

Editor: Melanie Frost

The new and improved\* British Society for Population Studies Newsletter

## All Change: A New Look, a New Editor and a New Twitter Account

It will not have escaped the notice of the more observant of you that the newsletter looks a little different. This is thanks to some over enthusiastic use of Microsoft publisher. Hopefully you like the new look, but we're always interested in feedback so do let us know.

In addition to the new look you are also being treated to a new editor. My name is Dr Melanie Frost (but please call me Mel) and while I currently reside at the University of Southampton I am about to migrate to the University of Oxford where I will be a Research Fellow in the Oxford Institute for Ageing. Somewhat strangely, given the name of the institute, I will be researching fertility transition in lower income settings as part of the Colleen Programme (colleen.ageing.ox.ac.uk). Since it's Christmas (and I can't find a more professional looking photo) you are being treated to a picture of me with a snowcat (that's a snowman in the shape of a cat).

I'm really looking forward to editing the newsletter over the next few months and years. Please get in

touch if you have any thoughts or ideas about the newsletter.

We also have a brand new twitter account, so if you're on twitter you can keep up to date with BSPS news and let us know what you think with a tweet or two.

Finally, a big thank you to the previous editor Amos Channon. With any luck I will be able to do as good a job as him and he will be able to get down to some research.

**Contact me: [melanie.frost@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.frost@gmail.com)**

**Tweet us: [@bspsuk](https://twitter.com/bspsuk)**



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# Postgraduate Student Representative

Season's greetings! The Christmas holidays are approaching fast, perhaps even faster than some of us would wish considering the amount of work still to be done. I hope that you manage to find time to all your work and to have a proper rest during the



Christmas holidays. In this issue the Spotlight on Research section introduces one of our student members, Nitzan Peri-

Rotem and her PhD work at the University of Oxford.

As always, I would encourage you to get in touch and let me know if you have any additional ideas for student member socials or BSPS day meetings or if you have a suggestion of how BSPS could engage more with students and/or early career researchers. Additionally, if you have not already done so, join the BSPS Student Members' Facebook page here:

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

**Contact me:** [jm1e11@soton.ac.uk](mailto:jm1e11@soton.ac.uk)

## A Little Light Reading: Openpop.org

For those of you who are unfamiliar with openpop it is an international collaborative blog aiming to link population researchers with policy makers, industry, the media, the general public—and each other. If you haven't had a chance to look at openpop yet then perhaps these recent publications will entice you:

Anne-Marie Jeannet's piece on the BBC programme "Don't Panic: The Truth about Population" by Hand Rosling:

<http://www.openpop.org/?p=719>

A post titled "Alcohol, Substance Abuse and Crime Linked to Higher Mortality" by Vegard Skirbekk:

<http://www.openpop.org/?p=711>

Noah Carl's blog post on the changes in life expectancy since 1960:

<http://www.openpop.org/?p=695>

And James Robards' article on fertility in England and Wales:

<http://www.openpop.org/?p=691>

## CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Julia Mikolai

# BSPS Conference 2013, Swansea

## BSPS Conference 2013 report

We report another very successful annual conference, with two distinguished plenary speakers and 154 submitted papers presented over the two full days of the conference. Over 250 people travelled to Swansea to attend. Special mention should be made of the poster session, with a record 55 posters on display. This year also saw more workshops and special sessions: a workshop on the *application of multilevel modelling*; a training session on *studying pathways between social and biological factors using modern causal inference methods: an example using data from the ONS Longitudinal Study*; a *CeLSIUS: joint hands-on training session for the 3 UK Census Longitudinal Studies*; a local government training session; a *Scottish Beyond 2011 workshop* and, last but by no means least, a career mentoring breakfast organised by the BSPS postgraduate student rep, Julia Mikolai. BSPS is very grateful to all who freely gave their time and expertise to bring these special sessions to Conference.

The BSPS website at [www.bsps.org.uk](http://www.bsps.org.uk) has the full Conference programme with abstracts, available to download as a PDF. Abstracts are also presented separately there by strand. BSPS would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Galton Institute for their invaluable financial support again in 2013. This helps to defray the costs of plenary speakers' expenses and bursaries for student members.

### **Plenary 1: Professor Mary Daly, University of Oxford - Family Policy in the UK and Europe: Does it Respond to Fertility and Ageing?**

The first plenary of the BSPS 2013 conference was given by Professor Mary Daly, Professor of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Oxford. The plenary gave an overview of family policy models and their association with fertility – with the complexity of the linkages between policy and behaviour highlighted throughout. Despite improvements in data (notably via longitudinal studies) and the development of more sophisticated techniques of

analysis, there remains a lack of consensus about the effect of policy on fertility, including questions concerning the direction of association and causal mechanisms. The talk opened with a description of two common models of social policies, traditional ('sledge-hammer') and contemporary ('work-family balance'), and used case-studies from Europe to illustrate/compare features of these approaches.

The second part of the plenary focused on recent changes in family policy in the United Kingdom, firstly under New Labour and now under the Coalition government, comparing these policies not only to each other but as departures from the models of policy described in the first section of the plenary. As a result of state overhaul, support to families is a low priority currently in the UK. Nonetheless, the UK has relatively high fertility in the European context, raising questions such as: Whether fertility impacts of the current regime will be seen in the future? Does policy matter for fertility? And do other routes to high fertility exist? Whilst this plenary focused on the topic of fertility, it highlighted points concerning the complexity of analysis in making causal inference and the role of research in informing and evaluating policy issues relevant to many areas of demographic study.

