

BSPS MEETINGS

Wednesday 6 July

BSPS AGM and Day Meeting – preliminary announcement

The 2005 BSPS AGM will be held in the Graham Wallas Room at the London School of Economics. Probable start time – 10.30am.

To be followed by a day meeting:

Recent developments in ethnic demography

The organiser of this meeting is Baljit Bains – baljit.bains@london.gov.uk to whom offers of relevant papers and assistance should be sent

12-14 September 2005

BSPS Conference 2005 – Call for Papers

British Society for Population Studies Annual Conference 2005 – The University of Kent at Canterbury.

The plenary theme of the Conference will be **Intergenerational Relations**. Plenary speakers are confirmed as Professor Ron Lee (University of California at Berkeley), Professor Emily Grundy (Centre for Population Studies, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine), and Alison O'Connell (Pensions Policy Institute).

Papers for conference strands are invited across the demographic subject spectrum. Papers on topics related to the **plenary theme** would be very welcome, but are also specifically invited on fertility, local government, local planning and census issues, household projections, health inequalities, mortality, population ageing, migrant populations, ethnicity, and internal and international migration, historical demography, reproductive health, evolutionary demography, methods (qualitative and quantitative) and models. If you wish to submit a paper that does not appear to fall into any of the listed strands, please submit either to the strand organiser that you think most appropriate, or to Mike Murphy or John Hollis – see strand organisers' list for details. If accepted, the paper will be slotted into an appropriate strand. Posters are also invited for the poster session, and will be displayed throughout the Conference.

Preliminary abstracts of papers – which can be in the form of a declaration of intent – of up to 250 words, plus a provisional title, should be submitted by **30 April 2005** to strand organisers as follows:

Ageing & intergenerational relations -

Cecilia Tomassini
Office for National Statistics
Room B6/02
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ
Email: cecilia.tomassini@lshtm.ac.uk

Evolutionary demography

Rebecca Sear
Department of Social Policy
London School of Economics
Houghton Street
London WC2A 2AE
Email: R.Sear@lse.ac.uk
Fax 020 7955 7415

Fertility

Steve Smallwood
Office for National Statistics
Room B6/04
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ
Email: Steve.Smallwood@ons.gov.uk
Fax 020 7533 5103

Health Inequalities -

Nicola Shelton
Dept. of Epidemiology & Public Health
University College London
1-19 Torrington Place
London WC1E 6BT
Email: n.shelton@public-health.ucl.ac.uk
Fax 020 7813 0280

or

Paula Griffiths
Department of Human Sciences
Loughborough University
Loughborough LE11 3TU
Email: P.Griffiths@lboro.ac.uk
Fax 01509 228486

Historical -

Eilidh Garrett
63 Barncliffe Crescent
Lodge Moor
Sheffield S10 4DB
Email: eilidh.garrett@btinternet.com

Local government, local planning, household projections & census issues

John Hollis
Greater London Authority
Data Management & Analysis Group
City Hall (5 East)
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA
Email: john.hollis@london.gov.uk
Fax 020 7983 4057 (phone first -020 7983 4604)

or

Cheng Yong Lee
Strategic Planning Intelligence Group
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone ME14 1XX
Email: yong.lee@kent.gov.uk
Fax 01622 221632

Migration, population distribution & ethnicity

Tony Champion
Department of Geography
University of Newcastle
Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 7RU
Email: Tony.Champion@newcastle.ac.uk
Fax 0191 222 5421

Mortality

Mike Murphy
Department of Social Policy
London School of Economics
Houghton Street
London WC2A 2AE
Email: M.Murphy@lse.ac.uk
Fax 020 7955 6833

Posters -

Dan Vickers
Room 101A
School of Geography
University of Leeds
Leeds LS2 9JT
Email: d.vickers@geog.leeds.ac.uk
Fax 0113 34 33308

Reproductive health -

Mhairi Gibson
Department of Anthropology
University College London
Gower Street
London WC1E 6BT
Email: Mhairi.Gibson@ucl.ac.uk
Fax 020 7679 7729

Please do not submit the same paper to more than one strand!
Strand organisers may reallocate papers to another strand, if appropriate, but potential presenters will be advised.

