

## BSPS MEETINGS

### BSPS Annual Conference 2006

18-20 September 2006, The University of  
Southampton

Plenary theme: Global Migration Trends

The 2006 BSPS Conference will be held at the University of Southampton, from 18-20 September. Plenary speakers will be announced shortly. In addition to the plenary sessions, there will be a full programme of simultaneous strand sessions. Information updates on the Conference will be posted to the BSPS website at [www.bsps.org.uk](http://www.bsps.org.uk) as available.

#### CALL FOR PAPERS:

Papers, abstracts, and proposals for papers and posters are invited across the demographic and population studies 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; methods (qualitative and quantitative) and models.

If you wish to submit a paper that does not appear to come under any of the headings given for strand organisers, please submit either to the strand organiser that appears most appropriate, or to the BSPS President, John Hollis ([John.Hollis@london.gov.uk](mailto:John.Hollis@london.gov.uk)). If accepted, the paper will be allocated to an appropriate strand session.

Presenters of posters will be expected to attend the scheduled poster session on the first evening of the Conference, but posters will remain on display for the duration of the Conference.

Preliminary abstracts of papers – which may be in the form of a declaration of intent – of up to 250 words, plus a provisional title, should be **submitted by 30 April 2006** to strand organisers as follows:

#### *Ageing:*

Maria Evandrou  
Centre for Research on Ageing  
School of Social Sciences  
University of Southampton  
Murray Building  
Highfield  
Southampton SO17 1BJ  
Email: [maria.evandrou@soton.ac.uk](mailto:maria.evandrou@soton.ac.uk)  
Fax: +44 (0)23 80 594800

#### *Ethnic & cultural demography:*

Baljit Bains  
Greater London Authority  
Data Management & Analysis  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2AA  
Email: [baljit.bains@london.gov.uk](mailto:baljit.bains@london.gov.uk)  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7983 4606

#### *Families and households:*

Steve Smallwood  
Office for National Statistics  
Family Demography Unit  
B6/03  
1 Drummond Gate  
London SW1V 2QQ  
Email: [steve.smallwood@ons.gov.uk](mailto:steve.smallwood@ons.gov.uk)  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7533 5103

#### *Fertility:*

Paul Boyle  
School of Geography & Geosciences  
University of St. Andrew's  
St. Andrew's  
Fife KY16 9AJ  
Email: [p.boyle@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:p.boyle@st-andrews.ac.uk)  
Fax: +44 (0)1334 463949

#### *Forecasting methods & practice:*

Ludi Simpson  
Cathie Marsh Centre for Survey & Census  
Research  
CCSR, Crawford House  
University of Manchester  
Booth Street East

Manchester M13 9PL  
Email: [ludi.simpson@man.ac.uk](mailto:ludi.simpson@man.ac.uk)  
Fax: +44 (0)161 275 4722

*GIS and its uses and abuses within demography:*

Jane Falkingham  
Faculty of Law, Arts and Social Sciences  
University of Southampton  
Highfield  
Southampton SO17 1BJ  
Email: [j.c.falkingham@soton.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.falkingham@soton.ac.uk)

*Health and mortality inequalities:*

Paula Griffiths  
Department of Human Sciences  
Loughborough University  
Loughborough LE11 3TU  
Email: [p.griffiths@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:p.griffiths@lboro.ac.uk)  
Fax: +44 (0)1509 228486

*Historical demography;*

Alice Reid  
Cambridge Group for the History of Population  
& Social Structure  
Department of Geography  
Sir William Hardy Building  
Downing Place  
Cambridge CB2 3EN  
Email: [amr1001@cam.ac.uk](mailto:amr1001@cam.ac.uk)  
Fax: +44 (0)1223 333183

*Local authority, census & planning:*

John Hollis  
Greater London Authority  
Data Management & Analysis  
City Hall (5 East)  
The Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2AA  
Email: [john.hollis@london.gov.uk](mailto:john.hollis@london.gov.uk)  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7983 4057  
(phone first on (0)20 7983 4604)

