

## BSPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008 CALL FOR PAPERS

**10-12 September 2008, The University of  
Manchester**

The 2008 BSPS Conference will be held at Hulme Hall, the University of Manchester, from 10-12 September.

There will be a full programme of simultaneous strand sessions of submitted papers. Proposals or abstracts for papers and posters are invited across the **entire demographic and population studies spectrum**. For organizational purposes, strand organizers have been allocated to specific themes, but if you wish to submit a paper that does not appear to come under any of the headings given, please submit either to the strand organiser that appears most appropriate, or to Professor Paul Boyle, as shown in the list below. If accepted, the paper will be allocated to an appropriate strand session when the programme is timetabled. **Submissions of both qualitative and quantitative papers are most welcome.**

Plenary speakers will be announced shortly. Information updates on the Conference will be posted to the BSPS website at:  
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/BSPS/annualConference/2008.htm>  
as available.

Presenters of posters will be expected to attend the scheduled poster session on the first evening of the Conference, but posters will remain on display for the duration of the Conference.

Preliminary abstracts of papers – which may be in the form of a declaration of intent – (**maximum 250 words, please**), plus a provisional title, should be **submitted by Thursday 1 May 2008, preferably by email**, and accompanied by a submissions pro-forma (see Notes Below) to strand organisers as follows:

- **Ageing:**  
Professor Emily Grundy  
Centre for Population Studies  
London School of Hygiene & Tropical  
Medicine  
49-51 Bedford Square
- **Families and households:**  
Steve Smallwood  
Office for National Statistics  
2300  
Segensworth Road  
Titchfield  
Fareham, Hampshire PO15 5RR  
Email: [steve.smallwood@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:steve.smallwood@ons.gsi.gov.uk)
- **Fertility:**  
Professor Paul Boyle  
School of Geography & Geosciences  
University of St. Andrew's  
St. Andrew's  
Fife KY16 9AJ  
Email: [p.boyle@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:p.boyle@st-andrews.ac.uk)  
Fax: +44 (0)1334 463949
- **Health and mortality:**  
Dr. Tiziana Leone & Dr. Paula Griffiths  
Dr. Tiziana Leone  
Department of Social Policy  
London School of Economics  
Houghton Street  
London WC2A 2AE  
Email: [T.Leone@lse.ac.uk](mailto:T.Leone@lse.ac.uk)
- **Historical demography:**  
Dr. Alice Reid  
Cambridge Group for the History of Population &  
Social Structure  
Geography Department  
Sir William Hardy Building  
Downing Place  
Cambridge CB2 3EN  
Email: [amr1001@cam.ac.uk](mailto:amr1001@cam.ac.uk)
- **Local authority, census, planning:**  
Professor Ludi Simpson, Roy Lewis, Michelle  
vonAhn  
Professor Ludi Simpson  
CCSR  
University of Manchester  
School of Social Sciences

London WC1B 3DP

Email: [emily.grundy@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:emily.grundy@lshtm.ac.uk)

Fax: +44 (0)20 7299 4637

Kantorovich Building  
Humanities Bridgeford Street  
Manchester M13 9PL  
Email: [ludi.simpson@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:ludi.simpson@manchester.ac.uk)  
Fax: +44 (0)161 275 4722

