

BSPPS MEETINGS

BSPPS CONFERENCE 2008

The 2008 BSPPS Conference will be held at the University of Manchester from Wednesday 10-Friday 12 September 2008. Further information will appear in forthcoming Newsletters, and will be posted to the BSPPS website and circulated to members as available.

FORTHCOMING DAY MEETINGS

Day meetings for 2008 are currently being organised, and full information will be distributed as available. Members who would like to suggest topics for future day or half-day meetings, or who would be interested in organizing such a meeting, are invited to send their suggestions to the Secretariat at pic@lse.ac.uk.

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Seminar on

Trade-offs in Female Life Histories: Raising New Questions in an Integrative Framework

Bristol, United Kingdom, 23-25 July 2008

**Organized by the IUSSP Scientific Panel on
Evolutionary Perspectives in Demography,
in collaboration with the University of Bristol,
and with support from the British Society for
Population Studies and the Galton Institute**

Background

Evolutionary biologists have developed life history theory to identify the trade-offs individuals must make in allocating resources between growth, reproduction and the maintenance of body condition. Demographers, anthropologists and other human scientists have increasingly been focusing on these

trade-offs, in an attempt to understand the patterning of fertility, mortality, growth and aging across human populations. In this seminar we would like to bring a broad contextual consideration to three different female trade-offs: age at first reproduction, number of offspring produced, and amount invested in each offspring. While there is plenty of empirical data on each of these trade-offs, there has been little attempt to develop broader conceptual models for considering the trade-off in its social, ecological and institutional context. We aim to bring researchers together from a variety of disciplinary and methodological backgrounds to develop an integrative approach to understanding these trade-offs. This 2nd meeting of the IUSSP Panel on Evolutionary Perspectives on Demography follows on from a fruitful workshop on "The Ecology of the Male Life Course" held in October 2006, and we intend to replicate the successful cross-disciplinary and international nature of the 1st meeting with this complementary integrative seminar on the life history trade-offs of women.

The Goals of the Seminar

This seminar aims to integrate perspectives from life history with the growing body of knowledge regarding hormonal, immunological, developmental, psychological and behavioural aspects of female life history trade-offs. Our goal is to provide a forum in which ultimate and proximate analyses of female life histories can be discussed by scholars from different disciplinary specializations, with the aim of providing new perspectives on important demographic phenomena. In particular, our aim is to provide new synthetic perspectives on the key questions that engage evolutionary researchers: variability in a) age at first reproduction, b) total fertility, and c) parental investment across and within populations. A second goal of the seminar is to develop the techniques that are needed to understand the evolution of such trade-offs. These include discussing both the methodologies and logistics of comparative analysis: given that one of the defining characteristics of our species is our variability, it is vital to bring together researchers working on a wide variety of populations, including both historical populations and contemporary populations (ranging from industrialized economies, through mixed economies to subsistence agriculture and hunter-gatherer communities), to share their expertise. In addition to developing comparative work, theoretical modelling of life history trade-offs is another route to understanding trade-offs in evolutionary context, since the costs and benefits of such trade-offs can be

artificially manipulated in theoretical models. We will also bring together theoretical and empirical perspectives on these trade-offs. A third goal of the workshop will be to discuss the prospects for applied work in this field. Work on these trade-offs has so far been largely confined to, and disseminated within, an academic context, but has the potential to yield insights which have important practical applications.

Date and Location of the Seminar

A 3-day seminar 23-25 July 2008 at the University of Bristol, United Kingdom.

Local organising committee: Dr Mhairi Gibson (local host) and Dr Rebecca Sear.

Format of the seminar

The seminar will be limited to 26 participants (including all speakers and organisers), and will be organised around three crucial life-history trade-offs, with papers that address the overall theoretical perspective, overview current knowledge and introduce new research findings:

- Day 1: Age at first reproduction
- Day 2: Total fertility
- Day 3: Parental investment

We invite both empirical and theoretical contributions, as well as contributions that blend theoretical models with empirical data. Empirical support may be at various levels, including:

1. Molecular and cellular (e.g. hormones, immunological status and disease susceptibility over the lifespan).
2. Physiological and developmental (e.g. trade-offs between reproductive and somatic functions, between growth and reproduction).
3. Psychological (e.g. emotional, sensory and cognitive differences)
4. Behavioural and sociological (e.g. parenting, grand-parenting, family structure and family behaviour)

In addition, we have invited four plenary speakers to contribute to the seminar:

- *Professor Gillian Bentley*, University of Durham
- *Professor Emily Grundy*, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- *Professor Kristen Hawkes*, University of Utah
- *Professor Beverly Strassmann*, University of Michigan

Submission procedure

The IUSSP Scientific Panel on Evolutionary Perspectives in Demography invites researchers in the field to submit a detailed 500-1000 word abstract (and if the author(s) wish, a full paper which must be unpublished) and fill out the online submission form before 22 February 2008 directly to the IUSSP website at:

<http://www.iussp.org/Activities/biol/call08.php>

If the paper is co-authored, please indicate the names of co-authors at the end of the abstract. Submission should be made by the author who will attend the seminar.

