

Editor: Melanie Channon

Welcome to Leeds: 2015 BSPS Conference

As I write this introduction to the newsletter I find myself wondering whether we now have a monsoon season in the UK. Hopefully, though, Yorkshire will be kind to us and the sun will shine.

I find myself more excited than usual about this year's conference venue, as my grandparents are from Leeds. My grandad even wore a flat cap and carried a constant supply of barley sugars (not that he'd give you any), and you don't get much more stereotypically Yorkshire-man than that. If you've never been to Yorkshire before, then I would highly recommend trying out some of the local delicacies. Obviously, there is Yorkshire pudding, but you should also try Pontefract Cake, Parkin (traditionally for bonfire night, but it's too delicious to only eat once a year), and anything with rhubarb in it.

As part of the conference edition, with kind permission from the original author Tony Wrigley, we have reproduced a leaflet from 1983 outlining the history of BSPS. I hope you all find this as interesting as I did!

Jane Falkingham, BSPS Vice President, OBE



It would be remiss of me not to mention that this conference marks the transition from one president to the next. The BSPS President-elect is Professor Jane Falkingham, University of Southampton, and she has been made an OBE (Order of the British Empire) in the Queen's Birthday Honours for 2015, for services to Social Science.

Through a career spanning almost 30 years, Jane's research pursues a multi-disciplinary agenda combining social policy

and population studies, and spanning both developed and developing countries. Much of her work has focussed on the social policy implications of population ageing and demographic change, and what this means for the distribution of social and economic welfare.

"I am delighted to receive this national honour," said Jane. "It recognises the contribution made not only by myself but by the teams of amazing social science researchers and support staff I have had the honour of working with over the past 30 years, but especially within the Centre for Population Change. I am pleased to accept it on all of their behalves."

I hope you will all join me in congratulating Jane on her achievements and welcoming her as our new president.

However, I would like to personally note, that I will greatly miss our current president Tony Champion who is always an enormous support when putting together these newsletters.

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Postgraduate Student Representative: Ridhi Kashyap



Conference season is well underway. Plymouth University hosted a very successful edition of Popfest, the postgraduate population conference, in July (see p.7 for report). The conference provided an opportunity for many BSPS student members to present their research and meet one another. Alice Lazzati from the University of Oxford was one of them and her research on how parenthood affects individual attitudes and wellbeing in the UK is featured in this edition's spotlight on student research. The BSPS conference in Leeds will feature lively student member participation with several papers from student members both in presentation and the poster sessions. Stay tuned to the Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/300124886760445/>) for updates on when/where we will socialize around the conference time – and don't forget to tweet about your and other student member papers that impress. Let's get #bpsstudentspotlight trending! As always, for comments and ideas for student events for the conference or otherwise, as well as better suggestions for twitter hashtags, write to me at ridhi.kashyap@nuffield.ox.ac.uk.

A Little Reading: Interesting Miscellanea from the Web

- ⇒ [Open Data and Open Research](#) A blog about some new [podcasts](#) about open data and open research at the University of Oxford. Written by my colleague Maja Založnik.
- ⇒ [Cultural Assimilation and the Well-being of Immigrants](#) An interesting, and highly relevant topic, discussed by Viola Angelini on Openpop.
- ⇒ [How many asylum seekers would other EU countries need to match Germany?](#) A Guardian datablog on a similar theme.
- ⇒ [This website visualizing the Human Development Index](#) (HDI) was introduced to me by [@PopGeog](#).

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The 2012-based Household Projections for England: methodological issues

A BSPS half-day meeting, May 18th 2015

Report produced by Greg Ball

This well attended and lively meeting on household formation at the LSE provided an update to the previous event in December 2013. The focus was the 2012-based official projections of household numbers for local authorities in England, issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) in February 2015. This seminar was the first public meeting about them.

The official household projections, together with ONS' sub-national population projections, help shape policies for new housing. The projections show what would happen in the future if past trends in demographic and household change were to persist in the future. The projections use the concept of the Household Reference Person (or Representative), who is the individual taken to represent a household.