### **Plenary 2: Professor Monica Das Gupta - Demography, Gender & Kinship Systems: Perspectives from Asia**

Professor Monica Das Gupta presented her thought-provoking work which focuses on the demographic implications of various types of kinship systems. She began by pointing out that many aspects of kinship systems including forms of marriage, inheritance and household formation/residence have considerable bearing on demographic outcomes. Whilst acknowledging that rigid systems may offer more social protection under certain situations than other kinship systems, and that there is much variation between patrilineal systems, Das Gupta highlighted the demographic repercussions of rigid patrilineal systems in terms of marriage, childbearing and regulation, particularly focusing on its implications in terms of health

## BSPS Conference 2013, Swansea

outcomes for women and children. She noted that rigidly patrilineal systems marginalise women as they are largely excluded from their parental home and are granted low autonomy in their husband's home. Women's low position in the social structure, particularly young married women, exposes them to elevated risks of ill-health and mortality: using data from Pakistan she demonstrated that there are gender differences in the probability of consulting a doctor if ill and that within households less is spent on healthcare for women in comparison to men. She also highlighted that rigid patrilineal systems limit the potential for adult daughters to help their parents, as for example contact with parents is limited after marriage, and that this may encourage sex selection: son preference evidenced by masculine child sex ratios in demographic data show a striking correspondence with kinship systems. Das Gupta concluded by noting that, whilst kinship systems are persistent, there are key examples of state

intervention altering kinship systems (for example South Korea and China) and by observing that norms appear to be changing in the context of increased urbanisation and education. This is for example evident through falling sex-selection in many settings in East and South Asia.

### Looking Ahead

In 2014, BSPS will be at the University of Winchester for its annual conference, with the call for papers to be issued in early January 2014. The call for conference sessions is currently open, with a deadline of January 10th 2014. BSPS hopes to see you there.

Thanks for plenary reports to: Philippa Waterhouse, University of Southampton and Katherine Harris, University of Southampton

## Tools for Demographic Estimation

**Tools for Demographic Estimation** – Tom Moultrie, Rob Dorrington, Allan Hill, Kenneth Hill, Ian Timaeus and Basia Zaba – **free to download from the IUSSP**

<http://demographicestimation.iussp.org/>

This site represents the major output arising from a joint IUSSP and UNFPA project to produce a single volume containing updated tools for demographic estimation from limited, deficient and defective data.

The material here follows in a direct line of descent from Manual X and subsequent works (for example, the 2002 UN Manual of Adult Mortality Estimation). The principal aspect of this website is a series of (mostly) static webpages describing and documenting the tools and methods of demographic estimation from limited, deficient and defective data. The material is organised thematically first, and then by the kinds of data that may be available. Where appropriate, downloadable spreadsheets are provided that allow users to apply the methods to their own data.

Forums are available to discuss and debate methods and results, and FAQs describe how to use the site in more detail. Links to both, as well as forms to contact us, are at the top right hand side of the screen. While all material on the site is freely available and accessible to anyone, only registered users are able to subscribe to changes on individual pages, or post comments on the fora or on pages. Registration is quick and automated.



# BSPS Conference 2013, Swansea

## Prizes Awarded

### BSPS Prize 2013

The result of the 2013 BSPS Prize was announced at the 2013 Conference in Swansea.

Another year saw a very strong set of entries for the BSPS Prize, awarded for the entry deemed by the judges to be the best Masters dissertation from the previous year on a demographic topic from those entered for the Prize.

Both judges again commented on the high calibre of all the entries but there was overall agreement on the winner. One of the judges commented

‘This is a very well structured and impressive piece of work. The problem is set up clearly with care taken to present the arguments on both sides of the fence with regard to the impact of teen pregnancy. The data, from an impressive source, have been put together carefully and their limitations have been allowed for in the methods section. There is a clear exposition of the results and the conclusions are, in general, clear and compelling. The paper implicitly makes a strong case for further work.’

The 2013 BSPS Prize was presented to Heini Vaisanen from LSE, for her dissertation ‘Social Inequalities and Fertility in Adolescence: Teenage Pregnancy Trends of Three Birth Cohorts in Finland’.

Congratulations to Heini.

### BSPS Conference poster prize 2013

This year’s Conference attracted a remarkable total of over 55 posters, the most that have ever been displayed at the Conference. In light of these numbers, a panel of three judges were invited to decide the winner(s) collaboratively. One of the judges noted:

*Whilst reading through the final programme, I was very impressed to discover the number of posters*

*submitted this year. One remark I would like to make is about the 'professionalism' of the BSPS conference organisation: in giving the poster session a real, valued status within the conference. I was only saying this to a colleague this afternoon, comparing the BSPS to other conferences (whose names I won't mention!) where the message sent out is "we can't fit you in for a paper but you can propose a poster".*

With at least half the prize of £100 in book tokens reserved for a student poster, the judges had their work cut out to decide from an impressive array. Their final decision was to split the prize, with £50 in book tokens awarded to postgraduate student Eleanor Staniforth (Centre for Migration Policy Research, University of Swansea) for her poster *A 'final destination'? Challenging the idea of settlement in sub-Saharan African 'transit' migration to Europe* and £50 in book tokens to Dr. Ryuzaburo Sato and Miho Iwasawa, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Japan, for their poster *Single, sexless and infertile: Sexuality aspects of very low fertility in Japan*.

Congratulations to both winners, and turn to the back of this issue to take a look at their wonderful posters.

### BSPS Conference Quiz

Participants in the 2013 Conference were again invited to form teams and take part in a fiendishly-difficult population-based quiz on the Tuesday evening. Many thanks to Ian Volante from National Records of Scotland for devising the quiz.