*Posters:*

Laura Jones  
Department of Human Sciences  
Loughborough University  
Loughborough  
LE11 3TU  
Email: [l.jones@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:l.jones@lboro.ac.uk)

*Reproductive health:*

Sabu Padmadas  
Division of Social Statistics  
University of Southampton  
Highfield  
Southampton SO17 1BJ  
Email: [ssp@socsci.soton.ac.uk](mailto:ssp@socsci.soton.ac.uk)  
Fax: +44 (0)23 8059 3846

*Transnational & subnational migration*

Paul Williamson  
Department of Geography  
University of Liverpool  
Roxby Building  
Liverpool L69 7ZT  
Email: [p.williamson@liv.ac.uk](mailto:p.williamson@liv.ac.uk)  
Fax: +44 (0)151 794 2866

**Notes:**

- Please do not submit the same paper to more than one strand organiser.
- Strand organisers may allocate papers to a different strand from that to which the paper was submitted, if appropriate, but potential presenters will be advised.
- A maximum of two papers per author, please.
- The submission of papers presented at the EAPS 2006 Conference would be welcomed, but please indicate if the paper is likely to be a development of the EAPS paper, or the original paper itself.
- Submissions from non-members are very welcome
- Submissions will be acknowledged, and notice of inclusion in the provisional programme will follow in early May.
- An abstract of approximately 250 words will be required by the end of July for the final programme.
- Presenters of papers will be asked to register for the Conference before the paper is finally accepted and included in the final programme.
- Papers are organised into strand sessions lasting either two hours, or an hour and a half. Each presenter will have half an hour to present their paper and take questions at the end.
- **Please note that attendance at the BSPS Conference, even if presenting a paper or poster cannot be subsidised by the BSPS- this applies to BSPS members and non-members.** (Except for student bursaries granted to BSPS student members presenting papers and posters – see bursary details below.)

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**Student bursaries for BSPS Conference 2006**

Bursaries are available to **BSPS student members presenting a paper or poster only**. These are expected to cover the cost of accommodation, where required, and registration, plus an allowance for travel in the UK only. (BSPS cannot cover the cost of international travel.) As the number of bursaries available will be limited, applications **must be received at the Secretariat by 30 April 2006**. Please apply by email or post, advising to which strand you have submitted, to:

BSPS Secretariat, PS201, London School of Economics,  
Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. Email: [pic@lse.ac.uk](mailto:pic@lse.ac.uk)  
Telephone 020 7955 7666. Fax 020 7955 6831.

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## Poster Competition at the BSPS Conference

A prize of £100 in book tokens is offered for the poster judged to be the best on display. The invited judges will be announced later. All posters accepted for the Conference will be entered automatically for the Poster Prize.

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### Forthcoming day meetings - preliminary announcements

**Full information about all prospective day meetings will be sent to members as available.** Any member who would like to contribute to these planned meetings is asked to contact the respective organisers, or the BSPS President, John Hollis ([john.hollis@london.gov.uk](mailto:john.hollis@london.gov.uk)).

1. **Household projections.** The ODPM figures are expected to be published in March, and it is hoped to arrange a half day meeting in **late March/April**.
2. **Migration in multicultural Britain.** Organisers: Baljit Bains ([baljit.bains@london.gov.uk](mailto:baljit.bains@london.gov.uk)) and Ludi Simpson ([ludi.simpson@man.ac.uk](mailto:ludi.simpson@man.ac.uk)). Currently planned for **May/June**.
3. **Methodology used in producing ONS population estimates.** Expected to be the day meeting held in conjunction with the AGM in **early July**, and to have seminar and workshop elements.

The President would also be delighted to receive suggestions from members for further day meetings, suitable speakers, or offers to organise or contribute to further day meetings (which need not be an onerous process or time-consuming activity). Please remember that day meetings do not have to be organised by a member of Council. The Secretariat and Council will give full support and assistance to any member volunteering to arrange a day meeting. Funds can be made available when a budget has been agreed and a venue arranged. Day meetings do not have to be held in London.

