

BSPS MEETINGS

11-13 September 2007

BSPS Conference

University of St. Andrews.

Plenary theme - Population Challenges

Plenary speakers for the Conference are now confirmed as Jan Hoem and Phil Rees. Additionally, there will be a very full programme of submitted papers and posters, so it is hoped as many BSPS members as possible will attend. The provisional programme and booking forms will be distributed to BSPS members shortly, and posted to the website. Any changes to the provisional programme will then be amended on the website version, so please check this for current status.

Accommodation can also be offered for the night of 10 September, for anyone who would like to arrive early. Please note that early travel booking is recommended to take advantage of cheaper fare deals on offer.

The Conference itself will be held at St. Salvators (Upper and Lower College Halls, and Schools 1, 2, & 3), one of the older University buildings, which has recently been refurbished, and which is in central St. Andrews. Accommodation packages are offered at New Hall (ensuite) and McIntosh Hall (shared facilities).

British Society for Population Studies Day Meeting

4th July 2007 Vera Anstey Room, Old Building,
London School of Economics and Political Sciences,
Houghton Street, London WC2

Infant Mortality. A Continuing Social Problem. A day seminar to mark the centenary of the publication of Infant Mortality: A Social Problem by Sir George Newman in 1906

11.30 Welcome and Introduction

Session 1. Chair: Eilidh Garrett

- 11.40 Bob Woods (University of Liverpool):
What Newman didn't know.
- 12.00 Richard Smith (University Of Cambridge):
Place and status as determinants of infant mortality in England 1550-1837.
- 12.20 Sam Sneddon (University of Nottingham):
A double penalty? Infant mortality in the Lincolnshire Fens.
- 12.40 Alice Reid (University Of Cambridge):
Health visitors and 'Enlightened Motherhood'.

13.00-14.00 Lunch Interval (*lunch not provided*)

Session 2. Chair: Nicola Shelton

- 14.00 Tricia James (Open University):
Infant mortality in Northamptonshire.
- 14.20 Eilidh Garrett (University Of Cambridge):
Urban-rural differences in infant mortality - a Scottish comparison.
- 14.40 Michael Drake and Eric Hall (Open University):
Diarrhoea: The central issue?
- 15.00 Yvonne Kelly (University College London):
Child health at the beginning of the new century: Findings from the Millennium Cohort Study.

15.20-15.40 Tea

Session 3. Chair: Bob Woods

- 15.40 Danny Dorling (University of Sheffield):
Infant mortality and social progress in Britain 1905-2005, 2006 and 2007.
- 16.00-1630 Nicola Shelton (University College London):
Conclusion: The social dimension of infant well-being now and in Newman's time.

followed by open question session

This day meeting is open to all, and there is no charge. However, pre-registration is required – please email pic@lse.ac.uk or phone 020 7955 7666 to pre-register.

BSPS AGM 2007

**4 July 2007, in the Vera Anstey Room at LSE at
10.30am**

To be followed by the day meeting detailed above.

All members are invited to attend the AGM. Nominations for Council vacancies, and Vice-President have now closed, having been invited in the February Newsletter. Please note that members present will be asked to vote on a proposal from the current BSPS Council, about the timing of the handover from the current President and Vice-President to the newly elected President and Vice-President, and from retiring Council members to newly elected Council members. Although Council members and Hon. Officers will continue to be elected at the AGM, it is proposed that the actual handover of office should be at the Annual Conference. This is because the current office holders will have made a large contribution to the organisation of that year's Conference, and it is felt that it would be more appropriate if the actual handover takes place at the Conference itself.

**Fully funded PhD (1+3 or +3): ESRC/SCOTTISH
EXECUTIVE /GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
FOR SCOTLAND - COLLABORATIVE PhD STUDENTSHIP**

**Joint estimation of small area population and
household characteristics**

In both public and private applications we need to know the size and age-sex structure of the population and characteristics of households so as to provide appropriate goods, services and housing stock. Outside of census years there is a need to estimate small area populations and household characteristics. This information is essential for good governance through monitoring the success of previous policy and planning for the future. Estimates of populations and households also provide denominators for social indicators such as health and unemployment rates.

This project aims to produce a parallel time-series of 'fit-for-purpose' estimates of small area populations and household characteristics from 2001 up to the latest available data. This will be achieved by identifying user needs so that estimate outputs are relevant to the Scottish Executive's priorities as well as the wider research community; reviewing estimation methods and evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of routinely collected, administrative data sources; devising a method and computing a time-series of quality assured small area population and household estimates; and considering the use of the estimates in a policy-relevant application.

Supervisors: Paul Norman, Phil Rees at the School of Geography, University of Leeds

Deadline for applications at Leeds is Friday 29th June 2007

Further details via:

<http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/research/csap/topics/estimation.html>

NOTICES

New publication

Members may be interested in a new title, published in April. This is Migration and socioeconomic change: A 2001 Census analysis of Britain's larger cities by Tony Champion, Mike Coombes, Simon Raybould and Colin Wymer - £12.95 paperback, ISBN: 978 1 84742 003 9. Further details, or to order online, at www.policypress.org.uk

**ESRC/British Library research resources scoping
study**

The ESRC is working with the British Library to improve the resources that are available to social science researchers. To help identify the ways in which the resources can be strengthened, they have commissioned a scoping study which is focussed on globalisation and population change. The ESRC has identified these as key areas for research in the next few years. Education for Change (www.efc.co.uk) and Acumen (www.acumen.co.uk) have been contracted to carry out the work.