Abstracts and papers must be submitted in English. The working language at the meeting will be English. In addition

to dissemination through posting on the member-restricted portion of the IUSSP website, seminar organisers will explore possibilities for publishing the papers, after the seminar. Please be aware that the programme committee may suggest some modifications – depending on what other presentations have been offered. The final list of invited participants will depend on the overall coverage of topics in the area.

Applicants will be notified whether their contribution has been accepted by 15 March 2008. In the case of acceptance on the basis of an abstract, the completed paper must be submitted by 15 June 2008.

Thanks to generous support from the IUSSP, the British Society for Population Studies and the Galton Institute, the organisers will pay for expenses at the meeting location for all participants. However, current funding for the seminar is limited; efforts are under way to raise additional funds, but the outcome is at this point uncertain. Participants are therefore encouraged to seek their own funding to cover their travel costs to attend the seminar. Those who are applying for financial assistance should indicate their need when they submit by ticking the appropriate box on the on-line submission form when submitting paper or abstract. Applicants will be informed of the status of their application for financial support at the latest by 22 May 2007.

For further information, please contact Dr Mhairi Gibson (mhairi.gibson@bristol.ac.uk) or Dr Rebecca Sear (r.sear@lse.ac.uk).

Steering committee of the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Evolutionary Perspectives in Demography:

- Co-chairs:
 - Monique Borgerhoff Mulder, (University of California Davis, USA)
 - Debra Judge (University of Western Australia, Australia)
- Members:
 - Hillard Kaplan (University of New Mexico, US)
 - Ulrich O. Mueller (Marburg University, Germany)

NOTICES

BSPS Less Economically Developed Countries Initiative from 2008 Call for proposals.

The BSPS Developing Countries Initiative has reserved £1,500 per annum for activities that encourage collaboration between population demographers in the UK and developing countries. This initiative sponsors an annual visit by a demographer from a LEDC, who gives a presentation at the BSPS Conference where they get the opportunity to meet and develop contacts with UK demographers. The overall aim is to encourage long-term

collaboration and joint projects, and it is anticipated that contacts will already exist between the person to be funded, and a UK institution or UK demographers.

Previous awards have been made to visitors from Cuba and Brazil. In 2005, Sonia Catusus Cervera, from the University of Havana visited, and in 2006, Consuelo Martin, also from Cuba, visited. In both instances, they were also supported by the University of Manchester to visit that institution. In September 2007, a visit by Andre Caetano from the University of Minas Gerais (Belo Horizonte Brazil) was funded, to further work with colleagues at the London School of Economics and the University of Southampton. Seminars were held at the London School of Economics and the University of Southampton during the visit.

Suggestions for the use of part or all of this fund for the year 2008 should be made by 18 January 2008, to pic@lse.ac.uk, for consideration by the BSPS Council at their next meeting. Suggestions would be best supported by a single typed sheet describing how the money might be budgeted and spent and in what ways this would encourage collaboration. Bids should also include a detailed timetable of the proposed activities, and should come from the UK-based sponsoring individual or institution only.

NEW BSPS POSTGRADUATE STUDENT REP.

Laura Jones has now completed her PhD studies and has resigned as BSPS postgraduate student representative. Council sends their best wishes and thanks for her contribution to BSPS over the last couple of years. Laura has been replaced as BSPS postgraduate student rep. by **Will Johnson**, currently studying for his PhD in the Department of Human Sciences, Loughborough University. He can be contacted at w.o.johnson@lboro.ac.uk.

BSPS Prize 2007

The winner of the 2007 BSPS Prize was Maja Založnik, University of Liverpool, for her Masters dissertation entitled *Geographical Variation of Geodemographic Classifiability*. The result was announced at the 2007 BSPS Conference in September.

One of the judges said:

Very well written and considered thesis. Detailed analysis and well presented results. Limitations and potential applications considered. Overall a very good dissertation.

