

Welcome to Nottingham for the 2012 BSPP Conference

The University of Nottingham is the venue for the BSPP conference in 2012. It is the first time for many years that the conference has been to the city. This year there are a record number of participants registered for the three days, presenting a wide range of excellent and thought-provoking papers.

As well as the normal presentation sessions, there will be a vibrant poster session with over 35 posters, all of which will be competing strongly for the coveted BSPP poster prize. The winner will be announced at the conference and in the next newsletter. This will be held, as is traditional, on the first evening at the same time as the drinks reception, at 6.30pm in the Exchange Building foyer. All delegates, whether staying on campus or not are warmly invited to attend. Wine, soft drinks and nibbles will be available.

There are two interesting plenary talks scheduled. The first will be given by Professor Peter MacDonald from the Australian National University and currently president of the IUSSP. His plenary talk is provisionally entitled 'A century of population studies,

society and Population Studies'.

The second plenary will be a special 90 minute session discussing the 2011 Census and quality issues surrounding it. There will be two speakers, Professor Danny Dorling from the University of Sheffield and Glen Watson, the Office of National Statistics Census Director. Professor Dorling will speak on 'Can we trust the 2011 one number?'. After the two talks there will be 30 minutes for questions and discussion.

A fringe meeting will be held on the first evening. This will be a panel discussion and debate entitled 'Is social media driving global demographic trends?' and chaired by Dr Sabu Padmadas.

The BSPP Annual General Meeting will be held on the second evening at 7pm. All BSPP members are invited and it would be good to have a good turnout in order to discuss the future direction of BSPP.

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Suggestions for articles in future editions of BSPP News welcomed.

BSPS Conference *Plenary Speakers*

Professor Peter McDonald

One of the most respected demographers in academia today, Professor McDonald is the Director of the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute. He is also the President of the IUSSP between 2010 and 2013, presiding over next year's conference in Busan, South Korea.

His recent work focuses on population policies, immigration, the labour force and ageing in Australia, while also focusing on the demography of Indonesia. In a wide-ranging academic career he has also focused on theories of fertility change and was instrumental in investigating fertility in Iran, conducting two surveys to explore why the fertility level is low in the country.

In 2008 he was appointed as a Member in the Order of Australia, one of the highest honours in the country, given for outstanding achievement and service. He is frequently consulted on the issue of



population change by governments around the world, especially in Australia. He has a PhD in Demography from the Australian National University.

Professor Danny Dorling

Danny is a prodigious writer of journal articles and books. Indeed according to the Guardian he has written 30 books, all by the



age of 43. He is a Professor of Human Geography at Sheffield University and his research interests are listed as 'trying to understand and map the changing social, political and medical geographies of Britain and further afield, concentrating on social and spatial inequalities to life chances and how these may be narrowed'.

A staunch defender of the need to continue with the UK census he has been heavily involved in the 2011 census. Most of his work can be found on www.dannydorling.org/

Glen Watson

Currently the census director at ONS, Glen has recently been announced as the next director general of the organisation. He will take up this role in September.

He has worked at the ONS since 2004, starting as programme director for neighbourhood statistics until becoming responsible for all aspects of the design, planning and delivery of the 2011 census.

BSPS Conference

About Nottingham and the University

The City of Nottingham has a population of just over 300,000 according to the latest estimates from the ONS. It is a city that has much history and folklore, with the most famous of these the links with Robin Hood. Yet the city origins can be traced back to 600AD and it has been an important part of British history throughout. In the 1801 census the population was 29,000, with slow growth up to the current population.



The Council House, Nottingham

As most old cities in England there is a claim for the oldest pub to be located here. In fact, three pubs all claim this from the city. For those who want

to assess the relative merits of the claims and enjoyable evening awaits in *Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem*, *The Bell Inn* and *Ye Olde Salutation Inn*.

The city consistently punched above its size in the sporting arena, with one of its two football teams, Nottingham Forest, winning the European Cup in 1979 and 1980. Notts County, the other football team, are the oldest of all professional clubs in the world. However these teams have now slipped down the leagues. International cricket matches are regularly played in the city, with the country team, Nottinghamshire, champions

in 2010. The city is also home to the 1984 Olympic gold medal ice dance winners, Torvill and Dean.

The University of Nottingham, the location of the conference, is a member of the Russell Group of research-led universities. Depending on the ranking that is used it is anywhere between 15th and 20th in the UK, and ranked 74th in the world by the QS World University Rankings.

It is clearly a University that promotes canoeing, with both the Gold medal winners from London 2012 double canoe alumni of the university, while the silver medal winner of the canoe slalom from Beijing 2012 also an alumnus.

There are a number of campuses in and around Nottingham, with the University Park campus set around a lake with much greenery surviving. The Jubilee Campus, where the conference will be held, was opened in 1999. The campus is known for its modern and unique architecture, with *Aspire*, a 60m tall artistic sculpture dominating the site. This is the tallest free-standing structure in the UK.



The PIC, Population Studies, and BSPS

Many BSPS members will know that the BSPS Secretariat is provided by the Population Investigation Committee (PIC) and that the costs of the Secretariat are covered by income from the PIC's Journal, Population Studies, as part of the PIC's charitable purpose. So by subscribing to the Journal, BSPS members are helping to support the Society itself.

