

Editor: Dr Melanie Channon

The British Society for Population Studies Newsletter

Editor's News



Welcome to another edition of the BSPS newsletter. As the last edition before the conference it is my duty to encourage you all to head over to Winchester. Many of you will have been to previous conferences in Winchester,

but for those who haven't let me assure you that it is an excellent venue and there will be no shortage of relative locals to direct you to the best tea/cake/beer/ramen/anything else you fancy. [Make sure you book by July 31st to take advantage of early bird registration \(click to go to booking form and draft programme\).](#)

This is also an exciting conference as BSPS will be welcoming The Netherland Demographic Society (NVD). There are two NVD-organized sessions in the programme and a Dutch plenary speaker.

As usual the AGM will take place during the Conference (11th Sep at 7.20pm) so please attend if you are able. You are also welcome if you are not attending the conference but make sure you let pic@lse.ac.uk know in advance.

Plenary speakers

The plenary theme of the Conference is **Demography, inequality & social policy**. Plenary speakers are:

PROFESSOR RENSKÉ KEIZER (Erasmus University): Father's role in the development of children's diverging destinies.

PROFESSOR DANNY DORLING (University of Oxford): Linking mortality to the past - solving the geographical problems

The eagle eyed amongst you may have noticed that my email address, and therefore institutional affiliation, has changed since the last edition. I am now a Lecturer in Social Policy at the University of Bath. If any of you are in Bath or visiting Bath then please drop me a line and say hello. I am aware that Bath is not a stronghold of BSPS members, but perhaps I can change that.

As always do let me know if you have any suggestions for the newsletter. If you have published anything interesting (article, book, blog, interview etc.) then also let me know. It would be great to share more of your wonderful work!

Email me: M.D.Channon@bath.ac.uk

Tweet me: [@frostyalleyear](https://twitter.com/frostyalleyear)

Tweet BSPS: [@bpsuk](https://twitter.com/bpsuk)

Contents

Page 1: Introduction
Pages 2: Postgraduate student rep
Page 2-3: Postgrad Glory Corner
Page 4-5: IUSSP Conference Reports
Page 6: Spotlight on research: Ginevra Floridi
Pages 7-8: CALLS Hub Conference

Postgraduate Student Representative: Alina Pelikh

Only three months away from now the BSPS conference is knocking on the door. Don't miss out the **early career mentoring** event which I am organising together with **Alyce Raybould** from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. The event takes place before the AGM and does not clash with any sessions this year (book your places asap)! The session will be running in a "speed-dating" format to allow early career researchers (postgrads, post-docs, research officers etc.) to spend some time talking to senior academics (from junior senior to senior senior levels) as well as representatives of ONS and local authorities.

This edition's student spotlight features **Ginevra Floridi** from London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Ginevra's research focuses on intergenerational transfers of support and participation in paid work and informal family care among middle-aged and older people in Italy and South Korea.

Ginevra is also one of the poster strand organisers for the BSPS 2018 conference in Winchester. Taking the early stage of her career, Ginevra has already published one of her PhD papers and went on a research visit to South Korea! Find out more about Ginevra and her fascinating research on page 6.

This edition features the second round of **"the Glory's Corner"** section where we are highlighting re-

cent students' publications. At BSPS we support and encourage each other's research. This round includes publications of **Lilli Abuladze** (Tallinn University), **Ginevra Floridi** (LSE), **Beata Osiewalska** (Cracow University of Economics), **Natalia Permyakova** (University of Southampton), **Cecilia Potente** (Oxford University), **Christopher Rentsch** (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine), **Giacomo Vagni** (Oxford University), **Nele van der Wielen** (University of Southampton), and myself!

Please do get in touch if you've been in contact with media, written for a blog or published an article.

Last but not least I want to draw your attention and congratulate our student members who have successfully passed their viva this academic year! **Abiodun Adanikin** (University of Southampton),

Beata Osiewalska (Cracow University of

Economics), **William Shankley** (University of Manchester) and **Sam Wilding** (University of Southampton) – kudos to all **viva survivors!**

Don't hesitate to contact me at alina.pelikh@liverpool.ac.uk if you have any questions or concerns and follow me on Twitter @AlinaPelikh. If you have not already done so, join the BSPS Student Members' Facebook page here: www.facebook.com/groups/300124886760445/.

I wish you all a great summer!



Postgrad Glory Corner

Viva Survivors

Abiodun Adanikin (University of Southampton). Sociocultural barriers to family planning in the high fertility context of Nigeria. Examiner - John Cleland, The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Beata Osiewalska (Cracow University of Economics). Fertility and childlessness by socio-economic status of couples in Europe.

