



BSPS Annual Conference 2026
8-10 September
University of Kent, Canterbury

CALL FOR PAPERS: DEADLINE FRIDAY 17 APRIL 2026 (5pm UK time)
[SUBMIT HERE](#)

You are invited to submit proposals for presentations and posters for the British Society for Population Studies' 53rd Conference, to take place at the University of Kent, Canterbury.

Along with the many and varied sessions in the call, plenaries will come from Madeleine Sumption and Stuart McDonald, with Madeleine speaking on *How much should immigration policymakers care about demography?* and Stuart on *Forecasting and communicating mortality trends in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic*. A further plenary will come from the winner of the Anne Shepherd New Investigator Award.

Workshops and roundtable discussions will include *Mixed methods in a changing data landscape: Integrating qualitative and quantitative insight* and *Influencing policy with administrative data: Turning research into real-world impact* as well as a meet up for local government demographers and the BSPS pub quiz.

Abstracts for papers and posters across the entire demographic and population studies spectrum are welcomed. Any empirical or conceptual approach is welcome, with a demographic or population studies focus.

Abstracts for papers reporting on research should clearly outline aims, method(s), and results (even if preliminary at the time of submission). Conceptual papers should offer clear expositions of how the paper contributes to the field.

Viability of strands and sessions will depend on sufficient submissions being received.

Information on the Conference will be posted to the BSPS website:

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/international-development/research/british-society-for-population-studies/annual-conference>

Please choose your strand/session below and submit via the online submission form before 5pm UK time on 17 April. A short abstract of up to 250 words is requested.

Please read the [Notes at the end of this call for papers](#).

Strands and sessions with organisers, who may be contacted with queries:

Ageing

This Strand invites submissions addressing key questions related to population ageing and inequalities. Topics may include issues affecting older individuals and their families, such as mental and physical health, cognition, emotional well-being, income, wealth, financial security, social engagement, employment, care provision and receipt, and intergenerational relations. Studies examining how these issues evolve throughout the life course and how early-life inequality and setbacks influence outcomes in adulthood and later life are also encouraged. Additionally, submissions exploring the impact of policy responses (such as active ageing, flexible retirement, social security, long-term services, digital inclusion, and age-friendly communities) at international, national, and regional levels are welcome. Contributions may focus on specific regions, cross-border and transnational issues, cross-country comparisons, global perspectives, or trends over time. Papers may use qualitative and/or quantitative research methodologies.

Strand organisers: Giorgio Di Gessa (UCL) and Ginevra Floridi (University of Edinburgh) -- g.di-gessa@ucl.ac.uk; ginevra.floridi@ed.ac.uk

Active ageing: Work, caregiving, and volunteering in late life

This session focuses on the discussion about older adults' functional capacity and if it could support rising pension ages internationally. We seek empirical evidence on work, caregiving, and volunteering to address knowledge gaps regarding labor market exit in late life. The session aims to exchange global policy insights for sustainable and active ageing.

Session organisers: Keyu Peng (Renmin University of China & City University of Hong Kong) & Yichen Qiu (University of Leicester) – kypeng@ruc.edu.cn; yq73@Leicester.ac.uk

Critical demography

We are interested in submissions that theoretically or critically engage current demographic research and data collection as well as classical theories in demography and broader population studies. We encourage submissions of research that furthers our understanding of core demographic concepts or trouble demographic assumptions, alongside studies that use novel, forward-thinking theories, methodologies or analyses.

Strand organisers: Joe Strong (Queen Mary University of London) & Michaela Šedovič (Comenius University Bratislava) – joe.strong@qmul.ac.uk; michaela.sedovicova@fses.uniba.sk

Demography and the environment

Environmental factors, such as climate change, pollution and natural disasters, can have significant effects on mortality, health, fertility and migration. The chain of causality can also go in the opposite direction. The aim of this session is to explore how demographic changes affect and shape the environment and vice versa.

Strand organisers: Dermot Grenham (Institute and Faculty of Actuaries); Mary Abed Al Ahad (University of St Andrews) & Tobias Ruttenauer (UCL) – dermot.grenham@gmail.com; maaa1@st-andrews.ac.uk; t.ruttenauer@ucl.ac.uk

Demography of sexuality

This session invites papers examining how sexuality, across identity, attraction, behavior, and partnership contexts, shapes demographic outcomes, including but not limited to fertility, mortality, and migration. We welcome research on intersections with sex and gender, life course dynamics, health, and inequality. We welcome papers on sexuality across all identities and contexts, including LGBTQIA+ populations and experiences. We also encourage methodological work on measuring sexuality in demographic surveys and administrative data. Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods submissions at any stage are welcome.