A reduced-rate individual (not institutional) subscription is available to BSPS members and members of other international and national population societies. This gives the subscriber 3 print copies a year, plus access to the online edition of the Journal including articles posted to the Journal site in advance of official publication (pre-prints). It also

gives access to the online archive of back issues going back to 1985.

It is now possible to subscribe to the Journal, or to renew subscriptions, via the online site at:

<http://tandfonline.com/action/aboutThisJournal?show=societyInformation&journalCode=rpst20>

Subscribers and non-subscribers can also sign up for email alerts, which are sent automatically when a new pre-print appears online, or when a new issue is published. See:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/action/doUpdateAlertSettings?action=addJournal&journalCode=rpst20>

Open Access Population Studies Paper Online

Conference-goers will be interested in the new paper from Maire Ni Bhrolchain and Eva Beaujouan, which is now available at the Population Studies forthcoming papers site. The paper is open access and can be read or downloaded without a subscription to the Journal. Access Fertility postponement is largely due to rising educational enrolment at:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/action/showAxaArticles?journalCode=rpst20>

Abstract

The rise in educational enrolment is often cited as a

possible cause of the trend to later childbearing in developed societies but direct evidence of its contribution to the aggregate change in fertility tempo is scarce. We show that rising enrolment, resulting in later ages at the end of education, accounts for a substantial part of the upward shift in the mean age at first birth in the 1980s and 1990s in Britain and in France. The postponement of first birth over that period has two components: a longer average period of enrolment and a post-enrolment component that is also related to educational level. The relationship between rising educational participation and the move to later fertility timing is almost certainly causal. Our findings therefore suggest that fertility tempo change is rooted in macro-economic and structural forces rather than in the cultural domain.

ESRC/PIC Masters Studentship Scheme in Population Studies

Those of you at institutions who are already invited to put forward candidates for the ESRC/PIC studentship scheme in population studies will be familiar with the scheme. For those of you who are not, read on.

First, some background: the Population Investigation Committee (PIC) first established a scholarship fund in 1996, perceiving that UK students were having difficulty in obtaining funding for the further study of demography beyond undergraduate level. As the funding for these scholarships came solely from surpluses received from the publication of the PIC's Journal, *Population Studies*, only two scholarships a year were offered initially. For three or four years, four scholarships were offered as a result of the generosity of the now-defunct Simon Population Trust.

In 2009, the ESRC & the PIC entered into a funding agreement for a five-year period to enable additional scholarships to be offered under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two bodies. The aim of the scheme is to aid the recruitment & initial development of talented students in demography by contributing to student fees and maintenance costs. The ESRC entered into the scheme to build capacity in a priority area for the Council. The ambition within the co-funding agreement is to actively increase the research capacity within Demography in the UK.

Eligibility for the Scholarships is restricted to students accepted on a Master's degree course

with a high demographic content, leading to a Master's qualification at an ESRC-accredited Doctoral Training Centre. There are currently some Doctoral Training Centres approved by the ESRC which do not actually appear to be offering any suitable pathways and this piece is intended to reach these Centres, and any others that may be eligible.


Additional research training pathways at currently-approved and other ESRC-accredited Doctoral Training Centres MAY be eligible if the institution can show that these pathways would meet the agreed aims of the scheme 'to actively increase the research capacity within Demography'. Prospective students would be expected to take a high proportion (75%) of course units with demographic training content and candidates would be monitored to ensure these courses were those studied. To all intents and purposes, eligible courses would be taught Masters.

For full information on the scheme, please see the PIC website at:

<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/socialPolicy/researchcentresandgroups/PIC/scholarshipScheme.aspx>

The information posted on the site relates to the 2012 round of Scholarships, but there will be at least eight available in 2013 and relevant information is likely to remain broadly the same. For further information or to discuss eligibility, please contact the PIC at pic@lse.ac.uk in the first instance.





Spotlight on Research

Alice Goisis PhD Student at LSE

Alice is a Ph.D. student in Demography at the London School of Economics, and her research relates to the rise in childbearing at older ages over the past few decades in industrialized countries. In particular, her research has been inspired by the fact that, although considerable attention has been given to explaining rises in childbearing at older ages, much less is known about the consequences of postponement for child wellbeing.

The predominant view in the literature has been that maternal age should be seen as an indicator of parenting quality. Namely, childbearing at older ages is expected to accrue benefits to children because women who postpone are, on average, socially advantaged and better prepared to take on the responsibility of parenthood. While these arguments may on average reflect a true picture, the “weathering” hypothesis suggests that the real situation is more complex. According to this framework, which emerged in the US during the 1990s, maternal age should be conceptualized as a marker of exposure to disadvantage for certain groups of the population, rather than a universal indicator of “development”. In particular, the “weathering” hypothesis predicts that the health of disadvantaged mothers deteriorates faster than that of more advantaged women. Poorer health trajectories for disadvantaged women imply that their children’s health outcomes might worsen with increasing maternal age at birth. These arguments suggest that the meaning of maternal age should be conceptualized as a group (or context) dependent concept, and that childbearing postponement may actually reflect qualitatively different processes across subgroups of the population.

