

**British  
Society for  
Population  
Studies**

**BSPS**

**News**

Editor: Dr Melanie Channon

The British Society for Population Studies Newsletter

## Season's Greetings

It has been a long time since the BSPS conference in Winchester and I think I speak for many of us when I say that it's time for a break.

That said, I'm lucky enough to be writing this in Kathmandu, where I attended Nepal's first summit on menstrual hygiene management (picture of me with Kusum Wagle at the summit's photo booth on the right). I've started working on menstruation relatively recently and continue to be surprised by how little work has been done. Menarche and menstruation more widely are important aspects of sexual and reproductive health, which many of us research, so why have we neglected this particular topic? Demographers and other population experts are in prime position to study this topic and yet when was the last time you saw a presentation on this at a conference or read about it in a journal? If you search for "menstruation" in conference proceedings then you will likely only find "menstrual regulation", which is completely different.

In Nepal (and many other countries) there are an enormous amount of taboos and restrictions associated with menstruation. In some cases you cannot sleep in your normal bed, cook food or even enter the kitchen, collect water, consume dairy products, go to religious ceremonies, touch male family members, eat your usual food and many more. In the west of the country women can be secluded in tiny, cold menstrual huts, a practice called *chhaupadi*. Enforcing this practice has recently become illegal, but it remains to be seen whether this will have any real effect.



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In the newsletter I'm really excited to introduce our new postgrad student rep Alyce Raybould. I'd also encourage you to take a look at the new BSPS early career award, which is an exciting opportunity to celebrate the achievements of early career demographers.

There have been a few other changes in the BSPS Council: Alan Marshall had completed his 4-year term & Gemma Quarendon resigned from Council. At the AGM, they were replaced by Ian Shuttleworth (Queen's University Belfast) and Esther Roughsedge (National Records of Scotland). A full list of

current council members is available here: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/social-policy/research/Research-clusters/british-society-for-population-studies/about>

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# New Postgraduate Student Representative: Alyce Raybould

Hi everyone, my name is Alyce and I'm currently a PhD student at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). I am also the new BSPS student representative, taking over from Alina. We all owe her a debt of thanks for all the time and hard work she has put into the role over the past 2 years, and also congratulations as she passed her viva this December!

I would like to start by thanking all of those that took part in the Early Career Mentoring session Alina and I organised at the BSPS 2018 conference. The format this year was in the style of a 'speed-dating' session where students in groups had the opportunity to speak to academics, consultants, and representatives from the ONS and local authorities. We really enjoyed experimenting with the session format, and are building on the feedback we received to make it even better for the 2019 conference.

It has been a successful few months for BSPS student members, and you can read more about their achievements below in our Postgrad 'Glory Corner'. Congratulations to six of our members who have successfully passed their vivas: **Diego Albrez-Gutierrez** (LSE), **Andreas Culora** (University of Loughborough), **Alina Pelikh** (University of Liverpool), **Natalia Permyakova** (University of Southamp-



ton), **Christopher Rentsch** (LSHTM) and **Lawrence Sacco** (KCL). Congratulations, and we wish you well in your future endeavours!

We also have publications from **Tze-Ming Mok** (LSE), **Natalia Permyakova** (University of Southampton), **Francesco Rampazzo** (University of Southampton), **Christopher Rentsch** (LSHTM) and **Anna Rybińska** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). Particular congratulations to Christopher who has published four papers in the space of three months! Tze-Ming and Natalia's work have also been featured in the media and elsewhere, so

be sure to read more about what they have been up to.

We are also featuring **Jenny Chanfreau** from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in this edition's 'student spotlight'. Jenny's work focuses on work-family life courses in the UK, how these might change over time, and how they are patterned by gender and class. She also co-founded the FemQuant group who organised a strand at the BSPS 2018 conference, and writes for the LSE *Engenderings* blog.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [alyce.raybould@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:alyce.raybould@lshtm.ac.uk) if you have any questions or concerns, or follow me on twitter @AlyceRaybould.

## Postgrad Glory Corner

### Viva survivors:

**Diego Albrez-Gutierrez** (London School of Economics) Beyond Excess Mortality: The Demographic Life of a Mayan Community after a War of Massacres.

External examiner: Manolo Vela (Universidad Iberoamericana)

Next career step: Research Scientist in the Laboratory of Digital Demography at MPIDR

**Andreas Culora** (Loughborough University) Geographies of Housing in Multiple Occupation.

External examiner: Anne Green (University of Birmingham)

Next career step: Teaching at the University of Loughborough

**Alina Pelikh** (University of Liverpool) Transition to adulthood in Britain: The analysis of life trajectories of young adults.