Session organisers: Ceylan Engin & Binnaz Poşul (Boğaziçi University) – binnaz.posul@bogazici.edu.tr; ceylan.engin@bogazici.edu.tr

Developments in official statistics

Contributions to this strand are sought on developments in official series of population statistics, developments in and findings from the 2021/22 censuses and how official population statistics may transform in the future. Papers on the analysis and dissemination of these are also welcome, as well as papers exploring work for the 2031 Census round.

Strand organiser: Oliver Dormon (Office for National Statistics) – oliver.dormon@ons.gov.uk

Disability: Measurement, dynamics, and population implications

This session brings together research that advances understanding of disability from a population perspective. We invite submissions that address the conceptualisation, definition, and measurement of disability; its prevalence, distribution, and inequalities across socio-demographic groups; and the ways disability interacts with key population processes.

We particularly welcome papers that explore:

- Methodological innovations in measuring disability in surveys, censuses, administrative data, and longitudinal or cohort studies in different settings
- Links between disability and population-relevant outcomes, such as education, employment, fertility, migration, family formation, health, and mortality

Submissions may use qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods and may focus on single-country case studies, comparative or cross-national analyses, or global perspectives. Research addressing challenges in disability classification, harmonisation of measures, or integrating disability into mainstream demographic research is especially encouraged.

Strand organisers: Oki MacPherson (University of Southampton) & Amos Channon (University of Southampton) & P. Linh Nguyen (INED) – o.krisnadevi@soton.ac.uk; A.R.Channon@soton.ac.uk; linh.nguyen@ined.fr

Families and households

This strand invites theory-driven conceptual or empirical papers (qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods) that investigate the diversity of family or household compositions and outcomes. Comparative papers and case studies are welcome, as are submissions that challenge conventional assumptions and/or contribute to new conceptual and methodological frameworks for household and/or family. For instance, papers that assess the role of selection in known relationships in more detail are invited.

Examples of possible contributions include, but are not limited to:

- Trends, determinants and consequences of demographic events
- Relationships: Union formation, dissolution, relationship quality and satisfaction
- Family and work: Employment, care and unpaid work
- Policy related to families and households
- Heterogeneous effects by e.g. gender, class, income, race/ethnicity, age/cohort, region

Strand organisers: Kathrin Morosow (University of Manchester) and Nitzan Peri-Rotem (University of Exeter) – kathrin.morosow@manchester.ac.uk; n.peri-rotem@exeter.ac.uk

Historical perspectives on family, marriage and patriarchy

This session encourages comparative and cross-cultural perspectives on how variations in family systems structured gendered and generational hierarchies across different regional and institutional settings. It welcomes papers examining patriarchal family systems in the long nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, broadly defined as the period from circa 1800 to 1930. Contributions may draw on a wide range of mixed methodologies and sources—including census microdata, comparative indices, and qualitative or micro-historical case studies—to analyse household organization, marriage patterns, and kinship intensity as key mechanisms through which cross-cultural dynamics of gendered and generational inequality can be identified, compared, and interpreted.

Session organiser: Mikolaj Szoltysek (Cardinal Wyszyński University, Warsaw) – mszoltis@gmail.com

Spatial proximity of families and generations

Geographical proximity plays a crucial role in shaping intergenerational support and contact. Advancing our understanding of intergenerational spatial proximity can support policymaking by identifying where support gaps are most likely to emerge. This session

invites original research on intergenerational geographical proximity and its effect on family members. Examples of potential contributions include, but are not limited to:

- Trends, patterns, and determinants of intergenerational spatial proximity.
- Heterogeneity in geographical proximity by, e.g., socioeconomic factors and region.
- The association between geographical proximity and key life-course events, such as migration, fertility, and health.
- Spatial proximity and intergenerational support and relationships.
- Kinship structures and kinship networks.

Session organisers: Sen Li, Hill Kulu & Urska Demsar (University of St Andrews) – sen.li@st-andrews.ac.uk; Hill.Kulu@st-andrews.ac.uk; urska.demsar@st-andrews.ac.uk

Fertility and sexual and reproductive health

This strand welcomes papers covering any aspect of fertility and sexual and reproductive health. Papers can examine any substantive topic and/or methodological aspect related to fertility or reproductive rights and health in any context. They can examine both fertility and reproductive outcomes, as well as decision-making and intentions. We particularly encourage the submission of papers which incorporate cross-national comparisons, policy relevant research, or use innovative methodological and theoretical approaches.