By reflecting on the “weathering” hypothesis, Alice’s research project aims to assess whether the framing of the process of childbearing postponement may have been too narrow, and whether its benefits may have been overstated for some groups of women. The research focuses on the U.K. context and



Alice Goisis, PhD student at LSE

uses data from the ONS Longitudinal Study and the Millennium Cohort Study. One of main findings is that in the UK, in line with the “weathering” hypothesis, ethnic gaps in child health widen with increasing maternal age at first birth.

Alice holds a BSc in International Economics and Management and an MSc in Economics and Social Sciences from Bocconi University (Italy). Before joining LSE, she was a research assistant working at the Dondena Centre for Research on Social Dynamics (Bocconi University). At Dondena she has done work on social norms and intergenerational transfers. Away from her desk, Alice enjoys travelling and cooking (mainly Italian!) food.

Alice is in the final stage of her Ph.D. (supervised by Mike Murphy and Wendy Sigle-Rushton). If you want to know more about her research, please go to: <http://personal.lse.ac.uk/GOISIS/> or contact her at: A.Goisis@lse.ac.uk.



Recent Developments in Household Projections

A one-day meeting was held on Monday 16 July 2012 at LSE with 25 participants. The date was particularly auspicious since it was the day when the first results from the 2011 England and Wales Census were released (Scotland results not yet available). Ludi Simpson held a competition with valuable census memorabilia as prizes for those able to predict some of the key results. Particularly noteworthy was the fact that average household size was somewhat larger than the current official projections showed, a point that was relevant to a number of presentations later in the meeting.

The first speaker was Zeng Yi (China Center for Economic Research and Director of Center for Healthy Aging and Development Studies, National School of Development, Peking University). He introduced the topic of household modelling, arguing that the conventional headship rate method was inadequate since it fails to model the processes underlying household change. He introduced the ProFamy model, which is a multistate model that projects cohorts by age, sex, partnership status, parity, and number of co-resident children and parents. The model produces household distributions in future years; ethnic, sub-national and rural/urban categories may be included.

He was followed by Zhenglian Wang (Center for Healthy Aging and Family Studies (CHADS), National School of Development,

Peking University) who discussed in more detail the data requirements and methods used by the ProFamy model. The model requires as input only conventional and commonly available demographic data to compute the individual groups' status changes by cohort and age. These data can be obtained from vital statistics, censuses, and routinely conducted surveys. The model may also be used more flexibly by, for example, including additional variables such as disability status. Results for US states were presented, indicating good forecasting performance.

Ludi Simpson (University of Manchester) described the Derived Forecasts module of the POPGROUP model, which is widely used by British local authorities for projections' purposes, including household projections. The model is tailored to the needs of such users, including the ability to handle sometime incomplete data and constraints, including those arising from policy changes. The model is based largely on applying projected static cross-sectional headship or related rates to an underlying cohort component projection model. The model can flexibly aggregate, for example, local authorities into larger aggregates. As with ProFamy, considerable use is made of graphical presentation of results. The system is Excel-based and can replicate official projections.

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Recent Developments in Household Projections

The first afternoon session was devoted to the methods used for Official UK Governments Household projections (apart from Northern Ireland). Yolanda Ruiz (Housing and Planning Statistics, Department for Communities and Local Government) introduced the topic and discussed how the official projections for England were made. She discussed changes in the most recent set using projected household representative rates (the proportion of people in a particular group being part of a separate household). A two-stage method is used whereby initial values are disaggregated into more detailed household types needed for planning purposes. It was recognised that the age profiles produced by the Stage 1 and Stage 2 series were different, a topic that would be addressed in the next round of projections. The next set of long-term household projections based on the 2011 Census results would be available in autumn 2014. In the interim, DCLG are currently procuring 2010-based projections which will be consistent with 2010-based ONS sub-national population projections.

Tony Whiffen (Demography, Heritage and Equalities Statistics, Welsh Government) described the Welsh Government's approach based on a membership rate

method, which projects the types of household people live in, so that it is necessary to know household size to convert these figure of numbers of people in different household types into number of households.

Esther Roughsedge & Valerie Hale (National Records of Scotland – formerly GRO Scotland) described the headship rate method used in Scotland. Scotland also produces variant projections, including one on the implications of economic downturns (the current economic downturn appears to have reduced household growth in Scotland in recent years).

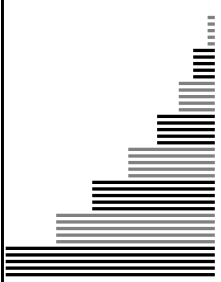
It became clear that although the approaches were different, there were a number of issues of common interest: for example, how to estimate and allow for those living in communal establishments; the definition of household and the availability of data at the small area levels required by users of household projections. In the final discussion, the relative merits of the alternative approaches were discussed, and the extent to which household projection could or should also include factors such as external socio-economic conditions explicitly rather than implicitly.

