

## BSPS Annual Conference 2011

### *Call for Papers*

The 2011 Annual Conference will be held between Wednesday 7th and Friday 9th September 2011 at the **University of York**. The University campus is on the outskirts of the historic city of York. All Conference sessions will be held on site, where Conference catering and accommodation will also be available at very reasonable rates.



There will be a full programme of simultaneous strand sessions of submitted papers. Proposals or abstracts for papers and posters are invited across the entire demographic and population studies spectrum. For organizational purposes, strand organizers have been allocated to specific themes. There is a strand for other papers which do not appear to fit the strands announced.

This year, some sessions within strands have been suggested and these will be organised

by the person named as session organiser, within an overall strand. Sessions within strands are shown beneath the overall strand title. Submissions of quantitative and qualitative papers are welcome.

Offers of training sessions, as requested on feedback forms from the 2010 Conference, and fringe meetings, would also be welcomed.

Plenary speakers are confirmed as Professor Kenneth Hill (Harvard) and Professor John Hobcraft (University of York).

Editor: Amos Channon  
([arc102@soton.ac.uk](mailto:arc102@soton.ac.uk))

Co-editor: Emily Freeman  
([e.freeman@lse.ac.uk](mailto:e.freeman@lse.ac.uk))

Suggestions for articles in future editions of BSPS News welcomed.

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# BSPS Conference

## Call for Papers

Information updates on the Conference will be posted to the BSPS website as available. See <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/socialPolicy/BSPS/annualConference/Home.aspx>

Preliminary abstracts of papers (maximum 250 words), should be submitted online by 8 May 2011 at:

<https://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/lsewebsite/bsps2011submissions>

Papers and poster presentations are given equal weight. Final decisions on papers and posters accepted for presentation will be made by the end of May 2011.

Strand & session organisers are as follows:

**Ageing:** Emily Freeman, London School of Economics. [E.Freeman@lse.ac.uk](mailto:E.Freeman@lse.ac.uk)

**Families and Households:** Dr. Christiaan Monden, University of Oxford. [christiaan.monden@nuffield.ox.ac.uk](mailto:christiaan.monden@nuffield.ox.ac.uk)

**Fertility and Reproductive Health:** Dr. Stuart Basten, University of Oxford. [stuart.basten@spi.ox.ac.uk](mailto:stuart.basten@spi.ox.ac.uk), and Dr. Sylvie Dubuc, University of Oxford. [sylvie.dubuc@socres.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sylvie.dubuc@socres.ox.ac.uk)

**Health and Mortality:** Dr. Tiziana Leone, London School of Economics. [T.Leone@lse.ac.uk](mailto:T.Leone@lse.ac.uk) and Dr. Amos Channon, University of Southampton. [arc102@soton.ac.uk](mailto:arc102@soton.ac.uk)

**Historical Demography:** Dr. Violetta Hionidou, University of Newcastle. [violetta.hionidou@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:violetta.hionidou@newcastle.ac.uk)

**Interdisciplinary strand: Overall strand organizer:** Dr. Stuart Basten, University of Oxford. [stuart.basten@spi.ox.ac.uk](mailto:stuart.basten@spi.ox.ac.uk)

**Including suggested sessions:**

**Gender inequality, mothers & children.**

**Session organizer:** Dr. Sylvie Dubuc, University of Oxford. [sylvie.dubuc@spi.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sylvie.dubuc@spi.ox.ac.uk)

**Population & the environment. Session organizer:** Alan Marshall, University of Manchester. [alan.marshall@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:alan.marshall@manchester.ac.uk)

**Religion & demography. Session organizer:** Dr. Vegard Skirbekk, IIASA. [skirbekk@iiasa.ac.at](mailto:skirbekk@iiasa.ac.at)

**Local government, planning, census issues:** Eileen Howes, Greater London Authority. [eileen.howes@london.gov.uk](mailto:eileen.howes@london.gov.uk)

**Including suggested sessions:**

**Outputs from the 2011 census.**

**Revisions to output geography following the 2011 Census. Session organizer:** Jonathan Swan, ONS. [jonathan.swan@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.swan@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

**Research from the three UK census-based longitudinal studies (ONS LS, SLS, NILS):** : Jim Newman, ONS. [jim.newman@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jim.newman@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

**Methods, models and projections:** Dr. Paul Norman, University of Leeds. [p.d.norman@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:p.d.norman@leeds.ac.uk)

**Including suggested session:**

**Demographic applications of Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Modelling:** Professor Robert Wright, Strathclyde University. [r.e.wright@strath.ac.uk](mailto:r.e.wright@strath.ac.uk)

**Migration: transnational and subnational:** Professor Tony Champion, University of Newcastle. [tony.champion@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:tony.champion@newcastle.ac.uk)

**Posters:** Cecilia Macintyre, UK Statistics Authority [cecilia.macintyre@statistics.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cecilia.macintyre@statistics.gsi.gov.uk)

# The 2011 Census

Zella Compton and David Standen

For over two hundred years, census statistics have been used to underpin national and local decision making. It offers a once a decade opportunity to obtain a comprehensive and consistent snapshot of the population. And it's happening right now. People will have been receiving white envelopes through their letterboxes, with an origami purple C emblazoned on the front, from mid-March. People can complete online (using the unique internet code on the front of their questionnaire) or post their questionnaire back in the prepaid envelope.



