

BSPS CONFERENCE

Welcome to all attending the 2008 BSPS Conference, at which this Newsletter is being distributed. The Conference is taking place at Hulme Hall, the University of Manchester from 10-12 September, with participants from the UK, Italy, Portugal, France, Germany, the USA, Australia and China, and a very full programme.

A report of the Conference will appear in the next Newsletter, and on the website, and BSPS hopes that as many presentations as possible will also be posted to the Conference website.

RESEARCH FUNDS

CO-REACH Social Science Collaborative Research between Europe and China

2008 Call for Proposals

The CO-REACH Social Science Programme aims to bring together Chinese and European researchers, working in the social sciences and in part of the humanities, to collaborate on a joint topic of mutual interest, and to explore the possibilities of future co-operation in these areas. It is open both to European and Chinese scholars experienced at collaborating together and to those with little or no previous experience of China-Europe collaboration.

CO-REACH (Co-ordination of Research between European and China) is a network of European S&T policy and funding organisations involved in promoting research co-operation with China. It is supported by the European Commission as an ERA-NET Co-ordination Action. The network is intended to improve coherence and synergy in Europe's S&T relations with China.

Funding partners: Partners from the following seven countries will fund the programme:

- Austria (The Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture)
- Finland (The Academy of Finland)

- France (French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research)
- Germany (Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft)
- The Netherlands (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research)
- United Kingdom (The British Academy, the Economic & Social Research Council, and the Arts & Humanities Research Council)
- China (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)

Thematic priorities: Applications are invited in the following five broad research areas:

- Law, Governance and Policy Making
- Participation, Co-determination and Quality of Life
- Labour Market Change, Migration and Social Cohesion
- **Demography, Family and Social Welfare**
- Cultural Heritage

Funding instruments: UK applicants may apply for one, or several, of the following funding modalities:

- Research visits
- Workshops, seminar series, summer schools
- Minor research costs (small-scale field work, data sets, consumables, small equipment, some personnel costs).

Full details of eligible costs for UK applicants are available on the following website:

www.britac.ac.uk/intl/co_reach_ssprogramme_costs.html

Financial conditions: Each of the funding partners has contributed a sum of money to a virtual common pot. The

total budget for the call is €1.75 million. The maximum award for one project is approximately €100-200,000. Successful applicants will receive funds from their national funding organisation(s). Projects should run for no longer than two years from June 2009.

Eligibility: UK applicants should have research experience in one of the thematic fields and be affiliated to a UK University or research organisation. Applications should involve a minimum of two researchers/research groups from two different participating European partner countries, as well as a minimum of one researcher/research group from China. Researchers/research groups from other countries may participate in projects so long as they have secured their own funding. **Please note: the Principal Chinese Investigator should be based in one of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' institutes.**

Application process and further details: For further information and access to the electronic application process, please consult the CO-REACH website: www.co-reach.org

Application deadline: There is a two-stage application process:
Pre-registration submission deadline: **28 October 2008, 12:00 CET**
(Submission period 20 Aug-28 Oct)
Full proposal submission deadline: **10 December 2008, 12:00 CET**
(Submission period 3 Nov-10 Dec)

Contact: For further information on the call, please contact the **CO-REACH Joint Call Secretariat, Ruth Narmann**.
Telephone: 0049 228 885 2340
E-mail: DFG@co-reach.org

UK Applicants interested in the programme should contact Sharon Strange at the [British Academy](http://www.britishecademy.org) for further information. Contact names are available for advice on potential Chinese partners.
Telephone: 020 7969 5220
Fax: 020 7969 5414
E-mail: united.kingdom@co-reach.org

that it's not easy enough for advice to reach the ears of those who need to hear it. The result has been a worrying separation of academia and policy advice.

This was the rationale for the funding of an ESRC-placement in the Government Social Research Unit, based in HM Treasury. The GSRU coordinates the work of the Government Social Research professionals – around 1000 social scientists – across government. The post has just been filled by myself, Philip Cowley, currently Professor of Parliamentary Government at the University of Nottingham, who will be spending the next nine months working in the Treasury, helping social science research feed into policy-making.