We would like academic and other researchers with an interest in population change or globalisation to view the scoping study as an opportunity to uncover the post 1950 resources the BL currently has to offer them directly, or through it's services, and to suggest how the Library's collections might develop to meet their research needs more effectively. We plan to invite small groups of researchers to attend one of a series of consultation meetings with collections staff at the BL and then to issue a survey more widely to the social science community. The probable dates for the meetings are: 23rd July, 27th July, 31st July or 1st August and hopefully a fourth day early in August.

If you are interested in attending a meeting in the British Library or wish to be included on the mailing list for the survey, please send me your name, e-mail address and a very brief outline of your research interests as they relate to population change and/or globalisation. We do not want to limit the exploration at this point so you may interpret globalisation as widely as you wish. It would also be helpful if you would indicate where you work, for example in an academic setting or in an NGO, commercial or governmental organisation.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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17A Christopher Street
London EC2A 2BS
Tel: 020 7247 3370
Fax: 020 7247 3371

Web: www.efc.co.uk

UPTAP - Understanding Population Trends and Processes

For those interested in the anticipated Research Findings completed by researchers within the ESRC-funded UPTAP (Understanding Population Trends and Processes) initiative, four PDF's of the Research Findings completed thus far can be accessed at: <http://www.uptap.net/wordpress/?cat=6>

FIFTH AFRICAN POPULATION CONFERENCE 10-14 DECEMBER 2007 THEME: EMERGING ISSUES IN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The United Republic of Tanzania is pleased to invite you to the Union of African Population Studies (UAPS) Fifth African Population Conference which it will be hosting in Arusha, Tanzania from 10-14 December, 2007. The African Population Conference is organized every four years in order to review the state of knowledge and knowledge gaps on various population issues affecting the African continent.

Please visit the UAPS conference program website at <http://uaps2007.princeton.edu> for further information. Please contact uaps2007@opr.princeton.edu if you have any problems.

OTHER MEETINGS

PUBLIC LECTURE TO MARK WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY, JUNE 15 2007

The Institute of Gerontology, King's College London,
in conjunction with Action on Elder Abuse, warmly
invite you to a lecture
by

Professor Karl Pillemer, Cornell University

PREVENTING ELDER ABUSE: WHAT DO WE REALLY KNOW? INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS AND THE U.K. PREVALENCE STUDY

15 JUNE 2007 at 12.15
in the

HENRIETTA RAPHAEL FUNCTION ROOM, HENRIETTA
RAPHAEL HOUSE,
GUY'S CAMPUS (KINGS COLLEGE LONDON)
LONDON BRIDGE

(map available on www.kcl.ac.uk/about/campuses/guys-det.html)

Professor Karl Pillemer, the internationally recognised expert on elder abuse, will talk about the prevention of abuse in the context of the UK national study - a two year project carried out by the Institute of Gerontology and Social Care Workforce

Research Unit at King's and the National Centre for Social Research. Karl has been academic adviser to the research, which will be launched the day before by the funders, Comic Relief and the Department of Health. We are sure that what Karl will have to say on the Friday will be very interesting!

We look forward to seeing you there, any enquiries to Institute of Gerontology, aciog@kcl.ac.uk

REPORTS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

BSPS/ Loughborough University One Day Meeting - Approaches to Assessing Community Socio- Economic Inequalities in Health

This one day meeting was sponsored jointly by the BSPS and the Department of Human Sciences/ Faculty of Science Loughborough University. The meeting brought together scholars from a range of disciplines including demography, social statistics, geography, sociology, public health, health sciences, nutrition, anthropology, and human biology. Three posters were presented at the meeting by **Dr Saloni Zaveri** from the Medway Public Health Team, **Linda Jenkins** from the University of Kent, and **Dr. Zoë Sheppard** from Loughborough University. Dr. Zaveri's poster presented A health equity approach to tackling inequalities in child health in Medway. **Linda Jenkin's** poster examined regional health risks for coastal areas of the UK and France, and **Dr. Sheppard's** poster considered a qualitative approach to understanding community socio-economic inequalities in urban South Africa.

In addition to the three poster presentations, three oral presentations were given by **Dr. Kate Pickett** of the University of York, **Professor Graham Moon** of the University of Southampton, and **Myer Glickman** from the Office for National Statistics. A summary of these presentations is provided. The day finished with a general discussion of the core themes emerging from all of the presentations in which several issues were considered including; 1) methodological approaches to understanding processes that take place within communities to influence health inequalities, 2) Mapping techniques for assessing/ presenting community/ area inequalities, 3) The relevance and meaning/ conceptualisation of social versus human versus material capital in studies of community inequalities in health, and 4) The role of intergenerational effects on community studies of inequalities in health.

