

BSPS CONFERENCE 2010

The 2010 BSPS Annual Conference will be held at the University of Exeter from 13-15 September. Plenary speakers are confirmed as: Dr. Ties Boerma (World Health Organization), Professor Bob Woods, University of Liverpool, and Dr. Tomas Sobotka, (IIASA, Vienna). The call for papers has now been sent out and can also be accessed at:

<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/socialPolicy/BSPS/annualConference/2010/2010%20Exeter.aspx> , where you will also find the link to the online submissions system.

Attendance at BSPS Conferences has been steadily increasing over the past few years, and the Conference itself is widely seen as a lively, thought-provoking, and possibly unique mix of presentations from academics and practitioners from local government and NGOs.

A booking form and provisional programme will be available in May. This year's venue is particularly attractive, with stunning views over the Exe Valley.

BSPS CONFERENCE 2011

Advance notice for your diary: the 2011 BSPS Annual Conference will be held at the University of York from 7 – 9 September 2011.

FORTHCOMING BSPS DAY

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~~is~~ *BSPS News* will be edited by Amos Channon at the University of Southampton, assisted by Emily Freeman from LSE. The Newsletter relies very heavily on BSPS members to contribute content and is always grateful for information likely to be of interest to members, such as details of forthcoming meetings from other bodies and reports of meetings held by others. If you have ideas for new features, please contact Amos at arc101@soton.ac.uk

or Emily at E.Freeman@lse.ac.uk.

BSPS PRIZE 2010 – ENTRIES INVITED

Entries are invited for the 2010 BSPS Prize.

This is awarded to the entry judged to be the best MSc. Dissertation on a demographic topic during the year 2009 (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 2010 at the BSPS Secretariat, PS201, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE, or pic@lse.ac.uk

BSPS LEDC INITIATIVE 2010 – CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The BSPS Developing Countries Initiative has reserved £1,500 per annum for activities that encourage collaboration between population demographers in the UK and developing countries. This initiative sponsors an annual visit by a demographer from a LEDC, who gives a presentation at the BSPS Conference where they get the opportunity to meet and develop contacts with UK demographers. The overall aim is to encourage long-term collaboration and joint projects, and it is anticipated that contacts will already exist between the person to be funded, and a UK institution or UK demographers.

Previous awards have been made to visitors from Cuba and Brazil. In 2005, Sonia Catusus Cervera, from the University of Havana visited, and in 2006, Consuelo Martin, also from Cuba, visited. In both instances, they were also supported by the University of Manchester to visit that institution. In September 2007, a visit by Andre Caetano from the University of Minas Gerais (Belo Horizonte Brazil) was funded, to further work with colleagues at the London School of Economics and the University of Southampton. Seminars were held at the London School of Economics and the University of Southampton during the visit. The 2008 LEDC visitor was Niveen Abu R'Meileh from Birzeit University, and in 2009 Dr. Dilip visited from India.

Suggestions for the use of part or all of this fund for the year 2010 should be made by 30 April 2010, to pic@lse.ac.uk for consideration by the BSPS Council at their next meeting. Suggestions would be best supported by a single typed sheet describing how the money might be budgeted and spent and in on by the BSPS Co-veen nrie

through LARIA and BURISA.

He was a keen cyclist, clocking up thousands of miles each year for 25 years was the common denominator in the mid-summer bike rides around the hostelrys of North Yorkshire.

He was already missed, following his early retirement, but his legacy remains with the many staff he managed, trained, advised and guided and who will forever appreciate the time he gave and benefit from the knowledge he was always happy to pass on.