The meeting was chaired by John Hollis, former president of BSPS. John paid tribute to major contribution made by the late Alan Holmans to the debate about housing policy in recent decades.

Bob Garland, from the CLG opened the day with a useful summary of the results of the projections and the methodological and data issues that had been encountered.

The projections are calculated using a two stage process. In Stage One, projected household representative rates are applied to the projection of the private household population disaggregated by age, sex and relationship status to produce projections of household representatives. The Stage One results provide control totals for the Stage Two projections which provide a more detailed and useful breakdown into household types. Only Stage One results were available at the time of the meeting.

The 2012-based projections used data from the 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 Censuses and some information from the 2011 Census to project household representative rates by demographic group. Projected changes in household representative rates accounted, directly and indirectly, for 8% of the total projected future change in household numbers in England; the remainder stems from population change.

Changes in the Census definition of the household representative since 1971 cause difficulties in building reliable trends over time. The Stage One definition is based on the eldest adult male in a household. The 2001 Census switched to a definition based on the oldest economically active person. Special Census tabulations were obtained using the old definition, but analysis suggested that there were inconsistencies in household representative rates between 2001 and 2011, particularly for 'previously married' and 'couples' when disaggregated by age.

Consequently, the 2012-based projections do not use household representative rates that have been fully revised in the light of the 2011 Census. For England as a whole use was made of information from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and previous projections. At local level, some 2011 Census data was used to ensure that the projected 2011 aggregate representative rate for the adult population matched the Census-based rate. Local and regional projections are controlled to the national results.

CLG intend to produce Stage Two outputs as soon as possible. Further work would include the production of unconstrained Stage 2 outputs and a research report. In the longer term, consideration would be given to the adoption of simpler methods. Experience gained from methods used in the other UK countries would be of assistance.

Ludi Simpson's presentation looked in detail at factors that had driven changes in household size, drawing on analysis carried out with Ann Berrington from Southampton University.

An important distinction was drawn between demographic factors (age, sex, relationship status) and household representative rates. Household numbers increased between 2001 and 2011 as a result of rapid growth in population; the growth was attenuated to a small extent by an overall reduction in household representative rates. Of particular note are falls in representative rates among those aged 20-34.. This is consistent with indicators from other sources of growing numbers of young adults living with parents, an increase in the number of 'concealed families', and a shift from ownership to private renting. These changes departed from trends in the period 1971-2001.

Continued from previous page...

Ludi called for CLG to complete a full review of the evidence from the 2011 Census and asked for a reinstatement of the projections of 'concealed families'. He raised queries about the continued relevance of relationship status, particularly in the absence of recent projections. Finally, he emphasised the need for policy makers to recognise uncertainty in the projected numbers.

Neil McDonald focussed on the uncertain drivers of change in the projections, nationally and locally. For planners there are two key questions: future population numbers and future household formation patterns. He drew attention to the role of migration as a major source of uncertainty for local population projections. Understanding of this issue is hampered by the issue of "unattributable population change": differences in the Census-based population estimates for 2001 and 2011 that cannot be explained by ONS' evidence about the components of population change in that period.

Neil drew attention to anomalies in the projected household representative rates for young couples. He also reminded the audience of the impact of assumptions about the size of population living in non-household accommodation. In conclusion, he queried whether trend-based projections can answer the question of how many households we should plan for.

Ben Corr from the Greater London Authority (GLA) provided an overview of the projections for London. His presentation showed that population change, and migration were the dominant features in the projected household growth in the Capital.

International migration adds strongly to London population, while there are large outflows to the East and South East of England. However the migration outflows in the 2012-based projections are lower than previous projections. The migration projections are based on the preceding five years of trend data, and are heavily influenced by the impact of the 2008 financial crisis on the housing market. GLA forecasts had looked at the implications of a longer-term migration trend. Ben considered that ONS should produce long-term variant projections for local authorities, and was concerned that individual local plans might adopt different and inconsistent migration assumptions.