Out of a possible maximum score of 75 points, the winners with an impressive 65 points were The Pop Upstarts. Team members: Valeria Cetorelli, Elena Mariani, Heini Vaisanen (all LSE postgraduate students), Erich Striessnig (VID & IIASA), Emma Terama (UCL), Naoko Skiada (Goldsmith’s) and Steve Bown (UCL). Their combined knowledge was amazing, and they did not cheat!

# XXVII IUSSP International Population Conference 2013, Busan

*This year BSPS provided travel grants to three members going to IUSSP. Here we hear about their experiences.*

## Philipp Hessel (LSE)

Thanks to the generous support from BSPS as well as LSE I was able to attend the IUSSP conference this year and present a paper on the “The Long-Term Health-Effects of Recessions in Europe”. The fact that there was a special session on “The impact of economic downturns on health and mortality” was a big incentive to attend the conference.

Overall it was impressive how well the conference was organized and also publicized; there were huge flags and posters all along the streets on the way from the airport to the conference venue, something I had not seen at any other conference I attended. The conference venue and the surrounding buildings (which included the world’s largest department store) looked rather like a space station.

Together with two fellow students from LSE we had rented a room in a youth hostel, although given the fact that it was a youth hostel we were rather surprised to discover that there was a driving range, a swimming pool and a fitness studio. On top of this there was even a regular bus service to the conference venue. Overall I think it is fair to say that the Korean organizers did a fantastic job and when filling out

the feedback form I could not really think of any suggestions for improvement!



Dog meat stew: some of the more unusual local cuisine.

My own session was on the third day of the conference which gave me the chance to acclimatize a bit, both culturally and academically. What really makes IUSSP special is that it covers such a broad range of topics. I think when doing a PhD one specializes so much in one research area that it is easy to forget what is happening in other areas. Hence, attending a broad range of sessions at IUSSP creates a sense of identity as a ‘demographer’.

The session I presented in was very interesting especially due to the fact that the chair commented on all three presentations and also put them in context with the most recent literature in the field and gave a number of recommendations for the direction of future research in the field. Personally I think thinking about future research directions is very important and should be emphasized more especially at larger conferences. Besides some very helpful comments from the audience I also received very detailed feedback from the chair.

I am extremely grateful for the support received from BSPS allowing me to attend this memorable conference.

## DEMOGRAPHIC LITERATURE

Next summer David Coleman will lose the use of his big office in Oxford and he will be forced to dispose of much of his collection of demographic literature. This includes:

- Almost complete series of Registrar-General’s Statistical Review for England and Wales, and Scotland, 1911-1998
- Rather random collection of GB Census volumes from 1911 – 1951.
- Incomplete runs of OPCS / ONS series FM1, FM2, DH etc, and OPCS Monitors.
- UN Demographic yearbooks 1956 – 1999 and UN publications on fertility, mortality, population policy etc.
- Council of Europe ‘Recent Demographic Developments in Europe’ and other demographic publications 1980 -
- Eurostat demographic publications 1980s –
- Some UNECE demographic publications and Economic Survey of Europe
- NCDS National Vital Statistics Reports 1970s –
- Demographic Yearbooks and related publications from most European countries, a few random years in each case
- UNHCR Asylum Statistics
- Partial runs of JRSS and ‘Demography’
- A very large number of offprints on diverse demographic topics.

He will want to retain some of this but most will have to go. As much of it is now rather historical, and as much of it can now be accessed through the internet, there is the possibility that a lot of it may end up in a skip. But anyone who wants to come and see what there is would be most welcome to visit David’s department. Alternatively, if anyone has a specific request, get in touch and you might get lucky.

Please email David directly if you have some shelf space to fill. His email is david.coleman@spi.ox.ac.uk

# XXVII IUSSP International Population Conference 2013, Busan

## Tiziana Leone (LSE)

This year's IUSSP international meeting was held in the sea resort of Busan south of Seoul in Korea. The meeting was very successful in attracting scholars from all around the world with over 4000 papers being submitted. It was also noticeable this was a conference with very low drop out in sessions and the quality was generally high. In addition, as the secretary of the Union Emily Grundy reported this was one of the first conferences to attract more papers on health and mortality rather than reproductive health. This is probably the sign of the changing global demography but possibly I would add a sign of the changing funding directions with possibly less and less interest in reproductive health. Nevertheless it was very refreshing and reassuring to see so many papers from low and middle income countries (LMICs) dedicated to ageing and to issues related to social care which shows an increasing commitment to tackle some of the challenges that LMICs might face at a much faster pace than high income ones.

Development was a key focus of much of the conference with two of the plenary sessions were dedicated to it in particular. The first one was of particular interest to me as it tackled the progress of the Millennium Development Goals and beyond. Not much many surprises in the presentations but in general the agreement was that very high and very low fertility have net adverse effects and that de-

clining high fertility brings multiple benefits for human welfare and the environment. For data and indicators fans the presentation by John Wilmoth on the next set of "MDGs" was probably of more interest. He gave an overview of the current debate stressing in particular on the introduction at last of sexual and reproductive health goals in the next set of indicators beyond 2015 (Presentations available on the IUSSP website). In an era where the word abortion still gets removed from high level documents it will be interesting to see how this develops.

Of note is the laureate award given to John Bongaarts. Many of us were surprised that he still hadn't received one. I don't think there is a single demographer that has not cited at least one of his papers or that has not taught the proximate determinants in one of their courses when explaining fertility. Despite all the criticisms the proximate determinants of fertility remain a key tool for demographers 35 years on: the estimation of abortion still need to rely at least on the PDF and other methods in order to estimate the extent of the issue.

The other plenary dedicated to development was the session on whether economic development rather than environment be the focus of low income countries' policies. David Lam, San Becker, Eliya Zulu Alex Ezeh debate pro and against the argument. Most likely all agreeing with each other but nevertheless lots of food for thoughts.