The initial priority is to develop work flowing from the Strategy Unit's report *Realising Britain's Potential*, published in February 2008. That report identified nine strategic challenges for the British Government over the next - from climate change to life chances, and from economic prosperity to democratic renewal. What is striking about *Realising Britain's Potential* is that nearly all of the challenges identified are ones where social science – including population studies – should have a key role to play.

More generally, I will be working developing routes in to government for government, and in particular to the government social research profession. I describe the work as “pimping for academics”. I have commented: “One of the principal challenges of this project will be to turn around the ways in which academia communicates with government, which are not always successful.” Academics often don't know to whom they should communicate their work, or in what format it should be sent. My advice is to send a summary of the research's findings (one side of A4), which sets out what the research has found, and why it might be useful to government. I can be contacted at philip.cowley@hm-treasury.x.gsi.gov.uk and will ensure that research reaches the right people within government.

Philip Cowley

NOTICES

Your man in the Treasury

The impact of social science research on government in Britain is at best patchy, at worst non-existent. Whilst individual academics and some disciplines have developed good links with policy-makers, there is a growing awareness within academia that collectively we often do not do enough to disseminate research findings outside of the academic world. See, for example, the comments in the recent report from the Academy of the Social Sciences. There may be many reasons for this collective failure, but there's also an awareness within government that sometimes they also don't do enough to reach out to the external research community,

Centre for Research on Families and Relationships The University of Edinburgh

Have you ever wanted to conduct a survey, evaluate a project or use interviewing to do research, but felt you needed to know more? CRFR is a consortium research centre conducting research on families and relationships and disseminating it widely. Our courses are open to anyone and are part of our commitment to enhancing research skills, making research accessible and providing access to research for a wide audience.

Courses Available

Survey Design and Administration

University of Edinburgh
21st October 2008
9am - 5pm
£150

Interviewing for Research
17th November 2008
University of Edinburgh
10am - 4 pm
£150

Evaluation in Practice
13th November & 4th December 2008
University of Edinburgh
2 day course, 10am - 4pm
£270 (£150 one day only)

To book a place on any of these courses:
<http://www.cfr.ac.uk/cpd/coursepages2008/cpdindex.htm>

Please find below a link to an **ESRC/NISRA call for proposals for a Research Support Unit** to support the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study. The Unit will form part of the ESRC Census Programme and will provide research support to users of the NLS.

http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/current_funding_opportunities/NILSRSU.aspx

The closing date for applications is 02 December 2008.

Crime surveys user meeting

Tuesday 9 December 2008
Royal Statistical Society, Errol Street, London, EC1Y 8LX

This meeting was previously referred to as the British Crime Survey user meeting but we have now extended it to other crime surveys.

The meeting will provide a forum for the exchange of information and views between users and producers of the Government Crime and Victimization Survey datasets. It is aimed primarily at users and potential users of survey microdata.

The morning will include presentations giving updates on the British Crime Survey, Scottish Crime and Justice Survey and the Offending Crime and Justice Survey. The afternoon will consist of research papers based on the crime surveys.

The meeting is free to attend and lunch is provided. To view the programme and book a place please go to
<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2008-12-09/>

Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey user meeting

Tuesday 2 December 2008
Royal Statistical Society, London

This meeting will provide a forum for data users and producers to meet and discuss new developments and exchange information about the Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey. The morning will consist of presentations from the Office for National Statistics including an update on the LFS/APS. The afternoon will consist of research papers based on the LFS/APS.

The meeting is free to attend and lunch is provided. For more details and to book a place please go to
<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2008-12-02/>

Attendees at the LFS/APS meeting may also be interested in the following meeting of the Royal Statistical Society which takes place at the RSS on the same day from 4.30pm.