Greg Ball's presentation returned to the theme of the household representative. Using 2001 and 2011 Census data he showed the effects of using different definitions of the household representative. An approach based on the 'oldest male' rule, used in CLG's projections, produced greater numbers of representatives aged under 34; a rule based on economic activity status, used in the 2001 and 2011 Censuses, produced fewer aged under 34 and more aged 35-49. The definitions show different age/gender pattern of change 2001-2011, with possible implications for the debate about the housing prospects for younger households. The application of different definitions to population projections might also lead to variations in projected household numbers.

The meeting was helped by a lively and informed set of questions and contributions from the audience. The presentations can be seen at

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/socialPolicy/BSPS/dayMeetings/Home.aspx>

Joint meetings with the British Academy

Following the joint event last November on migration (see Newsletter 115, pages 12-13), in July BSPS again teamed up with the British Academy for a set of four Policy Forums that brought together researchers and policy-makers to discuss the implications of some of the other key demographic challenges currently facing the UK. These focussed on ageing, ethnic diversity and the changing family, together with a session on the opportunities and issues posed by Big Data.

The previous month, the BSPS and the British Academy had come together to mark the 50th birthday of the Economic and Society Research Council and celebrate the latter's half century of support for UK demography, which was illustrated with a timeline banner. The main feature was a lecture by social statistician Professor Sir Ian Diamond, former Chief Executive of the ESRC, on the key changes that have taken place in the British population over the past 25 years.

Some of the presentations made at these events drew on material that is being developed for a book entitled *The changing population of the UK*, which is due to be launched at the next BSPS annual conference, to be held at the University of Winchester on 14-16 September 2016. In the meantime, reports on these meetings are being prepared for posting on the websites of both organizations. Further details will be provided in a Circulation emailed out to BSPS members.

Spotlight on Research:

Alice Lazzati, University of Oxford

*Alice Lazzati is starting the final year of the DPhil in Sociology at the University of Oxford and Nuffield College under the supervision of Prof. Francesco Billari. She holds an MPhil and a Bachelor in Economics at Bocconi University in Milan and has previously worked at the OECD developing statistical indicators on the performance of central governments for the publication *Government at a Glance*.*

As a researcher in social demography, I am mostly interested in how undergoing different life course events affects attitudinal and health outcomes. My doctoral thesis investigates in particular the effects of entry into parenthood on gender role attitudes, psychological wellbeing and personality traits in the United Kingdom over the last twenty years. The study aims at understanding how such outcomes change across the individual life course between the period preceding the child's birth and the period subsequent to it, following the individuals for up to twenty years after.

My research draws equally from work that has been previously conducted in psychology and demography. Most of the analysis in each paper has been carried out by using data from the British Household Panel Survey and its continuation, Understanding Society, together covering the period from 1991 to 2012. Thanks to the bigger sample provided by Understanding Society and the possibility of merging it with BHPS data, I have been able to work with a sample size large enough to test specific psychological theories of change across the individual life course. I focus in particular on two research questions. First, I want to understand the impact of entry into parenthood per se on gender role attitudes, psychological wellbeing and personality traits, and whether there are differences between men and women. In the second place, I research whether parenting a daughter has a different effect on men and women relative to parenting a son. Thanks to the panel structure of my dataset and the fact that the child's gender is a completely exogenous variable for births at parity zero, I am able to assess causal change.



Becoming parents for the first time has very different consequences for men and women. From one side, evidence from my research shows that only women are actually affected by parenthood per se in terms of gender role attitudes, becoming more conservative after the birth of the first child, in particular when their participation to the labour force decreases at the intensive or extensive level. This is supported by the theory of cognitive dissonance, according to which individuals modify their beliefs to adapt them to a change in their behaviour. Women who have left the labour force after becoming mothers would consequently support more conservative beliefs on the woman's position in the family and in the labour market. In terms of psychological wellbeing, I implement linear regression models on the change in two psychological wellbeing indexes (positive mental health and symptoms of mental disorders) in order to assess the impact of the life course event in question. My findings show that women who experience childbearing have considerably higher levels of wellbeing in the period just following these changes. Men, on the opposite side, show not to be affected by entry into parenthood per se.

