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Editorial and Welcome

Editorial:

Welcome to the first issue of Society Counts, the Social Statistics and Demography newsletter for students, researchers and staff at the University of Southampton.

I am pleased to be able to welcome you as editor of Society Counts, and would briefly like to introduce, and thank, the team involved with producing this issue: Amie Kamanda, Sarah Lubman, Julia Mikolai, Philippa Waterhouse and Sarah Wo (second year PhD students in the division). Many thanks also to the research institutions who enthusiastically provided material on their current projects.

This newsletter celebrates the successes within the division and aims to encourage interaction and connections across it; with an ever expanding division and busy lives, it is often challenging to get to know the large number of students and staff with whom we are not often in regular contact, as well as staying abreast of news and developments.

The newsletter will be released twice a year; regular features will include a focus on the research produced within the department, the events organised and attended by staff and students, as well as research produced by associated organisations. The focus of this first issue is on welcoming new students and staff, in addition to providing a general introduction to some of the research institutions associated with the department. In recognition of the increasing number of cross-faculty multi-disciplinary initiatives taking place at the university, the next issue will have a special focus on multidisciplinary themes. This integration of perspectives and methods from different disciplines offers excellent opportunities for us as researchers to diversify into new areas and to work with a wider group of professionals.

As readers, I would encourage you to get involved in the next issue by letting us know of any exciting new projects you know of or by joining the newsletter team itself; we would particularly welcome new first year students to the team! We would also love to know your thoughts on this first issue and any suggestions for the next one. If you would like to get involved please contact us at ssdnews@soton.ac.uk.

I hope that you will enjoy reading the newsletter and I wish you all a happy new academic year,

Katherine Harris (PhD student and Editor)

Welcome to the Division

The start of the 2012-13 academic year sees our division continue to grow with new postgraduate researchers and staff.

We would like to welcome the following PhD students into our midst:

- Oleosi Ntshebe
- Justine Aheto
- Zahoor Ahmad
- Michael Ndisika
- Muhammad Isa
- Angela Luna Hernandez
- Kristine Nilsen
- Melike Oguz Alper
- Min Qin

We are also delighted to welcome Deborah Wiltshire, Lana Clara Chikhungu and Solange Trindade Correa as Teaching Fellows for the new year, as well the new teaching staff who have not yet been confirmed.

Facilities Update

The university has invested substantial amounts over the summer months in updating and upgrading existing facilities in building 58.

In an attempt to address the long-term challenge of providing sufficient desk space for PGR students within the Social Sciences, several offices (rooms 1010, 1021 and 2113) have been restructured and redesigned. Toilets and kitchens have also been refurbished, and common rooms for both staff and students have been introduced to improve our general working environment.

The social space for PGR students will replace the infrequently used S3RI library on level 2, and will accommodate lockers, seating, shelving and potentially a coffee machine. Plans for the social space for staff on level 3 hope to combine the nearby kitchen with room 3131 to create an open-plan social space.

PhD students are already moving into their new offices and we look forward to using the other facilities when they are completed.
People, Profiles and Placements

Meet the Reps

Student Reps: Philippa Waterhouse & Emma Thompson

Our postgraduate researchers can raise comments, questions and concerns through designated Postgraduate (PGR) Representatives. The representatives for Social Statistics and Demography, Emma and Philippa, both studied at Southampton prior to the commencement of their PhDs.

Following a BSc in Politics, Emma joined the division in 2010, to study on the MSc Social Statistics (Research Pathway). Her current research, which considers the explanatory behaviour underpinning political apathy in the UK, takes a multi-disciplinary approach combining her interests in both politics and statistics. Philippa joined the division in 2008, transferring from BSc Sociology to BSc Population Sciences, after discovering a passion for statistics. Developing a keen interest in demographic issues in the developing world context, she continued on to study on the MSc Demography. Her PhD research investigates the work-family interface in Accra, Ghana, applying both qualitative and quantitative research methods.

In their roles as reps both are dedicated to involving PGRs in key decision making processes and ensuring that strong channels of communication exist between different members of the Division. They are happy to receive, and actively encourage, PGRs to discuss any comments or queries with them. This October Emma is stepping down from her position as she enters the final year of her studies. We are looking for PGRs in the early stages of their PhD to fill this vacancy as this will ensure representation of PGRs across the PhD lifespan. Anyone wishing to express an interest in the rep role should email Philippa (pjw2v07@soton.ac.uk) or Emma (E.L.Thompson@soton.ac.uk).