Piers Elias



Utah at the other. In previous analyses of state and county variations in summary factor scores of these behaviours, Ron and colleagues had demonstrated that these variations were strongly associated with voting behaviour in the 1994 US Presidential elections. In this plenary he presented new results showing continuing, or indeed even stronger associations in the most recent US presidential election. Strong loadings on second demographic type behaviours at state or county level were strongly negatively associated with voting for Bush, or later McCain, even after control for a range of structural and other characteristics. The only one of these which changed the strength of the association in any substantial way was religion. In his conclusion Ron noted that these results, in conjunction with other research, illustrated the importance of lifestyle and attitudes and values in shaping demographic behaviour. Time for questions was restricted but lively debates on the lecture

continually questioning his ideas (and the ideas of anyone and everyone else!). Indeed, the development of his work on marriage patterns between his original paper in 1965 and the 1982 paper is a clear example of this trait.

Much of what Tony Wrigley discussed in the second session came out of John's 1982 paper. Focussing on average household size, Tony spoke of the relationship between the economy, household size and marriage patterns from the Early Modern Period until the Industrial Revolution and the move from sexual maturity as a control of marriage to economics as a control of marriage.

Consideration of economic control of marriage was taken onwards by Ron Lesthaeghe. Using evidence from Flanders and Brabant 1450 – 1789, along with a lovely selection of artwork, Ron described how moral controls were used to bring about economic controls in marriage during times of economic downturn.

Maire Ni Bhrolchain progressed from marriage to fertility. Citing three main pieces of John's work in this field (a study of birth statistics in the first edition of *Population Studies* in 1947, The Royal Commission on Population 1944-48, a study of fertility and reproduction for Millbank in 1959) Maire explained how observations made by John more than 60 years are still relevant in the study of fertility today. The debate on which measure of fertility is most appropriate to use in population projections is as active today as it was when John raised the issue in 1947. In addition to John's work on fertility, Maire emphasised how we might all learn a great deal from the considered way in which John handled limited data.

Mike Murphy carried on with John's role in changing how population projections were carried out. He described how John was pivotal in the move from logistic growth models to cohort component models. The longevity of John's insight was demonstrated yet again, as Mike noted how John's observations on the population projections are as manifestly relevant today as they were when he made them in the 1950s.

In the final session Chris Langford concentrated on John's work for the Royal Commission on Population. Chris described how John's input into this immense piece of analysis was incredible not only because of the lack of technology, but also because John was just 19 years old when he joined the commission.

These sessions were very personal. They emphasised the positive impact of John on both the demographic world and on the individual lives of those of us who knew him.

In addition to the invited sessions, 106 contributed papers were also presented in strand sessions spread over the course of the Conference. The abstracts for all papers can be found on the BSPS website at www.bsps.org.uk, together with some of the presentation themselves, accessible via the hyperlink in the title of the abstract.

BSPS again expresses its gratitude to the Galton Institute for their valued financial support for the Conference.

Thanks to Paul Mathews, Emily Grundy, Claire Bailey and Briony Epstein for their reports of the plenary and Hajnal sessions.

REPORTS OF THE 2009 LEDC VISIT

Report on activities completed under the LEDCI Grant

2009 instituted by the British Society for Population Studies

Name and Address of the LEDCI Grant Recipient:

Dr. T R Dilip

Lecturer (Centre for Development Studies)

Prasant Nagar Road, Ulloor,

Thiruvananthapuram-695025, Kerala, INDIA.

Telephone: 0091-471-2540175; email:

diliptr@hotmail.com.

I arrived in Southampton on 31st August, where my academic partner for this visit Dr Sabu S Padmadas had already fixed up a set of meetings with senior demographers located in various institutions. On 1st September I met Mrs. Christina Thomson of the University of Southampton who allotted me a workstation equipped with excellent computing facility within the Statistical Sciences Research Institute, University of Southampton. I started the pre-planned work on household health expenditures in India with Dr Padmadas by exploring the raw data files. The Southampton leg of the visit enabled me to interact with renowned academics like Jane Falkingham, Nyovani Madise, Pedro De Silva, Zoe Mathews, Andrew Hinde. Also had a nice interaction with other faculty members in this department; James Raymer, Yves Berger and Andrew Channon. I gave a seminar on "Health Expenditure in India: Evidence from National Health Accounts" on 4th September to staff and students at the University.