Moving on to understand the differential influence of parenting sons and daughters on gender beliefs, I find that men increase their support for more conservative beliefs when parenting a daughter. In terms of psychological wellbeing, results also show that only men are positively affected by the parenting a female first-born in the short run, contrary to previous studies reporting a male preference for sons.

A final part of my thesis will focus on investigating the impact of entry into parenthood on personality traits. Previous research has shown that personality traits can be affected by life course events, and I hope to extend the research by specifically examining the experience of parenthood on personality traits.

This research is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

For more information about my research please email:

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Asian Population Association Conference

27th-30th July, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Report by Mel Channon, University of Oxford

At the end of July I had the pleasure of attending the third Asian Population Association (APA) Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I had a couple of reasons for particularly wanting to attend this conference: firstly I attempted to attend the first APA Conference in Delhi in 2010, but spent the week getting better acquainted with the toilet in my hotel room rather than attending the conference. Secondly, having visited Kuala Lumpur as a 16 year old I thought it was absolutely magical and have always wanted to go back.

The conference venue was in a hotel above a large shopping centre. The shopping centre was so jam packed full of international brands that it was a struggle to remember which continent we were on, never mind which country. Thankfully the opening ceremony of the conference felt very Malaysian in flavour, showcasing a virtuoso on the Erhu (a Chinese string instrument), some Bollywood dancing (which the Indian contingent were extremely excited about), and some traditional Malay dancing. One particularly impressive dancer appeared to be reproducing Olympic standard rhythmic gymnastics. We also had a speech from the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development who informed us that the ideal family size was four children. As it turns out Malaysia is pro-natalist. As per usual, vegetarians were forced to dine on separate tables, a practice which introduced us to some intriguing cultural stereotypes. Apparently, the Malaysian perception is that British people consume Lamb almost daily.



Petronas Towers



Batu Caves, Kuala Lumpur

While the opening ceremony of the conference was organised wonderfully, the rest of the conference appeared to be suffering from teething problems. For example, there were sometimes five talks scheduled in an hour long session. There were also a disappointing number of participants who failed to turn up. However, it may be that they never paid the conference fee and should have been removed from the programme. This made for some disappointing sessions, where there was either not enough time for questions, or most of the presenters had failed to show up.

I had two posters in the 'super poster session'. It was great that all posters were displayed for the duration of the conference, but the scheduling meant that many people missed the allotted times when presenters stood next to their posters. Furthermore, I was impressed by the ingenuity of one presenter (who will remain anonymous) whose A0 poster merely told people to enquire about the methods, analysis, results and conclusions of their paper.

My other paper was presented in a pre-meeting on 'Fertility Preferences in Asia', organised by Stuart Basten. This was a fantastic success, including talks on fertility preferences from areas as diverse as Mongolia, East Timor and Palestine. It was fascinating to see the different ways people

had interpreted the relatively specific brief provided to us by Stuart. Ultimately, this will lead to a book, which I think will be a wonderful addition to our knowledge about fertility in Asia.

Overall, the conference was very useful in terms of showcasing demography throughout Asia. However, there were some organisational issues, which I hope will be smoothed out in time for the 4th APA.

PopFest 2015 Report

Plymouth University, 6th-8th July

Report by Hoayda Darkal and Gina Kallis

PopFest2015, the 23rd Annual Postgraduate Population Studies Conference was accommodated this year by Plymouth University between the 6th and 8th July. With the main aim of providing a chance for skills development, PopFest2015 worked on creating a relaxed and supportive environment for networking between researchers and a convenient space for in-depth discussions between peers.