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### BSPS Conference 2007

The 2007 BSPS Conference will be held at the University of St. Andrew's from Tuesday 11 September to Thursday 13 September 2007. Further details will be advised later, but put the dates in your diary now!

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## OTHER MEETINGS

### EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR POPULATION STUDIES CONFERENCE 2006

The next European population conference of the European Association for Population Studies will be hosted by the Department of Geography in The University of Liverpool, from Wednesday 21st June to Saturday 24th June, 2006. The broad theme for the conference is **Population challenges in ageing societies**, and Professor Ian Diamond will be the plenary speaker.

The working sessions of the conference will be held on the city centre campus of the University. Accommodation will be in downtown hotels and hostels, all within walking distance of the conference facilities.

#### Website now open for registration

at [www.liv.ac.uk/geography](http://www.liv.ac.uk/geography) and follow the link to EPC2006.

For any further information or queries about local and administrative arrangements for the conference please contact the local organisers at: [epc2006@liv.ac.uk](mailto:epc2006@liv.ac.uk)

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### PopFest 2006 19-21 June

The PopFest 2006 Conference will be held in conjunction with the International Conference on Population Geographies (19-20 June), and the European Association for Population Studies Conference (21-24 June), in Liverpool, United Kingdom.

#### Popfest 2006 call for papers

The call for papers for Popfest 2006 has now been issued and can be accessed from the postgraduate pages of the BSPS website at [www.bsps.org.uk](http://www.bsps.org.uk). The Popfest registration form and information about accommodation can also be accessed from the postgraduate pages.

#### What is PopFest?

PopFest is a population studies conference organised by postgraduates for postgraduates with an ethos to provide a relaxed, supportive environment for students to come together to present work and discuss ideas.

The conference provides a forum for postgraduates from the areas of Demography, Human Geography, Social Anthropology, Social Statistics, Health, Development, Social Policy and other related fields. Presenters have an excellent opportunity to discuss their work in front of their peers and have a chance to get feedback and ideas from fellow researchers.

PopFest is an ideal spring-board for all postgraduates regardless of their stage of research providing an opportunity to practice ones presentation skills, whether as a paper or poster display, before facing more demanding academic conferences.

The conference combines a programme of paper and poster presentations.

#### More information

Contact Albert Sabater at the Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research, University of Manchester  
[albert.sabater@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk](mailto:albert.sabater@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk)

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### The 3rd International Conference on Population Geographies

RGS/IBG Population Geography Research Group  
19-21 June 2006  
Department of Geography  
University of Liverpool  
Liverpool, UK

**Participants:** Although designed for geographers, contributions are welcome from those who would not regard themselves as population geographers, but are working in pertinent research areas. For example, we would welcome speakers from other disciplines including Demography, Sociology, Economics, Social Anthropology, who are interested in broadly geographical aspects of population. Postgraduates are also encouraged to attend and offer papers and there will be a Postgraduate prize for the best one. Attendance does not require the presentation of a paper, but we would strongly encourage people to submit papers.

**Papers:** The remit for papers is intentionally broad and papers should be submitted on any topic relevant to population geography. Please ensure that you send abstracts of papers to Darren Smith (see below) before 17 February 2006. Those who wish to organise themed sessions are encouraged to contact Darren Smith or Phil Rees (see below). The organising committee 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.

**Registration:** The deadline for registration is 31 March 2006. A copy of the registration form and booking accommodation will soon be available from the PGRG website: <http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/groups/pgrg>  
This site will be updated regularly as more details about the programme become available.

**Further Information:** For further details about the academic content of the meeting, contact:

Darren P. Smith, School of the Environment, University of Brighton, Brighton, BN2 4GJ.

Email: [D.Smith@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:D.Smith@brighton.ac.uk) Tel: +44 (0) 1273 643318  
Or

Phil Rees, School of Geography, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT .

Email [p.h.rees@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:p.h.rees@leeds.ac.uk) Tel: +44 (0) 113 34 33341

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## NOTICES

### BSPS bursaries for EAPS 2006

**Existing BSPS members** who have had a paper or poster accepted for presentation at EAPS 2006 and are in need of financial assistance may apply to the BSPS for funding, with a maximum amount of £250 per person available. Applications should state the amount that is being requested, and itemise what it is needed to cover. A maximum of six EAPS bursaries are likely to be awarded, and applications will be judged on merit. If a large number of applications are submitted, smaller amounts may be offered.

**Applications by 15 March** to the BSPS Secretariat: [pic@lse.ac.uk](mailto:pic@lse.ac.uk)

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### BSPS Prize 2006

**Entries are invited for the 2006 BSPS Prize.** This is awarded to the entry judged to be the best MSc. Dissertation on a demographic topic during 2005, and would usually be at or around distinction level. Four copies of each dissertation should be supplied, and these do not have to be bound. Electronic submissions can also be accepted.

Please note that entries should be submitted by the institution or supervising academic, and not by the authors themselves, with a maximum of two entries from each institution.

A cash prize of £300 is offered in 2006, and the winner will be announced at the 2006 BSPS Conference in September.

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 in which they exist.

**Closing date for entries: 31 May 2006.**

Please submit to BSPS Secretariat, PS201, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE, or as attachments to [pic@lse.ac.uk](mailto:pic@lse.ac.uk)

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### BSPS Council vacancy from July 2006

There will be one vacancy on the BSPS Council from the AGM in July, as Baljit Bains will have completed her four year term. Nominations for the vacancy 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 be aware

that all Council members are charity trustees, although new Council members receive a full briefing pack on election, detailing their responsibilities and obligations as trustees.

Please send nominations to the President, John Hollis, or the Secretariat by the end of April. Emails: [john.hollis@london.gov.uk](mailto:john.hollis@london.gov.uk) or [pic@lse.ac.uk](mailto:pic@lse.ac.uk)

A new Council member who is prepared to organise or contribute to the organization of day meetings would be especially welcome.

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### BSPS 2006 membership subscription reminder

The 2006 members' subscription renewal form was distributed by email at the beginning of January to those members who do not renew by standing order. Thank you to those who have paid their 2006 subscriptions already.

If you have not yet renewed for 2006, please do so as soon as possible – a copy of the renewal form is available at the BSPPS website at [www.bspps.org.uk](http://www.bspps.org.uk)

Annual membership rates remain unchanged:

Full member

£25.00

Country member – defined as living outside  
The Network SouthEast rail area – plus  
Overseas members

£20.00

Student members – full time students

£7.50

Retired members – retired from paid employment

£7.50

Members in less economically developed countries

£7.50

Corporate membership, with one named member

£40.00

A reminder that a lifetime retired membership is also available for a one-off payment of £75.00.

Please contact the Secretariat if you would like to start a standing order for your membership subscription, and the standing order form will be sent.

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### ESRC Society Today

The Economic and Social Research Council have launched "ESRC Society Today", a major new online research resource, which may well be of interest to BSPPS members. The site can be accessed at <http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk>

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### ONS consultation - Measuring premature & avoidable mortality

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has just released a consultation document outlining plans to develop indicators of (i) avoidable and (ii) premature mortality. The document also considers whether to develop an indicator of (iii) smoking-related mortality. To inform the development of these new indicators, contributions on their definition and use in monitoring public health are welcomed. The consultation document "Measuring premature and avoidable mortality: ONS proposals for national indicators" can be accessed on the ONS website through the link below: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/Consultations/mortality.asp>

The document contains a number of questions on how the indicators should be defined, for example: what age ranges should be used to measure premature mortality? ONS welcome responses to the public consultation.

