

Editor: Dr Melanie Channon

The British Society for Population Studies Newsletter

Conference Edition: Welcome to Liverpool



Somehow another year has passed and it's conference time again. Having never been to Liverpool I don't have too many tips about things to do outside the conference, but there are plenty of things going on at the conference. If you attend any of these please do come and say hello!

Reception and Poster Session

Wednesday 6 September, 6.30 – 8.00pm

Central Teaching Hub

Sponsored by the Centre for Spatial Demographics Research, University of Liverpool

All are very welcome to attend, whether staying on campus or not. Drinks and nibbles will be served, so come along for some free grub and to say hello.

Also try to make time to look at the posters, which we hope will remain on display throughout the Conference. The poster session gets better (and bigger) every year so make the most of it.

BSPS AGM

Thursday 7 September, 6.30pm

Members only please. Come along and get involved with the running of BSPS. Any member not attending the conference is welcome to attend the AGM, but please advise pic@lse.ac.uk if you wish to do so.

Quiz

Thursday 7 September, After dinner

Guild of Students Courtyard

The fabulous BSPS quiz returns! Everyone is welcome. A bar is available. Come along and join a team... though, I have no idea how difficult the questions will be.

Plenary speakers

Professor Michael Anderson (University of Edinburgh): 'Scottish migration: who, when, where, and why: from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day?'

Professor Clara Mulder (University of Groningen): 'Putting family centre-stage: Family ties and spatial mobility'

As always do let me know if you have any suggestions for the newsletter. If you have published anything interesting (article, book, blog, interview etc.) then also let me know.

Email me: melanie.channon@ageing.ox.ac.uk

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[#bsps2017](https://twitter.com/bsps2017)

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Postgraduate Student Representative: Alina Pelikh

And yet again, conference all the way! Reflecting on PopFest 2017 in Stockholm, I must say it was a real treat and kudos to the organisers (find out more in the report on pages 4-5). Following the tradition, the next year PopFest comes back to the UK and will be organised by the enthusiastic team of postgraduates at Nuffield College, Oxford University. Don't forget to put it down in your calendars!

This year's BSPS conference offers two events specifically targeted at postgraduate student audience. The first one to take place on Wednesday is a workshop "How to review a journal article" with Wendy Sigle and Rebecca Sear. The second event on Thursday is a panel session about careers in UK academia organised by our student members Natalia Permyakova and Sam Wilding, both from the University of Southampton. A panel of academics will discuss their experiences of building a career in UK academia and answer questions from the audience.

This edition's student spotlight features William Shankley from the University of Manchester who is studying the internal migration of post-accession Polish migrants in the UK. Will's academic journey has started at the University of Liverpool and later took him all around the world, including Cambodia,

Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Nepal, India, and Latvia. To learn more about Will's experience of working for various humanitarian organisations and how it shaped his academic career read page 10. Additionally, Will is a UK Data Service Data Impact fellow and writes regularly for their blog. His latest contribution on the impact of Brexit on Polish migrants can be found by the link <http://blog.ukdataservice.ac.uk/the-impact-of-brexit-on-polish-migrants/>.



Don't hesitate to contact me at alina.pelikh@liverpool.ac.uk if you have any questions or concerns. As the rest of the academic world, at BSPS we are trying to increase the impact of our research. Please do get in touch if you've been in contact with media, written for a blog or published an article. I also am keen to hear your ideas on how the BSPS can better engage with student concerns, events you'd like to see organised at the BSPS conferences or suggestions for BSPS day meetings. If you have not done so already, join our Facebook group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/300124886760445/> and stay tuned for updates on socials around the conference evenings (including the walking tour on Friday)!

A Little Light Reading from Around the Web

- ⇒ Want to fight climate change? Have fewer children: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jul/12/want-to-fight-climate-change-have-fewer-children>
- ⇒ The student sex 'scandal' that laid bare Egypt's population problem: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/aug/11/student-sex-scandal-egypt-population-problem>
- ⇒ Successful ageing: is life a win-or-lose game?: <http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/blog/successfulageing-fg>

Report on Meeting on Menopause, Health and Culture 24 May 2017: An apple without the seeds?

We know little about the cultural understanding of menopause and how it impacts on women's health. So far what we know about menopause comes mainly from the biomedical perspective, so that still a lot of work needs to be done using a social science approach. There is enough research, though, to show that there is significant variation across populations in the menopausal experience. Women variously have positive or negative attitudes, perceptions or experiences of menopause in different cultures. Comparative international literature shows that neither biological nor social factors alone are sufficient to explain the variation in experiences of the menopausal transition.