Notes:

A maximum of two papers per author, please. Strand organisers will confirm that submissions have been received. Notice of provisional programme will follow in May.

An abstract of approximately 250 words will be required for the Conference programme, by **30 June 2005**. Presenters of papers will also be asked to register for Conference before the paper is finally accepted and included in the programme.

Please note that attendance at the Conference cannot be subsidised by the BSPS, except where student bursaries are granted (student members presenting papers or posters only).

BSPS Conference - Student Bursaries

Bursaries will be available to BSPS student members who are presenting papers or posters at the Conference. These are expected to cover the costs of registration and accommodation, together with an allowance for travel **in the UK only** (the BSPS cannot cover the cost of international travel). **As the number of bursaries available may be limited, applications must be received at the Secretariat by 30 April 2005**. Please apply by email or by post to:

BSPS Secretariat, PS201, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. Email: pic@lse.ac.uk
Phone 020 7955 7666. Fax 020 7955 6831

BSPS Conference - Poster Competition

As in 2004, there will be a prize of £100 in book tokens for the poster judged to be the best by the invited judges, who will be announced later. All posters accepted for the Conference will be entered automatically in the poster competition.

Tuesday 26 April 2005

Preliminary notice of forthcoming joint day meeting

The consequences of later and lower fertility at the BT Conference Centre, London

A joint BSPS/International Longevity Centre UK meeting

A full programme and timetable, together with booking details, will be sent to members shortly, as soon as the arrangements are complete. The aim of the conference will be to look at:

- Low fertility, the current situation and likely future position.
- What are current European government views on low fertility and do policy interventions work?
- The changing role of the family and the state
- Causes and consequences of lower and later fertility.

The meeting will bring together demographers, policy analysts, as well as interested parties from the public and private sectors. The main focus of the conference will be the UK and Europe.

Confirmed speakers:

Paul Boyle, Emily Grundy and Cecilia Tomassini, Linda Hantrais, Tomas Sobotka.

Meeting organisers: Mike Murphy (M.Murphy@lse.ac.uk) and Steve Smallwood (Steve.Smallwood@ons.gov.uk)

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NOTICES

BSPS Council vacancies from July 2005

From July 2005, there will be three vacancies on Council, as Ann Berrington, Karen Glaser, and Tony Champion will have completed their four-year terms and must be replaced. Nominations for the Council vacancies are invited from BSPS members, seconded by another member, who must ensure that the person they are nominating is willing to serve on Council for a four year term. Prospective Council members should also be aware that all Council members are charity trustees of the BSPS and the implications of this (new Council members will receive a full briefing on appointment, but any queries as to the responsibilities of charity trustees should be sent to the Secretariat, who will be happy to advise). **Please send nominations, as soon as possible, either to the Secretariat (pic@lse.ac.uk), the President, Mike Murphy (M.Murphy@lse.ac.uk) or the Vice-President, John Hollis (John.Hollis@london.gov.uk).**

As of July, Mike Murphy will have served his two year term as President, and the Vice-President, John Hollis, will become President for two years. Nominations for a new Vice-President are, therefore, also required. In the event that more than one nomination and seconding of this nomination are received, an election would be required under the terms of the BSPS Constitution. Nominations for Vice-President should be sent to either Mike Murphy or John Hollis.

Arjan Gjonca will resign as BSPS Hon. Secretary in July, and nominations with seconders are also invited for this honorary role. Please send as for Council members, either to the Secretariat, Mike Murphy or John Hollis

For all vacancies, candidates who are prepared to organise or contribute to the organization of day meetings are particularly welcome. As are candidates from all the different interest groups that are represented in the BSPS.