External examiner: Ann Berrington (University of Southampton)

Next career step: Senior Research Officer in the Policy Unit of Understanding Society at ISER

# Postgrad Glory Corner Cont.

**Natalia Permyakova** (University of Southampton) Men's health in families in Russia.

External Examiner: Martin Bobak (UCL)

Next career step: Post-doc at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Southampton, looking at cancer survivorship and later health and well-being.

**Christopher Rentsch** (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) Point-of-contact interactive record linkage between demographic surveillance and health facilities to measure patterns of HIV service utilisation in Tanzania.

External examiner: Joseph Larmarange (French Research Institute for Development)

Next career step: Joint project with LSHTM and PHE under the Electronic Health Records Theme of the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Immunisation.

**Lawrence Sacco** (Kings College London) Does employment limit the engagement in unpaid work in mid to later life? Paid Work, Informal Care, and Volunteering around the State Pension Age in Britain.

External examiners: Jenny Head (UCL) and David Blane (Imperial College London)

Next career step: Working at the Stress Research Institute, Stockholm University, examining changes in physical activity and sleep over retirement.

## Publications:

**Tze-Ming Mok** and Lucinda Platt (2018). All Look the Same? Diversity of labour market outcomes of Chinese ethnic group populations in the UK. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*

Amanda Cummings, Chloe Grimmett, Lynn Calman, Mubarak Patel, **Natalia V. Permyakova** et al. (2018). Comorbidities are associated with poorer quality of life, functioning and worse symptoms in the 5 years following colorectal cancer surgery: Results from the ColoREctal Wellbeing (CREW) cohort study. *Psycho-Oncology* 27

Maria Rita Testa and **Francesco Rampazzo** (2018) From intentions to births: Paths of realization in a multi-dimensional life course perspective. *Vienna Yearbook of Population Research* 16

**Christopher T. Rentsch**, Katie Harron, Mark Urassa, Jim Todd, Georges Reniers, Basia Żaba (2018) Impact of linkage quality on inferences drawn from analyses using data with high rates of linkage errors in rural Tanzania. *BMC Med Res Meth* 18:165

**Christopher T. Rentsch**, Georges Reniers, Richard Machemba, Emma Slaymaker, Milly Marston, Alison Wringe, Jeffrey W. Eaton, Annabelle Gourlay, Brian Rice, Chodziwadziwa W. Kabudula, et al. (2018) Non-disclosure of HIV testing history in population-based surveys: implications for estimating a UNAIDS 90-90-90 target. *Global Health Action* 11:1

**Christopher T. Rentsch**, Alison Wringe, Richard Machemba, Denna Michael, Mark Urassa, Jim Todd, Georges Reniers, and Basia Żaba (2018) Linkage to care and antiretroviral therapy initiation by testing modality among individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in Tanzania, 2014-2017. *Tropical Medicine & International Health* 23:12

**Christopher T. Rentsch**, Chodziwadziwa W. Kabudula, Jason Catlett, David Beckles, Richard Machemba, Baltazar Mtenga, Nkosinathi Masilela, Denna Michael, Redempta Natalis, Mark Urassa, et al. (2018) Point-of-contact Interactive Record Linkage (PIRL): A software tool to prospectively link demographic surveillance and health facility data [version 2; referees: 2 approved]. *Gates Open Research*; 1:8

**Anna Rybińska** and S. Philip Morgan (2018) Childless Expectations and Childlessness Over the Life Course. *Social Forces*.

## Media contact / other:

**Tze-Ming Mok** was in the news in New Zealand, Australia & Hong Kong, about an open letter on academic freedom she organised, in light of alleged intimidation of a New Zealand academic who has been critical of Chinese government's overseas influence campaigns.

**Natalia Permyakova** was featured in the CPC newsletter 'PhD Spotlight'.

# 2018 BSPS Conference Report

BSPS 2018 was Winchester again, a venue which had always exceeded expectations on the previous two occasions that the annual conference had been held there. Whilst the sun shone, sessions themselves were again reported as being high-quality, and the facilities around the sessions were as good as ever, the catering for evening meals in particular disappointed. BSPS will be earmarking this area for special attention at future conferences.

In 2018, BSPS welcomed the participation of the Netherland Demographic Society (NVD). Members of NVD organised two of the sessions and arranged the opening day plenary. BSPS is particularly grateful to Leo van Wissen for facilitating this initiative.

