](http://www.openpop.org/?p=878) By Reiko Obokata (<http://www.openpop.org/?p=878>)

[ENDOGENEITY VS CAUSALITY IN FAMILY RESEARCH: IS IT ALWAYS THE CHICKEN-AND-EGG PROBLEM?](http://demotrends.wordpress.com/2014/07/04/endogeneity-vs-causality-in-family-research-is-it-always-the-chicken-and-egg-problem/) By Evgenia Bystrov (<http://demotrends.wordpress.com/2014/07/04/endogeneity-vs-causality-in-family-research-is-it-always-the-chicken-and-egg-problem/>)

[Should We Call "Life Expectancy" Something Else?](http://www.openpop.org/?p=894) By Chris Wilson (<http://www.openpop.org/?p=894>)

[The Multidimensional Poverty Index: Another underestimate of urban poverty](http://www.iied.org/multidimensional-poverty-index-another-underestimate-urban-poverty) By David Satterthwaite (<http://www.iied.org/multidimensional-poverty-index-another-underestimate-urban-poverty>)

[If we don't count the poor, the poor don't count](http://www.iied.org/if-we-dont-count-poor-poor-dont-count) By David Satterthwaite (<http://www.iied.org/if-we-dont-count-poor-poor-dont-count>)

# Report on Find Your Voice: Promoting Your Research to Diverse Audiences

An event for early career researchers entitled *Find Your Voice: Promoting Your Research to Diverse Audiences* was held at the University of Manchester on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014. It was sponsored by BPS in collaboration with the RGS-IBG Population Geography Research Group and with CSAP at the University of Leeds and drew aspiring academics from all over the country. In all, 18 early career researchers were selected to attend this workshop.

Guest speakers Professor John Stilwell, Dr. Alice Reid and Professor Darren Smith kicked off the day. Drawing on their successful careers as academic authors and journal editors, these three experts in their respective fields offered advice on how to get academic articles published. They covered the whole process from identifying suitable publications through to submission and responding to reviewer comments. Following on from this, the 18 early career researchers split into tables of 4 or 5 where, with one of the guest speakers as facilitator, they discussed their own research interests and publication strategies.

Social impact training company *Amity* delivered an interactive session in the afternoon which saw participants think about the impact of their work in the wider world, outside of academia. The focus of this session was on identifying the needs of different users and tailoring research outputs to meet these demands. Guest speaker Professor Tony Champion rounded off the day with a session which highlighted how research can have impact both within and beyond academia. He discussed a number of case studies and was keen to stress the opportunities which exist for early career population researchers to achieve impact through their work in the future.

Attendees were invited to participate in a question and answer session involving all of the guest speakers. This sparked a lively debate around the promotion of their own work and the best way to deal with the diverse audiences who would be interested in their research outputs.

My thanks to all of our guest speakers and to my fellow organising committee members: Fran Darlington, Nigel De Noronha and Nissa Finney for their efforts in ensuring that the event was a success. Participant feedback from the workshop was very positive and I hope that a similar event will run next year.

## Latest Newsletter from the Campaign for Social Science

The latest newsletter from the Campaign for Social Science has been published on our website, and can be seen at: <http://tinyurl.com/kx73gee>

This issue has details of:

- ⇒ Our authoritative report that will set out how social science can help tackle the major challenges facing society.
- ⇒ The development of our online media.
- ⇒ Our forthcoming Annual Lecture, to be given by Professor Craig Calhoun, LSE Director.

## MPIDR Short Courses Winter 2014-15

The Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) in Rostock will be organising four short courses in the winter semester of 2014-15, as a part of their 'International Advanced Studies in Demography' programme:

- ⇒ Agent-based Modeling and Simulation (20-30 October 2014);
- ⇒ Probabilistic Population Projections: Theory and Practice (24-28 November 2014);
- ⇒ Spatial Demography (5-16 January 2015);
- ⇒ Integral Projection Models: Construction, Analysis and Interpretation (26-31 January 2015).

There is no fee charged for the courses, but the participants are expected to cover their own expenses, and entry will be competitive. More details on the programme, deadlines, and the application process, are available under the respective course webpages here <[http://www.demogr.mpg.de/en/education\\_career/international\\_advanced\\_studies\\_in\\_demography\\_3279/winter\\_program\\_20142015\\_3767/default.htm](http://www.demogr.mpg.de/en/education_career/international_advanced_studies_in_demography_3279/winter_program_20142015_3767/default.htm)>.

## Spotlight on Research: Fran Darlington, Leeds

Fran is just entering her third year as a PhD student at the University of Leeds. Her thesis explores if changing health gradients for ethnic groups are due to a process of selective sorting between area-types and social classes. Selective sorting means that people are selected by their health status, socioeconomic or demographic attributes and then sorted into different area-types or social classes through migration or social mobility (or vice versa!).