William Shankley (University of Manchester). The residential patterns and decision-making of Polish internal migrants in Britain. Examiner - Debbie Phillips, University of Oxford.

Sam Wilding (University of Southampton). Healthy migrants? Health and internal migration within Great Britain. Examiner – Paul Norman, University of Leeds.

Postgrad Glory Corner Cont...

Publications

Liili Abuladze and Jolanta Perek-Bialas. (2018). Measures of Ageism in the Labour Market in International Social Studies. In: Ayalon, L., & Tesch-Römer, C. (Eds), *Contemporary Perspectives on Ageism* (pp. 461-491). Springer.

Ginvera Floridi. (2018). Social policies and intergenerational support in Italy and South Korea. *Contemporary Social Science: Journal of the Academy of Social Sciences*.

Beata Osiewalska. (2018). Partners' empowerment and fertility in ten European countries. *Demographic Research* 38(49):1495-1534.

Alina Pelikh and Hill Kulu. (2017). Short- and Long-Distance Moves of Young Adults During the Transition to Adulthood in Britain. *Population, Space and Place*: e2125.

Natalia Permyakova and Sunnee Billingsley. (2017) Men's health and co-residence with older generations in Russia: better or worse? *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*. 72:179-184.

Cecilia Potente and Christiaan Monden. (2018). Disability pathways preceding death in England by socio-economic status. *Population Studies* 72(2): 175-190.

Christopher Rentsch, Georges Reniers, Chodziwadziwa Kabudula et al. (2017). Point-of-contact interactive record linkage (PIRL) between demographic surveillance and health facility data in rural Tanzania. *The International Journal of Population Data Science* 2:3..

Giacomo Vagni and Ben Cornwell. (2018). Patterns of everyday activities across social contexts. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Nele van der Wielen, Andrew Amos Channon, and Jane Falkingham. (2018). Does insurance enrolment increase healthcare utilisation among rural-dwelling older adults? Evidence from the National Health Insurance Scheme in Ghana. *BMJ Global Health* 3: e000590.

Nele van der Wielen, Andrew Amos Channon, and Jane Falkingham. (2018). Universal health coverage in the context of population ageing: What determines health insurance enrolment in rural Ghana? *BMC Public Health* 18:657.

Nele van der Wielen, Andrew Amos Channon, and Jane Falkingham. (2018). Determinants of National Health Insurance enrolment in Ghana across the life course: Are the results consistent between surveys?" *International Journal for Equity in Health* 17:49.

Notice of Advanced STATA: Programming and other techniques to make your life easier. A five day course from the Population Studies Group, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Date: Monday 5th November to Friday 9th November 2018

Cost: £1385

The course is aimed at researchers and other professionals, from any discipline, who regularly use Stata for analysis but want to learn how to work more efficiently. It would be particularly suited to those who are about to embark on large analyses.

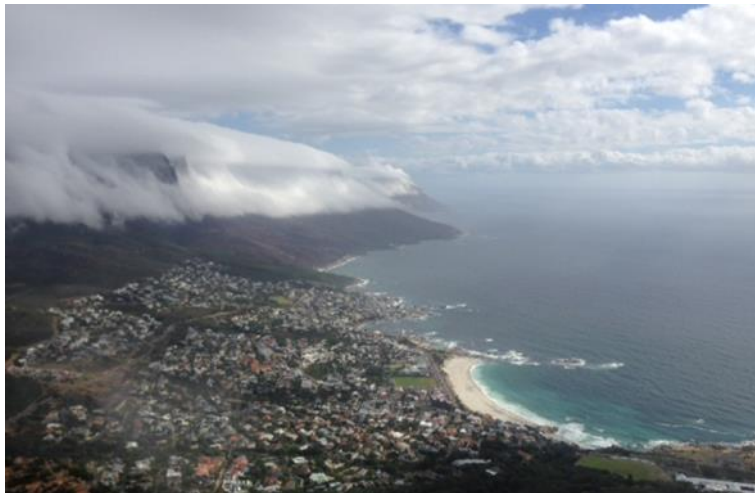
The course has run since 2008 and has been a great success. Participants have consistently commented on the excellent teaching and feedback includes "I learnt so much in such a short time", "I would recommend this course" and "This has saved me months of work". Each year we find that many people have had the course recommended by a friend or colleague.