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BSPS Prize 2005

Entries are invited for the 2005 BSPS Prize. This is awarded to the entry judged to be the best MSc. dissertation on a demographic topic during the year 2004 (which would normally be at or around distinction level). Applicants should supply four copies of their dissertation, which do not need to be bound – electronic submissions can also be accepted. The prize, of £200 worth of book tokens, will be announced and presented at the Annual Conference. Submissions may be made directly by the

entrant, or by the supervising academic.

For the purposes of this prize, demography is defined as

1. the scientific study of human populations, especially with reference to their size, structure and distribution
2. the scientific study of the determining processes, such as fertility, mortality and migration, and
3. the relationship of these with the social, economic and cultural context within which they exist.

Entries should be received by 31 May 2005 at the BSPS Secretariat, PS201, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE, or pic@lse.ac.uk

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ANNOUNCEMENT

PLAN TO ATTEND IUSSP CONFERENCE IN FRANCE THIS SUMMER

Preparations for the IUSSP XXV International Population Conference that will be held in Tours, France, from 18 to 23 July 2005 are well advanced. The IUSSP expects over 1400 scholars from different countries to attend. There will be 162 scientific paper sessions and over 500 posters in addition to 16 sessions on the demography of Europe, 4 plenary sessions, 4 skill-building sessions, and a General Assembly meeting of IUSSP members. The preliminary scientific program will be available on the Conference website soon and no later than April 15, 2005. (The program will be posted at <http://iussp2005.princeton.edu>) The IUSSP plans to post Conference papers on its website and include them in a CD-Rom that will be distributed to participants at the Conference. After April 15, 2005, registration fees increase so register now and book your air travel soon to beat the summer price hikes. Become an IUSSP member and you will pay reduced registration fees. For further information on registration, accommodation, IUSSP membership and other Conference details, please visit the IUSSP Conference website at <http://www.iussp.org/France2005/index.php>.

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BSPS Bursaries for 2005 IUSSP Conference

The BSPS will grant a maximum of five bursaries of up to £350 each towards the cost of attending the 2005 IUSSP Conference in Tours. These special bursaries are in addition to the standard international travel grants (see details and application form on the BSPS website for standard international travel grant information and application form). The conditions for the IUSSP bursaries are:

1. Limited to a maximum of five bursaries.
2. Preference will be given to student members presenting papers, followed by student members presenting posters, but non-students are also eligible
3. Preference will be given to applicants who have not received a BSPS international travel grant in the last two years.
4. As far as is practical, awards will be spread between institutions

5. **Closing date for applications is 31 March 2005.** The BSPS cannot be responsible for applications which fail to arrive by the closing date – all applications will be acknowledged.
6. The decision of the BSPS Council sub-committee supervising these awards will be final.

Applications to the Secretariat by 31 March, using the international travel grant form available on the BSPS website, or from the Secretariat. The application form should clearly state that an IUSSP special bursary is being requested. BSPS Secretariat, PS201, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London Wc2A 2AE. Email: pic@lse.ac.uk Phone 020 7955 7666. Fax 020 7955 6831

BSPS Newsletter – Call for contributions and feedback

Extra material for BSPS Newsletters is solicited. The BSPS Council invites the submission of original articles, informal articles and columns likely to be of interest to members. **Council would also very much like feedback from members on the kind of additional material that they would like to see in the BSPS Newsletters. Any ideas would be appreciated.**

Initially, Council would like to introduce two new features into future Newsletters

1. Members' recent publications listing. This could also be expanded to include new books which members have found interesting (why not write a review?)
2. New developments in demography and new centres where demographic work is being carried out. (See other Newsletter item about listing of demographic studies in the UK).

It has also been suggested that the Newsletter might have a guest editor from time to time. Would anyone be interested in trying this out? As you know, the Newsletter is published quarterly at the moment.

A "Meet the BSPS Council" feature has been mooted – we are working on this!

Please send suggestions and contributions to the Newsletter editor Lynda Clarke – lynda.clarke@lshtm.ac.uk, with a copy to the Secretariat – pic@lse.ac.uk who will initially compile suggestions, contributions, and the various proposed listings.