Mike Murphy

All presentations from this day meeting can be accessed via the BSPS website at: <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/socialPolicy/BSPS/dayMeetings/Recent-Developments-in-Household-Projections---16-July-2012.aspx>

A pre-print of a paper on Profamy is also available from this location





Meeting Report

PopFest 2012

Loughborough University

PopFest2012

20th Annual Conference
Loughborough University

PopFest is an annual population studies conference for postgraduate students organised by fellow postgraduates. To celebrate the 20th annual PopFest, the conference in 2012 reflected on the past 20 years of population studies and looked forward to the challenges facing population studies in the next 20 years. PopFest 2012 welcomed representatives from various disciplines such as Social Sciences, Demography, Human Geography, Social Anthropology, Social Statistics, Health, Development, Social Policy, Energy and other related fields. All research projects, completed or in progress, relating to population studies were welcomed at the conference. PopFest 2012 at Loughborough University attracted 42 postgraduate delegates who presented a range of oral and poster presentations.

Themes emerging from the conference included:

- Migration/mobility and integration
- Population policies and international relations

- Childhood and youth
- Ageing and retirement provision
- Education and mobility (virtual and physical)
- Data uses and methodological approaches in population studies (inc. innovative methods)
- Demography
- Historical population studies
- Sustainable development and renewable energies
- The future of population studies
- Future challenges to populations and population studies

Conference Overview

Day 1—21st June

Plenary - Dr. Darren Smith and Prof. Rob Wilby (Loughborough University)

Dr. Darren Smith formally welcomed delegates to Loughborough University and discussed major themes set to emerge over the three day conference. Darren posed questions to keep in mind throughout the sessions and reflected on key papers in population studies relevant to the conference themes.

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Meeting Report

PopFest 2012

Loughborough University

Prof. Rob Wilby then provided an overview of research at Loughborough University and began to examine future challenges facing populations in the next 20 years. Rob discussed how climate and population change will impact on future populations and examined academic debates surrounding such issues.

Session 1: Education and Mobility
(Discussant: Dr. Heike Jons)

Session 2: Migration I (Discussant: Dr. Liz Mavroudi)

Keynote speaker – Prof. John Stillwell
(University of Leeds)

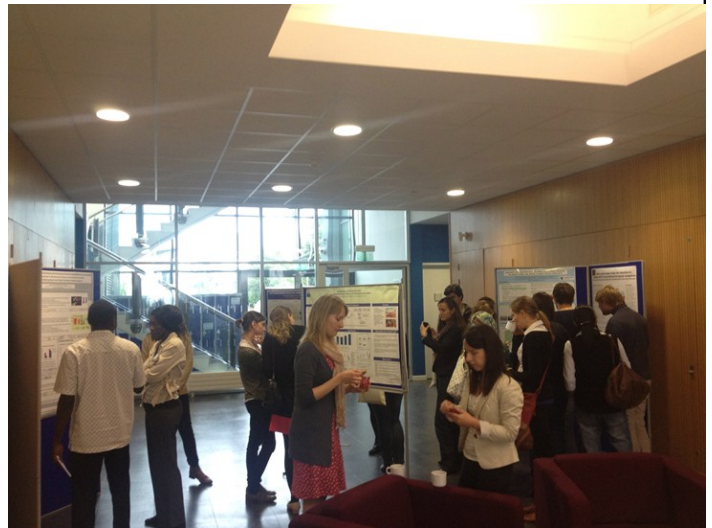
Prof. John Stillwell from the University of Leeds was the keynote speaker for the event, reflecting on increasing ethnic diversity of the UK population over the last 20 years. Prof. John Stillwell's research interests include internal and international population migration, geographical information systems (GIS), and regional development and planning.

Day 2—22nd June

Session 3: Current debates in Population Studies I

Session 4: Boost your research using census power! Why you should be excited about the UK 2011 Census

This session welcomed three special guest speakers: Dr. Oliver Duke-Williams

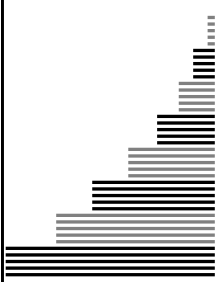


PopFest 2012 Poster Session

(Department of Information Studies, University College London), Chris Ashford, (Head of Census Dissemination and User Support, The Office for National Statistics), and Justin Hayes (Census Dissemination Unit, Mimas, The University of Manchester). Prof. John Stillwell acted as a discussant following the three presentations. This session examined how census data can and has been used in population studies and looked forward to the potential uses of the 2011 census. Following this session delegates had the opportunity to experiment with census data collection software in a specially designed computer session.

Session 5: Health and Population Studies

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Meeting Report

PopFest 2012

Loughborough University

Session 6: Sustainability and Population Studies (Discussant: Sir Jonathan Porritt)

Guest speaker – Sir Jonathan Porritt

Sir Jonathon Porritt, founder director of “Forum for the Future” and former chairman of the Sustainable Development Commission delivered a thought provoking speech exploring the “next 20 years” element of the conference, considering future challenges to populations. Jonathon is an environmentalist and writer, dedicating his time to advising, campaigning, broadcasting and lecturing. Jonathon’s talk, discussed issues relating to population growth and the implications such population changes may have in the coming years.



