

What does Education for Sustainability have to do with Social Statistics and Demography?

“Huge quantities of data are collected each day, in every country on Earth. But what does it all mean? As social statisticians, we make it our business to analyse and understand this torrent of numbers. At Southampton, we develop the vital tools to make sense of the figures and we work with colleagues to find ways to use this valuable information to benefit society.” www.southampton.ac.uk/demography/

The future of societies will be shaped by the need to move to low-carbon economies, shifts in population dynamics, and greater strain on the most vulnerable in society in the face of climate change.

Topic areas of relevance to sustainability already in the Social Statistics & Demography curriculum include:

- Health & well-being: HIV/AIDS; reproductive and child health in the developing world; health inequalities
- Population: family, life course and ageing; historical demography; poverty and living standards in both rich and poor countries; inequality; consumption; economic growth and its implications
- Migration: propelled by disaster, conflict or economic aspiration; food security in the face of climate change and growing populations; labour migration, human trafficking and asylum seeking
- International perspectives: forces shaping populations and societies in the 21st century; global issues such as health, poverty; globalisation and climate change; health, labour and environmental concerns
- Evidence-based policy and decision-making: the need for quantitative analysis for policymaking locally, nationally and internationally; environment management and carrying capacity

Key skills for social scientists which sustainability teaching cultivates: informed decision-making; synthesis of different opinions, theory and data; interdisciplinarity; communication; critical thinking; problem-based learning.

Find out more: Contact Julia Kendal (j.kendal@soton.ac.uk) for more information including case studies on teaching sustainability in this area.