The census means different things to different people. Genealogists use previous census returns to research family history (the grand total of all 1841-1901 census downloads from the National Archives, since 2002, is over 386 million). Academics, businesses, emergency services, health authorities, charities and local councils all use the statistics to plan for an ever changing society.

The 2011 Census needs to deliver high quality, value-for-money statistics that are relevant and useful to all kinds of users. It's also important to present this information in a way that reflects the way that society now works. The first of the 2011 Census outputs will be released mid-2012, and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) will be harnessing new technical solutions to display the results.

Data visualisation tools, like maps and animated charts will be used extensively on a new ONS website, which will be launched with improved search facilities.

Everything practical is being done to assist people to complete and return a census questionnaire, so that accurate counts for all areas and all population groups can be produced. Comprehensive online assistance is available, as is a telephone helpline with over 50 dedicated language lines, 35,000 collectors offering advice and assistance on the doorstep (after 6 April) and community advisors and area managers who have been spreading the word locally since last August. This census is the first one in England and Wales that can be completed online and it's also utilising a questionnaire tracking system to enable the field force to visit households who may need extra assistance to complete their questionnaires, rather than knocking on every door.

Census day is in late March, but questionnaires should have been received well ahead of that date, with householders asked to complete them before, on or after the day – as long as the information refers to the 27 March.

Following the 2011 Census, there's the Census Coverage Survey (CCS), which takes place from May to June. A cross-section of 300,000 addresses will be visited, with brief doorstep interviews being conducted. The CCS is designed (*continued on Page 4*)

# The 2011 Census

Zella Compton and David Standen

(continued from page 3) to find the sorts of households and persons the census may have missed. This enables ONS to identify who was counted in just the census, just the CCS, or in both. This information can then be used to estimate the population missed by the census in the CCS areas, and can then be applied to the whole country to estimate the total population by local authority and its key characteristics.

The statistical significance of the 2011 Census isn't just about numbers and types of people. This time around, it will break all records in terms of how many questionnaires will be processed, and how quickly.

All 25 million or so household census questionnaires, plus millions more from care homes, hotels, military bases and other communal establishments, will be processed at the 180,000 square foot secure facility in Trafford Park, Greater Manchester. It's a gigantic, highly secure operation, involving data capture, scanning, envelope slitting, sorting, removing spines from questionnaires and shredding. Everything will happen under one roof, subject to rigid and comprehensive security controls – from the gate to the workplace and back again.

It takes a great deal of planning, teamwork, diligence and precision to paint a detailed picture of a population of millions. Here are just some of the major milestones:

Census Regulations laid before parliament: no census can go ahead without these. The Census Regulations became law on 31 March 2010

National recruitment campaign: around 35,000 people – mostly field staff – have been recruited to help run the census

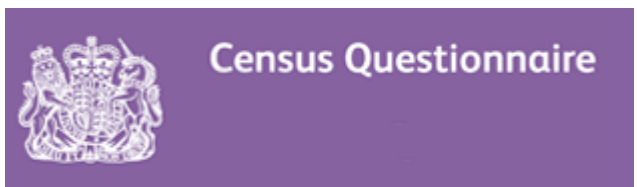
Questionnaire printing: more than 36 million, plus envelopes, for the whole of England and Wales, and Northern Ireland

The national campaign: spreading the word in the press, TV, radio, our website and social media

Questionnaire tracking: how many questionnaires have been received, and how many need to be followed-up

The 2011 Census will not only be the most openly discussed and promoted census ever, it will also be the most automated and the most accessible ever.

To find out more visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk) or follow the census on twitter [www.twitter.com/2011censusinfo](http://www.twitter.com/2011censusinfo)



*Zella Compton and David Standen both work for the Office of National Statistics*



## Obituary

# Robert I. Woods (1949-2011)

John Rankin Professor of Geography

University of Liverpool, 1996-2011 and former BSPS President

Bob Woods enjoyed a distinguished and productive academic career. He came to prominence as a result of his seminal work bridging the gaps between the disciplines of demography and population geography. Subsequently he built a reputation as one of the most eminent historical demographers of his generation.