For further details and how to apply go to: <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/short-courses/advanced-stata#overview>

IUSSP Report by Rachel Scott, LSHTM

I was the grateful recipient of a British Society for Population Studies travel bursary last year, which enabled me to travel to the 2017 International Union for the Scientific Study of Population International Population Conference in Cape Town in November. As the plane flew in over the city, I was welcomed with a view of the clouds sitting on top of Table Mountain, which I am told is known as the 'table cloth'.

As usual there was a huge amount of exciting research presented at the conference, from multiple regions, disciplines and methodological traditions. A session that stood out for me was "Critical Reflections on Demographic Concepts", chaired by Sara Randall, of (University College London), and with Ernestina Coast (London School of Economics) as discussant. The session brought together researchers from the fields of anthropology and demography, working on concepts of birth spacing, family planning use, the household, and sex. The session prompted us to think about how the measurements, definitions and conceptual framings that we use come into being and how they shape our work.



Tom Moultrie stood in for Jennifer Johnson-Hanks and presented her paper reflecting on the social and statistical norms of 'normal' sex. In it, she explores the ways in which social and statistical norms relate to each other. She illustrates this using an example from sex surveys undertaken in the US in the twentieth century. In these surveys, the statistical norms reported in the study are partly the result of the social norms and expectations of that time. However, she also demonstrated how social norms may have adjusted, following the publication of statistical norms.

Francesca Cavallaro, co-author of Diane Duclos (both London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine) presented their paper discussing birth spacing in the context of time, bodies and power relationships in Senegal. This qualitative paper explored women's and men's views on *Nef* (short birth intervals in Wolof), consider-

ing women's and children's health, forms of body control and social norms, to critically reflect on birth spacing as a demographic concept and to understand what it means when stakeholders promote birth spacing. Importantly, they showed how power relationships and assertions around social control over women's bodies that take place in discussions of birth spacing, and that social norms that stigmatise short birth intervals can legitimise and reproduce constraints on women's bodily autonomy.

Olivia Samuel (Université Versailles Saint-Quentin en Yvelines), co-author of Véronique Hertrich (INED), stimulated an interesting discussion on the conceptualisation of the 'statistical household' and how they actually correspond to the family units with which individuals identify. By examining data going back 25 years, they examined different models of family arrangements and found that the statistical household didn't adequately capture the complexity of families' economic and residential groupings. Particularly, they showed that by representing a standardised unit centred on the nuclear family, the statistical household made invisible in census statistics those family practices and living arrangements that did not fit in with this nuclear model.

Finally, Joseph Winchester Brown (The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), co-author of Aisha Dasgupta (United Nations Population Division) showed the importance of clear and unambiguous definitions of family planning uptake and use in order to show impact. Their paper described the confusion around some metrics, and how that can lead to problems in measurement.

The presentations were followed by a brilliant discussion, prompting us to think about how the measurements, definitions and conceptual framings that we use come into being and how they shape our work.

IUSSP Report by Ewa Batyra, LSE

The 28th conference of the International Union for Scientific Study of Population was held in Cape Town, South Africa from 29th October to 4th November 2017. The meeting attracted more than 2000 participants: scientists, policy makers and practitioners working on population-related issues. The topics were wide ranging – including migration, sexual and reproductive health, poverty, interaction between population and environment, ageing and many more.

The conference was organised jointly with the Statistics South Africa with Pali Lehohla serving as the President of the International Organising Committee. The conference organisation was excellent and the participants could enjoy not only 5 days of very interesting sessions, presentations and discussions, but also tasty lunches, coffee breaks with an amazing selection of muffins, evening events as well as a dinner party hosting the South African star-singer Yvonne Chaka Chaka and her band. It was to the excitement of all participants that during the conference the news was announced that the next IPC would take place in Hyderabad, India in 2021.

One of the interesting aspects about this year's IPC was that each conference day hosted an evening plenary session. Each session consisted of short presentations of experts on a given topic and aimed to bring us closer to answering important population-related questions, such as: How to strengthen the capacity of the governments to collect population data? Should borders be open in the wake of the international migration crises? What are the data challenges for reporting on the SDGs in Africa? Is very low fertility good or bad? The last plenary in particular turned out to be very interesting and resulted in a vivid discussions about the pros and cons of low fertility. Eduardo Rios-Neto from Cedeplar and Zeba Sathar from Population Council argued that low fertility comes

with a detriment to the society, focusing on aspects such as the impact of falling birth rates on the population structure and ageing. On the other hand, Eric Udjo from University of South Africa and Wendy Sigle from LSE attempted to convince the public that there might be benefits of low fertility, for example for the gender relations. Not only were the panellists' arguments intriguing but the discussion was also followed by insightful comments from the participants in the public. Based on the evidence from research and participants' personal experiences, the last hour of the plenary was filled with various perspectives on what low fertility means for families, gender and societies.