Whilst a wealth of research exists looking into the influence of either social mobility and health, migration and health, or even changes to area-deprivation and health, no work to date has taken account of the high degree of inter-dependency between social mobility, migration and health, and the extent to which these inter-dependent relationships may vary between ethnic groups. As the socioeconomic and geographic experiences of different ethnic groups can be diverse, holistically exploring these relationships to investigate selective sorting from an ethnic perspective may be revealing as to changing ethnic health gradients.

Crucially for Fran's research, the mobility of people between area-types and social classes is as important as the immobility of people within area-types and social classes for health gradients. If health is enabling or prohibiting for migration or social mobility, then the poor health of some may trap them in more disadvantaged circumstances leading to the creation of residualised populations who are immobile and increasingly unhealthy. Conversely, the better health of some may ensure they can escape disadvantage and then further benefit from improved socioeconomic or spatial circumstances. The mobility or immobility of these different health groups may, therefore, influence health gradients as they are sorted across area-types and social classes.

To explore these issues, Fran is building on evidence from a variety of datasets. Cross-sectional data from the Health Surveys for England and the Census Samples of Anonymised Records reveal the changing distribution of ethnic groups in society, changing health gradients, and the varying relationships between eth-



nicity, social class, area, migration and health. This helps to indicate whether a process of selective sorting *might* be in operation. Data from the ONS Longitudinal Study then allows Fran to track individuals over time, analysing how health might influence or be influenced by changing experience of deprivation or social class, whether this varies by ethnicity, and whether different factors are more or less important for the trajectories of different ethnic groups. Tracking individuals over time means that it is possible to identify whether the mobility of individuals influenced health gradients, comparing these to the health gradients which would have occurred if the population was immobile. To further explore these relationships, Fran is also looking into data from a local birth cohort in Bradford.

Fran has a BA in Politics and an MSc in Social and Spatial Inequalities from the University of Sheffield, and previously worked in Public Health Intelligence for North Central London. As a White Rose network student, she is supervised by Dr Paul Norman (University of Leeds) and Dr Dimitris Ballas (University of Sheffield).

For more information about her research visit <http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/people/f.darlington>, email her at [gyfd@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:gyfd@leeds.ac.uk), or follow her on twitter, @F\_Darlington.

# Report on Scotland's Census Conference—2014

On June 25<sup>th</sup> National Records of Scotland (NRS), sponsored by the British Society for Population Studies, held a conference on Scotland's Census at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh.

The event was open to all users, and potential users, of Scotland's Census data. Over 100 delegates attended the event, coming from a host of organisations across Scotland (and the rest of the UK) including councils, academic institutions, third sector bodies and analytical services.

As well as reflecting on what the census has been able to show us to-date, a key aim of the conference was to share information on how census data is being used now, and the plans for its use in the future, as well as the opportunity to discuss potential collaboration,

[The conference programme](#) highlights the presenters and topics discussed. Altogether, there were 20 speakers throughout the day, exploring the past, present and future of Scotland's Census and how census data can be used to inform decisions and improve our society

## Opening, keynote speaker and outputs so far

Fiona Hyslop, the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs opened the conference by emphasising the importance of evidence and data to government and explained how developing our understanding of the uses of Scotland's Census will feed into the future of the census and the requirements for the



[Professor Lindsay Paterson, Edinburgh University, presenting on Gaelic and the census](#)

2021 Census.

The conference was fortunate to have [Professor Sir Ian Diamond](#), Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen, who spoke about the historic motivations for the Census, as well as discussing its present day uses in targeting investment and spending. Sir Ian also highlighted the importance of having small area data available, and concluded that the census remains the biggest and best source of information for an evidence based society, and praised the 2011 Census as the 'best ever'.

## Uses of the census

The conference heard a variety of presentations across the morning and afternoon covering different uses of census data.

[Andrew Smith \(University of Glasgow\) and Laurence Brown \(Manchester University\)](#) spoke about their work tracking the mix of ethnicities across Scotland.

[Lindsay Paterson and Fiona O'Hanlon \(University of Edinburgh\)](#) spoke about how census is the main source of data for studying Gaelic language use in Scotland, and the possibility of studying changing language use at an individual level.

## [David Walsh \(Glasgow Centre for Population Health\)](#)

showed how census data is used to map and understand health inequalities both within Scotland and with the rest of the UK, and showed how census data was vital for understanding the economic and demographic influences

# Scotland's Census Conference—2014

on health

[Simon Whalley \(Beacon Dodsworth\)](#) presented detail about how Beacon Dodsworth use census data to segment and produce area profiles, and how this allows their customers to target products and services more effectively.

Finally, [Graeme Gainey \(Edinburgh City Council\)](#) demonstrated how census output area data could be aggregated to produce 'heat' maps for population and characteristic data, these were used to help target local services and investment.