For many, Bob's name is synonymous with the demography of Victorian Britain and the historical demography of infant mortality. But Bob's contributions ranged far wider than this, embracing the full gamut of geographical approaches within the more than 50 journal articles and 12 books that he published. At one extreme his PhD thesis, and the work emerging from it, were based on the measurement and simulation of ethnic segregation in contemporary Birmingham. At the other, his recent book *Children remembered* (Woods, 2006) examined the nature of the grief associated with childhood mortality over the 16th to 20th centuries, as captured through the media of painting and poetry – set, of course, against the relevant demographic backdrop.

Bob joined the Geography department at the University of Sheffield in 1975, where he was to stay for the next 14 years. Almost immediately Bob forged a productive partnership with Sheffield colleague Paul White, publishing jointly on various aspects of migration, and co-editing a major text *The geographical impact of migration* (White



and Woods, 1980). It was also during this time that Bob started to find his own distinctive academic voice, culminating in a series of publications, most importantly *Population Analysis* (Woods, 1979) and *Theoretical Population Geography* (Woods, 1982), setting out the basis for a new 'spatial demography', bridging the gaps between the previously disparate disciplines of demography and population geography. This theme was further developed in collaboration with Phil Rees, resulting in the co-edited book *Population structures and models: Developments in spatial demography* (Woods and Rees, 1986).

Having established this disciplinary rapprochement, Bob moved on to an engagement with what were to become and remain his twin life-long passions – historical demography and the causes, context and affects of infant mortality over time. This engagement with historical demography continued following Bob's move, in 1989, to a personal Chair in *(continued on page 6)*



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(continued from page 5) in Geography at the University of Liverpool, leading to many publications and resulting in arguably the definitive study of The demography of Victorian England and Wales (Woods, 2000). Bob also ensured that this work was placed within a broader context, making ongoing contributions to wider debates in various disciplines about health transitions and their paths in the developed and developing world. When Bob fell ill he was working on a monograph for Liverpool University Press, Mrs Stone & Dr Smellie: eighteenth-century midwives and their practices, which he handed over to a long-time colleague and former PhD student, Dr Chris Galley, to complete. Just before he died, Bob was still working putting together some final thoughts about the issue of stillbirths and arguing that contemporary issues in the developed and developing worlds would be illuminated by adopting an historical perspective.

Beyond his own research, Bob made many other significant contributions to the wider academe, most notably by serving as President of the British Society for Population Studies (1991), founding co-editor (1997-92) of the International Journal of Population Geography (now known as Population, Space and Place), and as co-editor until shortly before his death, of Population Studies. This scholarly career brought many academic distinctions, including the Royal Geographical Society's

Murchison Award (1999), appointment to the John Rankin Chair of Geography at Liverpool (1996), the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's Newbiggin Award (2005), Research Fellowships from the Nuffield Foundation (1984-5) and the Wellcome Trust (2005-7), a Visiting Fellowship from All Soul's College, Oxford (2005) and, in 2003, Fellowship of the British Academy, membership of the Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences, and a DLitt from the University of Cambridge. Most recently, the Population Geography Research Group of the RGS-IBG announced the launch of the annual 'Bob Woods Prize' for the best Postgraduate dissertation produced at a UK University.

Bob will no doubt be most remembered within academe at large for his scholarly achievements. But for those who met him in person, Bob will best be remembered as an inspirational, supportive and generous colleague and teacher. He helped to supervise around 25 PhDs, who have gone on to work in a variety of settings, ranging from the Office for National Statistics and the Department for Health through to many UK and overseas Universities. Anecdotes of working with Bob abound. Two will, perhaps, suffice. Co-teaching on a field class with Bob was inevitably accompanied by a gastronomic tour of the city in question; and also of being left trekking students across the city (through a snow blizzard in Glasgow on one (continued on page 7)



## Obituary

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(continued from page 6) occasion) whilst Bob was safely installed in a cafe somewhere reading a book and sipping coffee, having sent his students off on a tour of local museums or shopping malls. On another occasion, during a trip to the Max Planck Institute of Demography in Rostock, Bob somehow became separated from his luggage, including the talk he had planned to give and its accompanying overhead acetates. Needless to say, the loss of clothes was used as an excuse to make suitable additions to his wardrobe. Then, having complimented a colleague on his 'high tech' use of powerpoint, Bob gave a masterclass in both presentation and infant mortality, noteless, and armed only with a stick of chalk and a blackboard. As those who knew him will attest, Bob's great loves were good food and wine, poetry, holidays in France and, most of all, of his family. In Bob's own words, quoted at his funeral, the final death is being forgotten. As this brief tribute to his life shows, the legacy he has left means that this will be a long time coming.

*Paul Williamson, University of Liverpool*

### BOOKS

WOODS R I (1979) *Population Analysis in Geography*, London: Longman, 288pp.

WHITE P E and WOODS R I (eds) (1980) *The Geographical Impact of Migration*, London: Longman, 245pp.

WOODS R I (1982) *Theoretical population geography*, London: Longman, 235pp.

WOODS R I and WOODWARD J H [eds] (1984) *Urban disease & Mortality in nineteenth-century England*, London: Batsford, 250pp.