The banquet where we were treated to Korean tenors, but no Gangnam style dancing

Highlights of the social side of the conference were definitely the opening ceremony and the main dinner. In the age of austerity participants were served a rather European style three course dinner where fortunately this time vegetarians were not relegated to a separate table. To the amusement of the Italian contingent three Korean tenors started to sing Italian folk songs. The general disappointment was not to see any of the Gangnam style singing and dancing we were all waiting for...



# XXVII IUSSP International Population Conference 2013, Busan

## Cristina Moya (LSHTM)

IUSSP is the largest international gathering of demographers and is held every four years, the discipline's *DemOlympics*, if you will.

As an evolutionary anthropologist attending my first demography conference this introduction to the field was both awe-inspiring and thought-provoking. Never had I witnessed such a diverse gathering of scholars, and such motivation to produce research that could improve global well-being. These goals lent themselves to several talks about future policy directions including a plenary on *'Population in the post-2015 Development Agenda'* and a debate on the motion *'For developing countries, economic development needs to be a higher priority than environmental protection and conservation of natural resources.'* The precipitous economic rise experienced by our host country, South Korea, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century provided a salient case study referenced throughout the conference.

The prescriptive nature of these discussions was, frankly, shocking coming from a field that shies away from policy recommendations, both because of a well-developed sense of cultural relativism and for fear that our evolutionary theoretical orientation lend itself to misinterpretations condoning naturalistic fallacies. In some sense it was refreshing to see a field ready to apply the fruits of research for the betterment of human conditions. However, this prospect also made me quite wary in light of evidence that significant debates persist and that demographers are just as susceptible to various human biases. For example, last year in an article in *Demographic Research*, Van Dalen and Henkens showed that IUSSP members from all world regions were more likely to want the world population to decrease, than to want their own region's population to decrease, suggesting an ethnocentric bias.

My second revelation at the IUSSP conference was the vast scope of topics studied,

and methods used, by demographers and the fact that these seldom hindered communication. I relished going to sessions ranging in theme from marriage formation, ethnic segregation, determinants of childlessness, to biodemography. Again the contrast with my field of anthropology, where tensions between scientific and humanistic anthropologists have resulted in departmental schisms, was stark. This thematic and methodological pluralism was stimulating, and suggested the great potential that evolutionary demography has to extend the topics under its purview beyond the common themes of senescence and the demographic transition.

I also enjoyed presenting my research on *'Modeling sexual conflicts of interest in reproductive decision-making'* and *'Kin influences on fertility: a theoretical framework tested with a review of the literature'* on behalf of my collaborators. Feedback from colleagues was valuable in moving forward with publishing these papers.

I am grateful to BPS for their grant facilitating this trip to a fantastic conference and an illuminating ethnographic experience among international demographers. The insights garnered from participant observation and conversations with colleagues there will surely help me develop my current projects, and motivate me to continue on the path of being an interdisciplinary evolutionary social scientist.



The UNFPA plenary session on Tuesday evening



# XXVII IUSSP International Population Conference 2013, Busan

## Ben Wilson (LSE)

Thanks to the BSPS and the ESRC, I was able to attend my first IUSSP conference this year, and also make my first ever trip to South Korea. The conference was held in Busan, Korea's second-largest city, which is on the south-east coast, and is one of the closest places in Korea to Japan. In this respect, it is a little like Dover, although Busan is one of the world's largest ports (in the top five by tonnage), whereas Dover is not, unless of course we focus exclusively on French wine and rolling tobacco.

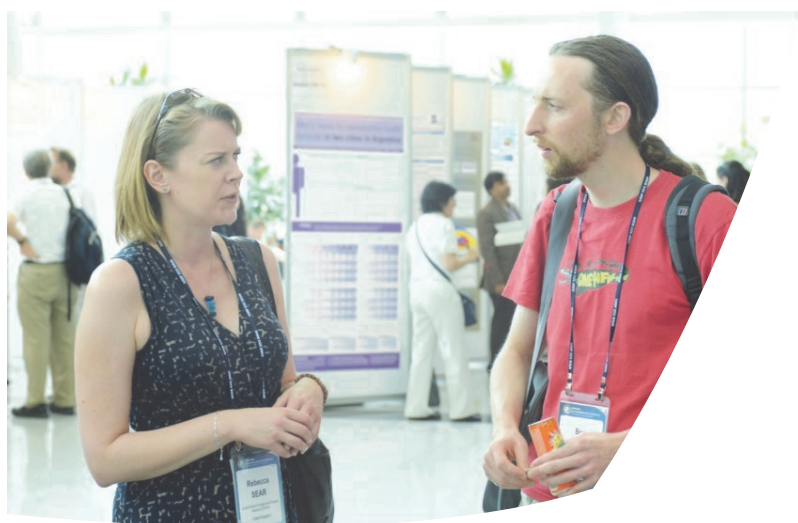
The conference venue, BEXCO, was a very large convention center located several miles outside the city centre. I haven't visited many convention centers, but it seemed fairly similar to the NEC in Birmingham, only with better facilities, friendlier staff, and more noodle shops. Not only that, but the conference was exceedingly well organized, and it seemed that wherever you turned there were one or two Koreans in conference T-shirts, who were smiling eager to help.

In an effort to save money I booked into the cheapest youth hostel on the conference website. There were no pictures on the website, so we were prepared for it to be rough and ready, but we could never have imagined the squalor that we would have to endure. Suffice to say, that I have now stayed in a youth hostel which has its own driving

range (as well as a gym, sauna, swimming pool, running track, climbing wall and beauty parlor).