Reproductive health includes a variety of issues which include, but are not limited to, assisted reproductive technology, pregnancy loss, abortion, sexual and reproductive health and rights or contraceptive use. Papers using quantitative or qualitative methods are welcomed. Work at any stage of development is encouraged.

Strand organisers: Alyce Raybould (UCL) & Linjuan Cai (University of Manchester) – a.raybould@ucl.ac.uk; linjuan.cai@student.manchester.ac.uk

Health and mortality

Papers are invited on any aspect of health and mortality studies. We welcome both papers addressing substantive topics in population health and mortality and those focusing on methodological developments related to health and mortality. Contributions from early-career scholars, non-academic researchers, and postgraduate students are particularly encouraged.

The strand aims to showcase scholarship engaging with current debates on health and mortality from an international perspective, including work focused on low- and middle-income countries.

Papers may address (though are not limited to) the following topics:

- Concepts and measurement of mortality and health
- Trends in adult health and health behaviours
- Mortality and health in low- and middle-income countries
- The environment and population health
- Social determinants of health and health/mortality disparities

- Early-life health and mortality
- Data challenges in mortality and health studies
- Biosocial approaches to differences in mortality and health

Strand organiser:

José Manuel Aburto (LSHTM) – jose.aburto@lshtm.ac.uk

Historical demography

This strand welcomes submissions addressing any aspect of historical demography, or the history of demography as an academic discipline. Papers may focus on any of a broad range of themes, such as fertility, mortality, migration, household formation, social mobility, urbanization, public health, social inequality or other related fields in the context of historical populations. Contributions may focus on any part of the world, and at any scale, from local studies to international comparisons.

Strand organisers: Eric Schneider (LSE) – E.B.Schneider@lse.ac.uk

Housing and homelessness

This session invites population research on housing and homelessness using diverse methodologies, exploring links to demography, health, economics, policy, environment, activism, and more. Topics can include rough sleeping, homelessness, social housing, private renting, real estate, evictions, safety, repairs, displacement, and community planning, presented through local, global, and comparative perspectives.

Session organiser: Murylo Batista (London Borough of Camden) – murylo.batista@camden.gov.uk

Long-term trends in social health inequalities from a comparative perspective

The session invites contributions on the topic of long-term trends in social inequality in health and survival. We encourage the use of new sources and new methodological and analytical angles to reliably measure health gaps and compare these between societies over the long term.

Session organisers: Ingrid van Dijk (Lund University Sweden & Radboud University Nijmegen Netherlands) – ingrid.van_dijk@ekh.lu.se

Migration

This strand invites contributions that address any aspect of internal and international migration and mobility. We welcome papers examining trends, patterns, drivers, and consequences of migration, as well as research exploring outcomes of migrants in any domain of the life-course. Studies focusing on the experiences of the descendants are also encouraged.

We particularly invite submissions in the following, non-exclusive areas:

- **Patterns, Processes, and Determinants of Migration**
Analyses of internal and international migration dynamics, including their causes and impacts.
- **Migrants' Life-Course Outcomes and Intergenerational Perspectives**
Research on fertility, family formation, employment, health, and mortality among migrants and their descendants.
- **Spatial Dimensions of Population Processes**
Studies examining the spatial aspects of migration and population change, including spatial patterns, regional inequalities, and segregation experienced by immigrant populations.

The strand aims to bring together diverse theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches. We therefore are interested in quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method submissions.

Strand Organisers: Joseph Harrison (University of Salford) & Munachi Victoria Chidebelu (Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University) – Vm.chidebelu@coou.edu.ng; j.i.harrison@salford.ac.uk

Structural drivers and spatial outcomes of selective internal migration

This session examines how selective internal migration shapes spatial inequalities. We invite contributions linking structural forces (housing, labour markets, local politics) to mobility patterns and neighbourhood change. International and comparative approaches are strongly encouraged to unpack the drivers of spatial sorting.

Strand organisers: Gauthier Dulout, David McCollum & Hannah Slocombe (University of St Andrews) – gd98@st-andrews.ac.uk; david.mccollum@st-andrews.ac.uk; hs283@st-andrews.ac.uk

Health and mortality of immigrants and ethnic minorities

This session seeks submissions of papers that study the health and mortality patterns of migrants and ethnic minorities. Including examination of disparities in the incidence of specific diseases and morbidities along with studies looking at multimorbidity, mortality or usage of healthcare services.