Forthcoming vacancy for BSPS postgraduate student rep

The current BSPS postgraduate rep, Dan Vickers, intends to resign in the summer, by which time he hopes to no longer be a postgraduate. The BSPS is very grateful to him for his commitment and efforts as postgraduate rep.

A new BSPS postgraduate student rep will, therefore, need to be appointed and nominations or volunteers are invited. The

postgraduate student rep attends Council meetings, but is not a BSPS charity trustee. It is becoming traditional for the rep to be the organiser of the poster strand at Conference, but this is not a requirement for the role. They would also be responsible for the content of the postgraduate pages on the BSPS website.

Please note that a first or second year postgraduate student would be preferred, as current third year students are likely to be completing their courses at the same time as Dan, and they will not then be eligible.

Nominations or volunteers to Dan Vickers, please – d.vickers@geog.leeds.ac.uk

BSPS 2005 membership subscription reminder

Thanks to all those who have already sent their 2005 membership dues, and those who pay by standing order. Anyone who would like to pay by standing order in future should request a standing order form from the Secretariat.

To those who have not yet sent their 2005 membership payment, please do so as soon as possible! A reminder that annual membership rates are as follows:

Full member -	£25.00
Country member – defined as those living outside the Network SouthEast rail area, plus overseas members.	£20.00
Student members -	£7.50
Retired members – retired from paid employment	£7.50
Members in less economically developed countries	£7.50
Also, a reminder that a lifetime retired membership is now available for a one-off payment of	£75.00

The membership renewal form is available for downloading from the BSPS website as a PDF – www.bsps.org.uk. Or contact the Secretariat, to whom all membership payments should be sent: BSPS Secretariat, PS201, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. pic@lse.ac.uk

Demographic studies in the UK

The BSPS website at www.bsps.org.uk has a page listing centres of demography in the UK. This may well need updating by now, and the Secretariat would be grateful for any additions to the list.

In addition, Council would like to extend their resources data base to include all academic institutions in the UK running **degree courses at any level that include demographic modules.** This would contribute to Council's aim of building up a full picture of the current state of demographic training in the UK.

Please send this information to the Secretariat at pic@lse.ac.uk

Centre for Longitudinal Studies

The February 2005 issue of *kô hört*, the CLS cohort studies

newsletter can now be downloaded in .PDF format via the Institute of Education website:

<http://www.ioe.ac.uk/bedfordgroup/cls/kohort/feb05.pdf>

Back issues of the newsletter can be found at www.ioe.ac.uk/bedfordgroup/cls/kohort

If you have any comments on this issue or wish to contribute to future issues please feel free to contact me by email (rc@cls.ioe.ac.uk) or phone (+44 020 7612 6755). The deadline for contributions for the May 2005 issue is **Friday 8th April 2005**.

If you are using NCDS, BCS70 or MCS data in your work please remember to notify us of **all** your publications, by completing and returning the form at the end of the newsletter. As well as helping to minimize the risk of unnecessary duplication, these details are an important outcome indicator, ensuring the future continuation of the cohort studies.

CALL FOR PAPERS

**POPFEST 2005 at Queen's University Belfast
22-24 June 2005**

Website: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/c-star/popfest.html>

PopFest is a demography conference organised by postgraduates for postgraduates. It aims to provide a relaxed, supportive setting for students to come together to present work and discuss ideas. The conference transcends disciplinary boundaries and is an ideal forum for all postgraduates regardless of their stage of research. In the past PopFest has proved invaluable as a spring board for junior researchers and many of last years delegates went on to present their work at international conferences.

Abstracts for both oral and poster presentations of around 250 words are welcomed. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is Wednesday 20th April 2005

Abstracts should be sent to s.lavery@qub.ac.uk

Alternatively post to: Stuart Lavery, Popfest, School of Geography, Queens University Belfast, BT71NN

**Population Geography Research Group Spring
Conference**

**'Population Policies, Institutions and Changing
Distributions'**

**30-31 March 2005, School of Geography,
University of Wales Swansea**

Call for Papers:

Abstracts welcome on any topics of relevance to population geography. Further details below. Please send titles and abstracts of papers to Darren Smith (D.Smith@Brighton.ac.uk) by February 15th 2005.