Dr Padmadas and I were able to clean the mammoth National Sample Survey Dataset for our research. It was computationally intensive to restructure the data into a user friendly format. We conducted preliminary analysis of the data and the outcome of this analysis was the presentation "Sources and Uses of Household Expenditure in India" which was presented at the 2009 BSPS Conference. We are currently revising the work incorporating feedback from the conference audience. We will gratefully acknowledge the BSPS LEDCI grant in our peer-reviewed publications. Participation in the BSPS conference gave me a good opportunity to interact with number of demographers in UK. In addition, during the BSPS I came across one of the renowned Social Anthropologists Dr Filippo Osello at the IDS, University of Sussex who is well known for his work in Kerala/India.

The BSPS experience was highly motivating for a demographer like me. In addition, its simplicity is something which makes it distinct from other population conferences, which I had attended in India and abroad. Firstly the participants were asked to report at the conference venue at the lunch time. Participants checked in at the accommodation allotted, had lunch and directly proceeded to the parallel sessions in conference halls. I saw the BSPS President making a paper presentation at one of the parallel sessions. We normally don't see this in other conferences, where presidents and senior professors normally present papers only in plenary sessions. In BSPS some of the plenary session speakers had papers in the parallel sessions. This is something which I feel the rest of the population associations could follow. In the evening we

had a wine reception. Most of the sessions, which I attended were interesting and thought provoking.. Conference sessions were over by noon on the final day. I see this as a good example which the rest of the world can follow to reduce conference expenses. I am also grateful for the support received from the BPS Secretariat in arranging the details of my attendance and travel. Of course, I am also most grateful to the BPS itself for making the visit possible.

On return from BPS, I continued my work with Dr Padmadas for a couple of days on developing new papers and proposals on areas that are of mutual interest. As planned we had a visit to the LSE Health and the Asia Research Centre on 15th September. We had a brainstorming session with the Co-Director Dr Ruth Kattamuri on developing potential proposals on themes relating to Population Growth and Climatic Change. In the afternoon, we had been to LSE Health to meet Dr Tiziana Leone to discuss strengthening our research collaboration. The two meetings at the LSE were quite resourceful and I am currently working from India to take the actions forward.

To conclude I regard the LEDCI Grant sponsored academic visit to UK as a milestone in my future career in terms of initiating new research collaborations with researchers from the UK and strengthening the existing ones.

T R Dilip

**REPORTS OF THE BPS & MPI DR
WORKSHOP – FERTILITY DECLINES
IN THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE:
WHAT WE DON'T KNOW & WHAT
WE NEED TO KNOW**

University of Cambridge 15-17th July 2009

The aim of this meeting was to gather an inter-disciplinary and international group of researchers to discuss what is known about fertility decline, what remains unknown, and how might the unknown become known and better understood. Speakers, discussants and participants were chosen to span the different 'strands' of fertility decline research, historical, contemporary developed and contemporary developing, and the different disciplines working on this problem, including demographers, economists, evolutionary biologists and anthropologists. The workshop was attended by 60 active researchers in the field of fertility research, who listened to 17 papers; 9 discussants added their comments to the proceedings. The organisers, Eilidh Garrett, Rebecca Sear and Mikolaj Szoltysek would

Sebastian Klüsener began the second session by presenting a paper co-authored with Joshua Goldstein entitled 'Culture strikes back: a geographic analysis of fertility decline in Prussia'. This presentation suggested that the basic conflict concerning a general theory of fertility decline has been between cultural diffusionists and economists. From a geographical perspective the cultural diffusion explanation of changes in fertility behaviour across space seems to be more effective. The authors had used a panel model in combination with Ordinary Least Squares approaches, to look at changes in variables, rather than at absolute values, taking their data from historic Prussia. The results broadly supported the cultural diffusion hypothesis, indicating that hotspots of decline in regional centres led the transition to lower fertility, with slower rates of change occurring in peripheral rural and Catholic administrative units.