With its intimate setting PopFest 2015 facilitated research students from the wide area of population studies to get together and exchange ideas. Delegates from different UK, European and African universities were hosted at Plymouth University, where 24 of them presented their research either as an oral presentation or posters. The presentations were delivered in six sessions:

- Fertility, contraception, sexual and reproductive behaviour and rights.
- Health.
- Data use and methodological approaches.
- Social participation and active citizenship.
- Migration/mobility and integration
- Lifecourse and gender

In addition, two keynote speakers were welcomed to the conference: Dr Naomi Tyrrell from Plymouth University and Dr Duncan Smith from UCL. Dr Tyrrell discussed children in family migration, while Dr Smith provided a broad introductory presentation on using interactive mapping in sharing spatial research.

Moreover, two workshops were designed for the interest of early-career researchers. Professor Wendy Sigle from LSE and Professor Khaled Hussainey from Plymouth University facilitated the workshop on 'getting published' and the trainee peer reviewer programme was introduced, while Dr Naomi Tyrrell and Dr Nichola Harmer from Plymouth University shared their different experiences with regards to 'careers in academia' alongside helpful guiding tips and examples.

On the first evening of the conference a BBQ at Drake's Reservoir which is situated on the University campus was arranged for delegates to get to know each other while enjoying one of Plym-



outh's historical sites. Then, on the second day a boat trip around Plymouth sound was organised starting from the Mayflower Steps, passing Plymouth Hoe, heading along the River Tamar, and pulling into the Naval Dockyards, which was a good opportunity for more relaxed social interaction.

On the last day of PopFest2015, the prize of a £50 Amazon voucher for best presentation was awarded to Alina Pelikh from the University of Liverpool. Then, PopFest2015 was closed with a short speech by Professor Christopher Balch of Plymouth University who highlighted how important the work of population researchers really is.

By the end of PopFest2015 we were happy to see some new connections had been made between the participants, and so delighted with the positive feedback provided by them.

Yet, none of this would have been possible without the ultimate support provided by individ-

uals at Plymouth University, and our generous sponsors (BSPS, CPC, Demographics user group, Wiley, Institute of Health and Community, and the Graduate school at Plymouth University) to whom we would like to say thank you. Kind thanks must go as well to Ally Wadey and Dr Philippa Waterhouse from University of Southampton and Dr Chris Gale from UCL for their advice.



THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR POPULATION STUDIES: A BRIEF HISTORY

by E. A. Wrigley

Although the BSPS was not founded until 1973, its origins go back into the previous decade. It has a distinguished ancestry in that it is directly descended from an initiative of the Royal Society. Early in 1965 the then President of the Royal Society, Sir Howard Florey, convened a small informal group of scholars to discuss the setting up of a study group under the auspices of the Society to consider topics relating to population, a project in which Florey took a keen personal interest. The group agreed to recommend to the Council of the Royal Society that this was an initiative worth pursuing and, after preliminary meetings, a first full meeting of the Population Study Group took place in May 1965. Later the Council approved a set of rules for the PSG, creating officers to carry out the business of the Group, limiting its membership to 45 people appointed by the Council, and defining its aims as "to promote the exchange of information about the nature, course and effects of changes in human populations". The Group normally met about three times a year, and it was usual for the officers to depute some one person to act as organiser for each meeting at the time when the meeting topics were agreed.