Travel Grants: A number of Travel Grants of up to £120 each are available to enable postgraduates, contract staff and unwaged to attend the Swansea conference. Applications for travel grants must be submitted by 18th February 2005. For further details and an application form, contact Caitriona (c.nilaoire@ucc.ie). Please pass this notice on to any postgraduates, contract staff, etc, in your department, who might be interested.

Conference Registration: The submission date for registration for conference attendance has been put back to 28th February 2004. Contact Darren Smith (D.Smith@brighton.ac.uk) for a registration form.

Conference Theme: The remit for papers is intentionally broad and papers should be submitted on any topic relevant to population geography. The organisers will decide the strands of the conference once they have received the abstracts. Papers will be 20-25 minutes long, allowing for 5-10 minutes discussion in ½ hour slots. Although designed for geographers, contributions are welcome from those who would not regard themselves as population geographers, but are working in pertinent research areas, such as Demography, Sociology, Economics, Social Anthropology, who are interested in broadly geographical aspects of population.

Postgraduates are also encouraged to attend. Attendance does not require the presentation of a paper, but we would strongly encourage people to submit papers.

OTHER MEETINGS

**First Candle/SIDS Alliance
First International Conference Dedicated to
Stillbirth Research**

Below you will find a link to the preliminary announcement for the first international conference dedicated specifically to stillbirth research, prevention and grief support. Designed to unite researchers, health professionals and affected family members into one cohesive movement to address stillbirth issues internationally, this one-of-a-kind conference will no doubt prove to be an enriching experience for all involved.

We hope you will join us this September in the Washington DC area for this exciting event! To learn more about the conference, or to register to receive the conference materials (including a call for abstracts) please visit:

<http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/ShowPage.asp?323238337C39343038>

<http://firstcandle.org/ISAAnnouncement.htm>

COURSES

**The National Child Development Study
(NCDS) and 1970 British Cohort Study
(BCS70): A Workshop for Potential Users**

On Wednesday 20th April 2004 the Institute of Education will be hosting a 1-day workshop on the National Child Development Study (NCDS) and the 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70). This event, which is organized in association with the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS), will be of particular interest to researchers who are considering using data from the most recent sweep of the surveys. The workshop will include an introduction to: the design, coverage and methodology of the surveys; accessing the NCDS and BCS70 via the ESDS; an overview of the themes covered by the studies, issues of non-response and how to link data longitudinally; and a practical session in which participants complete worked examples using small sub-sets of the cohort study data.

A non-refundable fee of £60 (£30 for HE students) covers a buffet lunch and workshop documentation. Please contact: Booking, Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS), The UK Data Archive, University of Essex, Colchester, CO4 3SQ (tel: +44 01206 872001, booking@esds.ac.uk) as soon as possible to reserve a place.

Summer Institute on International Migration, Ethnic Diversity and Cities. Dates: June 12th – 30th, 2005

The **Summer Institute on International Migration, Ethnic Diversity and Cities** at the International School for Humanities and Social Science in Amsterdam is a three-week summer programme, which seeks to explore the topical features of international migration and the incorporation of immigrants in the cities and states of destination. The seminar will take place in Amsterdam between June 12th – 30th, 2005. Classes are from Monday through Thursday. All classes are in English.

Our programme directors, Dr. Jan Rath and Dr. Jeroen Doornik, are respectively co-director and programme coordinator of the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies at the Universiteit van Amsterdam and are both internationally recognized for their scholarship in Migration Studies. In addition, this year's guest lecturers include Jeffrey Reitz, Patrick Simon, Mohammed Boudoudou, Thomas Faist, Zeynep Kadirbeyoglu, Maurice Crul, and Richard Alba as well as many others.