In the question and answer session which followed an analogy was drawn between the cultural diffusionist view of changing fertility and an incoming tide. This highlighted, first, the underlying difficulty of measuring the broader 'tide' from observations of individual waves and, second, the difficulty of explaining the underlying causal process from simple observations at the surface level. A particular problem for those wishing to use a cultural diffusion model is the lack of acceptable data. While economic variables, which can be more robustly measured, can be controlled, a potentially major assumption may be made that the unobserved residuals can simply be attributed to cultural processes. For example it was noted that in the UK fertility change spread out in a similar fashion from both London and Lancashire, yet there were significant differences in the process and context between the two areas.

Neil Cummins and Greg Clarke then jointly presented their work 'Malthus to modernity: England's first fertility transition, 1760-1800'. From a historical perspective, they argued, there were two main events: the industrial revolution and the demographic transition, but the interaction between the two has perhaps not been sufficiently appreciated to date. Using data collected from 7,000 historic wills in south eastern England, it was noted that prior to 1770 those with greater assets had higher fertility but afterwards the fertility advantage of the rich was lost and there was a systematic reduction of the fertility of the richer strata of society. The timing of the change suggests the influence of factors associated with the industrial revolution. However further analysis of this data, to establish what drove the decline in the fertility of the rich, has proven to be inconclusive with regards to income, child survival and quality / quantity trade-off hypotheses.

As this session's discussant, Stephan Warg highlighted that changes in both cultural and economic domains would be important as innovation of cultural values would in part be determined by the socio-economic context. The difference between cultural and economic theories of fertility decline may be seen from the perspective of individual innovation or adaptation. The suddenness of the changes around 1800 might suggest that the cultural response to the economic changes occurring at that time was actually influenced by the intellectual ideas of Malthus. Evidence of the dissemination of his theories suggests, however, that this is actually

extremely unlikely to have been the case.

The second day of the conference was opened by a joint presentation from Frans van Poppel and David Reher. They discussed recent analyses of historic demographic trends in Spain and the Netherlands during the 19th and 20th century. Using linked reproductive histories from both regions, fertility trends were analysed at the individual rather than at the aggregate population level. The role of child survival as a stimulus for reproductive change, the use of stopping and spacing strategies to achieve reproductive goals, and the timing of change were all discussed. Most importantly, these analyses demonstrated strong evidence for

individual socio-demographic factors, there was little evidence that kin directly influence contraceptive uptake, either by their absence/presence or by acting as models for social learning.

Discussion of these papers was led by Sarah Walters. She further underlined the potential for evolutionary models of fertility to contribute new theories and methodologies to the study of demographic transition. In particular, the non-teleological and broad comparative study of fertility patterns adopted by this approach was commended. Walters then outlined the need to tie together the 'big narratives' of demographic transition, such as the kin-influence hypothesis, with the intricate 'sub-plots' of regional fertility trends, which in extreme cases can eclipse the anticipated effects of local social or economic shifts. Wider debate focused on the utility of evolutionary models and how they should be integrated with traditional demographic perspectives.

Sessions five and six of the conference moved further into the worlds of contemporary changes in fertility and the ideas that underpin our understanding of it. Christine Oppong kicked off proceedings with a paper entitled "Parental Perceptions of Child Costs". Based on her extensive ethnographic studies in Ghana in the 1960s and 1970s, Oppong proposed that the behaviour in fertility control displayed by educated subgroups might be regarded as innovative, particularly when such behaviour is situated within its gendered context and given the desire of parents to provide the best for any future children. From a more methodological perspective, she argued that multi-method, small scale studies could be partly constitutive of a broader way of understanding family planning and fertility choices amongst couples, stressing the parallels with Simon Szreter's much-mentioned "communication communities". Ian Timaeus' contribution continued the theoretical thrust of the session, taking particular issue with the popular classification of signs of fertility transition into stopping and spacing behaviour. His suggestion was that we think rather of "postponement", as a means of understanding the flexibility of couples' intentions as well as the unpredictability with which circumstances can change. Far from being a mere matter of semantics, such an amendment to the concept of 'spacing' provided a real means of understanding fertility decline.