Early in its history there began the chain of events which was ultimately to lead to the dissolution of the PSG. In 1966 Lord Florey, as he had by then become, was one of a number of Royal Society representatives who discussed with representatives of the US National Academy of Sciences the possibility of cooperation between the two bodies. One of the fruits of this initiative was a proposal for joint study of population problems. A first meeting of experts appointed by the two parent bodies took place in Oxford in February 1967. It was agreed that each parent body should set up three committees. Each committee was to work independently of its parallel body in the other country at first, but with a view to joint meetings later and with the intention of producing a single, agreed report. The three committees were to be devoted to contraceptive technology; the management of family planning services; and demography and economics. In addition the PSG agreed to set up a fourth committee, not paralleled in the US, to consider genetics and the social sciences. The joint meetings eventually took place in Washington late in 1968 and joint committee reports were agreed. They proved, however, unacceptable to the Council of the Royal Society whose composition, interests and enthusiasms were all greatly changed since 1965. The Council was concerned to avoid lending its name to a report which might be taken to have policy as well as research implications. The PSG had been in large measure Lord Florey's creation. His death in 1968 was especially unfortunate in this regard as it removed from the inner councils of the Royal Society a powerful influence sympathetic to the PSG.

The PSG received notice of the reaction of the Council of the Royal Society at a meeting in May 1969 and decided to seek to publish the reports independently of the Society. This wish was later realised when the reports appeared in the form of a supplement to *POPULATION STUDIES Towards a Population Policy for the United Kingdom* (May 1970).

At its next meeting in June 1969 the PSG, frustrated and demoralised by the attitude of the Royal Society Council, agreed to ask to be disbanded by the Society so as to become free from any obligation to satisfy a parent body before publishing its views.

The PSG continued for a time as an independent group meeting in rooms which the Royal Society continued to make available. At its seventh meeting in its new guise, in November 1972, it was agreed that it should reconstitute itself as the British Association for Population Studies. Mr. Grebenik produced a draft constitution, which, after some amendment in the light of comments made by members of the committee, was approved at a meeting in May 1973 and it was agreed that, provided the Charity Commissioners also approved the Constitution, the new body, with the slightly amended title of the British Society for Population Studies, should come into being when the PSG met for the last time on 16 November 1973.

For some years there was a considerable continuity of membership between the old PSG and the new BSPS. The original chairman of the PSG had been Lord Florey, and after his death Sir Alan Parkes, but the first president of the BSPS, Professor David Glass, had been one of those invited to the first exploratory meeting convened by Lord Florey in January 1965, and the next three presidents of the BSPS (Brass, Wrigley, and Grebenik) had all been members of the PSG. But if there was continuity there was also change, not simply in personnel, in any case inevitable over any extended period of time, but also in the balance of intellectual interests most strongly represented in the two bodies. In the current membership of the BSPS, for example, genetics, biology and medicine are relatively less strongly represented than in the PSG, while demography, geography and history are perhaps more fully represented.

The constitution of the BSPS is a straightforward document with broadly conventional provisions for membership, the conduct of business, self-government and financial matters. The first clause states that it is a "society of persons, who have demonstrated by their writings or otherwise a scientific interest in the study of human populations. The Society's object shall be for the benefit of the public to further the scientific study of biological, economic, historical, medical, social and other problems connected with human populations and to contribute to the public awareness of these problems".

The second clause specifies three ways in which the Society shall seek to achieve its object:

- (i) provide facilities for studies and research into subjects connected with human populations and for the exchange and dissemination of information concerning such research
- (ii) arrange public meetings, lectures, conferences and seminars for the consideration and discussion of problems relating to human populations
- (iii) provide a forum for the discussion of issues connected with human populations and act as a vehicle for the interchange of educational ideas.

In practice the activities of the BSPS during its first decade of existence have been almost exclusively confined to the second of the three modes of achievement listed in

the second clause of its constitution, at least in the sense that while some of its activities might find a place under the other two heads, little if anything which has been done falls outside the scope of the second head.

In adopting this pattern of activity the BSPS might be regarded as having found a role complementary to that of the Population Investigation Committee, the most senior British institution principally devoted to population studies. The PIC came into existence as a result of an initiative taken by the Council of the Eugenics Society in 1935. It was founded to sponsor and promote demographic research and especially to try to achieve a better understanding of the reasons for and the implications of the very low level of fertility then prevailing. The PIC enjoyed considerable success in forming population policy in Britain: it was, for example, a major influence upon the Royal Commission of Population, set up in 1944, and strongly influenced the nature of demographic statistics collected by the Registrar General and the methods used in analysing them. It initiated and sustained research in many aspects of population behaviour. Perhaps its most important single act, however, was the decision to publish the journal *POPULATION STUDIES* which first appeared in 1947, and has been one of the leading periodicals devoted to the subject since its inception.