And another said:

This is an interesting piece of methodological work in the field of spatial demography which investigated the prospects and problems related to geodemographic classification and its potential influence on the UK national area classification. The topic is highly relevant in the context of an increasing demand for small area statistics - which is often questioned for estimation precision because of errors in area

classification. The author proposed a set of quality measures to quantify the geodemographic classification which were applied on the 2001 census output areas as used by the ONS. The overall quality and presentation of this work are excellent. The aims are clearly stated, although I feel that there are far too many aims for an MSc dissertation. There is a good coverage of relevant literature. The methods are clearly described with a good discussion on study limitations. The application part is indeed very interesting and illustrates the importance of the topic. The findings are nicely summarised in the conclusion section.

The Prize is awarded to the entry judged to be the best MSc. Dissertation on a demographic topic during the previous year.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Position for a Young Social Scientist in the World Bank's Research Department

The Development Research Group at the World Bank is one of the leading centers for research on economic development (<http://econ.worldbank.org/research>). The group conducts fundamental and relevant research published in refereed academic journals, generates new knowledge and ideas about effective policy interventions, and provides policy and strategic advice to the World Bank's operational staff. Although the group is primarily staffed by economists, it works on a broad range of issues beyond the traditional focus of development economics, including community development, culture, governance, comparative and international politics, networks and social capital, and other issues informed by disciplinary perspectives drawn from anthropology, law, political science, psychology, and sociology.

To expand our capacity in these realms, we are hiring a "Young Social Scientist": a recent PhD (if applicants are in the dissertation phase they must have their PhD in hand before starting the position) in one of the non-economic social sciences whose research demonstrates significant promise in understanding questions that relate to the problems of development. We are looking for a world-class researcher with excellent skills in qualitative methods, and with significant field experience in one or more developing countries. The ideal candidate should also be familiar with quantitative methods and be willing to interact and collaborate closely with development economists. S/he should be willing to engage closely and critically with issues that are centrally related to development policy. Women and citizens of developing countries are especially encouraged to apply. The position offers a competitive salary and benefits.

Please send a cover letter describing your research, and why this position is of interest to you, along with a CV and the names of three references to research@worldbank.org and in the subject line type "Search for Young Social Scientist." At this stage we would request that candidates not send us any more material. Candidates selected for the

short-list will be requested to submit a more detailed application with writing samples, reference letters, at a later stage. We will accept applications until December 15, 2007.

REPORTS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

BSPS Developing Countries Initiative 2007

Report on the visit of

Andre' Caetano, Catholic University of Minas Gerais / Cedeplar/Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais

Professor Andre' Junqueira Caetano visited the UK from the 8th to the 22nd of September with the financial support of the 2007 BSPS developing countries initiative. He has been invited by Dr Leone from the LSE and Dr Padmadas from the University of Southampton to strengthen their existing collaboration and work on future research projects.

Overall, Andre's visit was academically highly successful. Andre' interacted with many other British academics and exchanged research ideas especially while he was at the 2007 BSPS annual conference in St. Andrews. At the BSPS conference, he presented a paper entitled 'Brazilian fertility transition toward replacement level and beyond: The great regional divide'. The paper described regional variations in the fertility decline in Brazil over the last 25 years. He concluded that there are both tempo and parity effects according to wealth level: wealthier women tend to have their first child and adopt get sterilised later on in life with a tempo effect close to zero; whereas poorest groups start childbearing earlier and get sterilised earlier. His visit coincided with a BSPS half-day meeting on reproductive health in Latin America organised by Dr. Leone that was held at the LSE on the 20th September 2007. Andre' presented a paper during this meeting on 'Differentials in demand and supply of contraception and female sterilization in Brazil: the cases of Belo Horizonte and Recife' (a report of this meeting is included in this newsletter). The meeting proved to be a great opportunity for Andre' to interact with other British academics working on reproductive health issues in Latin America. Also, Andre' took the opportunity to visit the Division for Social Statistics in Southampton where he presented his paper on sterilisation during one of the division's lunch time seminars. The seminar was well attended by both staff and student members, which was then followed by an interesting discussion.

Drs Leone and Padmadas together with Prof. Andre' have worked on a plan for future collaborations that include papers on reproductive health issues within the Brazilian context and global settings. Part of this work will be triggered by the new Brazilian DHS that will be released next February. The team expects to publish the results in peer-reviewed international journals. Also, the results are hoped to be presented in the 2008 BSPS annual conference.

This visit was certainly a great opportunity for Andre' to learn how the British academics work and interact in informal and collegial settings. Thanks are due to the BSPS for providing the team with this unique opportunity to interact and build a

promising collaboration. The funding support from the BSPS will be acknowledged in further formal presentations and publications.