WOODS R I and REES P H (1986) *Population structures and models*, London: George Allen & Unwin, 520pp.

WOODS R I (1992) *The population of Britain in the Nineteenth Century*, London: Macmillan for the Economic History Society; re-published by Cambridge University Press, 1995) 88pp.

NOIN D and WOODS R I [eds] (1993) *The Changing Population of Europe*, Oxford: Blackwell, 250pp.

WOODS R I and SHELTON N (1997) *An Atlas of Victorian Mortality*, Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 190pp.

WOODS R I (2000) *The Demography of Victorian England and Wales*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp 492.

WOODS R I (2006) *Children remembered: responses to untimely death in the past*, Liverpool University Press & The University of Chicago Press, pp. 300.

GARRETT E, GALLEY C, SHELTON N and WOODS R I (eds) (2007) *Infant Mortality: a continuing social problem*, Aldershot: Ashgate, 312pp.

WOODS R I (2009) *Death before birth: fetal health & mortality in historical perspective*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 312pp

WOODS R I and GALLEY C (IN PREP) *Mrs Stone & Dr Smellie: eighteenth-century midwives and their patients*. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press.

The Society is currently discussing ways of commemorating Bob's life and work. A memorial day meeting is being planned, with interesting and varied speakers to be invited. If you have any suggestions for ideas for the memorial day please pass these onto the BSPS Secretariat.

## BSPS Membership Survey

BSPS Council have recently agreed that in order to better serve our membership, it would be helpful to have a more comprehensive database of the areas of research which our members cover. In addition, in order to increase visibility and activity members with shared interests may find it useful to interact with others in the same field. As such, in future the Society may create a password-protected 'members section' to the website, where interests and contact details could be shared. This first page simply gives the reasons for the survey.

Each year, the Society receives a number of requests from the media, funding bodies, government institutions and other scholarly societies for both individual and corporate responses to particular issues relating to population. Recent corporate activities include the Society's responses to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and a survey relating to the likely impact of government expenditure on demographic statistics and population studies.

The Society also receives a number of small requests from the media relating to

population issues. In such cases, these requests are directed to individual experts, who talk in a personal capacity, not on behalf of BSPS, and are free to say no if the request is not appropriate.

The Council believes that a more effective way of engaging the membership in both these spheres of activity should be sought.

In this brief survey (5-8 minutes), members are invited to list their interests within population studies and their willingness to be involved in future consultations and/or media requests.

All information provided will be securely stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Information may be shared with other BSPS members.

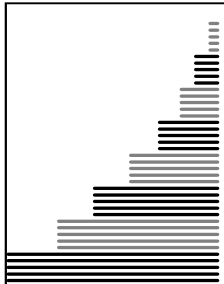
Fully paid-up members - Please take the Survey at:

<https://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/lsewebsite/bsps2011/>

Thank you

**BSPS Council**





## BSPS News

# BSPS Prize

## Closing Date 30 April 2011

Entries are invited for the 2011 BSPS Prize. This is awarded to the entry judged to be the best MSc. dissertation on a demographic topic during the year 2010 (which would normally be at or around distinction level). Applicants should supply four copies of their dissertation, which do not need to be bound – electronic submissions can also be accepted.

Please note that all entries should be submitted by the institution awarding the degree, or by the supervising academic, and not by the authors themselves. A maximum of two entries per institution will be accepted. A word limit of 12,000 words per entry is encouraged on the basis that it is very difficult to judge and compare entries of vastly differing lengths. However, longer dissertations may also be entered, with a section not exceeding the given word limit being nominated for judging.

A cash prize of £300 is offered, which will be increased to £400 if there is a tie for first

place and the Prize is split between two winners. The winner(s) will be announced at the 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 within which they exist.

Entries should be received by 30 April 2011 at the BSPS Secretariat, PS201, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE, or [pic@lse.ac.uk](mailto:pic@lse.ac.uk)

## BSPS Membership

Details of how to apply and the application form are on the website. Rates are:

Full Member – £25

Country (Live outside S. E. train region) and overseas – £20

Corporate – £40

Overseas (LEDCs only) – £7.50

Retired (from work) – £7.50

Full-time Student – £7.50

# “What’s in a name?”: names and historical population studies

**Cambridge University**

**10th December 2010**

The “What’s in a name?” BSPS day meeting in December 2010 contained a diverse array of papers presented by historians, geographers, demographers and geneticists and all relating to the use of names in the study of historical populations. The programme started with three papers relating to the linkage of individuals’ names either between records or into groups within records, and what this can tell us about social and cultural processes at different times or in different places.