Though its contribution to the development of population studies has been so signal, the PIC was not intended to act as a meeting place for all those with a professional interest in population studies, and with the post-war growth in the number of such scholars, research workers and administrators, the want of a body of this type was increasingly felt. The BSPS may have come into existence by an unusual combination of circumstances as much as by grand strategic planning but it has felt its way towards filling a “niche” unfilled by any predecessor.

The Society’s meetings have almost always taken the form of a paper or papers delivered to the audience *in extenso*, followed by discussion. The annual programme has always included meetings of varying length — afternoon, half-day and full-day. In addition, residential conferences have been organised since 1977, and for these it has been usual to circulate the text of papers in advance. Meetings other than residential have always been held in London since this affords easiest access to the bulk of the membership of the Society, and have taken place at the London School of Economics more frequently than anywhere else, though many meeting places have been used, especially for meetings jointly organised with another society or institution. From the beginning, the BSPS has shared a common secretariat with the PIC, located at the LSE, a major reason for the frequency of meetings there.

In the early years of the Society it was a frequent cause of complaint at AGMs that the Society met exclusively in London. The distinction between full and country membership in subscription dues was made in recognition of this imbalance. Further, the programme of residential conferences held on sites in cities outside London was introduced partly to reduce the extent of London’s dominance as a meeting site.

In the early years of the Society the Council slowly developed a policy of building up the meetings to the point where they were to be held monthly apart from a summer break, and this aim was achieved in 1977 and 1978. Towards the end of 1978, however, members were canvassed for their views on a radical change of policy. Council had become persuaded that meetings would be better and better-attended if

they were fewer, more fully prepared, and longer, with the residential conference as a main feature of the new type of programme. It was also hoped that this might lead to an increase in the membership of the Society which had been close to 100 since its inception. The new proposals received a generally favourable reception, and the new policy was put into effect for the first time in 1979. The increase in membership since then suggests that it has been well conceived (table 2).

Much of the administrative and financial history of the Society is perhaps most simply and economically told in the tabular form adopted below. It is to be noted that initially the Society worked to a calendar year for all purposes. The AGM was usually held late in the year (though the first AGM, intended to cover 1974, was actually held in January 1975 with the second in November of the same year). Experience suggested, however, that it would be more convenient for the AGM to be held in the mid-year so that the new officers and Council could begin work some months before the beginning of each academic year, which proved to be the best unit for planning the academic programme, given the long summer break in meetings. The AGM was held at the new date in 1978 for the first time, but the calendar year has been retained for financial matters.

There are, however, certain matters which are not visible in the tables, or only partly so, which are worthy of note, especially in that they show how growth and change has occurred in recent years. First, the Society has benefitted greatly from the generosity of several donors over its decade of existence. The following subventions should be recorded:

Date	Source	In Aid of:	Amount (pounds)
1974	SPT	General costs	200
1977	Royal Society	Day meeting	200
	IPPF	Day meeting	250
1979	Schering	Day meeting	250
	ODM	2 day conference — Cambridge	1397
	OPCS	Annual subvention	250
1980	OPCS	Annual subvention	250
	OPCS	3 day conference — York	640
	IPPF	Day meeting	103
1981	OPCS	Annual subvention	250
	IPPF	3 day conference — Exeter	2652
	ODA	Day meeting	78
1982	OPCS	Annual subvention	300
	OPCS	Day meeting	140
	OPCS	3 day conference — Durham	1000
	IPPF	3 day conference — Oxford	1578
	ODA	3 day conference — Oxford	4800

KEY

SPT	Simon Population Trust
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
ODM	Ministry of Overseas Development
OPCS	Office of Population Censuses and Surveys
ODA	Overseas Development Administration