A meeting sponsored by BSPS with the contribution of the Biosocial Society was held at the LSE on the 24th of May. The aim of the meeting was to gather researchers coming from different approaches to the topic, including both qualitative and quantitative work. Ultimately we wanted to highlight a variety of issues surrounding this neglected topic which can have repercussions on health in later life.

Key themes which emerged from the meeting included: inadequacy of data collection and analysis on menopause; variation in women's roles after menopause; variation in cultural perceptions of menopause both in physical and psychological terms; lack of engagement of social scientists with clinical researchers in tackling the issue.

Data are strongly culturally sensitive so that we might be interpreting the data we do have wrongly: Lynnette Sievert, for example, highlighted in her mul-

ticountry analysis how lack or low levels of, or differences in where women experience, hot flushes might be directly linked to women's clothing and thresholds of tolerance to heat. Smoking, health and contraceptive use can also interrupt reporting of symptoms. Women in different cultures may also experience different symptoms, which can lead to problems in collecting and interpreting data, as well as problems over advising women on how to manage the menopausal transition. Both Mwenza Blell, looking at Pakistani women in the UK, and Taniya Sharmeen, looking at Bangladeshi women in both UK and



Bangladesh plus women of European descent in the London, showed that women are well aware of their symptoms, even those not classically considered to be menopausal symptoms in Western cultures, and report accurately on those symptoms. They appear to be aware much more than doctors might expect, so that we need to leave women more freedom when reporting such data. Gillian Bentley provided more evidence on biological and ethnic differences in symptoms and modalities of report, in her study of Bangladeshi women in Bangladesh and the UK. Such work demonstrates that we need a greater awareness of potential flaws in existing data and analysis might be. More specifically, too often signs of ageing are mistaken for signs of menopause leading to a fuzzy definition of menopause period.

Variations in the role, and perceptions of the role, of women after menopause was also discussed: a recurrent perception is that women are not as useful anymore. Metaphors are often used to describe the sense of loss, such as "the seeds in the apple are ex-

Report on Meeting on Menopause, Health and Culture Continued...

hausted” (De Salis: UK), “the blood has dried out” (Freeman: Malawi). It is sometimes described as a period of decadence and decay (Freeman) and of despair (Hammoudeh, Coast). But by no means all women have negative perceptions of the transition. De Salis told us about menopause experiences in SW England, where it is seen as a moment of closure; for some a moment of grief but for others a moment for rejoicing and new-found freedom. In context where dealing with periods can be difficult, such as in rural Malawi, menopause can be a real relief (Freeman). Where women do feel a sense of hopelessness and feeling not useful anymore, this is often linked to lack of health care access.

The meeting also discussed how there is an overall lack of communication both within women and between men and women about the menopausal experience. Susan Davies described some pioneering attempts to support menopausal women in the

workplace in the UK, but these are extremely rare. In general, there seems to be a lack of networks of support, and awareness of issues surrounding menopause, particularly in contrast to other women’s health issues.

Finally, workshop attendees lamented a lack of researchers interested in the topic: menopause is not an attractive topic for young researchers, or at least not as attractive as maternal health, and often it is only studied by researchers later on in life. This leads to a lack of continuity into the field. More effort in the future should be put into the integration of these issues into subjects which could relate to the topic such as reproductive and sexual health, gender studies, etc.

Overall, all workshop attendees considered the workshop a great success, and the organisers hope it will stimulate further work and collaboration on this neglected topic.

Report on PopFest 2017 Stockholm University, May 31–June 2

Report by Anna-Karin Nylin

In early summer PopFest left the UK for the second time in its history, and the 25th Annual Postgraduate Population Studies Conference took place at Stockholm University between May 31st and June 2nd 2017. Almost 50 doctoral students met to network and exchange ideas about their research in a relaxed, friendly and supportive environment. Delegates from



Professor Gunnar Andersson

more than 30 different universities, spread across Asia, Europe, North America, Scandinavia and the UK contributed to

the conference with oral or poster presentations as well as vibrant discussions.

Esteemed Professor Gunnar Andersson from Stockholm University, provided the first keynote, officially opening the conference with a talk entitled “*Sweden 10 Million – with many well-recorded demographic events*”. The opening talk placed the relatively small host country within its demographic context.

The conference covered a broad range of topics and consisted of 40 oral presentations and 7 poster presentations delivered in 10 parallel sessions:

- Families and Fertility I + II
- Mortality and Health I + II
- Stratification
- Data and Methods
- Mobility
- Integration

Report on PopFest 2017 continued...