Ethnic populations: the components for projection Paul Norman, John Stillwell and Peter Boden (School of Geography, University of Leeds)

The Social Statistics Section is organising this meeting to discuss work associated with two projects undertaken as part of the ESRC-funded Understanding Population Trends and Processes (UPTAP) programme. One project aims to produce sub-national population projections by ethnic group and by age whilst the other project involves analysis of internal migration by ethnic group using census data for 2000-01. The presentations will consider trends and patterns in each of the components of ethnic population change together, and will report on progress towards the construction of a projection model and the difficulties confronted along the way.

The meeting is open to all and is free of charge, but pre-registration is recommended. Please email meetings@rss.org.uk or telephone 020 7638 8998.

For more information please contact
Fiona.Steele@bristol.ac.uk

Britain in a European Context - Research Data Resources

Humanities Bridgford Street, University of Manchester
Friday 7 November 2008

Understanding the UK increasingly requires an understanding of our place in Europe. This workshop will introduce participants to the major data resources that enable researchers to explore these relationships and influences.

The one day workshop, aimed at social science research

staff and students, will discuss the data resources available for the analysis of the UK at a national level and within a European context. It will include presentations on accessing British survey data and international comparative data from surveys, including issues relating to accessing data from Eurostat, and will explore the range of international time series data available from intergovernmental organisations such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. We will also be looking at the methodological, statistical and technical issues associated with combining data from these different sources. In the afternoon, participants will have the opportunity to gain practical experience in accessing and exploring the data and related resources in hands-on sessions.

The workshop is free to attend and is open to all. To view the programme and book a place please go to <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2008-11-07/>

Forthcoming SARs event

Workshop: Analysing households with the Samples of Anonymised Records from the census

Newcastle University
Wednesday 29 October 2008

This half-day workshop will give participants the opportunity to discover how Census microdata can be used for household analysis.

Jo Wathan from The Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research, Manchester University will talk about the Samples of Anonymised Records from the Census and show how to work with hierarchical microdata.

There will be a hands-on session so participants can discover how to manipulate census data, and learn how to apply it to their own research.

For more details and to book a place please go to <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/news/eventdetail.asp?id=2068>

INDEPENDENT HEALTHY AGEING – Showcasing Research

Date: Thursday 13 November 2008, 09:15 - 16:30
Venue: Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

The above event is being co-hosted by the General Register Office for Scotland and the Scottish Government. This event will bring together UK academics, policy makers and analysts from across the public, private and voluntary sectors, as well as older people, to explore questions such as:

- What research has been done or is being done on healthy independent ageing?
- What are the key issues which need to be addressed?
- Where are the gaps in the current evidence base?
- How can academics and researchers work with policy makers to exploit current research and fill the gaps?

The purpose of this event is to showcase existing research relating to independent healthy ageing, to inform the development and delivery of public policy. The detailed objectives of the event are to:

- raise awareness of research on independent healthy ageing
- facilitate discussion between the policy, practice and academic community on areas of mutual interest relating to ageing
- use the event to identify key issues for policy development and delivery requirements
- identify gaps in evidence as a platform for future research

The event will be of interest to academic evidence providers who are interested in independent healthy ageing; evidence users in the policy and practice community; and researchers in the wider public and private sector who wish to engage in using and developing the evidence base relating to independent healthy ageing.

If you would like to attend the event please return your completed registration form to franca.eirich@scotland.gsi.gov.uk by **Wednesday 29 October**. You are also invited to cascade this invitation through your personal, organisational or academic electronic networks.

REPORTS OF PREVIOUS BSPS MEETINGS

“Defining the household: implications of household definitions in surveys and censuses”

A BSPS day meeting held at University College London on 15 May 2008.

All presentations from this meeting are posted to the BSPS website, at: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/BSPS/dayMeetings/DefiningtheHousehold.htm>

The practicalities of data collection and the need for meaningful data analysis and policy formulation require a social unit to be defined. In practical terms, this basic social unit is generally referred to as a household. The ‘household’ is almost universally used as a unit of enumeration, although evidence from diverse disciplines has noted that the household as defined by survey practitioners frequently bears little resemblance to the social units that people live in. This British Society for Population Studies day meeting organised by Tiziana Leone, Sara Randall and Ernestina Coast drew upon the experience of a range of researchers to examine how households are defined and used in research. The aim of the meeting was to create an agenda for questions and discussion involving all the participants and the audience. The meeting was attended by around 40 participants from the UK and France.