“Being a rep. has been a valuable experience, affording myself and fellow students better understanding of how the division works.”

Philippa Waterhouse

“As student representative, I am committed to making sure the Post-graduate students in our division have a voice.”

Emma Thompson

Profile: Dr Sabu Padmadas

Head of Teaching Programmes, Social Statistics and Demography

Sabu joined the University of Southampton in 2002 after completing his doctoral and postdoctoral research at the Population Research Centre at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. As Head of Teaching Programmes, he is responsible in overseeing the planning, coordination and management of over 50 undergraduate and postgraduate modules taught each academic year within the Division. He strongly believes in investing in human capital and nurturing a ‘new’ generation of talented people with better communication and analytical skills; his dedication to passing on his knowledge was recognised in 2010 when he received the Vice Chancellor’s award for excellence in teaching.

Sabu is passionate about demography and global health research. His research focuses on the demographic and epidemiological applications to health, specifically family planning dynamics and reproductive health in low and middle income countries. He has contributed significantly to major research projects including evaluation of UNFPA China country programmes on reproductive health and the ESRC funded Pathfinder projects on social inequalities in health care and wellbeing in Brazil, India, China and South Africa. He is actively involved in the research centres based within Social Sciences and currently the Co-Director of the Centre for Global Health, Population, Poverty & Policy (GHP3) and Coordinator of the Policy and Evaluation strand at the Southampton Statistical Sciences Research Institute (S3RI).

To find out more about the activities and interests of all our staff and PGRs, please visit: www.southampton.ac.uk/demography/ and follow the link to ‘Who we are’.
Fertility Intentions

Professor Máire Ní Bhrolcháin has been awarded a grant of £432k for a comparative European study of uncertainty in fertility intentions.

The project arises from work carried out by Máire Ní Bhrolcháin and Dr Eva Beaujouan using the General Household Survey (GHS) time series database constructed as part of the work programme of the Centre for Population Change. Their analysis of the GHS data found that the proportion of women who declared themselves uncertain about their future fertility was surprisingly high at about 4 in 10 amongst women under 35. With an alternative definition, the prevalence of uncertainty was even higher. Furthermore, from published sources it appears that similar levels of uncertainty are found in other developed countries. This matters because it tends to be assumed in the literature that people have clear intentions and expectations about their future childbearing, even from a relatively young age. It was found that uncertainty was primarily associated with life stage, rather than with other characteristics such as education. Based on these findings, a theory was developed, drawing on psychology and behavioural economics. The objective of the ESRC funded project is to extend this work on a cross-national basis, using the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) and a range of other surveys. The idea is both to document the level of uncertainty on a more systematic basis, to identify associated factors, and to try to find ways of testing and developing the theoretical perspective developed. It promises to be a fascinating journey into relatively uncharted territory.

Dr Maria Rita Testa of the Vienna Institute of Demography is consultant to the project and Professor Jane Falkingham will also be involved. The project is due to start in January 2013. For more details regarding this project please contact Professor Bhrolcháin at mnb2@soton.ac.uk.

Related publications


International Collaboration in Demography and Ageing

Multidisciplinary research continues to flourish within the University of Southampton, one of the most recent examples being a successful bid for funding from the Centre for Research on Ageing and the Division of Social Statistics and Demography.

Members of the Centre for Research on Ageing (Prof. Maria Evandrou (PI), Dr Aravinda Guntupalli and Dr Athina Vlachantoni) and the Division of Social Statistics and Demography (Dr Sabu Padmadas and Dr Vicky Hosegood) are part of an internationally collaborative project between Research Councils in India, the Netherlands and the UK, which is aimed at exploring the wellbeing of older persons in the context of an increasingly globalising world.

Titled ‘Ageing and Wellbeing in a Globalising World’, the topics which will be explored as part of this project include health, migration, social networks and different types of wellbeing, using nationally representative datasets from the different countries.

Funding will be provided by Agence Nationale de la Recherche, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Economic and Social Research Council, Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research and the Indian Council of Social Science Research.