Policy, Welfare and Politics
Labour Market Outcomes

The conference also offered two well-attended workshops. The first one, held by Professor Wendy Sigle from London School of Economics and Political Science, addressed the question of how to integrate a gender perspective into demographic research; a challenging talk that left much for thought and developed our understanding of demography as a research field. Ben Wilson, a post-doctoral researcher at Stockholm University, led the second workshop on



Professor David Card

visual rhetoric and data visualization, showing the audience a range of useful tips on how visualization can help researchers to get their message across. Additionally, a panel discussion on migrant integration in times of the radical right gave the conference attendees interesting perspectives of the topic. Sarah Valdez, a research fellow from Linköping University, chaired the panel consisting of Professor Adrian Favell from the University of Leeds, Maureen A. Eger, a researcher from Umeå University, and Professor Peo Hansen from Linköping University. Professor David Card (University of California) had the honour of closing the conference with a keynote speech on *"The Economic Impacts of Immigration"*, guiding the audience through the array of literature in the field.

To the participants' delight, the conference offered several opportunities to connect and network while enjoying lunches and dinners as well as a reception at the City Hall of Stockholm.

These three intensive days of exchanging valuable ideas would not have been possible without the support of the British Society for Population Studies. Sponsoring from the Department of Sociology, the

Department of Human Geography, the Swedish Institute for Social Research, the Linnaeus Center on Social Policy and Family Dynamics in Europe, the Register-based Research in Nordic Demography - all situated at Stockholm University - together with the Swedish Demographic Association, and the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare made the conference possible. The City of Stockholm sponsored a great conference reception for all partic-



PopFest delegates at a tour of Stockholm City Hall



The president of Stockholm City Council welcomes PopFest delegates

ipants:

A big thank you goes to the organizing committee of doctoral students that did so well in arranging this conference: Kathrin Morosow, Andrea Monti, Klara Capkova, Rosa Weber, Anni Erlandsson, Linus Andersson, Margarita Chudnovskaya and Louisa Vogiazides. Last but not least a big thank you goes to all the participants of the 25th Annual Postgraduate Population Studies Conference. Without their engaging talks, presentations and discussions, the conference would not have been half the success it was.

A life course approach to neighbourhood effects seminar

University College London, UK, 28-29 June 2017

Supported by the Leverhulme Trust and BPS

Seminar organisers: Stephen Jivraj, Emily Murray, Paul Norman and Owen Nicholas

A life course approach to the study of demography has become a central theme of the discipline, especially in the epidemiology and health subfield. This seminar highlighted the small but growing literature that considers how where you live across and at certain points during the life course affects your health and wellbeing. 30 delegates attended the seminar where four invited speakers talked about their published work on day one, followed by a four further presentations from a research team funded by the Leverhulme Trust research project grant on day two.

Philippa Clarke, University of Michigan opened the seminar with a presentation on “Neighborhoods and Health over the Life Course: Cumulative or Lagged Exposures”. Philippa’s talk demonstrated how lagged, cumulative and contemporaneous neighbourhood context can impact on later life health. Her work used data from the American Changing Lives Study, a nationally representative sample of 3,617 adults (age 25+) first interviewed in 1986 and followed up at four waves over 25 years. Philippa looked at functional limitations and death in the sample using a measure of neighbourhood disadvantage, neighbourhood affluence and neighbourhood immigrant concentration based on US decennial census data. She found a lasting neighbourhood effect from childhood that accumulates if contextual deprivation is experienced across the life course.

Lina Hedman, Uppsala University gave a presentation on “Neighbourhood trajectories of children and correlations with adult outcomes”. Lina’s talk exemplified the importance of considering neighbourhood in childhood on adult employment, education level and neighbourhood of residence and how neighbourhood context can improve and decline during childhood. Lina used register data on an entire cohort of chil-

dren living in Sweden in 1990 and followed up until about age 30 in 2014. She showed how downward trajectories in neighbourhood context were more common than upward trajectories. The former was correlated with having parents of Non-Swedish origin, very young parents, a single parent, divorced parents, or parents with a weak, or decreasing, labour market position, whereas the latter was correlated with parents with a low but increasing education level, parents who move from a one- to a two-earner household and families who move a lot.