Dr Ernestina Coast (LSE) presented ongoing work from an ESRC-funded project she is conducting together with Sara Randall (UCL) and Tiziana Leone (LSE) on the 'The commodity chain of the household: from policy to practice'. The study examines how a shared language – use of the term 'household' - has the potential to generate misunderstandings because different groups with distinctive understandings of the term 'household' are often unaware that others may be using the same term differently. These misunderstandings may have important repercussions for poverty analysis, including poverty mapping, and policies based on such exercises.

Household sample surveys are integral to planning for development in most poor countries and there is a growing demand for demographic and socio-economic data to inform development strategies in general. The last four decades have seen a large expansion in requests for, and provision of, such data. Preliminary results from the study show that data collectors have a very clear idea of what a household is but data users often pay little attention to its meaning..

Dr Tanja Houweling (University College London) presented an overview of her work on measuring inequalities in childhood mortality in low and middle income countries using DHS data. The measure for inequality is usually at household level but she pointed out that the definition of household as stated in the DHS might not actually correspond to the actual household health production model process. This is particularly problematic when trying to measure differentials in child health.

The DHS has several shortcomings when it comes to household dynamics with limited information on household formation and/or dissolution and household economic status. Furthermore DHS data do not allow you take into account unequal intra-household allocation of resources for child health. She stressed the need to look at what goes on *within* the household. However, DHS data are an important sources of comparable international data, and she therefore recommended that surveys provide more detailed and accessible documentation, together with country-specific implications of definitions of urban and rural households. For example, she highlighted that maternal wealth, in addition to household wealth, would be useful when considering differential infant health. She concluded by saying that targeting should be careful as identification of poor women and children might not be straightforward.

Dr Marc Pilon (IRD, Paris) – presented reflections on his longstanding work on household concepts from a demographic point of view, using examples taken from his work on schooling data from African household statistics. Despite critiques of the household concept, nevertheless it is often perfectly possible to undertake adequate analyses with interesting and pertinent results. He stressed the fact that the kinship link data are frequently neglected in censuses and surveys and often they are classified using rather poor typologies. Other shortcomings are weak knowledge about the characteristics of older people. He focused on the necessity of taking account non cohabitating relationships: this is easily achieved using household questionnaires to collect information about non-resident members, and coding for residential status. He concluded by saying that we need

specific quantitative studies in order to demonstrate the implications of using classical household concepts for social and economic measures.

Professor Richard Wall (University of Essex) – Presented his on the limitations on the role of households as economic units in Britain 1600-1960. Starting from the picture of his childhood home he described the multiple purposes of a household. Households are often perceived as having both residential and income pooling functions. These claims are reassessed in his study using evidence on households in the British past derived from detailed family budgets, information on the economic circumstances of persons in receipt of poor relief and enumerations of local populations. It is argued that the income of household members was not always shared out equitably, with wage earning children using a proportion of their earnings for their own needs. Evidence that wives ate less well than their husbands is also discussed. In later sections of the paper consideration is given to the economic and cultural forces that helped shape household patterns and how these patterns have been interpreted by residents at the time, their contemporaries and later commentators. It is argued that inequity in the distribution of the household's resources and the extent of assistance provided from outside the household make it unwise for historians to rely solely on the occupation of the household head to determine the social position of the household let alone those of all its members.

Professor Ian Timaeus (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine) presented "Is home where your heart or hearth is? A Southern African perspective".