- **Papers outside named strands:**  
Professor Paul Boyle  
School of Geography & Geosciences  
University of St. Andrews  
St. Andrews, Fife KY16 9AJ  
Email: [p.boyle@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:p.boyle@st-andrews.ac.uk)  
Fax: +44 (0)1334 463949
- **Posters:**  
Will Johnson  
Department of Human Sciences  
Loughborough University  
Loughborough LE11 3TU  
Email: [w.o.johnson@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:w.o.johnson@lboro.ac.uk)
- **Religious, ethnic & cultural demography:**  
Professor David Voas  
Cathie Marsh Centre for Survey & Census Research  
University of Manchester  
School of Social Sciences  
Kantorovich Building  
Humanities Bridgeford Street  
Manchester M13 9PL  
Fax: +44 (0)161 275 4722  
Email: [voas@man.ac.uk](mailto:voas@man.ac.uk)
- **Reproductive health:**  
Dr. Sara Randall  
University College London  
Department of Anthropology  
14 Taviton Street  
London WC1H 0BW  
Email: [s.randall@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.randall@ucl.ac.uk)  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7679 8629
- **Transnational & subnational migration:**  
Jonathan Swan & Cecilia Macintyre  
Jonathan Swan  
Office for National Statistics  
2300  
Segensworth Road  
Titchfield  
Fareham, Hants. PO15 5RR  
Email: [jonathan.swan@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.swan@ons.gsi.gov.uk)  
Fax: +44 (0)1329 81 3295
- **General & administrative enquiries:**  
BSPS Secretariat  
020 7955 7666 (phone)  
Email: [pic@lse.ac.uk](mailto:pic@lse.ac.uk)

## Notes:

- Please do not submit the same paper to more than one strand organiser.
- Submissions should be accompanied by a submission pro-forma form, available with the call for papers at the BSPS website at: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/BSPS/annualConference/2008.htm>  
To include a provisional abstract or outline of the proposed paper, maximum 250 words.
- Strand organisers may allocate papers to a different strand from that to which the paper was submitted, if appropriate, but potential presenters will be advised.
- A maximum of two submissions per author, please.
- Presenters are encouraged to submit ongoing work with incomplete analyses and findings as posters, rather than papers. Papers should include results.
- Submissions from non-members are very welcome.
- Submissions will be acknowledged on receipt. Notice of inclusion in the provisional programme will follow by the end of May, at which time prospective presenters will be asked to confirm their proposed attendance at the Conference.
- An abstract of approximately 250 words will be required by the end of July for the final programme.
- Presenters of papers will be asked to register for the Conference before the paper is included in the final programme.
- Papers are organised into strand sessions. Each presenter will have 30 minutes in total with 20-25 minutes for presentation and 5-10 minutes for discussion/questions.
- **Please note that attendance at the BSPS Conference to present a paper or poster cannot be subsidised by the BSPS- this applies to BSPS members and non-members.** (Except for student bursaries granted to BSPS student members presenting papers and posters – see bursary details below.)
- **Effective presentations** – notes available on the website at: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/BSPS/annualConference/2008.htm>

## STUDENT BURSARIES FOR 2008 CONFERENCE

Bursaries are available **only** to **BSPS student members presenting a paper or poster**. Subscription dues for student members applying must be up-to-date. Bursaries are expected to cover the cost of accommodation & meals, where required, and registration, plus an allowance for travel in the UK only. (BSPS cannot cover the cost of

international travel.) As the number of bursaries available may be limited, applications **must be received at the Secretariat by 1 May 2008**. Please apply by email or post, advising to which strand you have submitted, to:  
BSPS Secretariat, PS201, London School of Economics,  
Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. Email: [pic@lse.ac.uk](mailto:pic@lse.ac.uk)  
Telephone 020 7955 7666. Fax 020 7955 6831.

## POSTER COMPETITION AT 2008 BSPS CONFERENCE

A prize of £150 in book tokens is offered for the poster judged to be the best on display. All posters accepted for the Conference will be entered automatically for the Poster Prize. At least 50% of the value of the Prize will be awarded to the best student poster. The invited judges will be announced later.

## DAY MEETINGS

### Population Projections Day Meeting

29 February 2008  
Vera Anstey Room, LSE

This meeting is now **fully booked** and further bookings cannot, unfortunately, be accepted. A report of the meeting will appear on the BSPS website and in this Newsletter in due course. BSPS hopes that many of the presentations will also be available for posting to the website, **where a useful archive of reports and presentations from previous day meetings and Conference can be found**.

## BSPS PRIZE 2008

Entries are invited for the 2008 BSPS Prize.

This is awarded to the entry judged to be the best MSc. Dissertation on a demographic topic during the year 2007 (which would normally be at or around distinction level). Applicants should supply four copies of their dissertation, which do not need to be bound – electronic submissions can also be accepted.