For more information about this project, please contact Prof. Evandrou at maria.evandrou@soton.ac.uk

If you have any successes you would like to share with our readers, please contact us at ssdnews@soton.ac.uk.

For further information on some of our research projects please visit us at:

http://www.southampton.ac.uk/demography/research/projects.page?
Research in Focus

There are several research centres at the University of Southampton. In this issue, we introduce the following research centres: ESRC Centre for Population Change (CPC), Southampton Statistical Sciences Research Institute (S3RI), Centre for Global Health, Population, Poverty and Policy (GHP3), ESRC National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) and Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC).

ESRC National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM)

Do you want to develop your methodological skills and knowledge, and strengthen your research profile?

The National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) is a major investment by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), and forms part of the ESRC's strategy to improve the standards of research methods. NCRM offers a wide range of affordable beginner, intermediate and advanced level quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods training courses and events.

NCRM training courses are organised by the coordinating Hub, based in Social Sciences at the University of Southampton, and by the Nodes at various universities across the UK. All NCRM training courses are led by experts in their own fields.

In addition to the training programme, the NCRM research programme produces outputs, including working papers, methodological reviews, presentations etc., which are freely available online. The NCRM website also provides links to other research methods resources and training providers.

For further information about NCRM training courses, research and online resources, please go to www.ncrm.ac.uk.

Southampton Statistical Sciences Research Institute (S3RI)

S3RI brings together researchers working in the statistical sciences (statistics, demography, actuarial science, etc.) on core methodology for generic problems and on substantive applications, particularly in the social sciences, engineering, health and medicine. Established in 2003, S3RI has enhanced the University's excellent international reputation for research in the statistical sciences.

Members of S3RI are actively involved in several University centres, including the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM), the ESRC Centre for Population Change (CPC), the Centre for Global Health, Population, Poverty and Policy (GHP3), the EPSRC National Centre for Advanced Tribology (nCATS), the ESRC Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC), and the MacMillan Survivorship Research Group.

The core research of S3RI is organised into five programmes:

1. Sample surveys and official statistics
2. Design and analysis of experiments
3. Policy and evaluation
4. Statistical modelling and computation
5. Biostatistics

S3RI offers a wide range of training for professionals and researchers, including the Courses in Applied Social Surveys (CASS) programme, courses tailored to specific needs of government agencies and companies, and a Royal Statistical Society Distance Learning programme. It also provides high-level statistical consulting to researchers in public and private sectors across many disciplines.

For more information, please go to: www.southampton.ac.uk/s3ri.
Research in Focus

Centre for Global Health, Population, Poverty and Policy (GHP3)

The mission of the Centre is to promote high quality scientific research that provides the evidence base for innovative policy solutions and sustainable intervention strategies.

GHP3 is actively engaged in promoting research for action, knowledge transfer and building research capacity in low and middle income countries, with the aims of shaping better health and building better societies. The Centre’s work falls under the four themes of the title: Global health, Population, Poverty and Policy.

Recent research projects at GHP3, funded by national and international agencies, have addressed critical global health issues with an emphasis on social inequalities, poverty, urbanisation and migration. GHP3 is a member of the University of Southampton Strategic Research Group on Population Health and has strong international partnership with academic research institutions, governmental and non-governmental agencies. Current work on global health reinforces Southampton’s multidisciplinary expertise and extensive knowledge base in the field of reproductive health and wellbeing, maternal and child health, family planning and population development, environment and climate change, and epidemiological transition, particularly with a focus on the risk factors and social determinants of non-communicable diseases in low and middle income countries. These thematic areas of research are broadly embedded within the UN Millennium Development Goals framework linking to demographic, epidemiological and nutrition transitions.

The Centre provides a vibrant platform for scientific exchange and promoting interdisciplinary research in global health, engaging early career researchers, policy specialists and international agencies. GHP3 researchers work closely with colleagues from the ESRC Centre for Population Change, Centre for Research on Ageing and Southampton Statistical Sciences Research Institute.

Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC)

The Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC)’s quantitative research programme is directed by Prof John Mohan. Steve Barnard, Matt Bennett, Sarah Bulloch and David Clifford are also members of the team. It is an exciting research programme, given both the high policy prominence of the voluntary sector and the relative lack of previous quantitative research on volunteers and voluntary organisations.