It's hard not to enjoy yourself with all these facilities (and I haven't even mentioned the nearby beach), but what about the conference? Was it interesting, was it useful, and would I recommend it? The answer is yes on all counts. The range of sessions seemed to touch upon every sphere of demography and population studies, and the standard of posters and presentations was very high throughout. If anything, the two problems were (1) trying to choose between the 15 different sessions in each timeslot, and (2) trying to maintain enough stamina to digest the plethora of information.

As for my own contribution, I was lucky enough to be accepted to present two papers at the conference. My first session was titled *The effects of migration on areas of destination*, and my second was *Recent fertility change: quantum and tempo effects*. In the first session, we had four papers, and a very interesting discussion afterwards. To be honest, I only received one fairly mundane question during the session, but I did have three very useful conversations afterwards, and it was particularly useful to get the advice of experts who work on migration (since my work is normally presented in fertility sessions). In my second session, I was lucky enough to have Tomas Sobotka as a discussant, who gave each of the presenters some excellent feedback.



Ben Wilson enjoying one of the many poster sessions

As you may be able to tell, I am extremely grateful to BSPS for helping me to attend my first IUSSP. And for those of you who didn't go this year, I definitely recommend that you consider it next time, particularly given that there are enough interesting sessions for anyone working in population studies and demography. And please don't take my word for granted, there are plenty of other BSPS members who can share their perspectives. Who knows, they may even tell you about the beach, and why some people refer to Busan as the Magaluf of Asia...

# Spotlight on Research: Nitzan Peri-Rotem, University of Oxford

Nitzan is currently completing a DPhil in Sociology at the University of Oxford and Nuffield College, with a focus on social demography. In particular, she is interested in the socioeconomic and cultural determinants of fertility in post-industrialized countries. In her doctoral thesis, she explores the role of religious affiliation and religiosity in shaping current family and fertility behaviours in Western Europe, and the ways in which religious adherence interacts with educational attainment and labour force participation.

Previous studies showed that religiosity is often linked to high fertility rates; however, the mechanisms underlying this relationship are not yet clear. There are a number of ways in which religion can affect family and fertility patterns; since all major religions emphasize the centrality of the family in society, the more religious people are expected to place a high value to marriage and children. In addition, many religious traditions reinforce a strict division of gender roles, which may influence women's career trajectories and eventually affect the number of children they would bear. Alternatively, actively religious individuals tend to have higher social capital and may receive greater support when they wish to extend their family.

In order to examine these different mechanisms, the study uses longitudinal data from the Generations and Gender Surveys and the British Household Panel Survey. Based on these data, event history models are employed to examine religious differences in family formation, childbearing, and entry and exit from paid employment among women in Western Europe. The findings indicate that religion still plays an important role in determining entry to formal union and family size in this region. Moreover, it is found that fertility differences on the basis of service attendance have increased among the younger birth cohorts. In addition, educational attainment appears to have a differential effect on fertility among religious and non-religious women, as the former are less likely to reduce their



fertility when obtaining higher education. In terms of family-work practices, it is found that religiously practicing women are more likely to engage in part-time rather than full-time work, although they have generally high rates of labour force participation. Thus, the more religious women are self-selected into positions that enable better compatibility between paid work and family responsibilities. However, this type of employment often entails lower pay and limited opportunities for promotion.

Nitzan holds a BA in Sociology and Communication, and an MA in Demography and Anthropology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Before coming to Oxford she worked at the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, where she specialized in population projections. Nitzan is in her final stage of the DPhil (supervised by Professor Oriel Sullivan).

For more information about her research, visit: <https://www.sites.google.com/site/perirotem/> or contact her at: [nitzan.peri@nuffield.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nitzan.peri@nuffield.ox.ac.uk).

# 5 Minutes with... Tony Champion

*A chance to get to know BSPS President Tony Champion a little better*

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

I grew up on a farm near Canterbury and was sent to Brighton College where my father had been a pupil during the First World War. My first degree was in Geography at Hertford College, Oxford, whence I returned for doctoral studies after a two-year MPhil at London University's agricultural college at Wye in Kent. I went to Newcastle University on a one-year lectureship in 1972, so I am now in my 42<sup>nd</sup> academic year there. Researching migration must have put me off the idea, as well as falling for North East England and one of its home-grown residents!

## **What made you want to become BSPS President? What are your plans for your time as president?**

I am not sure that 'want' is the right word: I was flattered to be approached. I feel that BSPS is my 'professional home', as a long-time member and serving twice before on Council. My main goal as President is to be able to hand BSPS on to my successor in at least as good fettle as now, which is a challenge because of the record turnout at the last two annual conferences and the already extensive programme of day meetings. If I have one burning ambition, it is to ensure that BSPS and its members are fully involved in the current debates about UK demographic change and its implications.

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

Participating in the ONS-LS 2011 Census Link Beta Test, seeing whether 10-year rates of address changing have risen or fallen since 1971-81, with Ian Shuttleworth. Using ASHE to get a longitudinal feel of the relationship between people's change of workplace and residence, especially for counterurbanisers. And just starting work on a Foresight Future of UK Cities project, aimed at anticipating their population changes to 2065.

## **What has been your most satisfying experience**

## **with regard to your work?**

Being one of the first two recipients of the RGS-IBG Population Geography Research Group Life Time Achievement Award, the other being Tony Fielding, presented mainly for our 1992 co-edited book on Migration Processes and Patterns which pulled together the deliberations of the Working Party on Migration in Britain.



## **What would your plan B have been if you hadn't been a Demographer?**

I haven't really planned very much at all in my life, despite my interest in planning policy (a similar story to migration!). Nor do I think of myself as primarily a Demographer with capital 'D', but rather as a population geographer. Most things seem to have happened by accident, or at least by following the path of least resistance. My post-graduate studies were on agricultural-urban land conversion, the analysis of which led me into the population change drivers. The decision was to go to Wye College was influenced by its closeness to home and my being an only son and probably expected to go into the family business, but that potential dilemma resolved itself by the farm being commandeered for a reservoir (this ironically post-dating my academic interest in land conversion).