Second, the Society's conferences have begun to result in publications. The first such publication followed the Liverpool conference in 1977: J. Hobcraft and P. Rees (eds), *Regional demographic development* (London, Croom Helm, 1980). Subsequently, co-operation between the Society and the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys has made it possible to publish the proceedings of two more recent conferences under the following titles:

- September 1980 Conference on the implications of current demographic trends in the UK for social and economic policy.
(OPCS Occasional Paper 19)
- September 1982 Conference: Population change and regional labour markets.
(OPCS Occasional Paper 28)

Note: I was greatly helped in writing the first section of this brief history, dealing with the Royal Society's Population Study Group, by the generosity of Sir Alan Parkes in making available to me the relevant section of his draft autobiography. It is a great pleasure to acknowledge his kindness in allowing me to consult his work.

Table 1. Honorary Officers of the BSPS

	President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
1974	DVG	WB	EG	EG
1975	DVG	WB	EG	JB
1976	WB	AM	RG	EG
1977	WB	AM	RG/JGB	EG
1978	EAW	EG	JGB	EAJ
1978-79	EAW	EG	JGB	EAJ
1979-80	EG	DECE	JGB/MB	EAJ
1980-81	EG	DECE	MB/KK	EAJ
1981-82	DECE	JT	KK	RSS
1982	DECE	JT	KK	RSS
1983	JT	RSS	KK	JLF

KEY

JB	J. Boreham	EG	E. Grebenik
JGB	J. G. Blacker	EAJ	E. A. Johnston
WB	W. Brass	KK	K. Kiernan
MB	M. Britton	AM	A. McLaren
DECE	D. E. C. Eversley	RSS	R. S. Schofield
JLF	J. L. Field	JT	J. Thompson
DVG	D. V. Glass	EAW	E. A. Wrigley
RG	R. Gray		

Note: Under the provisions of the Constitution the President and Vice-President cannot hold office for more than two years in succession.

Table 2. Meetings and Membership of the BSPS

	Meetings	Conferences & Symposia	Membership
1974			93
1975	4	2	98
1976	4	1	134
1977	9	1	120
1978	8		100
1979	4	1	105
1980	4	2	156
1981	5	1	171
1982	4	2	196

Note: The conferences listed in the table above include the following residential conferences.

Date	Topic	Location
Sept. 1977	British regional population*	Liverpool
Sept. 1979	Medical aspects of African demography	Cambridge
Sept. 1980	Implications of current demographic trends in the UK for social and economic policy	York
Sept. 1981	Recent developments in the population of Europe	Exeter
Sept. 1982	Population change and regional labour markets	Durham
Dec. 1982	India's population	Oxford

* Joint conference with the Institute of British Geographers.

Table 3. BSPS Finances

YEAR	INCOME			Total	EXPENDITURE	CLOSING BALANCE
	Dues	Grants	Sundries			
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1973				393**	165	228
1974	591	200	127	918	332	814
1975	747		364	1111	733	1192
1976	736		193	929	951	1170
1977	614	450	304	1368	1523	1015
1978	639		124	763	784	994
1979	613	1647*	384*	2644	2522	1116
1980	865	1243*	3683*	5791	5545	1362
1981	1473	2980*	3590*	8043	6687	2718
1982	1392	8028*	8255*	17675	15432	4761

* includes grants in aid of and income from conferences.

** opening balance.

Subscription Rates

Year	Full	Student	"Country"	Developing	
				Country	Retired
	£	£	£	£	£
1974	7	2.50	7	2.50	
1975	7	2.50	7	2.50	
1976	7	2.50	5	2.50	
1977	7	2.50	5	2.50	
1979	7	2.50	5	2.50	
1980	7	2.50	5	2.50	
1981	10	4.00	8	2.50	2.50
1982	10	4.00	8	2.50	2.50
1983	10	4.00	8	2.50	2.50