Peter Kitson, from the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, created family histories by linking vital events in Anglican and non-conformist registers for the parish of Sedgely in Staffordshire between 1790 and 1837. The resulting genealogies, defined by surnames, were used to examine the change in the number of surname groups over time. As would be expected with a place undergoing industrialization and in-migration, there was an expansion in the number of such groups over the decades considered. However surname groups already established in the late eighteenth century and incoming groups differed in the strength of their religious affiliation: longer standing surname groups registered events in both Anglican and non-conformist establishments, but new immigrants confined them-

selves to Anglican churches. The presentation demonstrated how the analysis of surname groups can provide commentary on the processes of both immigration and assimilation into a community.

In her presentation Gill Newton, also from the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, described some characteristics of the forename and surname sets observed in London between 1550 and 1750, how these compared with those found in certain market towns and rural areas, and the consequent implications for record linkage. Although there were relatively few common forenames, with three-quarters of the population having one of the top ten forenames, the surname pool was much larger, especially in towns and cities. Surnames are harder to classify into distinct entities than forenames, but the probability of observing particular mother and father forename combinations is far lower than when single forenames alone are considered, and it is possible that this may even be used to circumvent the need to use surnames when undertaking linkage. Methods of grouping surnames, in order to reduce their many variations of form and spelling, were discussed, including the phonetic matching algorithm Double Metaphone and hierarchically arranged dictionaries that allowed for single-step selection of close matches where available, or more distant matches if not.

*(continued on page 11)*

# “What’s in a name?”: names and historical population studies

*(continued from page 10)* In the final paper of the morning session, Chris Galley (Barnsley College) and Eilidh Garrett (History Department, Cambridge) discussed the phenomena of siblings who had been given the same forename by their parents. By the nineteenth century this was a relatively uncommon practice in most of Britain, but on the Isle of Skye birth records reveal that during the second half of the nineteenth century at least a quarter of families with more than one child of the same sex had children with exactly the same name. Although the first-born of such children was more likely to have died than would be predicted by child mortality in general on the island, suggesting their younger sibling might have been named after a dead child, over 40 per cent of them were still alive when their younger sister or brother was given the same name. The absence of children from census schedules due to death and moving out of the family home, however, means that living same name siblings are observed in fewer than five percent of census families, opening up the possibility that the practice might also have survived longer than suggested by census-type listings in other parts of the British Isles.

After lunch the subjects moved away from nominally linked records to surnames as a marker of genetic identity, using analyses derived from isonymy and the geographical distribution of names. Malcolm Smith (Department of Anthropology, Durham) compared the distributions of different

names in the 1901 census of Belfast, showing that both surnames and forenames differed according to religious affiliation, and that names could also be indicative of the migratory origins of their owners. Ireland, Smith demonstrated, appears to have had a systematic name distribution and knowledge of this enabled comparison of the different origins of protestant and catholic migrants to Belfast, as well Irish migrants to elsewhere in the British Isles. He also showed that Irish migrants to England in the nineteenth century had a rather different distribution of forenames than they would have had, had they stayed in Ireland, suggesting that they were actually altering their names in a bid to assimilate, or to circumvent any prejudices held by the communities in which they settled.

Paul Longley and James Cheshire (Geography Department, UCL) reported on work using datasets consisting of millions of names drawn from across the whole of Britain, comparing names from the 1881 Census with modern data from 2001. They demonstrated various ways that concentrations of names could be depicted as diagrams or on a map, and how surnames could be interpreted as indicators of cultural and linguistic regions. This was especially striking in modern data for cities such as London and Birmingham, where ethnic minority communities are most concentrated and surnames such as Patel are consequently well-represented.

*(continued on page 12)*



# “What’s in a name?”: names and historical population studies

(continued from page 11) Taking particular surnames as examples, some were shown to have a consistent, single geographical stronghold over time whereas others were bimodal or multimodal in their distribution, or had become so since 1881.

Finally Mark Jobling and Turi King (Genetics Department, University of Leicester) presented research investigating the isonymic assumption that males with the same name have similarities in their Y-chromosomes. This may not hold where a name has multiple founders (e.g. Smith), or where children are not the offspring of the man who gave them their surname, or in the case of a chromosomal mutation, or as a result of genetic drift, all of which may be magnified by differential fertility. DNA testing on samples of men with different surnames suggests that men who share a moderately rare or very rare surname do have similarities in their Y-chromosome above and beyond those of a control group, and that genetic drift plays a major role in creating genetic diversity amongst men with the same surname. Furthermore, the presenters suggested, many descent clusters are no more than 200 years old implying that lineages from most “founding fathers” have become extinct. The interesting implications of the low level of non-paternity uncovered by the analysis were also discussed.

In all it was a stimulating day, with entertaining and interesting speakers, and many common themes reoccurring in papers which drew from a very broad spectrum of academic disciplines. The arguments presented and the points raised certainly sparked several days’ worth of discussion around the Cambridge Group coffee table!