## **Who is your academic hero? Who inspired you?**

Several have inspired me, including Ravenstein and Zelinsky, but in my formative years particularly my DPhil supervisor, Jean Gottmann, and Peter Hall, who was then working on Megalopolis Denied.

## **And finally, what are you hoping to get for Christmas this year?**

Whatever my wife thinks I need. Hearing aids seem most likely!

# Other Announcements

## The Future of Census Statistics in Scotland

The Beyond 2011 “Future of census statistics in Scotland” programme is an ongoing programme with the National Records of Scotland (NRS).

Their November newsletter is currently available. It contains a summary of the consultation on user requirements, and a link to the full document. Also there are updates on the options being considered for producing census type statistics in the future, as well as a host of other interesting related information. You can read the newsletter online at [www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/beyond-2011](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/beyond-2011)

Follow us on twitter: @NatRecordsScot  
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## CANADIAN POPULATION SOCIETY 2014 ANNUAL MEETING 2014 Call for Papers

Brock University, 28 May – 30 May 2014

Deadline for Submission: 10 February 2014

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING A PAPER:

1. All authors are asked to submit an abstract via email to the session organizer by 10 February 2014. Abstracts must be sufficiently detailed to allow the session organizer to judge the merits of the paper.
2. The author making the submission should provide the full names, affiliations, addresses, and e-mail addresses of all co-authors for each submission.
3. Authors will be notified by session organizers about acceptance of papers beginning on March 3th 2014.
4. Completed papers should be sent to session organizers by 2 May 2014.
5. Student authors who wish to submit their paper for the Student Paper Competition should submit their abstract to both the session organizer and Lisa Kaida ([lkaida@mun.ca](mailto:lkaida@mun.ca))

6. Students can submit their papers to any session. Those who submitted their papers to the Student Session will receive comments on their papers.

7. Authors who wish to submit their papers for consideration only for a poster session should submit their abstract directly to the Organizing Committee Chair, Alain Bélanger ([alain.belanger@ucs.inrs.ca](mailto:alain.belanger@ucs.inrs.ca)).

8. If no session is appropriate for your paper, please submit the abstract directly to the Organizing Committee Chair, Alain Bélanger ([alain.belanger@ucs.inrs.ca](mailto:alain.belanger@ucs.inrs.ca)).

9. All participants must be current members of the Canadian Population Society to participate in the CPS meeting.

## Crisis, Mobility and New Forms of Migration, Call for Papers

An international conference to be hosted by the Migration and Integration Research Cluster at the Institute for Social Sciences in the 21st Century (ISS21), University College Cork, 2nd-4th September 2014.

We welcome empirical, theoretical, methodological and policy-focused papers that address these issues, including, but not limited to any of the following themes:

- Economic crisis and affluent mobilities
- New/old mobilities and youth migration to and from European states at a time of austerity
- State and EU responses to and shapings of migrations
- Migrant religions in Europe
- Across the Mediterranean: cultural representations of migration as seen from the South
- Transnational families, children and new mobilities
- Creativity, mobility and transcultural capital

Please send abstracts of 250-300 words by 21<sup>st</sup> February 2014.

More information <https://migration2014.wordpress.com>



## Challenging the idea of 'settlement' in sub-Saharan African 'transit migration' to Europe

**Eleanor Staniforth**

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### 1. Introduction

Research into migration has typically taken a sedentary approach to the phenomenon, focusing on the departure & integration stages & neglecting the journey.

The 'transit migration' concept has become increasingly salient with the heightened focus on irregular entry to Europe in EU policy & has been used to justify attempts to prevent migrants from approaching Europe.

The concept has drawn researchers' attentions to the journey, but work has thus far been limited to migrants' movements outside the EU & the trail has been lost once migrants enter Europe, with the assumption being that migrants automatically 'settle' upon arrival.

This study posits that migration is a much more open-ended & contingent process than is currently recognised in research & policy.

This research aims to shed light on migrants' processes of decision-making once they have entered Europe, with regard to their intentions for settlement, onward movement or return to their country of origin.



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### 5. Talking about the future

The majority of participants aim to return to Africa one day. In some cases, this is a short-term goal whereas others intend to return upon retirement.

Permanent settlement is seen as undesirable by the majority who intend to come to Europe, work for a number of years & make some money for greater security & comfort 'at home'. Many are forced into longer stays than they envisaged due to European policies on regularisation (e.g. France's 10 year norm).

*"Europe is for the Europeans. The weather, the culture... we can't... Even if we have work, something's always missing." (I, 35, Ivory Coast)*

However, most participants aim to settle in the medium-term in a place where they can achieve their goals. Migrants feel pressure to have achieved a certain level of stability in Europe before planning a return to Africa: they cannot return 'empty-handed'.

The ideal for most participants could be described as 'circular migration', that is the ability to circulate freely & legally between Africa & Europe for trading, work, or to visit family.

Settlement is highly contingent upon changing contextual circumstances. Those who may have appeared to have 'permanently settled' 5 years ago are now reconsidering their position in light of the Europe-wide recession & Africa's improving economy.

### 2. Research questions

1. How do sub-Saharan African migrants frame their intended destinations before reaching Europe?
2. What are their expectations of life in Europe & to what extent does the reality coincide?
3. Why do migrants move on from their initial point of entry to Europe? Or, in the opposite case, why do they decide to stay?
4. What factors govern their decision to leave & their 'choice' of subsequent destination?
5. How do migrants talk about the future? Is there an intention for onward movement?
6. To what extent can migrants be said to 'settle' in Europe?