Levin Wheller  
Research Officer  
Officer for National Statistics

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### ONS consultation - leading causes of death

ONS has recently been looking at methods of ranking leading causes of death in England and Wales and results using four different methods were published in November's Health Statistics Quarterly –

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ci/article.asp?ID=1301&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=1>

The article proposed one method that could be used for producing routine tabulations of the leading causes of death in England and Wales. We have produced a consultation document on the proposals and we would be keen to have this advertised on your website as we think it may be of interest to your colleagues. The document can be accessed on the National Statistics website through the link below:

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/leading\\_causes\\_death.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/leading_causes_death.asp)

The document provides information on the methods considered by ONS and a proposal for producing a routine annual tabulation of the leading causes of death in England and Wales, using death registration data. ONS would be grateful for responses to the key questions outlined in the document by the closing date of the public consultation, March 13th 2006.

Responses to the document can be sent to [mortality@ons.gov.uk](mailto:mortality@ons.gov.uk)

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## BSPS LEDC initiative

In 2005, the BSPS Council agreed a three year initiative to offer support to demographers in less economically developed countries. This resulted in a visit to the UK by Sonia Catusus Cervera (Havana University), the President of the Cuban equivalent of the BSPS. Sonia spent two weeks in the UK, the visit being sponsored by BSPS and the University of Manchester. She attended the BSPS Conference and presented a paper on the Cuban demographic transition, and had various meetings with UK demographers and demographic and statistical bodies, arranged by BSPS and the University of Manchester. It seems likely that another Cuban demographer will visit the UK this September, with a broadly similar programme.

Council has agreed that LEDC funding will be restricted to BSPS events for the initial three year period, after which a wider remit will be discussed. BSPS members are encouraged to offer further suggestions for this initiative. Please contact the President, Secretariat, or any member of Council (list of Council members with contact details on the website).

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PhD Studentships Available  
London School of Economics



The Population Cluster within the Department of Social Policy has been awarded 2 ESRC studentships commencing October 2006, and 1 studentship commencing October 2007.

The Population Cluster is a thriving group of 6 academics working on population issues from a variety of disciplinary and methodological perspectives in a range of geographic settings. The group includes academics with training in anthropology, biology, demography, economics, mathematics and statistics, and with expertise in both quantitative and qualitative methods. The Cluster is housed within the Social Policy Department, rated 5\* at the last RAE.

The Population Cluster has been awarded recognition for 1+3 and +3 ESRC studentships. Students without an MSc degree would be required to take the **MSc Social Research Methods (Population)** before embarking on a 3 year PhD programme. Students who already have an appropriate MSc would be eligible for the +3 funded PhD programme.

**Only UK and EU students who fulfil certain criteria are eligible for these scholarships.** See the ESRC's guidance notes for applicants for full details, available at: [http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/postgraduate/fundingopportunities/1plus3\\_quota.aspx?ComponentId=13826&SourcePageId=304](http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/postgraduate/fundingopportunities/1plus3_quota.aspx?ComponentId=13826&SourcePageId=304)

Only students who have, or are predicted to have, a good Honours degree (1<sup>st</sup> or 2:1), or equivalent, are likely to be eligible.

The following staff members are interested in PhD supervision. Please contact the staff member you are interested in working with directly **at the earliest available opportunity and no later than Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** (applications will not be ruled out if received after this date, but because of tight deadlines we cannot guarantee to process later applications). Please include in your email a CV and brief (200 word) description of your research interests. For full details on how to apply:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/populationAtLSE/ESRC%20studentships.htm>

Dr Ernestina Coast: [e.coast@lse.ac.uk](mailto:e.coast@lse.ac.uk)

Interests: **anthropological demography**. Dr Coast welcomes enquiries from students interested in reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and the demography of developing countries

Dr Arjan Gjonca: [a.gjoncal@lse.ac.uk](mailto:a.gjoncal@lse.ac.uk)

Interests: **demography and public health**. Dr Gjonca welcomes applications from students interested in: health and mortality transition in developing countries, demography of the Balkans and gender differences in the onset of disease and mortality

Professor Mike Murphy: [m.murphy@lse.ac.uk](mailto:m.murphy@lse.ac.uk)

Interests: **demography of developed societies and demographic modelling**. Professor Murphy particularly welcomes enquiries from students with quantitative interests in these areas