Both papers met with a broadly appreciative response, and the discussant, Tim Dyson, was keen to highlight a point both presenters had made: that the African experience of fertility was distinctly different, and that scholars of this subject would benefit from the overt reintroduction of the ideas of Jack Goody into their work. Dyson's comments proved as provocative as the papers in some regards, sparking an intriguing discussion about the relationship of mortality decline to the fertility transition and the extent to which England and Wales fitted the pattern of a mortality fall preceding a decline in fertility.

Session six saw Geoffrey McNicoll and Arland Thornton take up the challenge of the conference title in somewhat differing manners. McNicoll was keen to highlight the links between policy and the encouragement of the fertility

transition in developing countries. He identified four "legacies" of these efforts. These were: the responsiveness of the family unit, the organisation of communities at a local level, agency (in particular the relative power of women within institutional arrangements), and the actions of governments and authorities. He regarded these as common to fertility transitions globally, achieved in much of the developing world through already-prevalent institutional and cultural entities. Thornton also assessed the global nature of aspects of the fertility transition, with regard to the spread of developmental idealism. This was defined as a certain worldview, akin to the Fukuyaman notion of western liberal democracies having reached the end of history, via a path which other nations would inevitably follow. This made it possible to look elsewhere in the world and see how Europe used to be, a process of "reading history sideways". Such an ideological position comes with certain ethical problems, but Thornton chose to highlight how widespread certain values associated with fertility and modernity were in a geographically and economically disparate selection of nations, drawing from his surveys the conclusion that such changes were viewed as positive by respondents. The discussant Laura Bernardi took up a number of these themes of complex change, and the way in which community transmits change, calling also for a consideration of migration from high fertility areas to those where fertility is now low, and the policy implications that such a population movement would entail.

The final day of the conference was opened by Maire Ni Bhrolchain, whose presentation was on 'Time and measurement in explaining fertility change.' The pretext for this paper was, she argued, constitutive of the transition.

of the family unit, the power of the transition

more complicated questions.

The discussant Jan Hoem commented on Maire's paper by suggesting that as demographers we should attempt to get at what we are actually looking at and not adjust measures designed for other purposes, and that using individual level data and running hazard regression models is a useful approach; in doing this, he pointed out, it is also possible to contrast cohort and calendar time. He then questioned whether the implication of Mike's findings could be that we should stop using survey data entirely, but asked what would be left if we were to give up on survey data. The answer given was that registers alone would be left and thus everyone would be forced to analyse Scandinavian countries. Mike's response was that he was trying to draw attention to the problems with survey data in order that they might be solved. He said that histories must be validated, but they are still absolutely indispensable.

Tomas Sobotka followed with a paper on 'Is the only way down? Many factors behind contemporary very low fertility are likely to be temporary' in the final session. He argued that there is still a very strong desire for children and that lowest low fertility is far from inevitable. In fact many factors are now likely to increase fertility and the empirical floor may have been reached in the year 2000. As evidence for his optimism Tomas pointed out that the number of people living in a country with a Total Fertility Rate lower than 1.3 has been going down since 2000 after a year on year increase from zero since 1990. The explanation for this, he argued, is a combination of good economic conditions, immigration from high fertility countries and targeted policy interventions.

Paul Demeny, in discussing this paper, said that everyone is already convinced that lowest low fertility is not inevitable. However, "not being inevitable" is not enough to prevent something from occurring in reality. He remarked that the European welfare states are already overextended and in trouble. They will have to make drastic cutbacks soon. Paul argued that the personal answer to this crisis would seem to be the accumulation of assets and not having children.