*Alice Reid, Gill Newton & Eilidh Garrett*

### ***Did you know?***

BSPS has recently rejoined the Academy of Social Sciences, who send out an interesting monthly Newsletter with much relevant current information. The easiest way to distribute this to members is via a web link to the Newsletter itself on the Academy's site. You will find the March Newsletter here:

[http://www.acss.org.uk/  
Bulletins/2011%20March/  
March2011home.htm](http://www.acss.org.uk/Bulletins/2011%20March/March2011home.htm)

**ACADEMY**  
of SOCIAL SCIENCES



## ESRC Strategic Priorities

As detailed in the [ESRC Delivery Plan 2011-2015](#), the ESRC has committed to shape its strategic research investment on three priority areas:

- Economic Performance and Sustainable Growth
- Influencing Behaviour and Informing Interventions
- A Vibrant and Fair Society



These Key Priority Areas will build upon and link across the seven Challenges for Social Science set out in the [ESRC Strategic Plan 2009-2014](#). However, they will be more tightly defined and focused to provide clear future priorities for research, training, methods and infrastructure, knowledge exchange and other areas of activity. While the priority areas above are fixed, members of ESRC Council, Committees and

Networks have been in discussion about the key issues and questions within each of these which we should aim to address. ESRC Council has now agreed on the framework boundaries of each of the priority areas so there is no longer scope for new topics/questions to be considered. However, by the end of March we will be seeking views from a number of groups on the framework that has been established and how the ESRC may further refine the key priorities.

As part of this process, we would like to invite Learned Societies falling within the ESRC's remit to respond to this work. Although the details are yet to be finalised, we are exploring how we might utilise webinar technology to facilitate this feedback. Council would be extremely grateful if you or a relevant colleague can indicate your availability for such a 'virtual' meeting using the following Doodle link:

<http://doodle.com/kpvnv8gx8zcidgbyn>

Any comments from members would be welcomed at the Secretariat, with a view to Council formulating a Society response.



## Royal Commission Final Report on 'Demographic Change and the Environment'

The Royal Commission published its final report on Demographic Change and the Environment in February.

The report explores the environmental challenges faced by the UK as a result of demographic change (changes in the numbers and distribution of people) in the UK in the years up to 2050.

The Commission chose to study this topic because although there may be a growing understanding of the ways the UK population is changing - and much thought is already being given to the social and economic implications of these changes - it seemed that little attention had so far been paid to their environmental consequences.

Importantly, they conclude it is not primarily the size of the population that should be taken in to account when considering the environmental impact of demographic change in the UK. More important are factors such as household numbers and size, the age structure of the population, and where people live. Additionally, our current patterns of consumption (e.g. the amount of energy and water used in homes) have a greater impact on the environment than all the

above demographic factors. There is far greater scope to influence consumption patterns and their impact than demographic patterns. The Commission believe a step change is needed in efforts to increase resource use efficiency.

During the course of this study, the Commission have identified a real need for a more open and rational discussion about demographic change, and in particular the environmental impacts of demographic change. We hope that this report will provide a basis for starting that discussion, within Government and beyond.

You can download the report at: <http://www.rcep.org.uk/reports/29-demographics/29-demographics.htm> \*. If you would like to receive a hard copy please email [cleo.eastabrook@rcep.org.uk](mailto:cleo.eastabrook@rcep.org.uk)

\* Please note that the Commission will be closing on the 31 March 2011. The website will close at some point later in 2011 after that point the report will be accessible via the Defra website ([www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)) or The National Archives (<http://www.nationalarchives>).



# Reductions in government expenditure

## BSPS Statement

*BSPS News* is always interested in hearing news and opinion from members. In the current economic climate with the tightening of the purse strings there is likely to be changes to the range of information available relating to population studies. This is obviously a concern to BSPS, and in light of the public expenditure reductions announced by the government a survey was conducted of members to canvas opinion on these matters. The resulting statement from this, with the associated reports, can be seen below and also on the BSPS website.

BSPS would like to thank those that took the time to respond to this survey.

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The government's choice to severely reduce public expenditure will affect the availability and analysis of population data. BSPS is concerned at the impact of these reductions on its members, and more widely on the scientific study of human populations.

A BSPS survey of members in December 2010 helped BSPS to respond to ONS' consultation on its work programme. The response highlighted the primacy of the Census, and the welcome and important growth recently in robust government statistics for small areas. It also highlighted ONS outputs that 'are not directly aimed at

specific policies but are essential for academic and other fundamental investigations. Members valued the availability of survey microdata and detailed sub-national statistics for these reasons'.

The BSPS survey also reviewed reductions in demographic statistics outside ONS, expressing concern about the impact of reduced budgets in the coming financial year.

BSPS asks members and others to keep it informed of the impact of changed government expenditure on the availability & analysis of demographic statistics and more generally on population studies.