Dr Rebecca Sear: [r.sear@lse.ac.uk](mailto:r.sear@lse.ac.uk)

Interests: **evolutionary demography**. Dr Sear welcomes enquiries from students interested in human evolutionary ecology and evolutionary demography. Possible project: investigating the impact of kin on demographic patterns using large-scale demographic datasets

Dr Wendy Sigle-Rushton: [w.sigle-rushton@lse.ac.uk](mailto:w.sigle-rushton@lse.ac.uk)

Interests: **family demography and gender in industrialised countries**. Dr Sigle-Rushton welcomes enquiries from students interested in most issues related to families, work and gender, particularly differences in working time and social inequalities by family structure; intergenerational transmission of disadvantage; and gender, class and low fertility in Europe

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## VACANCIES / EXPERTS NEEDED

### Census monitoring experts needed for Nigerian Census

SOFRECO, a leading international French consulting firm, is currently recruiting 88 Senior and Junior experts to monitor the Nigeria Census scheduled to take place from 21 to 25 March 2006. Candidatures from nationals of all UNDP member countries are welcome. This project is being implemented by SOFRECO in collaboration with UNDP and the European Commission in Nigeria. Expert rates will be consistent with UNDP policy.

**Experts required:**

- 7 Senior experts (including a Senior Team Leader). They will coordinate monitoring at the regional level: 67 days. Commencement date is 1 March in Abuja.
- 7 Zonal Monitors (including a Zonal Team Leader) will work under the Senior Monitors to coordinate monitoring at the geo-political zone. They will be directly in charge of the state Monitors: 50 days. Commencement date is 3 March 2006.
- 74 Junior State Monitors (Short term experts) will be dispatched, 2 per state to monitor the census. They report to the Zonal Monitor in their geo-political zone: 30 days. Commencement date is 15 March 2006.

**Profiles:**

Senior experts: MA/MSc in Demography, Public Administration, Political Science, Development Studies, Sociology or other relevant discipline with 5 to 10 years of experience.

Juniors: Previous experience (minimum one) of similar assignments in Africa.

For further information, kindly visit SOFRECO's website: <http://www.sofreco.com/Experts/Jobs/liste.html#7fevrierc>

Applications to be sent to: <mailto:ecofi@sofreco.com>

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**Demographic Support Officer - Birmingham City Council**

£22,512 - £26,157 pro rata.

Maternity cover for up to 10 months. A rare opportunity to work with statistical information about the population of Birmingham at a time of major change in the City! You will be a key member of a small team that provides demographic information to customers across and beyond the Council. You can offer motivation and a flexible approach to working, together with relevant knowledge, a degree level qualification, with analytical and computer skills. An interest in developing web pages and managing information would be an advantage.

Informal enquiries to Greg Ball - (0121) 303 4208.

Department - Birmingham City Council, Development Directorate, Planning Strategy. Location: Alpha Tower, Suffolk Street, Queensway, Birmingham.

Contact details for application form: 0121 464 1111, or go to [www.birmingham.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/jobs). Reference no. PO88. Closing date for applications: 24 March 2006.

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REPORTS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**Conference report: Queering statistics - issues associated with estimating the lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) population**

With a title that needed to be qualified with the statement 'The word 'queering' is intended as a playful pun, recognising that the word has been 'reclaimed' by many (though not all) lesbian, gay and bisexual people.', illustrating that language is just one of the many issues around this subject, this well attended conference at the Royal Statistical Society's was organised by the RSS Social Statistics section and the Social Research Association.