Øyvind Næss, Norwegian Institute of Public Health and University of Oslo provided delegates with a tour of various methodological approaches to multilevel analysis on life course neighbourhood effects. The presentation was entitled “Analysing the effect of residential area over the life course in multilevel epidemiology”. Øyvind showed the appropriateness in the research area of simple one-time points, multiple membership, cross-classified and correlated cross-classified models. He gave an example using mortality data in Oslo during the period 1990-1998 showing how variation in mortality at the neighbourhood level was greater in later born cohorts as they enter later life. Øyvind concluded on the challenges for neighbourhood effects research by raising caution on attempts to move towards experimental research designs as an attempt to resolve selection in observational studies.

Ruth Dundas, MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow provided an application of a cross-classified multilevel model to analyse the complexity of a study population who live in neighbourhoods that are not nested in school catchment areas. The talk was entitled “Multilevel cross-classified designs to explore early life school, neigh-

A life course approach to neighbourhood effects seminar

University College London, UK, 28-29 June 2017

bourhood and family influences on adult health". Ruth used data from the Aberdeen Children of the 1950s study collected when respondents were aged 5-12 in 1962 and when respondents were followed up at mean age 47. Ruth's work showed that childhood neighbourhood was associated with later life poor self-rated health but not mental health. An innovation in Ruth's work is an attempt to model variation at the family level, which is often ignored due to restrictions in data. She found ignoring family clustering inflates variation at neighbourhood/school and individual level.

Emily Murray, UCL presented work funded by the ESRC renWEL grant on "Linking local labour market conditions across the life course to retirement age: Health, employment and educational pathways, using the National Survey of Health and Development". Emily used data from the 1946 British birth cohort study, NSHD to show how pathways to early retirement age are predicated on neighbourhood experience through the life course. A unique contribution of Emily's work is to match historic census data on unemployment at the local authority level, back to 1951, to individual survey data. She finds that local area unemployment influences retirement age not at mid-life, but indirectly through unemployment levels in early life affecting health and employment status at mid-life, which are strong predictors of early retirement.

Paul Norman, University of Leeds gave a presentation on "Where is it? When is it? What is it like? What can we do with it?" Paul demonstrated an excellent resource he has developed comparing the Townsend deprivation index over the period 1971 to 2011 using fixed super output area boundaries. These are created using an apportionment technique that uses post-code data on places of residence to reallocate census counts based on original boundaries of data collection. Paul went on to show how the distribution of people in ten-year groups across deprivation quin-

tiles varies throughout the life course. He showed how young adulthood is commonly a period when people are living in more disadvantaged neighbourhoods and that as they age they drift towards less deprived neighbourhoods.

Owen Nicholas, UCL gave a presentation on "How Accurate are Decennial Census Measures of Neighbourhoods in Assessing Neighbourhood Effects?". Owen uses the data created by Paul Norman to estimate regression dilution in potential neighbourhood effects studies by assuming deprivation follows a linear trend during intercensal periods and that exposure to deprivation is evenly felt by people living in the same neighbourhood. Owen shows how regression dilution between known time points is small, however when considering the displacement of an individual's location within a neighbourhood, the total underestimation of the neighbourhood effect is estimated to be greater than 30% between known time points.

Stephen Jivraj, UCL gave a presentation on "Does your childhood neighbourhood have a bearing on the self-rated health in later life?" using data created by Paul Norman linked to the 1958 and 1970 British birth cohort studies. Stephen showed how self-rated health measured in mid life and beyond is associated with neighbourhood deprivation at age 16. Those living in the most disadvantage neighbourhoods in childhood were 20% less likely to report good self-rated health at age 33-34. These inequalities in health at midlife are not shown to widen on the basis of neighbourhood deprivation at age 16 as cohort study members age up to 55.

The abstracts and slides from the seminar are available [here](#).

Report on joint British Society for Population Studies/National Records of Scotland meeting “Folks’ comings and goings – changes in Scotland’s population over time”

New Register House, Edinburgh, 21 June 2017

On 21st June 2017, National Records of Scotland (NRS) hosted a joint BPS/NRS seminar looking at migration in relation to population change in Scotland. There were three presentations.

Professor Michael Anderson from Edinburgh University began the day with a talk on “Scots on the move: who, when, where and why: from the mid 19th century to the present day”. This was related to Chapter 11 in the [2015 Registrar General for Scotland’s Annual Report](#) which Professor Anderson contributed. His talk was accompanied by a display of old Census reports and record books illustrating some of the work which he had done.

In the 19th century population growth in Scotland was similar to the rest of Western Europe but by 1900 growth had levelled off due to the amount of net out-migration. Compared to the rest of Western Europe, only Ireland had higher net out-migration, but net out-migration from Scotland was consistently high. More recently, since 1989, the position has reversed, with Scotland having net in-migration – but at lower levels than most of the rest of Western Europe.

