

UK Census Longitudinal Studies

Session convenor: Dr. Ian Shuttleworth (Queen's University Belfast)

11.30am Wednesday 7 September

Linking 2021 Census data to the ONS Longitudinal Study

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The ONS Longitudinal Study (LS) contains linked census and life event data for 1% of the population of England and Wales. Information is linked from five successive censuses (1971 to 2011) and life events data, including birth, death and cancer registrations. Once every 10 years we have the opportunity to add Census data to our already rich data source. Linking the 2021 Census to the Longitudinal Study marks the addition of the 6th Census point, creating a 50 year period. The ONS Longitudinal Study team aim to discuss the Census linkage project, creating the new LS research database and opportunities for getting involved and gaining early access to the data.

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The ONS Longitudinal Study: Research highlights from 2011 linked data and what to expect for the 2021 linked data

Nicola Shelton, CeLSIUS University College London

The linked 2021 Census data from the ONS Longitudinal Study (the LS), will be available in 2023. This paper will provide an introduction to the LS and highlight some research impact that has been achieved previously through using this data. It will also highlight the new questions added to the 2021 Census and the process for applications to beta test the new linkage and to use the data more widely. The LS is a 1% sample of individuals in the England and Wales Censuses. They share one of four birthdays. The data has been linked since 1971 and anyone born or arriving in England and Wales who has these birthdates is added to the data set. The data set is linked to cause specific mortality and cancer registrations. In 2021 new voluntary questions have been added for adults aged 16+ about sexual orientation and gender identity. There is also a new question asking about service in the UK Armed Forces. Almost all the topics asked about in 2011 have appeared again in 2021, although the way in which some questions were asked has changed. For example, the ethnicity question included a new tick-box for people of Roma ethnicity, alongside the existing 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' tick-box. The beta test procedure will have a set of applications to use the data before wider launch. These will be supported by CeLSIUS (www.ucl.ac.uk/celsius) and ONS. Applicants wanting to use the data should gain Approved Researcher status if they have not already done so.

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Household transitions and mortality among older people in England & Wales: Evidence from the Office for National Statistics Longitudinal Study (ONS LS)

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The provision and funding of long-term care is a long-standing subject of enquiry and investigation. Policy changes influencing care home availability and affordability were found to correlate with whether older people entered care homes versus living with relatives between 1971-2001. In this paper we will update this work using contemporary data. Using data from the ONS LS and a cross-sequential study design, we will examine the socioeconomic factors associated with differentials in transitions from private households at baseline to residence in a care home or living with relatives ten years later. Two cohorts of people aged 65+ at baseline in 1991 and 2001 censuses will be selected as Cohort 1 and Cohort 2, respectively. Mortality events subsequent to end of decade will provide evidence regarding the relative health implications of these transitions. Multinomial regression estimates for the period 1991-2001 showed that being female, unmarried, non-owner

occupier, living with relatives at the start of the decade were associated with increased risks of transitioning into institutions after ten years, versus solitary/couple alone as reference. Those residing in institutions at the end of the decade were more likely to die during follow-up (4.5 years): their incidence rate ratios (IRR) were ~2.8 compared with referent group of solitary living/couple alone in both women (95% CI 2.7 to 3.0) and men (2.5 to 3.1); tenants had ~20% higher IR compared to owner occupiers in both genders. Cohort 2 results will be added for comparison along with discussion in context of policy changes.

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The Irish Language in Northern Ireland: Who lost, gained, and retained knowledge of Irish between 2001 and 2011?

John Hughes¹, Estelle Lowry², Ian Shuttleworth²; ¹NISRA, ²Geography, Queen's University Belfast

The UK Census Longitudinal Studies (UK CenLS) have been a rich resource for the social science community and, especially, for health and migration researchers. However, the UK CenLS have a much wider potential that has not yet been fully realised. They have seldom been used, for instance, to describe and to analyse language change. This presentation therefore shows how the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS) can be used to examine the individual, household, and geographical correlates for the knowledge of (a) Irish in 2011 and (b) the predictors of losing, gaining, or retaining knowledge of Irish between 2001 and 2011. The analyses suggest that besides the leading role played by individual religion and national identity that household context and life stage are very important as are changes in individual self-identification. The presentation looks forward to the arrival of the 2021 linked Census data and the opportunities for extending the research further.

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