Four speakers gave short presentations on the topic followed by debate from the floor. Chaired by Jill Matheson (ONS), the meeting began with Katherine Cowan (Stonewall). She started with the question of why we should want to measure the LGB community concluding that the issue was not just one of personal behaviour but was an equality issue just like the other five equality strands of sex, race, disability, religion, and age. She highlighted that recent research suggested that the LGB community was one of the most discriminated against groups – whether because of (lack of) service provision through to violent attacks. For example, in the Metropolitan Police area a 10 per cent rise had been seen in homophobic attacks between 2003 and 2004. Changes in the law on homosexuality have come a long way within 50 years. However attitudes of some will take longer to change than the law. Partial data from studies and surveys suggested that discrimination was a real issue. For example, 80 per cent of teachers had reported that they were aware of homophobic bullying taking place, but only 6 per cent of schools have bullying policies with specific references to homophobic bullying. There was no official data on the LGB community. This impacted on policy makers and service providers who found it difficult to make the case for resources, or to allocate resources efficiently. In particular resource allocation to voluntary services which plug gaps in official services is more difficult without official figures. Those monitoring discrimination had no population benchmark. Increasingly information is required for equality and human rights legislation monitoring. Census collects information on all the different discrimination strands, except sexuality. Several organisations have begun to add a question on sexual orientation to their equality monitoring forms. Of course, appropriate structures and policies on confidentiality and communication are needed. She felt questions on ethnicity had contributed to public awareness and acceptance of our multi-ethnic society, questions on sexual orientation could have a similar positive effect.

Heidi Grainger (Who works as a Statistical advisor to the DTI but made clear that her presentation was her own view and not necessarily those of the DTI) then spoke about some of the difficulties of collecting such information, and which surveys had attempted to do so. Legislation such as the Employment

Equality legislation of 2003 meant that there needed to be some way of monitoring equality objectives. It was possible to get some information such as same-sex cohabitation from current surveys, but indirect methods have problems and often will conceal true numbers. For surveys which had asked sexual orientation, the acceptance of the question is high and refusal was generally low, although was higher the older the respondent. Such surveys were the Metropolitan Police Study, The Northern Ireland Life and Times study, the ONS Omnibus survey as well as two DTI surveys 'Individual Awareness' and 'Fair treatment at work'.

The survey method was also an issue – the DTI surveys used a show card with a letter for the respondent to give that corresponded to the description they identified with. Another possibility was to have respondents enter data directly into a laptop but that could lead to difficulties if the respondent did not use the lap top correctly, it also made it difficult for the interviewer to pick up error. Finally sampling strategy may need to be different, the LGB community tended to be concentrated in urban areas.

Heidi felt that the Labour Force Survey was possibly the place to consider a question in a major survey. EC harmonisation was putting pressure on the LFS to do so.

In response to questions it was noted that the DTI work did not use the Samuels 10 point scale, rather it built on question design from previous surveys. The issue of whether standard categories lead to problems with self identification were also mentioned.

Ford Hickson (Sigma Research – part of the University of Portsmouth) spoke about the issues of concept, language and obstacles. Although there were problems he felt the issues were no more difficult than those of ethnicity. In terms of concepts there was, he felt, an error in the order of the conference synopsis which spoke about 'extent and nature' – nature had to come first. Although a simple single question was wanted there will be no such single best question, rather it will depend on what we are trying to measure. For example, civil partners will be a relatively easy group to define but defining what users might want on the LGB community is trickier. Sexual orientation covers at least three different things: behaviour, desire and identity. Each can be independent or can be present in any combination. For example 5 per cent of gay men had not had sex within the last year, 50 per cent of bisexuals did not have sex with both sexes within the last year and 50% of men who did have sex with both men and women might describe themselves as bisexual. . The work of Kinsey was very much predicated on behaviour. Being mainly about health, the surveys Ford is involved in with Sigma Research were primarily interested in behaviour too. The National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (NSSAL) asks about desire, but not identity. He also noted the cut off age was only 49. He doubted the viability of questions about behaviour and desire in national surveys which left the issue of identity. This left issues of how this should be collected – respondents could be asked to describe their identity – but that was open. Some may just describe themselves as uninhibited or adventurous.