There was also considerable internal churn in the population. The 1851 Census showed that over 50% of the population lived in a different parish from the one in which they had been born and even 11% of infants lived in a different parish from their birth. This was the result of people responding to opportunities in different places on a year to year basis.

Professor Anderson illustrated this phenomenon by looking at two areas. In the mining parishes of East Lothian, comparing the population by age and gender in the 1901 and 1911 Censuses, there was an increase in young men living there, but a decrease in young women. In contrast, textile parishes, such as Innerleithen in the Borders, showed a very large increase in the female population. Both of these reflected the job opportunities available. There were, however, large two-way flows of population with high levels of both in- and out-migration.

Scotland has had a higher percentage of its population who were immigrants at every Census compared to England and Wales, but this has been accompanied by persistent outflows of people.

The period 1861-71 had the highest net out-migration

from agricultural counties – but NOT the crofting counties – and there was also out-migration from the cities. Those who left were urban skilled professionals rather than rural dwellers, mainly young adults, with more men leaving than women.

Measuring out-migration as percentage age cohort depletion in the decades from 1861 to 1971 and comparing Scotland with England and Wales shows much higher levels of out-migration from Scotland but also a change to whole families moving from the 1920’s. However, if out-migration is thought to be due to low wages and poor housing in Scotland this does not explain the inflows to Scotland from England. Outflow patterns are mirrored in inflows.

Other explanations are that Scotland relied too heavily on staple industries which suffered deeper recessions and had slower recoveries. Scotland had a much less supportive Poor Law in the 19th century and in rural areas housing went with jobs. Population growth exceeded job creation and high fertility led to a surplus of population in succeeding generations, for example, in the decade 1871-81 190,000 extra jobs would have been needed to ensure employment for young adults and in 1921-31, 200,000 jobs would have been needed.

Scotland was also slow to develop new industries such as vehicles, chemicals and consumer goods.

After 1970, England saw immigration from the New Commonwealth which did not come to Scotland. The balance of population flow between Scotland and England and Wales also changed with continuing in-migration from England and Wales but a flattening of the outflow of Scots south of the border.

Information in this talk will be contained in Professor Anderson’s book “Scotland’s population from the mid 19th century to the present day” to be published by Oxford University Press in 2018.

The second presentation came from St Andrew’s University and was called “Is internal migration on the wane?” which was a study of residential mobilities in Scotland.

Migration has been the main driver of population change in Scotland at all levels of geography. But migration is difficult to measure and predict while internal migration is

“Folks’ comings and goings – changes in Scotland’s population over time” Continued...

quantitatively most significant in population change by a factor about 10.

Recently, socio-economic change has matched declining internal migration with recession leading to decreased mobility. There has also been a long-term decline in internal migration in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand and a decrease in short distance migration in England and Wales.

Explanations could include, an older population, more dual income households and the increase in owner occupation, more international migration, some migration substitution with longer commuting, remote/home working and second homes.

Symptoms and causes of social and spatial inequalities result from the uneven geography of the housing market, lifestyle migration, gentrification, ethnic segregation and studentification.

Current data sources are the Census and the NHSCR, both of which have advantages and disadvantages. This new project involves linking administrative data to the Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS) which covers 5.3% of the population, using data on moves and movers. An 82% match of the Census and SLS has been achieved.

Key questions to be answered are – is internal migration less common? Which types of people are more or less mobile? Which areas are growing or losing population?

Results show that there has been a small reduction in the percentage of migrants between 2001 and 2011; cities are losing population through internal migration while the suburbs grow; overall, cities are gaining from migration.

The SLS shows that young age groups move more and also females are more mobile, but it also shows an overall decrease in migration from 2000 to 2015 with a particular decrease in migration among those aged 16-20 and 21-25 from 2010 to 2013. Very similar patterns are seen across all socio-economic groups and education levels. Big falls have taken place in migration of “urbanites” and “cosmopolitans” and all except rural residents.

In the final presentation, Kirsty MacLachlan, Head of Demography at National Records of Scotland outlined some of the work which NRS have been doing on migration and population change.

This is a topical issue, with Ruth Davidson, the Conservative Party leader in Scotland, wanting to encourage more migration to Scotland while the UK Prime Minister, Theresa May, wants to reduce the number of migrants, with the

Conservative Party manifesto for the June 2017 General Election pledging to reduce the level of in-migration to the UK. The Scottish Government has adopted a population target for Scotland which is that population growth should match the EU15 average over the period 2007-2017.