Report on BSPS half day meeting on Reproductive health in Latin America: costs, outcomes and policies

The meeting was held at LSE on the 20th of September. The meeting was attended by 20 people from different locations such as Portugal and the Netherlands and included a celebrity as well: Dr Michel Odent! The meeting was very informal and pleasant with a lively discussion. The speakers took the opportunity to discuss common interests during lunch before the meeting and afterwards in the pub. They were very grateful to BSPS for organising this meeting as there are very few opportunities in the UK to discuss Latin American reproductive health issues. Dr Anna Gorter was particularly grateful for this BSPS meeting as during her visit to London she, by coincidence, got in touch with a friend who was able to give her £7,000 for her voucher scheme for sex workers in Nicaragua that had just run out of funds.

The speakers represented different disciplines and methodological approaches to similar reproductive issues in Brazil and Nicaragua. PowerPoint presentations from the meeting can be found on the BSPS website under "Day Meetings".

Dr Jo Borghi (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) is a health economist and she presented on 'Contraceptive method use: determinants of demand and economic impact in Brazil'. This was the work she had done to prepare for a fellowship application and the aim of the study will be to analyse the determinants of contraceptive preferences - product characteristics and supply side factors and the economic impact of current patterns of contraceptive use in Brazil and impact of possible changes.

Professor Andre' Caetano is a demographer (Pontificia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais). He presented a paper on 'Differentials in demand and supply of contraception and female sterilization in Brazil: the cases of Belo Horizonte and Recife'. Using district data collected in 2002 he presented a trend analysis of the patterns of contraceptive use in Brazil and more specifically on the wide use of sterilisation in the last 15 years. The results show that no improvement in contraceptive mix has been achieved from 1996 to 2002.

Dr Anna Gorter is an epidemiologist (Instituto Centro Americano de la Salud - ICAS). She presented a paper on 'Competitive voucher schemes to increase access to and quality of sexual and reproductive health care for marginalized and/or vulnerable populations'. This presentation is part of her work as an associate at ICAS. She presented the results from a competitive voucher for condom scheme for vulnerable population in Nicaragua. The results are encouraging and despite voucher schemes being difficult

to set up, they are highly successful in reaching needy populations. Dr Gorter concluded by saying that these schemes should be applied to a wider range of health services.

Dr Dominique Béhague is an anthropologist (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Federal University of Pelotas). She presented work done with HD Gonçalves on 'Reproductive events, stigma, and mental morbidity: class struggles amongst youth in Pelotas, Brazil'. The study uses data from the longitudinal study conducted in the Pelotas Brazil combined with ethnographic data to analyse mental health morbidities and pregnancies of young women aged 11-16. The author concluded that there is a wider need for public health to tackle these issues. The preliminary results of the study show that society pushes youth towards pregnancy for rational reasons such as prejudices towards class inequalities.

Dr Maria Helena Bastos is a gynaecologist obstetrician (Thames Valley University). She presented on 'Promoting evidence-informed obstetric care in middle-income countries: Challenges and opportunities'. The study analyses the major issues linked with over-medicalisation in maternal care in Brazil from a policy perspective. The country has one of the highest c-section rates in the world and the over intervention at delivery is a serious issue. The author analysed the major trends at national and regional level and described the major policy issues. She concluded with some recommendations on the framework for maternal care. The main message being that pregnancy and childbearing are life events and women should be in the position to be able to make an informed decision.

Tiziana Leone
LSE



Fifth Meeting of the European Network for the Sociological and Demographic Study of Divorce, 17-18 September 2007

A two-day meeting entitled "Comparative and Gendered Perspectives on Family Structure" was sponsored jointly by the BSPS, the ESRC Gender Equality Network, and the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion took place at the London School of Economics and Political Science. This meeting brought together an international group of scholars working on issues related to the causes and consequences of relationship dissolution.

The first presentation session concentrated on factors and processes which increase the risk of divorce. **Michael Wagner** (University of Cologne) opened the meeting with a paper on the effect of conflict behaviour on relationship satisfaction and stability. He argued that these effects vary depending on the exit costs in a relationship. In the following presentation, **Kadri Rootalu** (University of Tartu) provided evidence of a positive association between higher education and relationship quality in Estonia, especially for men. Using Norwegian register data, **Torkild Hovde Lyngstad** (Statistics Norway) illustrated in his presentation that the intergenerational transmission of divorce varies by children's age at parents' divorce. Those who experience a parental divorce at younger ages are more likely to

divorce than those whose parents divorce at older ages. He also found a stronger effect for women who experienced divorce as a child than for men.