Oral Presentations

People like us: group density effects and health. Dr. Kate Pickett, Department of Health Sciences, University of York.

Dr. Kate Pickett of the University of York considered the role of community group density effects on health status. She presented evidence showing that minority communities living in areas with a higher density of their own ethnic group

tended to have an enhanced health status compared to those living in areas with a lower density. There was some evidence that communities reaching very high levels of density (over 90%) also had poorer health outcomes. When controlling for factors such as age and socio-economic status, the 'group density' effect has been shown to influence the risk for poor mental, physical and maternal health (low birth weight and pre-term delivery). This association was suggested to relate to the impact that community level psychosocial elements have on health inequalities when material influences are controlled for in analyses. It is likely that as the density of a community increases in a given area the minority status and stigma that group is exposed to will reduce. The 'group density' effect on health may therefore in part be understood by psychosocial factors such as social support. It was hypothesized that an understanding of the group density effect and the psychosocial factors influencing it may result in further understanding of issues such as prejudice, separatism and integration in diverse societies. Dr. Pickett emphasised the need for further research to assess whether this group density effect exists in all minority and ethnic groupings, and with respect to all health outcomes, and whether a group density threshold exists above which a protective health effect is conveyed to the members of its community.

Place-sensitive small area estimation of health needs, Graham Moon, School of Geography, University of Southampton.

This presentation was divided into two sections; a review of area effects on health outcomes and research findings from a study examining small area geographies of health. In the first section, Professor Moon highlighted the importance, when studying "area effects", of distinguishing between "composition" of the area and "context" of the area. The composition of the area is related to individual characteristics ("who you are") and the context of the area focuses on the place itself ("where you are"), in terms of physical environment, cultural environment, place deprivation and selective mobility. Several methods of analysis for area based studies were presented: a) maps of spatial variation (using raw data and prevalence) are not very useful; b) standardized maps of spatial variation that account for age, sex and SES are considered a central tool, but are limited in their scope; c) associative analysis, correlations and regression analysis to build prediction models are more complex methods used to understand the factors that may influence the outcome of good health. A question was raised: "Are spatial differences only a reflection of different social profiles of the residents within their area units ('people effect') or is there something about an area that has an independent effect on health ('area effect')?" The "people effect" is related to the characteristics of the people who live in the area, e.g. in terms of education, cultural values and employment status, among others. The "place effect" is related to the area where people live. Professor Moon highlighted two components of the "place effect" which are studied: a) the aggregative influences that stand from the accumulation of characteristics of the people who live in the area; and b) the ecological characteristics in terms of local procedures and policies, local investment, political involvement, major employment opportunities, community stress and social capital.

In the second section of the talk, Professor Moon focused on estimation of health needs. He utilized synthetic estimation, using people and area effects in a multilevel framework, to predict indicators of health needs; and extraction of unknown area-level measurements based on known variables. The author works with large databases in order to study: health related behaviours (e.g. smoking), heart disease, chronic respiratory disease, hypertension, type II diabetes, obesity and diagnosed vs. undiagnosed health problems. In his presentation Professor Moon highlighted the importance of scale of measurement because health outcomes are scale-dependent. For example, what is seen as a health problem in PCT's is not detected if only the catchments area in general is considered.

A Place to die: area deprivation and causality in mortality of older men. Myer Glickman, Health Analysis Team, Office for National Statistics.

Myer Glickman, Head of the Health Analysis Team, from the Office of National Statistics gave a presentation focusing on socioeconomic and geographical mortality differences in the UK. With the use of mortality death records, coupled with census data, analyses of inequalities in life expectancy were undertaken. One prominent point was the geographical phenomena of the 'North- South divide'. For instance when areas were designated by local authority the life expectancy of people residing in North Dorset was found to be 10 years more than that of Glaswegians. Mr Glickman suggested that in order to suggest causality there is a need to establish a sequence in time. Places of residence are not static throughout the lifecourse. Whilst the North South divide might relate the geography or socio-economic status of a population to inequalities in mortality the 'Escalator Effect' includes time as a variable.

Using data on 49,951 men, from the ONS longitudinal study, inequalities in mortality were presented. Results that were independently significant include the carstairs index, social class, social mobility, and housing tenure. Importantly many of these variables, mainly collected in the 1971 and 1981 censuses, were important risk factors for increased mortality levels of the same population some 10 and 20 years later. Moreover, there was a clear gradient with mortality by change of tenure, not just tenure. For example, populations who moved up the property ladder had lower mortality levels, whilst those who moved down had higher mortality levels, although those who had always been in higher level accommodation had the lowest risk of mortality.

The circular processes tying together the effects of social composition and social context are closely regulated by social and geographic mobility. Moreover the education, labour market and health of a population are all key indicators of the mortality of a population. It was also proposed that the lowest quintiles have a static-disadvantaged population. In this group the migration of the most affluent residents of a disadvantaged population is coupled by the downward migration of the least affluent residents of an advantaged population. Therefore, over a set period of time geographical effects on mortality risk accumulate over time.