Please note that all entries should be **submitted by the institution** awarding the degree, or by the supervising academic, and not by the authors themselves. A maximum of two entries per institution will be accepted. A word limit of 12,000 words per entry is encouraged, as it is very difficult to judge and compare entries of vastly differing lengths. However, longer dissertations may also be entered, with a section not exceeding the given word limit being nominated for judging purposes.

A cash prize of £300 is offered, which will be increased to £400 if there is a tie for first place and the Prize is split between two winners. The winner(s) will be announced at the BSPS Conference in September.

For the purposes of this prize, demography is defined as

1. the scientific study of human populations, especially with reference to their size, structure and distribution
2. the scientific study of the determining processes, such as fertility, mortality and migration, and
3. the relationship of these with the social, economic and cultural context within which they exist.

Entries should be received by **31 May 2008** at the BSPS Secretariat, PS201, London School of Economics,  
Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE, or [pic@lse.ac.uk](mailto:pic@lse.ac.uk)

## 2008 BSPS MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

BSPS members are respectfully reminded that 2008 membership subscription renewals are now due. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible. Membership subscriptions are on an annual basis, and run from the beginning of January until the end of December.

A standing order can be the easiest way to ensure your annual subscription is not forgotten. If you would like a standing order form, please email [pic@lse.ac.uk](mailto:pic@lse.ac.uk).

Members' subscriptions are the BSPS' main source of regular income, and are primarily used to sponsor and to cover the costs of day meetings, workshops and travel grants.

The membership renewal form can be found on the website at [www.bsps.org.uk](http://www.bsps.org.uk), and includes full details of the annual cost for the different categories of members. The membership application form for new members is also posted to the website.

## BSPS EVENT FUNDING

The British Society for Population Studies holds several events throughout the year, in addition to the Annual Conference. These are organised by members on topics that they feel merit discussion. Suggestions for future events are always welcomed by the Secretariat, and may be jointly promoted with other organizations. BSPS provides a limited amount of funding and administrative support for these seminars. If you would like to organise a seminar, please use the proposal form to be found on the website at: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/BSPS/awardsGrants.htm>

BSPS is keen to support events that promote discussion of topics within the society's remit, "to further the scientific study of biological, economic, historical, medical, social and other disciplines connected with human populations and to contribute to the public awareness of them."

The most common form of BSPS events are **day meetings**, but may include **longer seminars**. They are generally open to all, without entrance fee, and advertised to the BSPS membership and beyond. Generally, BSPS funds a suitable venue and speakers' expenses. The total BSPS expenses for a meeting varies, averaging about £500.

For **joint events** BSPS can contribute a similar level of funding as to its own day meetings (typically, grants are expected to be in the region of £500, but up to £1000 is available if the organisers can make a good case for it). BSPS will also advertise the event through its email list, website and (if in time) its newsletter, and will be badged as joint organiser using the BSPS logo. As with other BSPS events, joint events are expected to be open to all BSPS members and without entrance fee. The other organisation(s) may help organise the programme, advertise to specialist audiences, and if funded share the meeting costs as above or pay other expenses such as participants' travel and refreshments.

**Proposals for BSPS events or joint events** should be made by giving the information requested on the proposal form, and this would be considered by the BSPS Council which generally meets in the first part of each February, May and November.

Please contact the BSPS office ([pic@lse.ac.uk](mailto:pic@lse.ac.uk)) with any queries about the information requested on the form. If your proposal is at the early stages, they may well be able to put you in contact with other BSPS members who can help to think through and organise the event.

The BSPS website at [www.bsps.org.uk](http://www.bsps.org.uk) includes reports and presentations from previous meetings and Conferences, which, as well as being a growing archive of population-related material, may be useful to anyone interested in planning future meetings, seminars or workshops.

## BSPS COUNCIL

At the AGM in July 2007, Neil Storer from Camden Council was elected to the BSPS Council, but had to withdraw shortly afterwards. Michelle vonAhn from Newham Council has kindly agreed to being co-opted onto Council, until the AGM meeting in 2008, when she will stand for formal election. Michelle will be a Council member but not a trustee until July 2008.