The final paper of the conference was a joint presentation by Stuart Basten and David Coleman on 'The future of reproduction: an interdisciplinary challenge'. They began by outlining the problems demographers face when trying to predict future fertility trends such as the high levels of divergence, increasing levels of childlessness and the decline of the larger family. An important question then identified was "Why we bother to have children at all?". In the modern developed world it seems to be a mark of material irrationality to have any children. Several possible explanations for continued childbearing (despite its apparent irrationality) were mooted. There seems to be a biological need to nurture and motherhood appears to be instinctive. These possibilities generated many questions: 'Will people stop having children?' 'Are men actually necessary?' 'Is the desire for children fundamental?' 'Is one child enough?' 'Who will be the parents of tomorrow?' Basten and Coleman argued that such questions need to be addressed and although they are the type of questions which cannot be answered via

traditional demographic forms of enquiry.

To end the conference Paul Demeny, in line with David Coleman's suggestion that we need to think 'outside the box', came up with some unusual possibilities. First, he suggested that parenthood could be turned into a profession. Then, in relation to solving the economic problems associated with low fertility he proposed that it might be possible to link pension schemes to fertility or (even more bizarrely) that the value of a person's vote could be related to life expectancy and that this could be calculated to take children borne into account as well. A further suggestion he offered was that, instead of assuming immigrants would take low skilled, poorly paid jobs, national service could be reintroduced with dispensation only being offered under extraordinary circumstances; such as having a baby.

The organisers would like to end with a vote of thanks to all speakers, discussants, chairs and participants for their varied and highly stimulating contributions. Their hopes for the meeting of bringing a diverse group of people together to engender cross-disciplinary discussion and cross-fertilisation of ideas were certainly fulfilled.

Report contributors:

Melanie Frost, Eilidh Garrett, David Lawson, Paul Mathews, Rebecca Sear & Catherine Sumnall

REPORT ON BSPTS DAY MEETING ON POVERTY & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN POOR COUNTRIES: ISSUES, MEASUREMENT & EVIDENCE

An international meeting entitled 'Poverty and reproductive health in poor countries: Issues, measurement and evidence' was held at the LSE on 29 May 2009. The meeting was sponsored by the British Society for Population Studies jointly with the ESRC, Centre for Global Health, Population Poverty & Policy (GHP3), Southampton Statistical Sciences Research Institute (S3RI) and the LSE Health. The meeting, attended by over 50 participants from various UK research institutions and international NGOs, addressed the critical debates and methodological challenges underlying the vicious pathways through which poverty affects reproductive health care in poor societies. The event was coordinated jointly by Sabu Padmadas (Southampton) and Tiziana Leone (LSE). Key speakers of the event included Tom Merrick (World Bank), Robert Yates (DfID), Frans Willekens (Nether27 T4i819 -1.11 speaker -1.16 (S attemy urs, Murraty & Kike's Cos Wghtes José Di4(eting was)Tj

interventions on health and wellbeing at later ages, through a systematic exploration of cross-sectional and panel data, both quantitative and qualitative. There is a need to reconsider the rights approach to the issue versus the economic approach with the latter in need of more research and development. More specifically the health financing aspect of reproductive health and the impact that it might have on health systems and household economics need to be further explored. The presentations reiterated that despite growing number of countries abolishing users' fees there is a lack of evidence on the burden of out-of-pocket expenses. The meeting concluded highlighting the need to invest more in terms of evidence-based research and policy development on the synergies between poverty, gender gap, education and health. For a full programme, please go to:

<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/socialPolicy/BSPS/dayMeetings/povertyAndReproductiveHealth.aspx>

Sabu Padmadas and Tiziana Leone

POP FEST 2009 REPORT

POP FEST is a small-scale annual conference organised by post-graduate students for post-graduate students whose research interests fall within the broad realm of population-related research. The 2009 conference was the 17th such conference and was held at the London School of Economics and Political Science from Thursday 2nd July to Saturday 4th July. We were delighted to welcome thirty-six conference delegates whose diversity was seen both across their research interests but also their international backgrounds, with notable attendance from institutions in Spain and the Netherlands. We were extremely impressed by the presentations given – all of which were of a remarkably high standard.