The IPC was an excellent event to learn about the latest research on population issues, it also offered



great training opportunities. Starting from workshops on social media, big data and digital demography to training on spatial demography and Bayesian population projections. The workshop conducted by Adrian Raftery and Hana Ševčíková from the University of Washington about the

population projections of the United Nations Population Division was particularly interesting. It gave participants insights into the benefits of the probabilistic approach to projecting fertility, mortality and population over the deterministic approach which was used by UN for many years. The advantage of the Bayesian population projections include aspects such as the possibility of quantifying uncertainty around the estimates of interest or the availability of methodology to the interested users in a form of R package.

The IPC was a perfectly organised conference which attendance is a must for all demographers. Apart from the scientific side of the event, there likely were few participants who also did not take the opportunity to explore the beauty of Cape Town during their trip to South Africa.

Spotlight on Research: Ginevra Floridi, LSE

I am in my third year of a PhD in Demography at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and a proud member of BSPS since my first year. My thesis is about intergenerational transfers of support and participation in paid work and informal family care among middle-aged and older people in Italy and South Korea.

The topic of my thesis was inspired by two very different factors: my interest in quantitative social science research; and the fact that, growing up in Italy in the 1990s with both parents in full-time employment, I was virtually raised by my grandparents. Having retired in their 50s, my grandparents, as many others like them, contributed to our family's welfare by acting as full-time carers in a context where formal provision of childcare services was close to non-existent. Their example emphasises the fact that, in contexts where family service provision is low, older people's contributions to society may take place predominantly within their families, rather than in the labour market.

Despite their geographical distance, by the early 2000s Italy and Korea shared some striking similarities: both populations were ageing rapidly, and both welfare states were built around the expectation that families would provide care and financial support to their dependent members.

Interestingly, since then, the two welfare systems have evolved in different directions. In Italy, generous pensions have protected the income security of those born before the 1960s, but family service provision has remained sporadic. In Korea, by contrast, the coverage of family services has expand-

ed, while the economic security of those born before the 1960s has remained low.

In my thesis, I use longitudinal data from surveys of ageing in Italy and Korea between 2005 and 2015. Comparing the two countries over this period of time allows me to explore how policies allocating resources to the older generation are reflected in older people's transfers of support with their adult children, in their labour market and informal care participation, as well as in the interactions between the two.

In the summer of 2017 I did a three-month research visit at Seoul National University in South Korea. From this experience I gained a much deeper understanding of one of the contexts I am studying – as well as some basic Korean language skills, which I am still working on!

Before starting my PhD, I completed a BSc in Economics at the University of Essex. I also hold MSc's in Population and Development and in Social Research Methods from the LSE.

My studies at the LSE have been possible thanks to scholarships from the Population Investigation Committee and from the Economic and Social Research Council, and thanks to the efforts and patience of my supervisors Professor Emily Grundy (University of Essex), Dr Benjamin Lauderdale (LSE) and, since 2017, Professor Stephen Jenkins (LSE). To get in touch, please email me at g.floridi@lse.ac.uk.

At BSPS 2018, Ginevra will be organising the posters session together with Victoria Donnalaja (LSE).



CALLS Hub Conference

University of St Andrews, March 2018

On Friday 23rd March, CALLS Hub hosted a day conference in St Andrews, Scotland. The twin aims of the event were to celebrate the work of CALLS Hub over the past 5 years, and to look to the future of the census-based Longitudinal Studies by showcasing research from early career researchers and postgraduate research students. In all thirteen presentations were given, providing a glimpse into the variety of research topics the Longitudinal Studies are useful for.

Session 1 kicked off the day with five talks on health and mortality, including startling evidence on the effect of family household moves on the mental health of young people (McCann); an investigation of the lower mortality rates of foreign-born people in England and Wales (Wallace); and research on how living near forests might make people healthier (Thomson). The second session included evidence on inequalities for young people (Duta, Xun) and a fascinating use of the Scottish Longitudinal Study [1936 Cohort](#) demonstrating how childhood cognitive function affects economic outcomes right through to age 75 (Iveson). Session 3 brought us evidence on migration and residential mobility with talks on how wellbeing in Northern Ireland is affected by living in an area which does not match your personal identity (Hyden), as well as how social mobility and ethnicity interact in England and Wales (Zuccotti). A full list of titles and abstracts from the talks are available on the CALLS Hub [blog](#).