Ian summarised research undertaken by a team including himself and Vicky Hosegood in South Africa where a range of innovative approaches to household membership include non-resident household members and resident non-members, which are all well adapted to the South African context. It included studies on the impact of adult mortality on household dissolution and migration and the utilisation of Demographic Surveillance data to understand household composition dynamics (references for these studies are available from the BPS website). The studies demonstrated that households and individuals are highly mobile in South Africa and social arrangements are fluid (e.g. only 2/3 of children reside with their mothers). Poorer households, as measured by asset ownership, and households trying to cope with adult deaths are vulnerable to dissolution. The dramatic increase in adult mortality attributable to AIDS will increase the number of households that do not survive as a functional and cohesive social group.

Ian concluded stating that most people belong to the household where their hearth is but many South Africans also belong to other households where their heart is. However, in Southern Africa, you belong to any household where your (household) head is. The socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS in the region is yet to be fully understood and this will have serious repercussions on the household structure, patterns of migration, child fostering and transfers established prior to the advent of the epidemic, state welfare grants (child grants, pensions) and

the demographic and epidemiological transitions.

Dr Liz Oughton (Newcastle University) – “Conceptualising the household in consumption studies: Fieldwork lessons from India, Jordan, and the UK.”

Liz presented her comparative experience of collecting household consumption data from three countries. Focusing upon provisioning highlights the mediating role of the household, within which economic actors develop their beliefs and contextualise their behaviour. The main research questions were: What constitutes a household? Who can lay claim to the resources of the household? Under what circumstances do these responsibilities, duties and rights change and differ?

Her conclusions/discussion differed by country. In India she highlighted the need to adapt government definitions of the household to gain a better understanding of the factors affecting food availability. Knowledge of kin relations are important because they contained obligations, rights and duties. In Jordan, “group” households involve separate dwellings but closely linked livelihoods and systems of provisioning. Gender relations within the household played a key part in decisions over provisioning. Her work in the UK showed that reference to an indicator associated with only one form of rationality provides a distorted view of household wellbeing. Imposing a single household definition will be misleading, the household needs to be contextualised otherwise very significant power relations that affect consumption may be missed. She highlighted the importance of comprehensive exploratory work prior to survey design. Each of the issues raises questions that could be asked in the other two places, demonstrating the spatial and temporal relevance of the concept of household in a range of settings.

Dr Janet Seeley (University of East Anglia) – “Lessons on defining the household from a study of socio-economic status and HIV and AIDS in rural Uganda.”

Janet presented findings and reflections from a study conducted using the MRC General Population Cohort (GPC). The study was established in 1989 in 15 rural villages (expanded to 25 villages in 2000) in a sub-county of Masaka district in Uganda. Its main objectives are to describe the dynamics of HIV infection within a rural population, to identify the major risk factors for contracting HIV and to quantify the impact of mortality and fertility and to study treatment seeking behaviour.

Her study concluded that a focus solely on the household unit cannot adequately explain the impact of HIV and AIDS on socio-economic status. While other family members may provide support to a household, they may also need support themselves and thereby drain resources from related households. A look at the impact of HIV and AIDS on people’s wider families provides pointers to why those who may not have had an AIDS-related death in their own household may have failed to prosper. She illustrated her points using a large reconstructed kinship diagram which she could use to identify different residential and support groups and show how different, apparently separate, households were interlinked.

Tiziana Leone

REPORTS OF OTHER MEETINGS

Report of the XXVth European Population Conference, 9-12th July 2008, Barcelona

The 25th European Population Conference, organised by the European Association for Population Studies, took place this year in the very attractive city of Barcelona, in glorious Spanish sunshine. The theme of the conference was the topical ‘Migration and Migrants in Europe’ but papers and posters were presented across 13 strands encompassing fertility, families, ageing, health, life course, policy, evolutionary and biodemography, economics and methods as well as migration. Plenary talks are not a feature of the EPC, but the volume of proffered talks, with around 10 sessions running simultaneously in each slot, gave more than enough food for thought. The opening and closing wine receptions, plus the 3 poster sessions, also allowed plenty of opportunity for mingling with fellow demographers.