Heterosexuals may struggle with finding a word for their identity. The problem is that sexual language is not universal – the response will depend on the question and will form the reality. A question that says what best describes your sexuality with certain basic terms may be the best we can do. It was important that there was 'evenness' with other questions. While such a question would most likely be voluntary, the use of an active non response category in the question would lead to greater non response. He also noted that interviewers may cause non-response and warned that active non-response categories may be used by interviewers to avoid asking questions.

To conclude he felt that despite the difficulties he described, the major obstacles were political rather than technical. Recording such information would challenge those who want to maintain inequalities and maintain exclusion and invisibility for the LGB community. The anticipation of problems just makes the argument circular. It also need to be remembered that the authorities should give respondents the right to respond – respondent then had the right to refuse. We would also not get it right first time for all time, and so should not delay because we did not have the perfect question. He felt that there was a need to include questions in mainstream surveys, especially such surveys as the British Crime Survey which were in topic areas where there were known discrimination issues.

The final speaker was Jeffrey Weeks (London South Bank University). He began by pointing out that often flawed statistics, such as those by Kinsey that suggested 37 per cent of men had experienced a sexual episode to orgasm with another man and 50 per cent had experienced sexual contact with another man, as well as his seven point scale for categorising sexuality, were useful fictions that had allowed debate. By the 1960s it was generally accepted that around 5 per cent of the population were gay, a 1960s TV programme on the topic was entitled 1 in 20. Collecting information on this topic was difficult as it may entail self disclosure to strangers outside a sub-culture of support (especially outside cities). A key issue is language. It may be that the only possible definition in analysis would be non-heterosexual. He noted that terminology would be different for different age groups. There would be some statistics on Civil Partnerships and adoptions by same-sex couples which will be of good quality. However there was little or no good information on cohabitation, relationships beyond the household (Living apart together), and polyamorous relationships. It was, in his opinion, meaningless to ask what percentage of the population is homosexual? There was never going to be a single precise answer. Even new definitional categories that had appeared in the 1980s and 1990s, such as 'Men who have sex with Men (MSM), do not help. There was clearly an issue of stigma, which meant that disclosure of sexual identity was not encouraged. Laud Humphreys, in his book Tearoom Trade, describes work done in the late 1960s studying men who had sex with other men in lavatories. The majority of those studied turned out to identify themselves as heterosexual. Such evidence shows the error of equating sexual practices with sexual identities. Homosexuality had moved from being a



criminal activity to being seen as a private activity by choice. It is only since the late 1990s that the equality agenda had made the issue a 'public' one, and led to the need for statistics to catch up with the policy decisions. While it was sensible to gather statistics he advised caution in their interpretation. Worrying about numbers and prevalence was less important than justice.

The meeting was then opened for general discussion and closed with remarks from the speakers. The following notes some of the comments made. It was reported that DH and the NHS had just secured funding to explore asking a question on sexual identity of patients and staff in the NHS. The need for the statistics was about service improvement and development. However, another contributor pointed out that the NHS data on ethnicity was not of high quality and expressed doubts therefore about the quality of data that might be collected. A question was asked about census testing, in particular might internet data collection allow for privacy in answering the question. Jil Matheson reported that no decisions had been made on the census yet. A document summarising the responses to the consultation exercise would be issued in March, sexual orientation, and related concepts, was one of the areas on which representations had been received. She noted that the questionnaire would have to be much larger to include all topics for which users had expressed a need. It was reported by Katherine Cowan that Scotland were testing a question on sexual orientation in their census test. There were no results from the question itself but there was evidence that response was not affected comparing tests with and without the question.

A plea was also made that issues of gender were not included in questions on sexual identity but should be treated separately. There were issues of discrimination against transsexual people. The issue of whether survey boosts may be needed, as they are for collecting information on the minority ethnic population in some surveys was mentioned. The point was also made that it was vital for organisations to make sure that introducing the collection of such information was part of a wider process. Organisations needed to present themselves as LGB friendly, for example including pictures of same sex couples in their publicity, and changing their use of language. There was a need for correlation with other variables, particularly those such as social exclusion and economic disadvantage which gave access to funds, also studies needed to cover rural as well as urban LGB community.

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