Nevertheless, over the course of the two days, 162 submitted papers were presented across six simultaneous sessions. Additionally, there were training sessions on Popgroup, the three UK Census Longitudinal Studies, and an introduction to handling large datasets in *R*. An early career mentoring session in a speed dating format proved very popular. The usual lively poster session saw joint winners. The student poster prize went to Rishita Nandagiri from LSE, for *"They Know everything" the role of Community Health Workers in abortion access* and the senior prize went to Dariya Ordanovic from ESRI Spain, Diego Ramiro-Fariñas from the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) & Francisco Viciano from Junta de Andalucía for *Spatial variations in mortality due to heat waves in southern Spain*, a very topical subject.

Abstracts of all papers presented can be found on the BSPS website at:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/social-policy/research/Research-clusters/british-society-for-population-studies/annual-conference>

and click on the 2018 Conference link.

Plenary sessions were from Professor Renske Keizer (Erasmus University) & Professor Danny Dorling (University of Oxford). Reports of these plenaries follow:

**Plenary 1: Professor Renske Keizer (Erasmus University) - Father's role in the development of children's diverging destinies: families, inequality and social policies**

Professor Renske Keizer delivered the first plenary session of this year's conference with a presentation titled "Father's role in the development of children's diverging destinies".

In her presentation Professor Keizer outlined the research interest in the role of the father in the inter-generational transmission of inequality with illustrative examples from her ongoing study of parent-child play in the Dutch context. Professor Keizer opened her talk with the example of the income gap in children's standardised reading scores and noting that research interested in the intergenerational transmission of these differences has tend to focus on role of mother, but with the scarce evidence available on the role of the father suggesting an even larger educational gradient for fathers than for mothers. She pointed out that the scarcity of evidence is startling considering father involvement has become more polarised by social class, suggesting that fathers (can) play a substantial role in development of children's diverging destinies. Professor Keizer further argued that understanding the role of father involvement in the process of intergenerational transmission could inform policies aimed at weakening the intergenerational transmission of social inequalities.

Research interest in fatherhood is relatively recent (since the 1960s/1970s). Professor Keizer argued that traditionally research had seen mothers as the main carer of children and fathers primarily as the family provider, with the associated assumption that fathers would be less reliable sources of research information regarding their children. Two societal developments explain the more recent increase in attention to fatherhood. Firstly, the increase in divorce rates and the related concern about the difference in child outcomes between 'intact' and 'fatherless' families. This meant that more researchers interested in the outcomes of children of separated parents began to include fathers with shared care or contact in their research design and data collection. Secondly, the increase in women's employment outside the home has led to increased societal acceptance of involved fatherhood.

Professor Keizer noted that her study's research interest is not only in documenting child outcomes but

## 2018 BSPS Conference Report Cont.

also in understanding the mechanisms underlying the influence of involved fatherhood on child development. She highlighted four mechanisms of how fathers influence their children's development, interacting in ways that were different from mothers. These were: 1) 'rough and tumble' physical play, 2) socialization, 3) signalling danger, and 4) language. As examples, she mentioned that while mothers tend to engage in imaginary play with their children, fathers tend to engage in more physical play, and that fathers tend to use more advanced language in speaking to their children than do mothers (more complex sentences, posing open questions etc). However, Professor Keizer stressed that it is difficult to disentangle whether these are sex, gender or role differences. In addition, while evidence suggests that father involvement is linked with positive child development there are strong selectivity effects with increasing polarisation as higher educated parents tend to have more stable relationships and careers, while those with lower levels of education have higher divorce/separation rates and more precarious employment, which can constrain the time available for father-child interaction. Thus, the benefits from father involvement in parenting might have increasingly become a higher social class privilege.

In the final part of her presentation, Professor Keizer showed some illustrative video clips examples from her own ongoing research focused on the role of play in transmission of inequality. The research involved observations of parent-child interactions as well as questionnaires with a total of 100 families with children aged 3 years old in the Netherlands, including both higher and lower educated parents. Showing three video clips from the study, each of a parent who had been instructed by the researcher to play with their child without using toys, Professor Keizer highlighted both the gender and the social class differences found in the study. While in the first clip, a highly educated mother suggested a game of hide and seek with her child, in the clips of father interactions both the more highly educated father and the father with lower levels of education engaged in very similar physical 'rough & tumble' play. Based on the observational data, Professor Keizer suggested that

the social class differences were smaller than might have been expected from the literature, but that the questionnaire and interview data suggested that the frequency of such father-child interactions was higher among the higher educated. Highlighting that in the Dutch policy context where the 1.5-earner model is common, the relatively short parental and paternity leave, and with parental leave not arranged by law but by collective agreements and largely unpaid, Dutch policy increases social class differences in time spent on involved fathering, because not all can afford to take leave in order to be (more) involved. Professor Keizer concluded that while the social context for parenting/ father involvement differ between countries, the conclusion from the talk was that the policy challenge is to create attractive policy measures for lower income families which encourage father involvement in order to potentially weaken the intergenerational transmission of social inequalities.