The breadth of material covered at the conference was impressive. Delegates could choose to attend presentations focussing on demographic issues from a wide range of theoretical perspectives, including economics, anthropology, sociology, biology. One whole strand focussed on ‘Economics and labour market issues’, while another concentrated on ‘Evolutionary and biodemography’. Several sessions were devoted to data and methodological issues, ranging from population forecasting through census microdata to (appropriately) new Spanish data sources. The time depth and geographical range of the data used in empirical presentations was also notable: many presentations featured historical datasets, including both written records of demographic data but also skeletal material, from which inferences about demographic patterns can be drawn. Geographically, while there was something of focus on European populations, as is to be expected at a European Population Conference, all other regions of the world were also represented. The policy implications of demographic research were also not ignored, with one strand being devoted to policy issues. Sessions in this strand included child welfare, migration and labour market insecurities.

Despite this diversity, there were perhaps two main themes which emerged from the conference. The official theme of migration resulted in many sessions covering issues such as nuptiality of migrants, the European brain drain, data and statistical issues, gender and economic issues, migration policies and the integration of migrants. As well as this official theme, another strong theme which emerged from many sessions was current low fertility in Europe, as might be expected given the importance of this topic in Europe at the moment. Many papers considered this issue from numerous perspectives, through gender and labour market issues, work-life balance, family formation and life course perspectives. Empirical research was presented on both actual fertility levels and fertility desires and intentions, and theoretical models of fertility were also presented.

British demography was well represented at the conference, with representatives from major population groups at the University of Southampton, London School of Economics, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Institute of Education, Oxford University, University of St Andrews as well as the Office for National Statistics all in attendance (and probably many others that I didn't spot amongst the 690 delegates!). The British Society for Population Studies was also out in force: the President, Vice-President and Honorary Secretary and numerous members all presented papers. Overall, the conference was a demonstration of the healthy state of demography in Europe.

Rebecca Sear

POPFEST 2008 conference report

POPFEST 2008 was held in Manchester between the 25th and 27th June and proved a great success. The conference featured 20 speakers from universities across the UK and 7 sessions each of which stimulated lively questions and discussion.

The conference was opened by Professor Ludi Simpson who gave an entertaining welcome address. Ludi spoke about the importance of building networks with other researchers during the PhD process and the value of the POPFEST conference in this respect.

The first session, chaired by Nisha Kapoor (University of Manchester) was on Migration and Population Change and included three presenters. Jenna Truder from Brighton University started the conference with a presentation on the complexities of family migration. Naomi Marquis from Manchester University then presented her work on the measurement of internal migration using the National Pupil database - a valuable source for those interested in measuring migration with an ethnic dimension. The final presenter of the session, Susan Ramsay (University of Manchester), described her research using detailed migration data from the Cuban national statistical database and multistate models to explore dynamics of sub-national population change in Cuba.

The second session was the first of two sessions on Population Geographies. The first speaker Nisha Kapoor (University of Manchester) examined socio-economic inequalities experienced by South Asians in the UK showing that inequalities persist across all neighbourhood types and are explained little by co-ethnic concentration or neighbourhood deprivation. Jo Sage from Brighton University then discussed the processes and diverse geographies of studentification in Brighton and Hove. Finally, Amy Tucker (Brighton University) gave an interesting talk on her plans for research on the population geographies of 'Post students'. Amy's work focuses on students who remain in their place of study after graduation and the factors underpinning their decision to 'stay-put'.

The first day of the conference was rounded off with an excellent conference meal at the Ricebowl restaurant. All

were impressed with the excellent food and service the only drawback being the lack of coverage of the Euro 2008 match of Germany versus Turkey!

The second day of the conference began with a session on Methods. Nestor Arcia Montes De Oca (University of Manchester) gave the first presentation in which he evaluated several methods for the estimation of chronic disease prevalence for small areas in Cuba. John McCarthy from Leeds University then outlined his research which aims to collaborate with the Scottish Government and the General Register Office for Scotland in order to produce a set of small area population and household estimates for Scotland. Finally, Alan Marshall from the University of Manchester discussed his research on the estimation of local profiles of age specific disability rates. Alan described the potential and applicability of relational models, developed originally for the graduation of mortality schedules, for estimation of local disability profiles.