## CONTRIBUTE TO FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

BSPS is always pleased to receive reports of meetings or other events likely to be of interest to members, for publication in the Newsletter.

BSPS is also happy to publicise other body's population related activities, either in the Newsletter, or as separate BSPS email circulations. Please contact [pic@lse.ac.uk](mailto:pic@lse.ac.uk).

## Co-operations with demographers from other European countries & possible future joint activities.

BSPS Council has been discussing whether there should be more opportunities for co-operation with demographers from other European countries, through BSPS. Council would be very interested to have feedback from BSPS members, and suggestions for what form such joint activities could take. Feedback from members with European contacts that could be drawn on especially welcome. Please contact BSPS Vice-President Professor Emily Grundy – [emily.grundy@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:emily.grundy@lshtm.ac.uk).

Initially, Emily has been in contact with Cecilia Tomassini, a former BSPS member who has now returned to work in Italy, and who is a member of the Scientific Committee of the Italian Group on Demography (GCD). Cecilia has suggested the following strategies for consideration:

1) Exchange of information that might be of interest to both groups.

2) Short courses. The GCD periodically (once or twice a year) organises short courses (3-5 days) on topics that are particularly interesting for doctoral students, local authority workers and people working at the statistical offices of various institutions. These courses are administered by the Italian Statistical Society under the name of "Scuola SIS" and have a strong quantitative profile. Examples of courses run in the past are:

*Rilevazione e misura dell'immigrazione in Italia: dall'arrivo all'integrazione (Surveying and measuring immigration in Italy: from arrival to intergration)*

*I modelli multilevel in ambito sanitario (Multilevel models for health services)*

*Misure e implicazioni demografiche dell'esclusione sociale in Europa (Measures and implication of social exclusion in Europe)*

*Popolazione e territorio. Strumenti per la descrizione e l'analisi a livello locale (Tools for the description and analysis of population at local level)*

The range of post-graduate courses in the UK is extensive, but it might be possible to find a topic that could be interesting for both countries.

- 3) Special sessions in our annual meetings.
- 4) 1-day event on specific topics with experts from both societies.
- 5) Teaching demography in our countries. The Italian group is investigating how demography is taught in the Italian academia (course denomination, number of hours, university programme and faculty, number of students choosing demography, etc...). It would be interesting to organise a joint task-force to exchange ideas on successful university programmes on population issues.
- 6) An exchange of views on how to make population issues more visible in our respective countries especially among our policy-makers.

## STATISTICS USERS FORUM

Since November 2007, the BPS has become one of the members of the Statistics User Forum (SUF) hosted by the Royal Statistical Society. BPS Council member Tiziana Leone will be representing BPS at future SUF meetings. The SUF brings together representatives of statistics' users. The Forum was set up with support from the ESRC and is the successor to the long established Statistics User Council. It works to make sure that the needs and views of the statistical user community are taken into account by statistics producers and policy makers. Among its many activities is the organisation of an annual conference and several ad hoc meetings on specific issues such as crime statistics, census or statistical disclosure .

For more information visit their website on <http://www.rss.org.uk/main.asp?page=1391>

The latest announcement from the SUF is the Government's publication on its consultation document on pre-release access – the access that ministers and selected civil servants have to official statistics ahead of their publication.

For more information on the consultation, see:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom\\_and\\_speeches/pres/2007/press\\_141\\_07.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/pres/2007/press_141_07.cfm)

and on the SUF response:

<http://www.rss.org.uk/docs/SUF%20response%20to%20Treasury%20consultation%20on%20independence%20for%20statistics.doc>

## OTHER MEETINGS

### General Household Survey user meeting 2008

#### Recent developments in methods and research: the General Household Survey

Thursday 6 March 2008  
Royal Statistical Society, London

This meeting will provide a forum for the exchange of information and views between users and producers of the General Household Survey. The morning presentations will consist of updates and information from the Office for National Statistics and the afternoon will present research papers based on the GHS.