### **Plenary 2: Linking mortality to the past: solving the geographical problems– Professor Danny Dorling (University of Oxford)**

A sizable audience assembled on Tuesday 11 September to listen to Professor Danny Dorling give his plenary titled "Linking mortality to the past - solving the geographical problems".

BSPS President Piers Elias introduced Prof. Dorling, highlighting achievements including writing over a dozen books and his association with the spatial presentation of data. As the talk was revisiting a presentation Dorling made at the 1994 BSPS Annual Conference, the audience were asked whether they had been present in Durham 24 years ago and it appeared that a select number had.

From the outset, Dorling acknowledged that he would not be directly answering the questions set out in his abstract regarding UK and sub-national mortality rates. Instead his 2018 talk would be aiming to reach out to an early career researcher like he was in 1994: a person who would engage with the issues outlined and continue to build on existing research in this field. He also took time to acknowledge the contributions made by several researchers to re-

## 2018 BSPS Conference Report Cont.

cent research projects he had worked on.

Throughout the talk, audience members were invited to consider thought-provoking graphs, charts and images. Dorling first focussed on issues surrounding caring, support and possible contributions to mortality and showed the audience a graph comparing the Local Authority District life expectancy gap during the time of the recent Labour government to today's government. Dorling suggested a sequence of events had taken place from the late 2000s onwards that had an impact on this, including the cutting of support for older and disabled people. He also asserted that if an institution blames flu, as was done between December 1952-March 1953, they tend to continue to use it as an excuse and contrasted the blaming of flu from 2013-March 2018 with a chart of known flu epidemics from 1969/70-1999/00.

At the same time as the referendum on whether the United Kingdom should leave the European Union was taking place, Office for National Statistics released their annual mid-year estimates and Dorling commented that no-one noticed that 52,000 more people had died, asserting that whilst death certificates increasingly record the cause of death as de-

mentia and Alzheimer's, flu is recorded less often.

Dorling also turned his attention to infant mortality rates, noting that whilst Scotland now has a lower infant mortality rate than England, the UK as a whole has dropped in the neonatal mortality rankings of European Union countries from a rank of 7 in 1990 to 19 in 2015. He suggested a need to look at the provision of midwives and maternity services and noted that at present around 30% of midwives in London are European Union but not UK citizens.

After touching upon the impact public transport and infrastructure can have upon public health, Dorling stated that he thought that in the future we'll look back on this period and the issues he had discussed like we do employment in the 1980s and will question the regional variation in health outcomes and mortality rates.

***Thanks to Jenny Chanfreau (LSE) and Sarah Garlick (University of Liverpool) for the plenary reports. Thanks are also due to the Galton Institute, who again awarded a grant to BSPS which helped to defray some of the Conference expenses. As ever, BSPS is very grateful to them.***

## An Undergraduate View of the 2018 BSPS Conference

Attending the BSPS conference at the University of Winchester was an eye-opening experience for undergraduate students such as ourselves. It presented a fantastic opportunity to meet and—when we were feeling brave enough—converse with academics from various institutions. Some postgraduate students and lecturers we know from the University of Southampton were also at the conference, chairing sessions and presenting their research. It was very exciting to see them 'in action'.

The theme of the conference was Demography, Inequality and Social Policy. Within this theme there were a wide range of sessions and presentations to attend, indicative of the various ways in which one subject area can be explored. Many of the presentations linked to our chosen dissertation topics. Some of the surveys from which data sets were obtained were new to us, as were the methods used for analysis. This has allowed us to explore data sources that we would not have considered otherwise. Moreover, we were able to take notes from the different sessions which have since acted as a springboard for further idea development.

Another aspect of the conference we found particularly insightful was the poster session. This demonstrated the various ways of approaching such a task as each poster was unique in both content and layout.

We would like to thank the organisers of the BSPS conference who were warm and welcoming – we were reasonably nervous and this helped us to settle in. Also, we would like to thank Dr. Claire Bailey for enabling us to attend the conference. It was an experience that we will look back on with much gratitude for years to come.

***By Alice Meen and Sara Stewart, BSc Population and Geography, University of Southampton***

# Spotlight on Research: Jenny Chanfreau, Department of Gender Studies, LSE

I'm in the final year of my PhD at the Department of Gender Studies at the London School of Economics & Political Sciences, where I'm supervised by Prof Wendy Sigle. My thesis investigates work-family life courses in the UK, how these are patterned by gender and class and how they might have changed over time.