The themes of the seminar will be approached in an international comparative way, building on theoretical and empirical contributions of sociologists, political scientists, anthropologists, geographers, economists, philosophers and historians. The Institute is open to advanced undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate students as well as professionals working in a field related to the topic of the Summer Institute.

The Programme

The Summer Institute consists of two tracks (Track 1 and Track 2). Morning courses are for all students. In the afternoon of week 2 and 3 Track 1 students attend the thematic afternoon courses and Track 2 students attend a research seminar. In the last week all students are again convened in the afternoon closing sessions. The [programme](#) roughly consists of six blocks.

The first block, scheduled for the first week, encompasses a four-day course on **Theories and Concepts of International Migration**, ethnic diversity and cities as well as a series of guest lectures by international high profile experts (Track 1 & 2). This block sets the state of the art in the field and provides the

theoretical groundwork for the rest of the Summer Institute. The next four blocks, scheduled for the next two weeks, encompass in-depth exploration of thematic fields:

International Migration: Causes and Consequences (Track 1 & 2). This block focuses on various migration flows (refugee, family reunification, study and labour migration, sunbelt migration, etc.), the sundry actors involved in these flows (including trafficking and smuggling), and transnationalism.

Regulation of International Migration (Track 1 only) This block focuses on political and regulatory aspects of international migration, and the (perverse) effects of regulation. This block also addresses the interrelationship of international migration and the development of sending countries.

Immigrant Integration in Cosmopolitan Cities (Track 1 & 2) This block focuses on the process of immigrant integration in various domains (housing, education, labour market, politics, etcetera), as well as the ethnic, gender and generational break down. Special attention will be given to comparing cities.

Immigrant Integration Policies (Track 1 only) This block focuses on national and local integration regimes as developed in different welfare states, and the (perverse) effects of integration policies.

Concrete details of each block may vary each year and are contingent on the advice of the Academic Committee and the expertise of the instructors.

The sixth block, scheduled for the second and third week, is a **Research Seminar** for Track 2 students only. This is a series of meetings in which students present and discuss their research proposals. These proposals have been circulated up front to each participating student. Special attention is given to methodological matters.

Tuition

The regular tuition is €2200. The tuition for students who wish to receive course credit is €2700. Unfortunately, the Institute is not capable of offering scholarships.

Housing

The rent for the housing is approximately €450 for one month.

Students are accepted on the basis of

- i) their previous qualifications,
- ii) the level of knowledge of English,
- iii) an essay on their motivation, and
- iv) consultation of references.

The Admissions Committee will take account of coherence, feasibility or relevance of the student's career objectives and proposed program of study, as well as excellence in prior academic accomplishment, especially in coursework and experience related to the Summer Institute.

Certificate and Credits

All students receive a certificate of attendance. Students who wish to earn credits receive upon successful completion of the Programme, an official transcript stating the courses taken, credits earned and grades obtained. The Programme is the equivalent of a 10 European Credits (or 5 American credits) module if the following requirements are fulfilled:

Application Deadline

The application deadline is April 1, 2005.

Application and Information

You can download the application form from the website: <http://www.ishss.uva.nl/SIM/> or you can obtain application forms and other detailed information on the Summer Institute on International Migration, Ethnic Diversity and Cities from:

Summer Institute on International Migration, Ethnic Diversity and Cities/ISHSS

Prins Hendrikkade 189-B

Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Phone: +31 20 525 3776

Fax: +31 20 525 3778

Email: sim-ishss@uva.nl

Website: <http://www.ishss.uva.nl/SIM/>

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Short Courses in International Health Schedule 2005!

At the University of Heidelberg, Germany

We would like to announce the following training courses offered by the Department of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health of the University of Heidelberg.

With our broad range of courses we try to address health issues that arise specifically within low and middle income countries. The courses are composed not only to transfer current knowledge, but also to enhance skills and abilities of the participants which can put into practice.