Day 1: Thursday, 2nd July 2009

The opening session, held in quite sweltering conditions, was on health and populations and was chaired by Dewi Ismajani Puradiredja (*London School of Economics and Political Science*). We first heard from Sian Oram (*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*) whose research looks at policy surrounding the health needs of trafficked persons in the UK. At a much more micro-level, Daniel Lewis (*University College London*) showed data from Southwark that broadly indicate that in this particular London Borough the poorer sectors of society seem to have better accessibility to General Practices. Thomas Clemens (*University of St. Andrews*) then presented on the relationship between unemployment and mortality; specifically, on the potential limitations of 5-year wear-off techniques through the analysis of alternative thresholds to the 5-year mark.

The first plenary talk of the conference was then given by Dr Ernestina Coast (*London School of Economics and Political Science*), which broadly looked at the process of doing a PhD, and the challenges and opportunities that it presents.

The last session of the day contained five diverse presentations looking at innovative methodologies and data uses and was chaired by Sarah Mohaupt (*London School of*

Economics and Political Science). Michael Grayer (*Queen Mary, University of London*) examined the methodological

from the same institution, then showed how HIV/AIDS is affecting fertility, fertility preferences and contraceptive use in the Mwanza region of Tanzania. Billie de Haas (*University of Groningen*) presented her work from focus group discussions with Uganda adolescents, which highlighted the differences between Western and Ugandan conceptualisations of sexual behaviour and the sometimes significant inaccuracy of the sexual education provided to Ugandan adolescents. Dewi Ismajani Puradiredja (*London School of Economics and Political Science*) provided both quantitative and qualitative evidence on the importance of context in understanding use and non-use of condoms by female sex workers in Indonesia. Session six of the conference was chaired by Sian Oram (*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*). Paul Mathews (*London School of Economics and Political Science*) presented on the positive correlation between having family members as close friends and the probability of first birth. Kazuyo Machiyama (*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*) looked at macro-trends in the fertility decline in the Sub-Saharan Africa region using evidence from multiple Demographic and Health Surveys. The results showed heterogeneity of the experience across the countries of the region. The final student presentation of the day was given by Claire Bailey (*University of Southampton*) who presented on her fieldwork experiences in Ghana and the important lessons that she had learned.

Professor Mike Murphy (*London School of Economics and Political Science*) then gave the second plenary talk of the conference looking at the extraordinary mortality increases that have occurred since the mid 20th century in the USSR and its successor states.

Day 3: Saturday, 4th July 2009

The Saturday morning of the conference saw the final presentation session on childhood and youth chaired by Paul Bouanchaud (*London School of Economics and Political Science*). Sarah Mohaupt (*London School of Economics and Political Science*) gave a presentation on interviewing the interviewers who collected the household panel survey she uses for her research on intergeneration transmission of poverty in Indonesia. Thais Garcia Pereiro (*Centre d'Estudis Demografics, Barcelona*) on factors influencing active union status in young adults in Spain and Elena Fumagalli (*Università Ca' Foscari, Venice*) on ethnic diversity and social participation of young people in England. Last but by no means least the poster session chaired by Prof Schober (*Cambridge University*), consisted of Su-Chun Soon (*University of Liverpool*) on migration and the ethnic food industry in Liverpool's Chinatown; Wike Been (*University of Groningen*) on fertility and gender equity; Vishala Parmasad (*University College London*) on the significance of low rates of voluntary blood donations in Trinidad; Victoria Prieto Rosas (*Centre d'Estudis Demografics, Barcelona*) on the methodological and theoretical approach to the study of age-congruity of transitions to adulthood and migration; James Robards (*University of Southampton*) on the importance of accounting for differing fertility characteristics in England, Wales and France and understanding the role of policy; Wiraporn Toom

Pothisiri (*London School of Economics and Political Science*) on post-partum family planning among Thai rural women with recent unplanned pregnancies; and, Ian King (*Imperial College*) on a systems approach to human population growth.

At the close of the conference prizes were given with congratulations going to **Michael Grayer** (*Queen Mary, University of London*) for best oral presentation and **Wike Been** (*University of Groningen*) for the best poster presentation.