Examples of their work on volunteering and civic participation includes the following research:

The idea of a ‘civic core’ (Sarah Bulloch and John Mohan)

Much work has examined overall rates of civic engagement over time and across the population in the UK, yet less is known about the levels of such engagement. Examining volunteering, charitable giving and civic association participation trends in the Citizenship Survey, they identify the ‘civic core’, those who contribute most to civic engagement in England and Wales. The principal findings are that small subsets of the population provide the great bulk of formal civic engagement effort. Members of the civic core are drawn overwhelmingly from the most prosperous, older and highly educated sections of the population, and they are most likely to live in the least deprived parts of the country.
Examine8ng youth volunteering (Matt Bennett)

This research examines individual- and household-level characteristics associated with youth volunteering using data from the UKHLS on youths aged between 10 and 15 years. They find that 55% of these youths volunteer at least once per year, of which 9% do so once per week. Volunteering is more frequent among youths from higher social classes and the religious. Living in a household where at least one parent volunteers increases the frequency of volunteering (a finding largely driven by the voluntary activity of mothers). Hours spent doing homework and housework are associated with more volunteering, while TV watching and social media interaction are associated with a lower frequency of volunteering. Females volunteer more than males. Future work will look at the relationship between school characteristics and youth volunteering.

If you are interested in finding out more about their work go to www.tsrc.ac.uk for more information.

ESRC Centre for Population Change (CPC)

Since launching in 2009, the ESRC Centre for Population Change (CPC) has brought together over 40 academics, students and associates from a range of subjects, including Social Statistics and Demography.

CPC’s research is based around the following four themes:

1. Dynamics of fertility and family formation past, present and future
2. Household dynamics and living arrangements across the life course
3. The demographic and socio-economic implications of national and transnational migration
4. Modelling population growth and enhancing the evidence base for policy

CPC believe that in order to develop appropriate policy responses at the national, regional and local level it is vital to understand the extent, drivers and implications of changing patterns of migration, fertility, family and household dynamics, and ageing. These issues are relevant for a range of services, from provision of adequate services for school children, to the design of pension schemes that accommodate today's increasingly mobile population.

Examples of some of the questions they are answering are: What factors are associated with realization of fertility intentions in Britain? How do these factors differ by parity? What is the impact of recent migration on the native and non-native working population in the UK? How does age selective migration in rural areas interact with household structure to influence the current and future demand for care? What are the major life course events associated with returning, and leaving, home in adulthood?

If you would like to learn more about CPC’s research programme, read their publications, or to find out about events they are holding, please go to: www.cpc.ac.uk.

If you are interested in the work of these institutions in more detail, be sure to get a copy of the next issue of Society Counts where you can read an update on their research agendas.
Over the past semester, our staff and PGR students have represented the University of Southampton at a number of national and international conferences, and participated in a variety of training courses and other events. As a department we are also involved in a number of events in the upcoming semester. In the tables are some key dates for your diary for the following months, as well as a reminder of some of the activities our colleagues have been busy with, which perhaps you may wish to bear in mind for next year.

In each issue, we will put the spotlight on two events, one past and one upcoming. In this issue, we focus on The European Population Conference (EPC), where our colleagues presented their work in oral presentations and poster sessions amid around 900 other participants; and PopFest 2013, which our department’s PGR students are now coordinating following a successful bid to host next year’s conference.

### Past Events

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>2nd-3rd April 2012</td>
<td>Young Statistician’s Meeting (YSM), Cambridge.</td>
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<td>6th-8th June 2012</td>
<td>60th Plenary Session of the Conference of European Statistician’s, Paris, France.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-16th June 2012</td>
<td>European Population Conference (EPC), Stockholm, Sweden.</td>
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<td>21st-23rd June 2012</td>
<td>PopFest, Loughborough University.</td>
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<td>2nd-3rd July 2012</td>
<td>Innovative Perspectives on Population Mobility: Mobility, Immobility and Well-being, University of St Andrews, Edinburgh.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd-5th July 2012</td>
<td>NCRM Research Methods Festival, Oxford.</td>
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<td>9th-12th July 2012</td>
<td>35th Research Students’ Conference (RSC) in Probability and Statistics, University of Southampton.</td>
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<td>9th July-17th August 2012</td>
<td>Essex Summer School, University of Essex.</td>
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<td>11th-13th July 2012</td>
<td>British Society of Gerontology (BSG) Annual Conference, Keele University.</td>
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<td>18th July 2012</td>
<td>ESRC Final Year Student Conference, University of Birmingham.</td>
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<td>6th September 2012</td>
<td>DTC First Year Student Conference, University of Sussex, Brighton.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th-12th September 2012</td>
<td>British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Annual Conference, University of Nottingham.</td>
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### Past Event: EPC 2012