Sir Jonathan Porritt speaking at the conference

Day 3—23rd June

Session 7: Housing and Population Studies (Discussant: Dr. Darren Smith)

Session 8: Migration II (Discussant: Dr. Sarah Mills)

Session 9: Current debates in Population Studies II (Discussant: Dr. Darren Smith)

Close: Dr. Darren Smith and Dr. Hannah Deakin



The Conference Dinner

The conference was supported by a wide number of organisations including BSPS. These included:

- ESRC Centre for Population Change
- Loughborough University
- Population Geography Research Group
- Imago
- Loughborough University Graduate School
- The Department of Geography at Loughborough



Travel Report

Valeria Cetorelli

London School of Economics

2012 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America

The annual PAA conference was this year held in San Francisco on May 3rd - 5th. The meeting consisted of over 200 sessions, covering a very broad range of demographic themes. The sessions were sub-divided into 11 broad topics: (1) fertility, family planning, sexual behaviour, and reproductive health; (2) marriage, family, households, and unions; (3) children and youth; (4) health and mortality; (5) race, ethnicity, and gender; (6) migration and urbanisation; (7) economy, labour force, education, and inequality; (8) population, development, and environment; (9) population and ageing; (10) data and methods; and (11) applied demography.

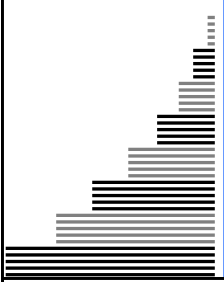
Participants were from top universities and research institutions around the world. Presentations were interesting, often innovative, and always followed by lively discussions. Unfortunately, the 7 poster sessions were allocated at the same time as the oral sessions, which made it difficult to attend them. Given my research interests, I enjoyed a large number of presentations on fertility, maternal and child health. I found particularly inspiring a session on the recent Arab spring and related socio-demographic changes in the Arab world, held by leading experts of the region. In their presentations, both Professor John



Casterline and Farzaneh Roudi suggested that the recent revolution has promoted a pronatalist atmosphere in Egypt, that might slow the transition to low fertility during the next few years.

I also had the opportunity to present a paper, in a session on Fertility in Asia, entitled 'Fertility stalls in the Middle East: The case of Jordan'. Although presumed cases of fertility stalls have been suggested in a number of Middle Eastern countries, detailed research on this region has been lacking. In my presentation, I focused for the first time on a presumed case of fertility stall in Jordan. My analysis demonstrated that not only is the stall real and not due to data errors, but it is also one of the longest lasting recently assessed. I received stimulating feedback from both the chair and the audience. The conference was also a great occasion to meet scholars with similar research interests.

I am very grateful to the British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) who supported my participation to the conference with a travel grant of £ 250.



Travel Report

Alice Goisis

London School of Economics

2012 European Population Conference

The 2012 EPC conference, which is held bi-annually and organized by the European Association of Population Studies, was held in Stockholm on June 13th-16th. The conference attracted around 900 participants from all over the world who presented in over 100 paper symposium sessions and 3 poster sessions.

The theme of this year's conference was "Gender, Policies and Population", a central interest in the demographic debate of the past decade. The persistence of gender differences in health, longevity, mortality, labour market participation and its increasing importance for fertility patterns in Europe and elsewhere have encouraged demographers to devote more attention to how gender shapes demographic outcomes and how demographic development influences gender relationships.

The conference could not have been located in a more appropriate place as Sweden has been at the forefront of promoting gender equality in all areas of life. Aside from the main theme, a vast range of topics were covered in the main areas of demography fertility, mortality and migration. Paper session topics ranged from discussing reproductive health problems, labour market issues, historical demography, data and methods to life

course analysis amongst many others.

The conference opened with a plenary session discussing different aspects of gender equality and issues by keynote speakers Prof. Esping Andersen (Universitat Pompeu Fabra), Prof. Goldscheider (University of Maryland and Brown University), Prof. McDonald (Australian National University) and Prof. Sommestad (Social Democratic Party, Sweden).

I attended many sessions all of which were very good and gave me lots to think about. I particularly enjoyed two presentations because of their (indirect) link with my own research agenda. The first one was a presentation titled "Diverging destinies in Europe? Education, family structure and child wellbeing" presented by Juho Harkonen (Stockholm University). The paper aims to extend the U.S. "diverging destinies" framework to the European context (Denmark, Italy, UK and Germany).

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Travel Report

Alice Goisis

London School of Economics

The preliminary results reveal cross-national differences in the way and extent to which these European countries are complying with the “diverging destinies” framework, suggesting the need to investigate, possibly using alternative frameworks, how patterns of inequality are produced in different contexts.

The second one was a presentation titled “Individual autonomy and ideal age for becoming a parent: a cross-European comparison” presented by A. Rijken (co-authored with F. Billari). The paper investigates the association between individuals’ “need for autonomy” and their ideal age at first birth. The results reveal that a positive association between individuals value orientations regarding autonomy and their ideal age for having a first child in Europe. However, this association is found to be weaker in countries where social expenditures on families and children are higher, revealing



the importance of context to understand the timing of childbearing and the meaning of chronological age.