To view the programme and book a place please go to <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2008-03-06/>

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### Family Resources Survey user meeting 2008

Friday 25 April 2008  
Royal Statistical Society, London

This meeting will provide a forum for the exchange of information and views between users and producers of the Family Resources Survey.

To view the programme and book a place please go to <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2008-04-25/>

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### Introduction to government microdata: focus on consumption

Wednesday 30 April 2008 Methods and Data Institute,  
Nottingham University

Our roles as consumers and our patterns of consumption are central to who we are, what we do and our consumer society. ESDS Government surveys allow researchers to look at many different areas of consumption, for example, health and consumption (lifestyle factors such as eating, drinking, smoking, exercise) and environmental consumption (the products we consume and our choices of transportation).

This introductory seminar is aimed at those with little or no experience of microdata from government surveys, or those with some experience of these surveys who require an introduction to the consumption content of the datasets.

To view the programme and book a place please go to <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2008-04-30/>



## Job Vacancy

### Research Assistant/ Research Fellow

The Centre for Population Studies, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is seeking a full time Research Assistant/ Research Fellow for 2 years to work on a Wellcome Trust funded research project addressing key health consequences of rapid urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa. The post will involve some travel to Kenya and will be responsible to Professor John Cleland.

The RA/RF will have a post-graduate degree in statistics, demography, epidemiology or social sciences, research interests in reproductive and sexual health in Africa, and experience of analysis of large data sets. A track record of publication is desirable, and fluent spoken and written English language skills and a commitment to working in a team are also required.

Further details are available from Carolyn Hartley, Centre for Population Studies, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Tel: 020 7299 4622

Email: [carolyn.hartley@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:carolyn.hartley@lshtm.ac.uk)

## UNION FOR AFRICAN POPULATION STUDIES 5<sup>TH</sup> AFRICAN POPULATION CONFERENCE REPORT

10-14 December 2007, Arusha, Tanzania

The Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) Fifth African Population Conference was held at Arusha International Conference Centre, Tanzania, 10-14 December 2007. The conference is held every four years and this year's theme was 'Emerging issues on population and development in Africa' and the first day of the conference was dedicated to research on the host country. As well as a number of side-meetings and poster sessions, the conference programme included sessions on:

- Population growth, poverty, and wellbeing.
- Reproductive health and family planning.
- Migration and urbanisation, and their consequences on development.
- Maternal health, and young child survival and development.
- Schooling and employment.
- HIV and AIDS.
- The health transition.
- Sexual behaviour and sexuality.
- Family, gender, and households.
- Population, environment, and sustainable development.

- New and innovative approaches to data collection and analysis.

The Opening Ceremony began with an address from the Ministry of Planning, Economy, and Empowerment, Juma Ngasongwa, followed by Koffi N'Guessan, the UAPS President. Eliya Zulu, the Chair of the Conference Organising Committee, then proceeded to outline the key demographic issues in Africa. First he noted that although fertility and population growth were decreasing, it had been uneven with Central, Eastern and Western Africa still having high fertility. Similarly, he reported that there had been progress in reducing mortality with reductions in infant mortality and increased life expectancies but that child mortality had not reduced as much as it needed to and had even increased in some countries. For example, the level of immunisation had decreased in Kenya with infant and under-five mortality on the increase.

Eliya Zulu then stated that HIV/AIDS was one of the greatest challenges of the twenty-first century in Africa as it altered the productivity and age-structure of the population, losing middle-aged people along with a disproportionate number of women. He also discussed that Africa was urbanising fast but that the majority of urban residents in sub-Saharan Africa were living in slums with higher infant and under-five mortality. He also noted the need to protect the next generation as well as the importance of education. For example, he reported that only a third of children in Malawi finished primary school and that there was a young age at initiation of sex with at most half of 15-19 year olds receiving any sex education at school.

Eliya Zulu concluded by suggesting potential ways forward such as acceptance by all that the state of health in the African population was very poor; to address the large inequalities within and across countries/regions; to develop and strengthen local capacity to understand population problems, suggesting that research should focus on identifying solutions to the problems that beset the continent and integrate research into action. The Opening Ceremony continued with speeches from the Director of UNFPA for Tanzania and the Minister of Health of the Republic of Tanzania and the President of Zanzibar, and the session concluded with a vote of thanks.