A full response to the consultation of the ONS Statistical Work Programme was written and submitted. This response can be seen on the website, at:

<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/socialPolicy/BSPS/pdfs/BSPS-ONS-response.pdf>

A report was collated with the summary of the survey and the resulting decisions of the Council, found at:

<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/socialPolicy/BSPS/pdfs/GovtExpenditure.pdf>

The ONS response to the consultation has now been published and is shown on Page 16.

## ONS Response to Consultation

The consultation by ONS over the shape over its future statistical work programme has been completed. BSPS input to this consultation and the final report is now available on the ONS website



[www.ons.gov.uk/work-programme-consultation](http://www.ons.gov.uk/work-programme-consultation). The link to the document is on the right hand side under the title 'Response to the ONS Work Programme Consultation'.

The response by the ONS stated that 'The information that has been received in response to the consultation will prove very valuable to ONS. We have used, and will continue to use, the feedback to inform how we will meet our reducing budget. The information will also be very valuable to our detailed understanding of the users and uses of ONS statistics, helping ONS provide a better service to our users.'

There will be further, more specific, consultation with users as we finalise the plans for certain statistical outputs and surveys.'

## BSPS Council

There will be four vacancies for Council at the AGM in September, as four existing Council members will have completed their four-year terms. Nominations for BSPS members known to be willing to serve on Council would be welcomed. Please send to [pic@lse.ac.uk](mailto:pic@lse.ac.uk) by the end of April.

Similarly, Professor Emily Grundy will have completed her term as President and will not be eligible for re-election. As is BSPS practice, it is expected that the current Vice-President, Professor Ludi Simpson will be elected as president for the following two years. This will leave a vacancy for a new Vice-President. One nomination for a new Vice-President has already been received, although further nominations may be made. Please note that a formal postal ballot would be required if more than one candidate is nominated.

## Funding for new cohort study

The Academy of Social Science disseminated a press release about a new £33.5 million cohort study. This is reprinted here in case you did not know about this study that avoided the chop!

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The Campaign for Social Science warmly welcomes today's announcement of government backing for a new birth cohort study.

The study will produce a wealth of new data about the lives and social conditions of British children being born in the second decade of the 21st century. Close cooperation between social researchers and medical specialists will give the work added depth and usefulness.

David Willetts, the science minister, has worked hard to steer support for the study through Whitehall. Government departments from education to work and pensions will find the results of huge benefit in understanding society and economy and framing policy.

The Campaign looks forward to social scientists, in the UK and overseas, analyzing the cohort study data and enriching our sense of who we are.

The new study will enable social scientists to probe the influence of parenting on later life, the effects of school choices on

development or to work out how best to protect cognitive development and guard against the harmful effects of poverty and exclusion. It is the first study of its kind that will begin data collection before birth.

More, much more, the study will provide vital information about how the current economic and environmental climate influences the way our society works.

The government's decision is an impressive vote of confidence in the Economic and Social Research Council, which -- with the Medical Research Council -- will supervise the research contract and disseminate results.

Professor Tony Crook, chair of the Campaign for Social Science, said 'I congratulate the minister for winning support for this vital exercise. The Millennium birth cohort study is already producing a treasure trove of findings, for example about the impact of policies put in place in the last decade. Without it a great gap would have opened in our long-term understanding of social dynamics. Now the new birth cohort study will allow social scientists to capture changes in the social and economic conditions of Britain over the next years.'

# European Latsis Prize 2011

## Invitation to Nominate Candidates

The European Science Foundation (ESF) invites nominations for the European Latsis Prize 2011.

The Prize, of a value of 100 000 Swiss Francs, is presented each year by the Latsis Foundation at the ESF Annual Assembly to a scientist or research group in recognition of outstanding and innovative contributions in a selected field of research. The research field for the 2011 Prize is “**Demography**”.

The European Latsis Prize 2011 seeks nominations for outstanding contributions to research in demography. The scientific study of human populations – their growth, size, distribution and structure – has become a fundamental component of the social sciences and of many other disciplines in other domains. The traditional topics of demography, such as the observation and modelling of rates of births, marriages and deaths, have been supplemented by the study of migration, social movements, distribution of health and wealth, and have been expanded by the study of long-term changes in the geographic distribution and human condition of the human species since its earliest origins. Cross-sectional studies of populations, such as those derived from census data, have been complemented by longitudinal analyses based on the study of cohorts over many decades. Demographic, economic and medical longitudinal databases are increasingly linked to explore

the determinants of health and welfare. Demographers reach back into the past, exploiting archival sources to explore such questions as the existence of nuclear or extended families; they also reach into the future, predicting trends in longevity which are currently having a major impact on ages of retirement, pension provision and the demand for medical and other care. Demography is by its nature inter- and multi-disciplinary, and candidates for the European Latsis Prize may come from any of the relevant disciplines.

The criteria used in the selection procedure will be scientific excellence, the enhancement of knowledge, societal impact and contribution to the understanding and solution of European problems.