POPFEST 2009 was both an enjoyable and useful conference and clearly highlighted the healthy state of demographic research.

POPFEST 2009 could not have taken place without the very generous funding and support from the following sponsors:

- British Society for Population Studies (BSPS)
- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
- National Centre for Social Research (NatCen)
- Population Geography Research Group (PGRG)
- Social Research Association (SRA)
- 2CV
- Taylor & Francis Group
- Social Policy Department at the London School of Economics (LSE)

Special thanks also go to Anne Shepherd at the BSPS Secretariat for allowing us to provide website and banking via the BSPS facilities; and, to Anne Summers from NatCen for providing an info stand during the course of the event.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that next year's POPFEST 2010 will be organised by a team of PhD students at the School of Geography and Geoscience at University of St. Andrews.

*The POPFEST 2009 Organising Committee
Dewi Ismajani Puradiredja, Sarah Mohaupt, Wiraporn Toom Pothisiri, Paul Mathews and Paul Bouanchaud.*

POPFEST 2009 023 July 2009

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Centre, Detroit, during April 30- May 2 this year. The meeting consisted of total 192 parallel sessions and 7 poster sessions covering almost all the areas under population studies with presentation from across the globe. The meeting was a gathering place of the leading demographers and population scientists from different parts of the world. I had the opportunity to present at the meeting in Session 66:

FORTHCOMING NON-BSPS EVENTS OF INTEREST

The 4th ESRC Research Methods Festival will take place on 5-8 July 2010, once again at the excellent location of St Catherine's College, Oxford. The Festival aims to engage social scientists across a wide range of disciplines and sectors and at different points in their research careers, and aims to stimulate interest, raise issues, highlight opportunities and showcase new developments. The National Centre for Research Methods are pleased to announce that the draft festival programme is now online at the festival pages <http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/TandE/other/RMF2010/>.

The bookings for the Research Methods Festival will open in March 2010. The festival website will be updated as the session abstracts and other details are finalised, so please keep an eye on the pages.

Forthcoming **SHIP Advanced Training Workshop** takes place at the University of St. Andrews on April 6-10th. There are still places available but early registration is advisable.

This is an intensive five-day course on the theory and practice of analysis of large sets of linked health or social data at an intermediate to advanced level. Advanced principles of epidemiology are combined with hands-on practical exercises in the implementation of computing solutions.

Further information available here:
<http://popgeog.org/2009/12/ship-advanced-training-workshop-6th-10th-april-2010/>

Call For Papers: Family History/Demography Network of the Social Science History Association

The family history/demography network of the Social Science History Association seeks panel, single-paper, and poster proposals for the 35th annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois, 18-21 November, 2010.

Submissions are now being accepted at the SSHA website (<http://www.ssha.org/>). Individuals may either [login to submit a conference proposal directly](#) or contact an organizer of one the suggested panels. Individuals that are new to SSHA will need to [create an account](#). The deadline for submissions is 15 February, 2010.

The 2010 conference will be held in downtown Chicago, in the Palmer House Hilton. The theme for this year's conference is Power and Politics.

(NB – if any BSPS member would like a copy of the full call, including details of details of suggested sessions and their organizers, with contact details, please contact pic@lse.ac.uk, who will be happy to forward the full email.

2010 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America.

15-17 April 2010, Dallas, Texas. For more information:
<http://paa2010.princeton.edu>

Understanding ageing: Health, wealth and wellbeing at fifty and beyond

14 to 16 April 2010

St Catherine's College, University of Oxford
For full details visit the conference website at <http://www.ageingconf.org/>

Longitudinal Data Linkage workshop 30/31 March, Edinburgh

A workshop about linking longitudinal data from Census, vital registration records and health registration data will be held at the University of Edinburgh on 30 and 31 March 2010. The workshop is organised by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Institute of Education (University of London) in collaboration with the Longitudinal Studies Centre - Scotland.

A flier with more details and the programme can be downloaded

http://www.lscs.ac.uk/Longitudinal_Data_Linkage_30-31March2010.pdf

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