All courses are accredited within "tropEd", a European Network for Education, which offers a joint Master in International Health, yet they are open for individual further training. Participants receive a certificate of attendance from the University of Heidelberg. A two-weeks course costs EUR 1.500. (including course work and printed materials, but not accommodation, insurance or other personal costs during the stay).

For further information, organisation & application forms please inquire at mailto:natascha_petersen@urz.uni-heidelberg.de natascha_petersen@urz.uni-heidelberg.de.

You can also consult the web site <http://www.hyg.uni-heidelberg.de/ithoeg/teaching/index.htm> <http://www.hyg.uni-heidelberg.de/ithoeg/teaching/short/short.htm>

In the light of the most recent tragedy, I would like to point out especially the course on "Health of Unstable Populations":

Health of Unstable Populations, May 2 - 13, 2005

In cooperation with the Centre of Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), University of Louvain

Contents overview

The content of the course reflects current knowledge and experiences of the management of complex emergencies in the

health sector.

Disaster situations, disaster preparedness, development programmes, cross-cultural awareness, working relations in the field, donor coordination, from relief to development, applied epidemiology of unstable populations.

Objectives

The goal of the course is to provide a better understanding of the issues related to the health care of refugees, internally displaced persons and the affected host population in developing countries and to the health care of migrants.

- * To sensitize participants for health of unstable populations
- * To create awareness about the relief and development context in which international organisations work
- * To enable participants to prepare for disasters and to better design health programmes focussing on unstable populations

At the end of the course, participants should be able to

- * explain the determinants of migrants health in Developing Countries and in Europe
- * apply rapid assessment methods in emergency situations
- * use strategic and operational planning and health management tools in unstable situations
- * apply planning methods in post-conflict situations
- * explain the driving forces and determinants of donor coordination
- * set up a disaster preparedness plan at operational district level
- * use quality criteria for good disaster management

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▶ REPORTS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

BSPS Day Meeting on Disclosure Control 11th January 2005

This meeting was arranged by Oliver Duke-Williams and John Hollis to bring users of Census and other data together with representatives from the national statistical agencies. The meeting was very well attended, with all places reserved some time before the date of the meeting.

The meeting commenced with an introduction and welcome from *John Hollis* of the Greater London Authority.

The first presentation was from *Keith Spicer* of the Office for National Statistics (ONS), who set the context for the session by discussing ONS' current policies, and the confidentiality policy and legislative framework within which they operate. Keith described two facets of disclosure: identity disclosure, in which an individual's identity is revealed, and attribute disclosure in which additional characteristics relating to a known individual are revealed. Keith made the argument that the nature of disclosure risk had changed from earlier Censuses, due to the policy decision to make results easily available via the Web, and the widespread electronic storage of many data sets. For the

release of data from the 2001 Census, ONS used a combination of strategies; pre-tabulation measures including record swapping, the post tabulation measure of small cell adjustment (SCA), and thresholds on area size. It was agreed that the procedure followed with the 2001 Census had not been perfect, especially with changes to the SDC methodology being introduced at a late stage.

Advice was given that users should attempt to calculate desired values by adding together the minimum number of components; this might also include subtraction of cells from a larger initial value.

The release of microdata such as the Samples of Anonymised Records (SARs) brings separate concerns. Keith described the process of Post-Randomisation (aka PRAMming) that has been applied to the individual SAR, in which some 'risky' variables have been perturbed on an undisclosed percentage of records. A description was also given in the proposals for in-house access to a richer SAR data set, at sites in London and Titchfield.

Keith's talk was complemented by a short presentation by *Frank Thomas* of the General Register Office, Scotland. The approach taken in Scotland differed in a number of key areas with that taken elsewhere in the UK: the target size and threshold size for small areas was lower in Scotland, and (with the exception of some workplace tables) small cell adjustment was not used. Frank argued that record swapping was ineffective at preventing disclosure of population uniques, and suggested that over-imputation should be used for the results of the 2011 Census.