**EPC is a bi-annual conference organised by the European Association for Population Studies (EAPS) and was hosted this year in Stockholm, Sweden.**

The conference has a special focus on Europe, although papers from non-European countries are also encouraged as many of the issues addressed are common throughout the world. The theme for 2012 was *Gender, Policies and Population*, paying due diligence to the importance of gender issues in demographic research by highlighting the linkages between gender equality, policies and demographic events.

A broad range of subjects were covered in the conference, including: fertility, sexual and reproductive health, migration, health, morbidity and mortality, policy issues, data and methods. Many staff and students from Southampton University attended to present a paper or poster, as well as to chair some of the sessions.
Conferences and Events

What they had to say about EPC 2012:

“It was stimulating to hear talks by authors whom I frequently cite and meet other researchers working in my field... I felt more connected to the international scientific community.” (Adriana Duta)

“I had some really famous researchers listening to my presentation... and I got to know the faces of many well-known names.” (Julia Mikolai)

“EPC was useful from a demographic perspective, however, there was not very much research about developing country issues.” (Amie Kamanda)

“I find EPC really inspiring because of the range and quality of research presented and the opportunity to discuss research with so many people working in the same field.” (James Robards)

Other events: Participants also enjoyed Stockholm’s scenery, as well as the organised trip to the Guildhall where the Nobel Prize is awarded annually.

Thinking about applying to next EPC 2014? The next EPC will be held in Budapest, Hungary, with a deadline for abstracts in late 2013.

Upcoming Event:
Coming of Age: The 21st PopFest Conference

Postgraduate researchers (PGR’s) from the Division of Social Statistics and Demography are currently busy organising PopFest2013, an annual population studies conference for PGRs, organised by fellow PGRs. The 10th of September officially marked the launch of the PopFest website, with a much appreciated promotional platform provided by one of our sponsors, the British Society for Population Studies, at their annual conference. With over 250 delegates from the field of population studies, this was an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of PopFest2013.

This year’s theme, ‘Coming of Age’ marks PopFest’s 21st birthday and return to its birthplace, as the University of Southampton also hosted the very first conference in 1992. In order to celebrate the return of PopFest to Southampton, the committee will be expanding the remit of the conference through the inclusion of a training day designed to equip delegates’ with valuable skills for establishing their careers. Furthermore, we hope to expand the geographical reach of our programme and encourage greater involvement from our European colleagues.

A uniquely informal yet informative event, PopFest aims to provide a friendly and encouraging environment for PGRs to develop their presentation skills, knowledge and networking with others at a similar stage in their careers. We will be circulating a call for papers in October but in the meantime check out our website at www.southampton.ac.uk/popfest or to be added to our mailing list, please email popfest2013@southampton.ac.uk.

Future Dates

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Deadline/Call for Abstracts</th>
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<tr>
<td>13th-16th January 2013</td>
<td>The Alpine Population Conference, Aosta Valley, Italy.</td>
<td>Deadline for papers or extended abstracts 1st October 2012</td>
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<td>8th-10th July 2013</td>
<td>PopFest 2013, University of Southampton.</td>
<td>Call for abstracts from October 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th-25th July 2013</td>
<td>European Meeting of Statisticians, Budapest, Hungary.</td>
<td>Call for papers now open</td>
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The publications in 2012 have been wide and varied. Topics which have been covered in published materials include: reproductive health, sexual health (including HIV/AIDS), child nutritional status, obesity, migration forecasting, international migration trends, poverty, fertility in developed countries, small area estimation and statistical modelling.

Articles


Publications

Articles continued


Book Sections


Monograph


Working Papers


For full details of publications and research carried out by members of the division, please visit: www.southampton.ac.uk/demography/research/
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