The closing statement and presentation of the Gunther Beyer Award and Poster Awards was given by the new President of EAPS Prof. F. Billari. The Gunther Beyer Award is a prize for the best paper presented at the EPC conference by a young researcher, which this year was awarded to Stefan Öberg (University of Gothenburg) for his paper “Socioeconomic differences in height among young men in southern Sweden, 1818-1968”.

The conference has been a success and a great forum for discussion, not only because of the quality of its scientific programme, but also because of the well-organized social events which created many opportunities to network with other researchers and a friendly atmosphere. The conference reception and concluding event on Friday night was hosted by the city of Stockholm at the City Hall, a magnificent building and host of the annual Nobel Prize ceremony. All the papers and posters from the conference can be retrieved online at <http://epc2012.princeton.edu/default.aspx>.

I am very grateful to BSPS who provided £200 in funds to help with the costs of travel to the conference.



Travel Report

Stuart Basten

University of Oxford

Demographers have a fixed tradition. Every year we submit papers to the Population Association of America's Annual Meeting. It really is a horrible procedure. Because so few papers get in, you have to hedge your bets and throw everything you have at it. This means getting together five or so abstracts. Then, of course, you have to get together five 'extended abstracts' each running to around six pages.

Then you have to run a careful mental algorithm to decide which of the 216 sessions to apply to. Should I submit my paper on fertility intentions in Asia to 'Family Planning and Reproductive Health in the Asian Context', 'Perspectives on Fertility in Asia', 'Determinants of Fertility in Asia', 'Fertility Intentions and Behaviors over the Life Course', 'Fertility Attitudes and Intentions in Low-Fertility Societies' or even the mysteriously titled 'Fertility Intentions'? Which of these is likely to get the most submissions? Then, of course, you have to look at the session convenor. I don't like one, so I suspect he doesn't much care for me. Another is really only interested in a different part of Asia. And so on.

Finally, before the submissions you have to make sure that your membership is up to date. This inevitably involves reaching for the credit card (or Visa Electron in the case of those of us at a lower pay grade) and

shelling out. At this point you realise that BSPS membership is particularly cheap.

Then you have to wait. And wait.

Then just before my birthday (early November for those interested) back come the rejections.

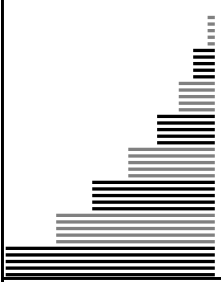
"I received a large number of excellent submissions and regret that I was unable to accept your paper. I noticed, however, that you are willing to present it in a poster session and I have sent my recommendation to the Program Committee. They will contact you directly with their decision by December 16, 2011."

After the sixth time of receiving this message which pretends to be from the convenor, but is actually from Demo-Robot 2.1, the desire to give up and become a LIBOR official, media regulator or Las Vegas strip billiards official become very strong.

Then what's this...?

"I am happy to inform you that I have accepted your paper for inclusion in the session. You will be able to revise your online abstract until February 6, 2012, and you should upload your completed paper by April 2, 2012. I will contact you with further information closer to the date of the meeting."

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Travel Report

Stuart Basten

University of Oxford

Because the expectation of rejection is so strong and the preceding six messages have been in the negative, you don't even read it properly. But then you go back, read it again, think about it, possibly swear out loud, lean back on your seat then bang the table (I did) and then that's it. Your faith in social science, human progress, divinity and the precious Research Excellence Framework comes flooding back. I've done it. I'm the king of the world.

[Note that six weeks later more or less the same procedure is followed concerning being bumped to posters, but let's not spoil the moment].

It is only then in the post-euphoric haze you stop and realise that the conference is in San Francisco and that there is no money left in the grant to get to the bus to Titchfield let alone California.

A strange mix of panic, hopelessness and financial planning quickly sets in. 'Can I pay for it myself?...It will be getting warmer in a couple of months so we won't need as much gas at home. I could fly US Airways via Raleigh, Charleston and Provo and save £49...I could pretend to still be a student and get cheap registration...I could stay in a 16-room mixed dorm in the Tenderloin.'

I then hear that owing to a drop-out, another paper has been accepted! Again, the euphoric state is quickly punctured –

this time by the realisation that I have to now write two complete papers a month.

Anyway, making an extra special effort on my Oxford corporate branding on the Powerpoint, off I head to the States. Despite the jetlag, the talks seem to go really well – or at least the audiences were polite enough not to say that I was talking rot. I think I did the UK and BPSA proud by networking, hobnobbing, doling out lots of cards and behaving myself at the drinks receptions.

I couldn't have gone without the support from BPSA and, joking aside, I would really like to thank the society for giving me the grant. As it happens, both of the papers are now being written up to be submitted to journals at some point over the summer.

In future, though, I will definitely just add a 'nought' to my travel budget.

PS: My papers were:

Basten, S. (2012) '*Changing sexual attitudes in urban East Asia*' Population Association of America Annual Meeting, San Francisco, May 2012

Basten, S., Coleman, D. and Gu, B (2012) '*Re-Examining the Fertility Assumptions in the UN's 2010 World Population Prospects: Intentions and Fertility Recovery in East Asia?*' San Francisco, May 2012

Fundamentals and Methods for Impact Evaluation in Population Studies (IEPS)

The Impact Evaluation Methodologies have only recently been extensively used in Population Studies. It is a ground-breaking topic that can be extremely promising for those interested in assessing the impact of both policies and external changes on demographic behaviour.