Paul Williamson from the University of Liverpool gave an interesting presentation in which he applied various SDC methods to sets of base data, and compared the numbers of cells modified, and the effects on various types of analysis including generation of percentages, rank correlation and bi-variate and multi-variate regressions. As well as a SCA, rounding to base 3 and to base 5, and two types of 'Barnardisation', the method that was used with the small area results of the 1991 Census. Paul's results showed that for many purposes, rounding the results of the 2001 Census to base 3 (with table marginals being independently rounded) would have resulted in less information loss than the SCA approach actually used. In all cases, Barnardisation would have been preferable from an analytical point of view.

Paul concluded that for rate-based analysis, the decision to use SCA as opposed to rounding all values to base 3 was 'right', but for count-based analysis, the decision was 'wrong'. However, this assessment begs the question of whether or not additional modification to the data was justified: many Census users believe that under-enumeration, coupled with the edit add imputation process already create sufficient noise in the data. More research was required, it was argued, on issues of public perception of the collection and analysis of data.

Jill Tuffnell of Cambridgeshire County Council talked about labour market statistics, and highlighted problems caused by the use of disclosure control on industrial sector data. Concerns that publication of data by detailed industrial classifications may be disclosive to businesses have meant that there are no published tables containing industry data at ward level. This has resulted in local authorities being unable to generate the statistics that they require for planning purposes. The problem is particularly acute when data are required for spatial areas that do not match up with

district boundaries (but rather must be aggregated from ward or output area level geographies).

Census data are not the only data produced by ONS that are subject to disclosure control. Jill also described the effect of disclosure control on claimant unemployment data. These are characterised by small numbers in many areas, rendering analysis by population sub-groups (such as age or gender specific groups) useless for many wards.

Oliver Duke-Williams, from the University of Leeds, described the effects of small cell adjustment on one group of data sets released from the 2001 Census: the interaction or origin-destination data. These data sets include the Special Migration Statistics and Special Workplace Statistics; the data themselves are characterised by the extreme dominance of small values. As a result, these data sets are the ones in which the effects of SCA are most noticeable. Oliver showed a number of graphs showing the distribution of values in these data sets. The effects of SCA remain apparent even when data for several small areas are aggregated together. One approach for overcoming the apparent problems of SCA is to generate mean values from several independently adjusted cells that all purport to show the same value. The resulting distributions of values fit expected distributions closely, and their research worth is now being investigated.

Oliver's presentation was complemented by a presentation from *Eileen Howes* of the Greater London Authority. Eileen concentrated on results for London drawn from the Special Workplace Statistics. Comparisons were made between data aggregated directly from Output Areas, and data drawn from the separately prepared Theme Tables. Although the results should be the same, the SCA process has led to some significant and un-predictable discrepancies. Eileen questioned the fitness-for-purpose of the output area level data, and commented that she would advise users of these data to exercise considerable caution in interpreting the results.

The final main presentation of the day was given by *Natalie Shlomo*, of ONS, who talked about current methodological research being done with a focus on the 2011 Census. Research was being carried out comparing alternative approaches within a risk-utility framework that takes into account both risks of disclosure and the needs of the user community (with utility being assessed via information-loss measures.) Natalie introduced a series of Risk-Information loss graphs, which showed the amounts of information loss for a variety of SDC methods applied with different parameters, and allowed direct comparison between methods.

Natalie argued that the optimum strategy would be a mixture of different methods (pre- and post-tabular methods, as well as perturbative and non-perturbative), and commented that ONS would be soliciting feedback on proposed methodologies.

The meeting concluded with a general question-and-answer session for all the presenters. This was led by Angela Dale of the University of Manchester, who first described the latest developments in the SARs. As outlined by the first speaker, Keith Spicer, proposals have been circulated for the establishment of a facility for SAR users to access a richer

sample of the individual sample under controlled conditions at ONS sites in London and Titchfield. A daily charge would apply to researchers using this facility. Angela described the differences between the samples, and also the likely specifications of a controlled access version of the household SAR.