A session which may have had particular relevance to the British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) membership was the session on the United Kingdom Parliament report on population growth and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The session was chaired by Martha Campbell from the University of California, and included presentations from Alex Ezech and Jean-Christophe Fotso, both of the African Population and Health Research Centre, John Cleland from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Ndola Prata from the University of California.

Jean-Christophe Fotso presented the current progress towards the MDGs but stated that there was no explicit reference to population growth and its impact, concluding

that the MDGs would be difficult or impossible to achieve in sub-Saharan Africa. Alex Ezech discussed population growth and poverty with specific reference to the urban poor. John Cleland outlined some family planning success stories and failures, concluding that Kenya's success depended on strong political commitment, heavy expenditure on communication, and a range of available contraceptive methods. Ndola Prata, who was a medical doctor in Angola, presented some 'views from the field' with some perspectives from clients of family planning programmes. She noted that there were growing disparities between the rich and poor, with the poorest having the highest Total Fertility Rate, the lowest Contraceptive Prevalence Rate, and the highest unmet need. She also outlined the huge number of barriers to fertility regulation and discussed how to make family planning easier, with the importance of choice and freedom. There were questions from the floor, before Malcolm Potts summed-up by stating the importance of listening to what women want, the need to restore focus on family planning, as well as the need to work together.

I presented a methodological paper co-authored with Shane Norris and John Pettifor from the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, and Noël Cameron and Paula Griffiths, also of Loughborough University. The paper was entitled 'How can we learn about community socio-economic status and poverty in a developing country urban environment? An example from Johannesburg-Soweto, South Africa'. This paper was presented in the session on 'Methodological issues in measuring poverty and human welfare'. I also acted as Discussant for the session on 'Trends and determinants of child health and mortality in sub-Saharan Africa'. I would like to thank the BSPS for awarding me with an international travel grant and UAPS for awarding me a travel award to partially fund my trip to attend and present at the conference. For more information about the conference, please see the UAPS website: <http://www.uaps.org/>.

Zoë Sheppard  
Loughborough University

from 14 urban slums, one from each of the municipal wards of Dhaka, Bangladesh, a country with a slum population of 5.4 million people. With appalling living conditions and no civic amenities they are at the worst end of the socio-economic spectrum. Contraceptive use is low amongst the inhabitants and corresponding fertility is high. Some local NGOs and foreign donors have initiated family planning and other health services making them available to some selected slums. In this study the authors are therefore concerned with slum level variables, in addition to the individual level variables which usually determine the odds of a couple being a user of modern contraception.

The paper therefore had two objectives

1. To determine the covariates of contraceptive use among the inhabitants of the slums
2. To investigate the reasons for slum level variation by including slum level variables.

Methods and materials: the study was funded by the local UNFPA and was conducted in 1998. It covered one slum (with more than 400 households in each slum) from each municipal area of Dhaka city and a total of 2631 women were interviewed using a structured questionnaire. Detailed results are available from the author.

The study reiterates the importance of choosing the right functional form when modeling a continuous variable. It also justifies the use of a multilevel model which rightly captures the slum level variation. Accepting slums as reality and upgrading them to provide more civic amenities would be positive inputs towards increasing contraceptive use in urban slums of Dhaka.

Nashid Kamal  
Bangladesh

## 9<sup>th</sup> ISLAMIC COUNTRIES CONFERENCE ON STATISTICAL SCIENCES

From 12 to 14<sup>th</sup> December '07, this Conference was held in Shah Alam, Malaysia. It was organized by Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Faculty Science, University of Malaya, KL, Malaysia.

The theme of the conference was 'Statistics in the contemporary world-Theories, methods and applications'. A paper entitled 'Determinants of contraceptive use in the urban slums of Dhaka : A multilevel analysis' by Nashid Kamal, Cindy Lim and Rumana Omar was presented in a session of contributed papers by Dr. Kamal, who is a BSPS member.

The paper used multilevel logistic regression to model data