Session organisers: Daniela Foresta & Courtney Franklin (University of Salford) – d.foresta@salford.ac.uk; c.franklin61@salford.ac.uk

Novel data and methods in population science

Strand organisers: Francisco Rowe (University of Liverpool); Matt Mason (University of Liverpool); Ruth Neville (UCL) & Aashish Gupta (New York University Abu Dhabi) – fcorowe@liverpool.ac.uk; Matt.Mason@liverpool.ac.uk; ruth.neville@ucl.ac.uk aashish.gupta@nyu.edu

This strand invites contributions to the following sessions:

Applying novel data and methodologies to population science

This session's aim is to highlight research that showcases the use of digital trace data, novel methods, and AI in population science. We welcome submissions that highlight how challenges associated with these (ethical concerns, data bias and representation) can be addressed, as well as their use and potential for research and policy. Abstracts may refer to any aspect of population science, but should employ either novel/digital trace data or emerging methodologies.

Population estimates and projections in limited-data settings

Population estimates and projections are vital for effective policy-making and planning. In many contexts, however, the information required to generate robust estimates and projection assumptions is missing or incomplete. This session will highlight innovative approaches taken to address these data gaps, including the use of non-traditional data sources, and to measure and communicate uncertainty associated with resulting estimates.

Session organiser: Mallika Snyder (MPIDR) – snyder@demogr.mpg.de

Critical data and AI literacy

The growing reliance on complex data infrastructures and advanced algorithmic tools poses new challenges for how population evidence is produced, interpreted, and communicated. This session invites contributions that examine the limitations of existing data infrastructures and the challenges of communicating demographic evidence and uncertainty in contexts shaped by large-scale data and AI-assisted analyses. The session welcomes conceptual, empirical, and reflective work that situates data and AI within population studies and public-facing practice, rather than papers focused on developing new methods.

Session organiser: Emmanuel Olamijuwon (University of St Andrews) – eo01@st-andrews.ac.uk

The politics of demography

This session/strand/panel will focus on the ways demographic indicators and trends can be used, and misused, for political purposes. It will explore how demographers can constructively contribute to political debates, and promote a better understanding of demographic trends and their consequences. We welcome research contributions which discuss contemporary politicised topics (such as pronatalism and migration) or measurement issues in demography, as well as historical perspectives. We also welcome expressions of interest by email for taking part in a panel on this topic.

Strand organisers: Rebecca Sear (Brunel University London); Wendy Sigle (LSE) & Sarah Walters (LSHTM) – rebecca.sear@brunel.ac.uk; W.Sigle@lse.ac.uk; sarah.walters@lshtm.ac.uk

Population, violence & abuse

This strand welcomes papers on violence and abuse that address population trends, root causes, and potential interventions in a global context. Topics of interest include: domestic/interpersonal violence, sexual abuse, homicide, modern slavery/trafficking, and racial, religious, state, or structural violence. Investigations could focus on population risk

factors, age and gender, links to mortality/fertility/migration, methodology and measurement, impact of COVID-19 pandemic, feminist critiques, and global and comparative perspectives.

Strand organisers: Murylo Batista (London Borough of Camden); Lana Chikhungu (University of Portsmouth); Rebecca Harris (University of Southampton) & Amos Channon (University of Southampton) – murylo.batista@camden.gov.uk; ana.chikhungu@port.ac.uk; rebecca.harris@soton.ac.uk; a.r.channon@soton.ac.uk

Queer demography

This strand welcomes abstract proposals that explore queer demography, including the study of LGBTQIA+ populations, their experiences, and related demographic phenomena (e.g., dating, union formation, health). We encourage submissions using diverse methodologies and addressing under-researched topics, with work at any stage of development warmly invited.

Strand organisers: Francesco Rampazzo (University of Manchester) & Morten Thomsen (University of Oxford) – francesco.rampazzo@manchester.ac.uk; morten.thomsen@sociology.ox.ac.uk

Research based on UK census Longitudinal Studies data

This section will introduce and describe all three UK census Longitudinal Studies from Northern Ireland (NILS), Scotland (SLS), and England and Wales (ONS LS).

Further, we aim to include a series of short presentations introducing research using this data.

We particularly welcome contributions from early-career researchers for presentations.

Session organisers: Jitka Pikhartova (UCL); Lee Williamson (University of Edinburgh) & Estelle Lowry (QUB) – j.pikhartova@ucl.ac.uk; lee.williamson@ed.ac.uk; E.Lowry@qub.ac.uk

Socioeconomic and environmental determinants of mental health

Mental health is at the top of the global health agenda and is affected by several factors related to the individuals' age, gender, income, education, ethnicity, marital status, socioeconomic position, occupation, health, lifestyle arrangements, and the quality of the surrounding physical environment such as air quality and pollution, climatic factors, noise, green spaces, and neighbourhood and housing conditions. This session accepts presentations discussing the socioeconomic and environmental determinants of mental health, life satisfaction, happiness and objective as well as self-reported mental health outcomes.