I use UK survey data to look at these work-family life courses in different ways and I'm especially interested in the seeming contradiction between, on the one hand, the substantial amount of change that has taken place in recent decades in terms of family formation and women's participation in the labour market and, on the other hand, the persistence in gender inequalities both on the labour market and in families.

The first empirical part of my project compares cohorts to explore whether the gender convergence observed in some labour market outcomes may be in part attributable to the postponement of fertility, how this differs by level of education, and the implications of that for interpretations of reductions in gender inequality over time. I then focus specifically on change over time in the distribution of cohort fertility in the second analytical part of my thesis. In particular, the analysis explores whether concentration and polarisation of childbearing among women and among men has changed over a period of educational expansion in the UK. Through this focus I re-frame the issue of changing fertility patterns by thinking about the distribution of fertility at the macro level through a division of (reproductive) labour lens. In the final empirical part of my project, I investigate the distri-

bution of paid and unpaid work within different-sex couples with young children, with a focus on partner age-difference.

My whole project is underpinned by my commitment to feminist research using quantitative methods, which I have reflected on in a blogpost on the LSE *Engenderings* blog (<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/engenderings/>)

[2017/10/10/why-feminism-on-quantitative-analysis-and-divergent-understandings-of-gender/](http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/engenderings/2017/10/10/why-feminism-on-quantitative-analysis-and-divergent-understandings-of-gender/)). Along with Dr Rose Cook I co-found FemQuant, a network of researchers from across the social sciences interested in feminist quantitative methods. FemQuant held its inaugural one-day conference in 2017 and this year organised a paper stream at the BSPS annual conference. Between conferences FemQuant can be found on Twitter ([twitter.com/femquant](https://twitter.com/femquant)).

Prior to returning to academia for my PhD studies, I worked at NatCen Social Research where I was primarily responsible for survey data analysis on projects related to employment, poverty and welfare, and families, children and care. I also hold an MSc in Social Policy (Research) from the LSE. My PhD research is funded by the Economic & Social Research Council.

For more information about my research please email me: [j.c.chanfreau@lse.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.chanfreau@lse.ac.uk) or follow me on Twitter.



## NEW BSPS EARLY CAREER AWARD

The British Society for Population Studies is delighted to announce that it has opened nominations for a New Investigator Award. This is a new scheme aimed at highlighting the achievements of those towards the start of their careers and who have the potential to make a significant contribution to population studies. Any BSPS member, whether in an academic or non-academic role, who is within 5 years of the start of their career is eligible to be nominated (this is equivalent to 5 years full-time postdoctoral or equivalent work experience, so that nominees may be longer than 5 years into their work experience if they have worked part-time, taken periods of leave, or changed career). Candidates should be nominated and seconded by BSPS members, using the New Investigator Nomination Form. The prize is an expenses-paid opportunity to give a plenary presentation at the annual BSPS conference, held in September each year. For more information: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/social-policy/research/Research-clusters/british-society-for-population-studies/news>

### **BSPS Dissertation Prize 2018 - Announcement of joint winners**

The BSPS Dissertation Prize is awarded annually for the entry considered to be the best Master's dissertation on a demographic topic from the previous year. In 2018, the joint winners were:

**Measuring socio-economic change: a longitudinal geodemographic study - Gordon McLachlan (University of Leeds)** . “An impressive piece of work capturing changes in neighbourhoods’ social profile over time, 1991-2011 in England and Wales. The quantity (and quality) of work required to create a reliable time series of data on area characteristics is hugely valuable. “

**Young women who have abortions: an investigation of associated factors in Great Britain from 1990 to 2012 - Rebecca Musgrove - London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.** “An excellent and innovative study tackling a surprising research gap – conceptions, abortions and births among young women up to age 25.”

### **BSPS Low and Middle Income Countries Initiative 2019: Call for proposals**

The BSPS Low and Middle Income Countries Initiative has reserved up to £2,000 per annum for activities that encourage collaboration between population demographers in the UK and low and middle income countries. This initiative sponsors an annual visit by a demographer from a low or middle income country who gives a presentation at the BSPS Conference, where they also get the opportunity to meet and develop contacts with UK demographers. The overall aim is to encourage long-term collaboration and joint projects, and it is anticipated that contacts will already exist between the person to be funded, and a UK institution or UK demographers. For more information: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/social-policy/research/Research-clusters/british-society-for-population-studies/news>

**Deadline: FRIDAY 18 JANUARY 2019**