Scotland’s population has been relative stable over the last 50 years but the UK as a whole has seen more continuous population growth.

The characteristics of migrants from the 2011 Census showed that 7% of Scotland’s population had been born overseas compared to 13% in the UK. The UK also had a higher proportion of migrants who were born outside the EU. Comparing the last two Censuses, Scotland had seen a large increase in the numbers born in Poland, China and Nigeria but fewer people from the Irish Republic, which was similar to England and Wales, but there, there had also been an increase in those born in India and Pakistan in the UK as a whole.

Those born overseas are generally younger than the population as a whole.

Recent migrants from the EEA were concentrated in catering, hotels, manufacturing and retail occupations, but more established migrants who had been here 10 years or more, were more likely to work in health and education.

Natural increase in population (more births than deaths) contributes more to population increase in the rest of the UK than it does in Scotland.

The number coming to Scotland from the rest of the UK has generally been higher than the number coming from overseas. However greater numbers moving from Scotland to the rest of the UK than to overseas, has resulted in net overseas migration contributing more to population growth in recent years.

Projections of the future population on a mid-2014 basis show that Scotland’s population is expected to grow by 7% to 2039 compared to a projected increase for the UK as a whole of 15%. Migration is a bigger factor in the increase in Scotland than in the rest of the UK. The projections suggest that if there is a decrease in in-migration from the EU, projected population growth in Scotland will be considerably less and the number of children and those of working age could well decline

While the population across the UK is ageing, the average age in Scotland is higher than in the rest of the UK and is projected to increase faster.

Spotlight on Research: William Shankley, University of Manchester

William Shankley is a third year Ph.D. student in the department of Sociology at the University of Manchester. He is a member of the Centre of Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE) and is supervised by Dr. Mark Brown, Dr. Nissa Finney, Dr. James Rhodes, and Dr. Kitty Lympelopoulou. He holds a BSc in Psychology and MSc in Psychology from the University of Liverpool as well as an MA in Humanitarian and Conflict Response studies from the University of Manchester.

My journey to becoming a Ph.D. student was not straightforward, and I think it has very much shaped my research topic, methods, and research position. I initially studied for an undergraduate degree in Psychology at the University of Liverpool where I was able to complete my undergraduate dissertation project in Cambodia and Indonesia. After my undergraduate degree, I delved into the world of appetite and obesity for a Masters in Psychology where I studied the effects of a synthetic macro nutrient product on women's eating behavior.

Travel and experiencing different cultures has always fascinated me, and this drove my decision to undertake a second Masters degree in Humanitarianism at the University of Manchester. The program allowed me to satiate my interest in global and humanitarian issues and also inspired me to dive into work in the humanitarian sector, first completing internships with the British Council and Rights and Humanity, and then becoming a refugee caseworker. Here I assisted clients with their housing, provided asylum advice, and supported applicants on the fast-tracked asylum scheme in Immigration Removal Centres. This gave me an insight into the complexities of migration.

The experiences shaped my decision to apply for the Ph.D., which examines the internal migration of post-

accession Polish migrants. Acknowledging the benefits of different data, I have taken a mixed-methods approach and use Census 2011 data to analyse Polish peoples internal migration patterns. Using GIS techniques I have mapped their migration patterns and complemented this analysis by undertaking 40 semi-structured interviews with Polish migrants in Greater Manchester. This was to unpick the factors involved in their migration decision-making processes. I will not give the game away and write too much about the result from my thesis (imminent) and because hopefully you'll see one of

my presentations in the future, but to briefly summarise, my field work implicated economic precarity, strategies used by migrants to gain access to whiteness, and the embedded nature of the family as integral to Poles residential decision-making.

I've been fortunate enough to be given a number of opportunities to further grow my interest in migration. Last autumn, I was awarded the ESRC Baltic scholars fellowship to visit an institution in the Baltic States, and subsequently, chose the social anthropology department at the University of Latvia. During this trip, I was able to teach a number of classes and a workshop

associated with my own work and was swept up in the unique and specific history of Latvia and neighbouring Baltic countries. I was also recently awarded a UK data service impact fellowship for my impact work and was able to use the money from the scheme to fund a number of conference visits and support local Central and Eastern European social events.

For further information about my work please visit my UK Data Service blog <http://blog.ukdataservice.ac.uk/> or feel free to contact me at wiliam.shankley@manchester.ac.uk