This Winter School covers the principles, methods and issues related to causal inference in population studies. Through a combination of methodological lectures, case studies and hands-on computing sessions, the school covers a range of topics, including randomized experiments, propensity score matching, difference-in-differences estimation, instrumental variables and regression discontinuity designs.

The Winter School in Fundamentals and Methods for Impact Evaluation in Population Studies (IEPS) is meant to create an international and highly qualified learning environment, which should allow participants to be actively involved in workshops and seminars and to experiment innovative ways of collaborative learning under the supervision of re-known academics and experts from different Universities and Research Centers.

The course consists of lectures of one hour and half each, presentations of case studies both on developed and developing countries, computing sessions and a final general discussion. Classes will be taught in English.

The IEPS Winter School is funded by the University of Padova and promoted by the Department of Statistical Sciences in collaboration with the International Relations Office. Partners of the initiative are the Italian Association for Population Studies (AISP), the Vienna Institute of Demography (VID), the Stockholm University Demography Unit (SUDA), the Italian Ph.D. School in Demography.

Submission deadline

Applications are due (i.e. they must be received by the Winter School Secretariat) by **30 September, 2012**. Admission decisions will be made and announced by 15 October 2012. All applicants will be informed by e-mail about the results. We encourage electronic submissions: ieps.winterschool@stat.unipd.it

Registration fees

Admitted participants must pay a fee of 300 EUR, which is meant to cover tuition costs and the learning materials handed out during the training. Participants are requested to register to the Winter School by paying the tuition fee either by credit card or via bank transfer, by the 1 November 2012. Participants who will not have their payment settled will not be admitted to class.

For more information please visit:

www.statistica.unipd.it/winterschool2012/index.asp

Announcements and Conferences

Xth ADEH Conference

Call for Papers for the X Conference of the Iberian Association of Historical Demography (ADEH) which will take place in Albacete, Spain, from the 18th to the 20th of June 2013. ADEH will celebrate its 30th Anniversary during 2013. Deadline for submissions of papers will be the 2nd of November 2012. More information on Instructions for submitting a paper and sessions can be found at: www.adeh.org

2011 Census

With the release of the first results of the census a number of data sources are available:

- Population projections data for local authorities in England plus the countries of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland by: Age, Sex & Ethnic Group for 2001 to 2051 (i.e. more demographic detail in 2011 than likely to be available for a while from census data) Available from <http://ethpop.org/>
- Conceptual Framework for UK Population & Migration Statistics: A publication from a collaboration between ONS and the Universities of Southampton & Leeds

Raymer J, Rees P, Blake A, Boden P, Brown J, Disney G, Lomax N, Norman P & Stillwell J (2012) Conceptual Framework for UK Population and Migration Statistics. ONS.

TWRI Policy and Research Conference

The TWRI Policy and Research Conference "Making the best use of the 2011 Census" will be held at St William's College, York on Friday 5th October 2012, 10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

The Conference will be chaired by Professor Ludi Simpson, President of the British Society for Population Studies. It will feature presentations from ONS, local government, other public sector and academic users of the census, and census data suppliers.

The Conference fee is £125 (including lunch and refreshments). Further details, including the downloadable booking form, can be found on the TWRI website: www.twri.org.uk.

Older but fitter?

'The Cambridge-based Policy Fen Network organised an event in April 'Older but fitter? Policy challenges of a changing older population' which aimed to look at what the population of 2030 would be like. How would it be different from today, with reference to health and ageing? What evidence is there to support this and what are the implications for policies, businesses and services coming from a population significantly different to today's.

Most of the presentations from the meeting can be accessed at <http://www.cambridgenetwork.co.uk/events/older-but-fitter-policy-challenges-of-a-changing-older/>





Call for Evidence

Post 2015 Development Goals

The UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will expire in 2015, and the Secretary General of the UN has appointed a High-Level Panel to assess what should replace them. Co-chairs of the High-Level Panel are the British Prime Minister David Cameron, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia.

At Rio +20 it was agreed to set up a process to establish Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Committee has decided to launch an inquiry on the post-2015 agenda. Organisations and interested individuals are invited to submit written evidence on the following:

- Lessons learned from the adoption of the International Development Targets and the Millennium Development Goals: in particular how effective has the MDG process been to date;
- How should the 'Sustainable Development Goals' be established following Rio +20 relate to the 'Development Goals' being considered by the High-Level Panel?
- The coverage of future goals: should they be for

developing countries only or should progress be monitored in all countries?

- The process: are the right voices being heard? What are the opportunities for and constraints to global consensus?
- Targets: was the MDG 'target-based' approach a success? Should it be retained? How should progress be measured?
- Financing global goals: are new mechanisms needed?
- The role of the private sector and other non-state organisations
- Timescale: what period should the new framework cover? Was the 15-year timescale for the MDGs right?
- The content of future goals: what would be a good set of global goals? What continuity should there be with the MDGs, and how should the unfulfilled MDGs be taken forward?

The Committee invites submissions on Post-2015 Development Goals. The deadline for submitting written evidence is Friday 5 October 2012.