The following session featured the plenary speaker, Professor Danny Dorling who gave a thought provoking and stimulating presentation that was divided into two parts. The first part of Danny's presentation focused on the UK and demonstrated the polarisation of inequalities in wealth, poverty, health and other indicators. The second part of the presentation looked at inequalities in terms of health, wealth and poverty across the world using a series of maps from the WorldMapper project (www.worldmapper.org). Danny concluded his talk by raising the question of why we worry so much about future disasters, such as global warming rather than those that are already occurring as a result of existing global socio-economic and spatial inequalities.

After lunch there was a session on Kinship & Family with three speakers. Rosalind Willis (Kings College London) opened the session with her research on family support amongst minority ethnic older people. Rosalind's research uses quantitative and qualitative techniques to investigate ethnic group differences in determinants of help (received and given) and in the understandings, expectations and experiences of family, community, and voluntary support. The next speakers, Stavroula Pipyrou (University of Durham) and Giovanna Fassetta (University of Strathclyde) provided a change from the quantitative focus of the morning. Stavroula presented an ethnographical paper to explore the pivotal role of ancestors in the lives of the Grecanici - Greek speaking populations - in Reggio Calabria, South Italy. Giovanna gave a very interesting presentation describing a project that aims to explore children's imaginative geographies in connection with migration.

The final session of the day was on Reproduction and child welfare. The first presenter was Elizabeth Hukin, from the London School of Economics and Political Science who gave a presentation on unmet need for contraception in Cambodia using quantitative and qualitative techniques. Sarah Mahaupt (London School of Economics) then talked about her research which uses the Indonesian Family Life

Survey to assess the extent to which parental income poverty affects child well-being. Finally, Shaffa Hameed (London School of Economics) stepped in at the last minute to fill a gap in the schedule timetable and delivered a fascinating presentation describing her research on contraceptive use in the Maldives.

The final day of the conference comprised two sessions. The first session, chaired by Alan Marshall (University of Manchester), was on Work and employment. Hazel Jurd (University of Manchester) gave the first presentation on institutional factors affecting middle-aged women's employment in France and the United Kingdom. Hazel gave a fascinating insight into the impact that differing social policies have on rates of employment of middle to older aged women in France and the UK. Irene Mosca (University of Strathclyde) then presented research that examined the relationship between cohort size and earnings for Italian males using data from 8 waves (1994-2001) of the European Community Household Panel. Last but not least Hayley Limmer (University of Manchester) explored the post-childbirth employment behaviour of women who were self-employed during pregnancy.

There were two speakers in the final session. Katarzyna Jaksina (Plymouth University) presented research on housing careers of in-migrants into rural areas using The Longitudinal Survey. Katarzyna demonstrated that individuals gained on the housing market during the 1980s boom. Her research findings support the grim picture of tightened access to rural housing in the attractive South West area in the 1990s. Finally, Preena Shah (University of Brighton) gave a presentation on the gentrification of coastal resorts. Preena argued that former seaside resorts are ripe for gentrification after generations of disinvestment.

POPFFEST 2008 was a great success and proved to be an interesting, rewarding and enjoyable experience for all those involved. Next year POPFFEST will be held in The London School of Economics. We wish the organizers well and are sure that POPFFEST 2009 will continue to provide a valuable platform for postgraduate students to gain experience of presenting in a friendly academic setting.

The success of POPFFEST 2008 would not have been possible without the generous support of:

- British Society of Population Studies
- Population and Places Research group
- Population geography research group (A research group of the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers)

The conference also could not have happened without the hard work of the conference organizers: Nestor Arcia Montes De Oca, Hazel Jurd, Nisha Kapoor, Naomi Marquis, Alan Marshall and Susan Ramsay.

Alan Marshall – on behalf of POPFFEST 2008 organisers