Nominations may be received for individual scholars or for research groups. All nomination forms should include the detailed nomination statement (maximum 2 pages) setting out clear reasons for the submission, Curriculum Vitae and full list of publications of the nominee.

The European Latsis Prize 2011 will be awarded on the occasion of the Annual Assembly of the European Science Foundation on Wednesday 23 November 2011, in Strasbourg, France.

Further information can be found [www.esf.org/activities/european-latsis-prize.html](http://www.esf.org/activities/european-latsis-prize.html)





# Post-Transitional Fertility in Developing Countries: Causes and Implications

## Call for Papers

**20-21 July, 2011, Global Health and Social Care Unit, University of Portsmouth, UK**

The world is in the midst of a profound demographic transformation. Fifty years ago fertility below the level needed to ensure the replacement of generations was all but unknown; today it is becoming a worldwide phenomenon. Now more than half the world's population live in countries or regions where fertility is below replacement. Moreover, fertility is still falling in almost all developing countries whilst it is largely stable, or even rising, in Europe and North America. The objective of the seminar is to discuss two important questions:

*How far will fertility fall in the developing world, and how does it compare with the experience of Europe, North America and other low-fertility regions?*

*How can individuals, families, societies and governments best adapt to this new fertility regime?*

We welcome theoretical, methodological and substantive contributions, especially comparisons of developing and developed countries. Early career researchers and PhD scholars are particularly encouraged to submit abstracts.

**How to submit your abstract:** Please send a one-page abstract (including title, aims, data, methods and conclusions) to Lynda Povey at [Lynda.Povey@port.ac.uk](mailto:Lynda.Povey@port.ac.uk) by May 20th, 2011.

Successful authors will be notified by 3rd June 2011.

**Registration:** The seminar is free and open to all; even if you have no paper you can participate, but pre-registration is essential ([Lynda.Povey@port.ac.uk](mailto:Lynda.Povey@port.ac.uk)). Early registration is recommended as space is limited.

**Funding:** Limited funding is available to meet travel and accommodation. Priority will be given to early career researchers and PhD scholars with innovative and high-quality abstracts. Please indicate whether you need funding in your email.

**Seminar structure:** Day 1: Conference: Invited speakers include: Tim Dyson (LSE), John Cleland (LSHTM), Fajudar Ram (Director IIPS, Mumbai), David Reher (Madrid) and Tomáš Sobotka (Vienna). Contributed papers and posters will also be presented. Day 2: Workshop for early-career researchers and PhD scholars with the Seminar organisers.

**Organisers:** Dr Saseendran Pallikadavath (Portsmouth), Dr Chris Wilson (St Andrews), Prof. S Irudaya Rajan (CDS, Trivnadrum, India)

# Cousin marriages and the medicalisation of spouse selection

## Call for Papers

This call for papers employs cousin marriage as a lens through which to explore some of the ways in which 'new' genetic knowledge is understood and negotiated locally in different settings. The increasingly global discourse of genetic risk in consanguineous marriage raises a plethora of social and anthropological questions, most centrally concerning the impact of this discourse on traditional forms of spouse selection within communities where cousin marriage is, or has until recently been, common. The relative novelty of 'genetic' (rather than infectious) illness as a disease category demanding public health provision globally also invites wider questions about the relationship between scientific and local understandings of the causes of genetic disease, of inheritance, ancestry, social hierarchy and identity, across difference cultural, social and political contexts.

We invite papers from social anthropologists and their colleagues in other disciplines who have worked on aspects of consanguineous marriage in recent or contemporary contexts for presentation at the Fertility and Reproduction Studies Group (FRSG) (<http://www.frsg.org/>) seminars, to be held in Oxford on Mondays during Michaelmas term (Oct-Dec) 2011. Contributors are invited to consider some of the following

questions, which are intended to be indicative rather than prescriptive, in relation to the contexts in which they have conducted fieldwork and in the light of their own theoretical interests:

*How common was/is the practice of consanguineous marriages?*

*Has it increased or declined or in some other way changed over time (in association with family size, women's education, age at marriage etc.)?*

*What is the wider social/political context of the practice (social class, profession, tribe, ethnic identity, gender...)?*

*What are local understandings of 'genetic' conditions?*

*What is the state policy and provision regarding genetic conditions and genetic services in general and on the issue of elevated genetic risk with consanguineous marriages in particular?*

The deadline for abstracts is **Friday 15th April 2011**. We will then select and invite full papers for presentation at the FRSG seminars in Oxford in Michaelmas Term (Oct.-Dec.) 2011. Alison Shaw and Philip Kreager will convene the seminars. Limited funds are available to assist travel and accommodation for some participants. Please send abstracts and any other enquiries to: [alison.shaw@dphpc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alison.shaw@dphpc.ox.ac.uk) or [aviadraz@bgu.ac.il](mailto:aviadraz@bgu.ac.il)