### 4. Attitudes towards onward movement within Europe

#### Why stay?

*Age: societal pressures to settle/ exhaustion/ feeling that they have 'moved around enough'*

*"I really have to leave [Spain], honestly. Because I mean, when you... you can be planning, planning, planning, sometimes you also think about, I mean, your age. You know? I'm not yet married." (E, 37, Nigeria)*

*Linguistic ties: extra effort of learning new language seen as 'time wasted'*

*Place investment: 'better the devil you know' attitude/ no desire to 'start again from zero'*

*Social networks: contacts provide support/ increased opportunities for work*

*Place attachment: feeling 'at home'*

*"It's not just the language. In fact, it's like I'm at home [in Paris]. You can find all the foodstuffs you want, there are other Africans to comfort you [...], even if you want to send a message to Africa, it's quickly done" (Y, 36, Nigeria/Benin)*

*Financial situation: no money to leave/ in employment*

*Legal issues: need to accumulate uninterrupted residence for regularisation (France)/ need to work & pay social security to renew papers (Spain)*

*Hope: that economic situation will improve/ regularisation will come soon*

#### Why move on?

*Economic situation: lack of jobs/ poverty*

*Reality vs. expectation: experience of Europe on the ground does not match positive expectations prior to arrival – migrants continue to seek 'the real Europe'*

*"We here in Europe don't have wives, children, money, nothing. [...] I've wasted my whole life here." (M, 24, Mali)*

*Impossibility of achieving goals: perceived or actual lack of opportunities for work, education or training*

*Perception of better things elsewhere: greater ease in obtaining regularisation/ more work opportunities*

*"So I said OK, let me try... then I heard that Spain was giving out documents, so I decided to just come and put in" (J, 39, Nigeria)*

*Desire for change: adventurism/ desire for new experiences e.g. language learning*

*Social networks: presence of social networks elsewhere/ desire for distance from compatriots for greater independence*

### 3. Methods

85 semi-structured interviews conducted in Madrid, Spain & Paris, France from June 2012 - June 2013

Participants recruited on basis of region of origin (sub-Saharan Africa)

Recruitment through engagement with NGOs & migrant activist groups

Interviews supplemented by observation & informal conversations with other migrants

Evolution of migrant journey 'followed' through continued engagement with participants via telephone, email & social networks

### 6. Case study: a journey



2001: Aged 24, H leaves Cameroon to travel to Turkey to study on the advice of a friend who is living there.

2004: Struggling to adapt & in financial difficulties, H quits his studies & moves on to Greece:

*"When an immigrant travels, he has a migration project in mind, and if that migration project hasn't yet been fulfilled, he carries on moving, looking for a place where he can fulfil it, looking for a place where things'll be easier."*

2005: Having spent almost 2 years unsuccessfully looking for decent work in Greece, H moves on to Italy.

2007: H decides to move to Spain as a friend tells him there is a lot of work there.

2010: H marries a Spanish woman & obtains regularisation in Spain.

2012 (August): H is studying at university & hasn't considered leaving Spain. He is looking for work & seeking to settle.

2012 (November): H has not yet found work & is starting to consider onward movement to France.

2013 (January): H moves to Paris. He is now working despite having no legal right to do so. He now wants to settle in Paris.

He justifies his change of heart with regards to onward movement thus:

*"The economic crisis has followed me through Europe. [...] I can't live somewhere where I can't work. I wouldn't be a man if I just lived off my wife's salary & did nothing all day."*

This case study illustrates the constantly changing & open-ended nature of migration. Migrants who once appeared settled may decide to move on as a result of changing economic & social contexts & personal circumstances.

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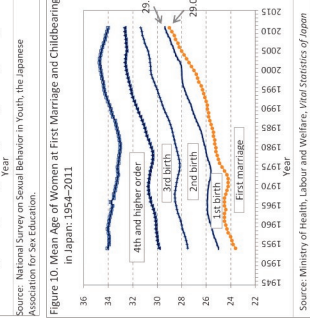
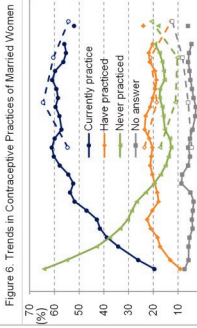
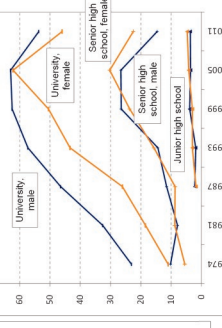
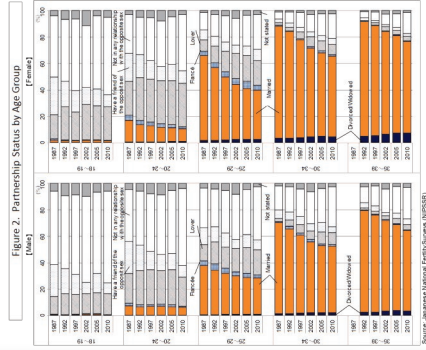
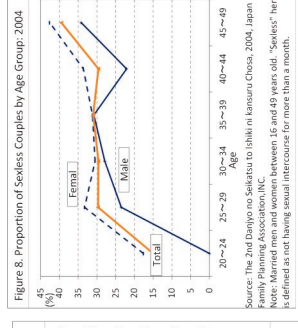
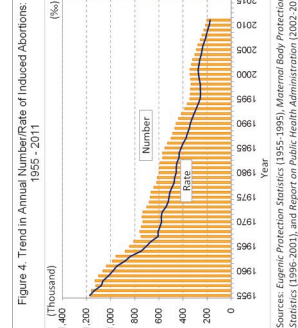
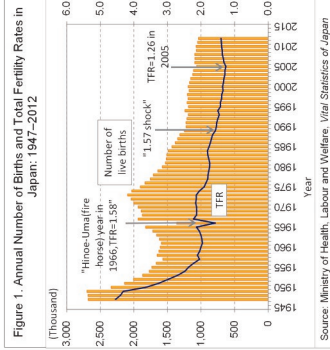
Ryuzaburo Sato and Miho Iwasawa