The day was rounded off with an excellent panel discussion featuring four experts from a variety of backgrounds, both within and beyond academia: Patricia Armstrong (ACOSVO), Piers Elias (BSPS), Rob Davies (CLOSER) and Frank Sullivan (St Andrews University). This discussion raised many challenges, suggestions and opportunities around the ways we think about generating real world impact. Some key points from this discussion can be found in Piers Elias' helpful review which follows below.

If you would like to find out more about the Census-based Longitudinal Studies for Scotland, Northern Ireland or England and Wales, please visit <https://calls.ac.uk>

From Piers Elias, BSPS President

I was invited up to St Andrews on 23rd March for a conference on Longitudinal Studies (LS), something I didn't know much about. Before going I asked around a few users to find out what would be useful to help improve the take-up and use of LS data and with the end of funding for the centralised CALLS-HUB (Census & Administrative data Longitudinal Studies Hub), the conference was looking at how the individual LS Research Support Units might be best able to maximise their impact going forward.

The range of topics covered by the speakers revealed, for someone not familiar with LS, the power and breadth of this data. There were sessions on Health and Mortality, Employment and Economic Activity and Migration & Residential Mobility. Details of the presentations are available here <https://calls.ac.uk/research-blog/>

The day concluded with a discussion panel comprising Pat Armstrong, Association of Chief Officers of Scottish Voluntary Organisations, Rob Davies, Public Affairs Manager at CLOSER (Cohort & Longitudinal Studies Enhancement Resources - based at UCL), Frank Sullivan, Professor of Primary Care, St Andrews University and me, representing BSPS. Below are the key hopes on the future of the LS from each of the discussants.

Frank Sullivan: Professor of Primary Care, St Andrews University

- Collaborative work already under way amongst LSs may be encouraged by HDRUK. <https://hdruk.ac.uk/about/>
- Potential new methodologies from other disciplines.
- Funding for Training & Projects

CALLS Hub Conference (continued)

Pat Armstrong : Association of Voluntary Services, Scotland

- Better connections between the studies and the third sector organisations working in the fields that the data can make an impact on
- Finding ways to match the hard data and evidence with the stories of the people's lives that are included in the studies
- ... Thus being able to make a difference "on the ground" to people lives (e.g. by successfully gaining funding through evidence from research to allow a project to happen to address an identified need)
- Finding ways to use the data to have an impact "upstream" to enable a preventative approach
- Raising awareness, understanding and stronger links between academia and third sector organisations so there is a better "conduit" between sectors

Rob Davies, UCL Primary Care

- New commitment by the government to ensure long term sustainable funding for the UK's world-class longitudinal studies.
- Step-change in how longitudinal data is collected in the UK, including expanding to include other family members, continuous sweeps, more data linkage, use of new technology (e.g. wearables)
- Recognition that generating 'impact' requires certain skills and experience and should be seen as a core element of funding bids, not just an add on.
- Longitudinal researchers actively engaging with legislation and policymaking, including [Select Committee Inquiries](#) and the [Government Areas of Research Interest](#)
- More collaboration between studies and support units to develop a shared language and approach and a concerted effort to transform longitudinal evidence into an effective and usable form for policy and practice.

BSPS hopes for the LS's would be:

- There needs to be one form to apply to be an approved researcher and one training course available anywhere or online which then applies for data held by ONS, NRS, NISRA and UK Data Service (e.g. births cohorts, BHPS, individual mortality, etc.).
- The addition of 1961 data to enable further study on social and economic change. e.g to get some good evidence on gentrification in London.
- Remote access for all Datasets would greatly improve speed, reduce costs for researchers. So extend the current arrangements for AHS, ASHE to allow remote, secure, desktop access
- Encourage more applications via the SDAI to use the LS.
- On the one hand, we may mourning the loss of Census data and its richness, but on the other, more **regular** data from Admin Sources may be more useful, particularly if the same dates of birth can be extracted AND **larger Sample sizes** can be achieved. That may then bring in LAs.
- An invitation to all LS users to use BSPS to help promote and raise the profile of the LS.
- Lee Williamson is going to be running a workshop on "**Introducing the 3 UK Census Longitudinal Studies, including a hands-on training session**" at this year's BSPS Annual Conference in Winchester.

I would like to extend my thanks to Professor Hill Kulu for the invite and to Dr Fiona Cox for the excellent organisation and hospitality that we all enjoyed.