After lunch, the workshop's focus shifted to the consequences of divorce. In the first paper, **Montse Solsona** (Autonomous University of Barcelona) described how entry and exit pathways of lone parents in Spain changed between 1991 and 2001. She noticed an increase in entry through separation and continuing gender differences in exit, with lone fathers being more likely to remarry than lone mothers. **Wendy Sigle-Rushton** (London School of Economics) presented a paper on family disruption and children's educational outcomes in Norway. She argued for the importance of selection effects, since controlling for mother-specific unobserved time-invariant characteristics, the difference between children from disrupted families and those with two parents narrows even if the experience of parents' divorce is still associated with lower educational outcomes. Furthermore, the paper provides evidence of similar effect sizes for children experiencing divorce or death of one parent.

Jani Erola (Turku School of Economics) presented a paper looking at spouse selection for people in Finland whose parents divorced. He suggested that children of divorce have lower marriage rates with spouses with secondary or higher education than people whose parents did not divorce. The fourth contributor to this session was **Anne-Rigt Poortman** (Utrecht University) who talked about the impact of parental divorce on sibling relationships in adulthood. She argued that sibling relationships are more conflict-laden in case parents divorced. The impact of parental divorce however also depends upon the amount of parental conflict.

The final two presentations on that day looked at relationship dissolution in France. **Eva Beaujouan** (French National Institute for Demographic Studies) gave a thought-provoking paper showing that structural influences as well as unobserved heterogeneity are controlled for, the dissolution risk in second unions may be lower than in first unions. In his presentation, **Jean-François Mignot** (Observatoire sociologique du changement) then illustrated that women file for divorce more often than men across many countries and during different time periods and presented some theoretical approaches which may explain this gender pattern.

The first set of presentations on the second day focused on cross-national differences and changing trends of unmarried cohabitation. **Kairi Kasearu** (University of Tartu) presented a typology of cohabitation in 24 European countries breaking down macro-level characteristics of cohabiting couples by age, number of children and official marital statuses to differentiate between countries based on frequency of pre-marital and post-marital cohabitation and associations with childbearing behaviour. **Belinda Hewitt** (University of Queensland) following with a paper on changes in the association of divorce with premarital cohabitation over time in Australia. Her results suggest that while pre-marital cohabitation increased couples' divorce risk in older cohorts, it may reduce couples' divorce risk among recent cohorts.

The following set of presentations placed a particular

emphasis on gender in relation to marital stability. **Lynn Prince Cooke** (University of Kent) and **Vanessa Gash** (University of Manchester) presented a paper investigating whether part-time employment may increase relationship stability in West-Germany, the UK and the US. Surprisingly, their results indicate no significant difference with part-time employment but instead full-time employed women may be less likely to separate than women who are not employed in West-Germany and the UK. **Dimitri Mortelmans** (University of Antwerp) then presented a paper looking at cross-national differences in the effectiveness of coping strategies after divorce from a comparative perspective. He showed that the pace of recovery to the levels before the dissolution varies between countries, even if within-country differences are even larger. He suggested that a country's wealth and female employment rate contribute to explaining the remaining country variance. Investigating whether gender inequality in earnings is smaller among cohabiting couples than in married couples, **Deborah Price** (King's College London) showed that although this difference exists, for women it is largely explained by women's age and maternal status. For men, however, greater inequality in partners' earnings is indeed associated with being married rather than cohabiting in addition to their age and their youngest child's age.

The final session looked at a variety of issues ranging from regional variations in divorce risk, to father involvement, economic well-being after separation and support in later life. In his paper on regional variations in divorce risk within Belgium, **Jaap Dronkers** (European University Institute) argued that the regional difference can partly be attributed to macro-level differences in religiosity. **Bryndl Hohmann-Marriott** (Pennsylvania State University) then compared fathers' involvement after union dissolution in the UK and the US and concluded that fathers' involvement before parents' separation is a strong predictor of their involvement afterwards. **Letizia Mencarini** (University of Florence) presented a paper on marital disruption and multidimensional indicators of economic well-being. Results show considerable differences between welfare state regimes in people's deprivation after relationship breakdown. **Karen Glaser** (King's College London) presented the final paper, comparing Italy and the UK with respect to support in later life for people who had experienced family breakdown. She showed that in both countries separated people aged over 65 are more likely to receive help from their children than partnered people. The workshop concluded with an open discussion about data needs and possible new directions for research.

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