## Parallel sessions

Delegates had a choice of three parallel sessions:

### Census Methodology

[Celia Macintyre and Ali Greig \(NRS\)](#), explained some of the work done on quality assurance and dealing with non-responses to the census.

[Felicity Rollings \(NRS\)](#), explained measures taken to reduce the risk of disclosure when producing the detailed census data outputs, including record swapping.

### Accessing census data

[Ed Turnbull \(NRS\)](#) explained how to use the Census Data Explorer tool on the Scotland's Census website to access the data they wanted, including producing graphs, maps, and tables.

[Justin Hayes \(UK Data Service\)](#), demonstrated how the InFuse tool can be used to easily access aggrega-

te data at a UK level from the census.

### Census Data linkage/ research

[Susan Carsley \(Scottish Longitudinal Survey-SLS\)](#) explained how the SLS can be used to understand changes and impacts on the population over time, including topics such as linkage with health and education data.

[Anne Douglas \(University of Edinburgh\)](#), demonstrated how SHELS (Scottish Health and Ethnicity Linkage Study) has been able to investigate the differences in health outcomes of different ethnic groups.

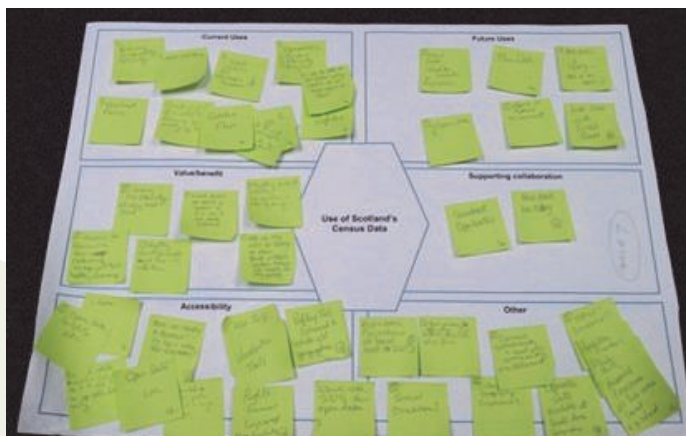
## History of the census

In the afternoon, delegates were treated to a talk by a veteran of censuses in the UK, [Ian White](#). His presentation covered over 200 years of change and evolution for the census in Scotland and the UK more widely.

## Workshop discussions

The final session of the day was a workshop discussion to share experiences and plans for census data. The workshop also discussed ways to improve collaboration and census data accessibility.

The information provided in the workshop will help NRS in its work promoting the benefits and uses of census so that Scotland continues to get the most out of this rich and detailed data source. Some uses are outlined on the [Using Census Data](#) section of the census website, and NRS are always keen to hear more about your uses of census data.



*An example of one of the spider-grams completed in the workshop groups*

# Population Census to go ahead in 2021

Since the Government's announcement in 2010 that the 2011 Census would be the last in the decennial series stretching back to 1801, the BPS has been in the forefront of arguing for the continuation of the Census in more or less its present form until there was sufficient evidence that an alternative would satisfactorily meet users' needs. Among other things, it submitted to the House of Commons Select Committee on the Census and Social Science in November 2011 and to ONS's public consultation on the census and future provision of population statistics in England and Wales at the end of last year. Also, in spring 2013 BPS co-sponsored a Beyond 2011 Independent Working Group and a two day conference which examined research by ONS on alternatives to a full Census in 2021, while in February this year BPS Vice President Jane Falkingham was one of just a handful of experts called to give evidence to a Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) hearing on the future of the Census.

It is therefore very good news that in July the Government decided to accept the bottom line of PASC's report 'Too soon to scrap the Census' and go with the March 2014 recommendation of the National Statistician that there should be a predominantly online Census in 2021. In welcoming the Government's decision, BPS President Tony Champion was also very

glad to see that, while it remains its 'ambition' that this should then be the last Census, the Government will not make a final decision on moving to the use of only administrative data after 2021 until there is clear evidence of the feasibility of the latter approach. Given that the 2011 Census appears to be the most accurate and detailed yet, this sets a major challenge to the Office of National Statistics in its continuing efforts to draw on alternative data sources for generating population statistics.

It is therefore to be hoped that work on these alternative data sources will be far enough advanced by 2021 to allow the production of an 'alternative census', the accuracy of which can be assessed down to small-area level by being compared with the results of the 2021 Census. One additional benefit of the Government's decision to run the 2021 Census alongside further work on administrative data is the way in which the latter could be used to add value to the Census data by incorporating into people's Census records extra information on topics not normally covered by the Census, with income probably being the one that users have most consistently requested.

The Government's response to PASC's report can be found at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmpublic/601/601.pdf>.