How to Join BSPS

Details of how to apply and the application form are on the website. Rates are:

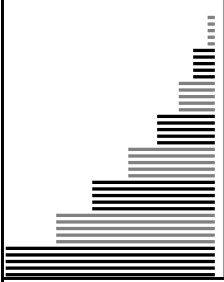
Full Member — £25

Country (Live outside S. E. train region) and overseas — £20

Retired (from work) — £7.50

Full-time Student — £7.50

Overseas (LEDCs only) — £7.50



5 minutes with...

Mark Montgomery Population Council

As part of an ongoing series interviewing demographers and BPS member we managed to have a quick word with Mark Montgomery from the Population Council, who will be attending the conference in Nottingham.



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

I'm a rapidly aging economist and demographer with a Ph.D from the University of Michigan. I've got one foot in the academic world, at Stony Brook University where I'm a professor of Economics, and the other in the not-for-profit world of international research at the Population Council.

What are you finding most interesting in your field of work at the moment?

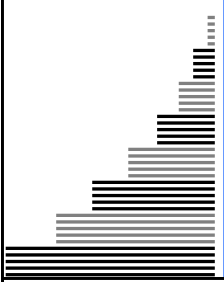
This is a truly remarkable historical moment: the world as a whole has just made a transition from being majority rural to majority urban, and that transition will take place for poor countries as well sometime in the next twenty years. Those of us interested in economic development have been trained to think of poor countries as if they

were almost wholly composed of rural villages---but that world is slipping away into the past. We somehow need to refresh our vision so that cities and towns come more clearly into the picture. That will be a challenge, because at present very few training programs in demography (or economics) are equipping students with the tools they need to think about urbanization. And I'm afraid that when researchers don't have a conceptual frame in which an issue can be placed, they tend not to deal with the issue at all!

What are you currently working on?

With my good colleague Deborah Balk and others, I'm working on the implications of climate-related risks for the well-being of the urban poor. This is the "adaptation" side of global climate change, which is where I think

(continued overleaf).



5 minutes with...

Mark Montgomery

social scientists will eventually have a great deal to contribute but haven't quite got started doing it.

What do you think your greatest achievement is in academia?

The most intellectual fun I've ever had was in working with a wonderful and wonderfully diverse panel of researchers in and outside academics to write *Cities Transformed* (2003), a thorough-going treatment of urbanization from the perspectives of demography, health, and poverty. All of us had to stretch ourselves to take in views and ways of thinking coming from fields as varied as architecture, political science, sociology, anthropology, and geography. We learned new things from Day 1 almost all the way to publication. The great thing about demography as a field is that you can't be much of a demographer by sticking to demography alone---you've got to make those connections to other fields. And once you start making them, you open yourself up to surprises and stimulating

ideas that you would never have encountered in your disciplinary home.

Do you have a message/ any advice for young academics starting out in this field?

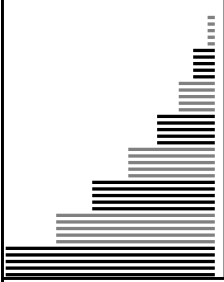
I've always been mainly interested in poor countries, and, sad to say, not so much in the US. But funding for international research is not what it used to be, and I'm not sure that upward trends in funding are coming our way any time soon. My advice for a young academic is this: If you are interested in a substantive issue that has both international and domestic dimensions, try to pursue both of them, more or less in parallel. You'll make connections that will enhance your thinking, and not incidentally, enhance the prospects for getting things funded.

What are the major issues facing urban areas in developing countries with respect to their health?

One of the biggest but most under-researched issues of our time comes from the combination of urbanization and climate change, by which more and more of the people facing climate-related health risks

(continued overleaf)





5 minutes with...

Mark Montgomery

risks will face them in the cities and towns of poor countries. Understanding urban exposure to risk, vulnerability, and resilience is enormously important.

What is the one burning question about urban health in developing countries that needs answering in your opinion?

We often say "the urban poor" and "slum-dwellers" as if they were one and the same. I'm curious about the difference. What percentage of the urban poor live in slums? I'd say we don't really know---and we need to know to strike the right balance between

place-based and people-based poverty strategies.

What sports team do you support and what are your hopes for them this year?

About five years ago, not knowing much about the game, I fell into the position of supporting Chelsea FC and have not been able to extricate myself despite pointed advice from friends and family. Chelsea have been excruciatingly painful to watch over the last couple of years, but I see hopeful signs for the upcoming season!

Membership Procedures

At its meeting on 14th October 2011 Council noted the absence of a documented set of procedures for membership matters. Clause 6 of the Society's Constitution gives responsibility for decisions on membership to Council. It is therefore a matter of ensuring that the necessary procedures for Council's handling of membership matters are documented in sufficient detail.

A discussion of the membership procedures was had at a recent Council meeting. There were three different areas that needed reviewing:

1. Content of membership application form and information required by Council to determine membership applications
2. Procedures for reviewing and taking action against any member of the Society
3. Categories of membership.

The outcomes of the discussions are available at <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/socialPolicy/BSPS/announcements.aspx>. Members (and non-members) who are interested in these changes should visit this website for information.