The total fertility rate in Japan has continuously dropped since the mid-1970s, hitting the lowest level of 1.26 in 2005, after which it has been languishing at around 1.4 (Figure 1). Since the beginning of the 1990s, strong concerns have been focused on the causes of low fertility. Among many explanations, the conflict between continuing work and childbearing for women due to its excessive opportunity cost is the most predominant. Government policy measures - increasing nursing facilities, establishing childcare leaves, improving the employment system - have been primarily aimed toward mitigating such conflict. On the other hand few researchers have investigated sexuality or biomedical aspects of very low fertility.

Atoh (1998) referred to Japan's weakness of dating culture, and suggested that the tendency that young men and women are not active enough to find partners, would be one of the causes of very low fertility in Japan (e.g. Sato and Iwasawa, 2008). Moreover, some researchers are considering the possibility that fecundity has been declining in Japan. Under these circumstances, to look at sexuality aspect and discuss the their impact on fertility would be fruitful. By looking at government statistics and the evidence from the publicized survey data, this paper discuss the following three points.

(1) Strong Familism and weak 'couple culture'

There is possibly a deep-rooted Familism, or family-oriented viewpoint, in countries with very low fertility like Japan. In other words, the Japanese have a very strong focus on family and vertical relationships, such as between parent and child, and there is less focus on horizontal relationships, such as the partnership relationships (Figure 2). In terms of the relationship between types of partnership and the ways in which fertility has changed, we can draw an explanation. In countries with strong horizontal relationships or a 'couple culture', a decline in marriage rate does not necessarily result in a subsequent decline in fertility due to the compensatory increase in cohabitation and extramarital birth (Figure 3, the upper right circle). Conversely, in countries with a weak couple culture, the decline in marriage rate directly lead to lower fertility, often to the point of very low fertility (Figure 3, the lower right circle).



(2) Changing patterns of sexual behaviour

It seems puzzling that Japanese fertility is declining while their reported number of induced abortions has continuously decreased (Sato, Shiraishi and Bando 2008) (Figures 4 and 5) and contraceptive prevalence is relatively low compared with other industrial nations (Figure 6). Furthermore, the use of medical methods such as oral contraceptives, intrauterine device (IUD) usage and voluntary sterilization are extremely low (Sato and Iwasawa, 2006)(Figure 7). Therefore, we speculate that the frequency of sexual intercourse among married couples may have recently increased in Japan. Although there are few accurate data available (Moriki 2012), a series of nationwide sexuality surveys conducted by the Japan Family Planning Association indicated a very low frequency of sexual intercourse among Japanese (Figures 8 and 9).

(3) Increasing age at first marriage and growing concerns about infertility

In 2011, the average age at first marriage for wives increased to 29.0 years and that for mothers giving birth to their first child also rose to 29.4 years, both hitting record highs (Figure 10). The 2010 Japanese National Fertility Survey, conducted by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, showed that a considerable number of couples worry about infertility (Table 1).

This evidence from Japan strongly suggests that the study concerning aspects of sexuality may be powerful to explain variations in fertility across industrialized countries.

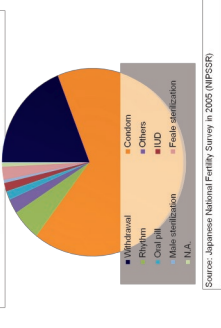


Table 1. Concerns about infertility and Treatment Experience, by Presence of Child and Wife's Age: 2010

| Presence of child | Age of wife | Total  | Concerns about infertility |                                    |  | Treatment experience                                       |  |                                  |
|-------------------|-------------|--------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
|                   |             |        | (No. cases)                | Have worried about infertility (%) | Have never worried about infertility (%) | Have not visited medical institution currently or ever (%) | Have undergone (at least once) treatment (%) | Have not undergone treatment (%) |
| Total             | 15-19       | 100.0% | 6,795                      | 5.1                                | 56.4%                                    | 17.5   | 8.4  | 0.2                              |
|                   | 20-24       | 100.0% | 14,145                     | 10.5                               | 65.7%                                    | 15.0   | 10.4   | 0.2                              |
|                   | 25-29       | 100.0% | 2,866                      | 36.5                               | 56.7%                                    | 18.5   | 17.6   | 2.5                              |
| Children          | 15-19       | 100.0% | 3,180                      | 26.8                               | 60.7%                                    | 10.4   | 16.3   | 0.1                              |
|                   | 20-24       | 100.0% | 9,141                      | 52.2                               | 60.0%                                    | 23.3   | 26.6   | 0.4                              |
|                   | 25-29       | 100.0% | 1,941                      | 50.0                               | 44.3%                                    | 24.7   | 17.0   | 0.0                              |
| No children       | 15-19       | 100.0% | 461                        | 41.2                               | 52.5%                                    | 25.8   | 26.0   | 0.7                              |
|                   | 20-24       | 100.0% | 4,617                      | 34.3                               | 57.8%                                    | 15.1   | 15.9   | 0.0                              |
|                   | 25-29       | 100.0% | 2,561                      | 32.2                               | 57.8%                                    | 15.1   | 15.9   | 0.0                              |

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