Session organiser: Mary Abed Al Ahad (University of St Andrews) – maaa1@st-andrews.ac.uk

Women's health across the life course: Beyond maternal mortality

This strand brings together research covering women's health from a life-course, population, and policy perspective. The session aims to extend beyond maternal mortality to broader patterns of wellbeing, morbidity, and inequality across different life stages among women. Empirical, methodological, and conceptual contributions that reflect the diversity of women's health experiences across populations and contexts are welcome.

Topics of interest include, but are *not* limited to:

- Adolescent health transitions
- Chronic diseases among women
- Reproductive and mental health across life stages
- Multimorbidity in later life
- Gendered health inequalities
- Healthcare access and utilisation
- Work, family, and health interactions
- Cross-national comparative perspectives
- Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods submissions at any stage are welcome!

Strand organiser: Sai Joshi (University of Southampton) – S.Joshi@soton.ac.uk

The demography of menopause

Menopause is a ubiquitous female experience and a significant transition in life, yet its large variation in terms of when and how it's experienced remains poorly understood from population perspective. We welcome works that highlight both the drivers and consequences of these variations using novel data and theory.

Session organisers: Susie Lee (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research); Tiziana Leone (LSE) & Md Anwer Hossain (MPIDR) – lee@demogr.mpg.de; T.Leone@lse.ac.uk; hossain@demogr.mpg.de

Posters

Poster submissions are invited across the spectrum of population studies and demography. Researchers are encouraged to present results from completed studies or ongoing research not yet at the results stage (which is particularly well-suited to poster presentation).

Presenters are welcome to submit an abstract for consideration as a poster in addition to an oral submission. Presenters are expected to stand with their posters during the dedicated poster session on the first evening, to discuss their work. There will be a poster prize pot of £100, at least half of which will be for a student poster.

Session organiser: Contact BSPS Secretariat pic@lse.ac.uk

General and administrative queries: BSPS Secretariat – pic@lse.ac.uk

NOTES

Submissions should be made online at: <https://forms.office.com/e/9ZvzffXgtg>

- A maximum of one oral submission as first author or presenter, and one poster (a maximum of two submissions in total).
- Organisers may request further details of a submission before final decisions are made.
- Final decisions on papers accepted for presentation will be emailed to submitting authors in May/early June, with poster notifications coming before the summer break.
- Submissions from members & non-members are welcomed, as are those from early-career researchers.
- Presentations may be allocated to a different strand or session from that to which submission was made.
- Short abstracts will be posted to the BSPS website, with contact email unless otherwise requested. They may be changed up to the end of July.
- Oral presentations will be organised into 60 or 90-minute sessions of 3-5 papers, with time for questions & discussion. Strand organisers or convenors will advise on the length of individual presentations or advise if a different format is planned.
- If accepted, poster printing should be arranged by the presenter, in A0 format, portrait.
- On submission, you need to confirm that you intend to present in person.

FEES AND FUNDING

- **Registration charges will apply for all attending**, at member, non-member & student rates. Registration by the presenting author is required before the paper or poster is included in the final programme.
- A limited number of bursaries will be available for student members, or local government members whose employer will not cover their costs:
 - Bursaries are available only if you have no other source of funding for your conference place, and you are presenting a paper or poster, or convening a session.
 - Application is via selecting the appropriate option when responding to the call for papers and providing the information requested. The scheme is always oversubscribed, and later applications cannot be accepted.

- Bursary applicants must be current BSPS members, and BSPS annual membership dues must be up to date at the time of responding to the call for papers.
- The number of bursaries on offer is limited by budgetary constraints, and an application for a bursary does not guarantee it will be successful.
- If there are more presentations offered to bursary applicants than there are bursaries available, priority for funding will be based on academic quality of the proposal. In the event of a tie, priority may be given to final year students. Consideration may also be given to the total amount of BSPS funding given to date.
- Bursaries provide a waiver of registration and on-site accommodation costs plus meals. Travel costs and any other expenses are not included.
- Bursary recipients may be asked to assist on-site.
- BSPS runs a Low- and Middle-Income Visitor scheme to fund one visitor working with UK-based BSPS member/s to come to conference and strengthen existing ties to UK demography. 2026 applications close 5pm Friday 20 March. Further information and the application form can be found at <https://www.lse.ac.uk/international-development/research/british-society-for-population-studies/awards-and-grants>
- You can join BSPS at <https://www.lse.ac.uk/international-development/research/british-society-for-population-studies/how-to-join>

Submit online at: <https://forms.office.com/e/9ZvzffXgtq>