## New MSc in Population and Health at the University of Liverpool

We are delighted to announce an exciting new Master's programme at the University of Liverpool – an MSc in Population and Health. This programme will run from September 2014, and applications are still welcome.

Industrialised countries are witnessing fundamental changes to their population structures and health patterns. **Life expectancy** has increased and **health indicators** improved; however, significant **health inequalities** persist between countries and within countries across population subgroups. Similarly, population health has improved and mortality declined in many developing countries. However, rapid **societal and environmental changes** have not taken place without a cost; in many cases health inequalities have increased and the spread of infectious diseases remains a significant problem.

The MSc in Population and Health meets a public demand to systematically address the problems posed by **population changes and health dynamics in the contemporary world**. The programme will provide students with a deep understanding of **population and health trends and competing explana-**

**tions**, both in developed and developing countries.

The distinct feature of the MSc in Population and Health at the University of Liverpool is that the programme covers the issues of population and health from an interdisciplinary perspective, including **geographical, demographic, sociological, environmental and epidemiological** approaches to the topics. The programme also provides a solid training in methods to analyse and project population dynamics and health patterns. Training in demographic, longitudinal and spatial analysis (including GIS) will equip students with the means to investigate past and contemporary trends and project future developments.

The core course team are based in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Liverpool, which has an international reputation in population studies.

For more information please visit <http://www.liv.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/taught/population-and-health-msc/overview/> or contact the Programme Director, Dr Gemma Catney: [g.catney@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:g.catney@liverpool.ac.uk)

# 5 Minutes with... Roy Lewis

*A chance to get to know BSPS Treasurer Roy Lewis a little better (before he steps down)*

## **Can you introduce yourself and your background in 2-3 sentences?**

I was born and raised in the Mid Wales borderlands at Welshpool. I graduated from UCW Aberystwyth with a BSc in Geography after which I gained a MSc in Town Planning at University of Aston. I was appointed a Town Planning Officer with Essex County Council and, after two years varied experience with the authority, I was given responsibility for demographic analysis and population forecasting. In mid-career I obtained an MBA from Anglia Ruskin University.

## **What has been your most satisfying experience with regard to your work?**

It is difficult to choose just one because I have been involved in a continual stream of cooperative work that straddled population studies and town planning. Specifically in terms of population studies I would look to the 1990s when, as chairman of the Demography Sub-Group of SERPLAN (the then regional planning conference for the South East and London), I coordinated local authority research into the methodologies for producing the sub-national population and household projections. The outcome, after much discussion with the producers of the projections, was improvement to the methodologies. In turn, the process also led to population specialists and also planners and policy makers to gain better insights of the difficulties and uncertainties underlying production of the projections and the limitations on their subsequent use. That is not to say that these issues were resolved. They still remain - as a quick perusal of this year's BPS Conference programme will testify.

## **What are you currently working on?**

The short, quick and easy answer is – nothing in a professional capacity. I retired from Essex County Council last September after 41 years' service. I decided that was enough of my life devoted to town planning and population studies as daily activities. There is a fascinating world of ideas, people and places out there to engage with and to explore.

## **What made you want to become BPS Treasurer in**

## **the first place?**

The simple answer is that I was asked! I do not know why I was asked. I had been an elected member of Council for, I think, a year when the vacancy arose. I presume that I must have attracted some attention during that year but I have no idea why. But, having been asked I thought I would give it a try. Plus, I must admit, I had got some previous experience having been involved in the administration of the RTPI East of England Branch for a period of 15 years from the mid-1970s, including a stint as treasurer.

## **How has BPS changed during your time as Treasurer?**

Administratively, BPS has had to become more professional and astute in its approach to administration and finance. This is because the institutions we deal with are now very much management and business orientated with everything based on contracts which we have to review thoroughly to get the best deal for BPS. It is also associated with our greater breadth of activities – not only BPS day meetings but support for other meetings and conferences, travel bursaries, LEDC visitors. Of course, underlying all this is our ever-growing Annual Conference which now occupies us for 2 years from initial selection of options for venues to closure of the accounts.

## **Finally, once you step down as treasurer what are you going to do with your free time? Do you have any hobbies you'll be spending more time on?**

Who said I will have free time? I have not been aware of having free time since I retired from the 'day job' last year and I am not expecting anything different this September. But, I hope to catch up on those interests that I have held over the years – travel, art history, reading, music and gardening. But, for the immediate future much of my time will be occupied by two new activities – joining a 'LiveLife' health programme at the local gym and improving my Russian and Lithuanian language skills (my wife Violeta is Lithuanian and many of our friends are from the former Soviet republics). On reflection, looking at those two activities, perhaps I am not retiring from population studies – merely shifting my attention to new strands in the BPS Conference programme!