

## BSPS MEETINGS

### **BSPS Annual Conference 2006**

**Plenary theme: Global Migration Trends**

**The University of Southampton,**

**18-20 September 2006**

The BSPS 2006 Annual Conference will be held at the University of Southampton, from Monday 18 September to Wednesday 20 September 2006. The plenary theme will be *Global migration trends*, and plenary speakers will be announced in due course.

### **Call for papers**

BSPS invites members and non-members to submit papers and posters for presentation at the 2006 Conference. Abstracts and proposals for papers can also be accepted. Submissions in all areas of interest to demographers and population specialists are welcomed, and will be organised into three or four parallel strand sessions. Possible strand sessions include: intergenerational relations; ageing populations; migration, population mobility and ethnicity; local government and census issues; longitudinal studies (including SARS and microdata issues); families and households; fertility; historical demography; mortality; reproductive health; health and health inequalities; methods and models; posters.

Strand organisers will be announced in January 2006, with a likely deadline for submissions of April 2006.

Papers and proposals for papers may be submitted now to the BSPS Secretariat, PS201, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. Email: [pic@lse.ac.uk](mailto:pic@lse.ac.uk) 020 7955 7666 (phone), 020 7955 6831 (fax), or to the BSPS President, John Hollis, Email [john.hollis@london.gov.uk](mailto:john.hollis@london.gov.uk)

The 2004 and 2005 conferences attracted over 150 international and local participants and it is hoped the 2006 Conference will

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## European Population Conference 2006

The European Population Conference will also be held in Liverpool, UK, from Wednesday 21st until Saturday 24th June, 2006. The main theme for the conference will be “**Population challenges in ageing societies**”.

International visitors in particular are encouraged to consider using a single flight to attend both meetings, and perhaps to consider presenting papers at both conferences. If you are interested in attending the EAPS meeting further information is available at:

<http://www.eaps.nl/activities/epccom/2006invitation.html>

The plenary address for this conference will be given by Professor Ian Diamond, a familiar figure to many members of EAPS as a demographer, but also currently the Chief Executive of the Economic and Social Research Council, Britain’s major agency for funding and directing research in the social sciences. He is thus ideally placed to address the central theme of the conference, to offer a perspective that links the needs and agendas of population scientists with the needs and agendas of governments and the wider society.

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## International Microsimulation Association

Those interested in microsimulation-based methods might be interested to note the launch of the International Microsimulation Association [www.microsimulation.org](http://www.microsimulation.org). The association aims to promote the free inter-change of experience and ideas between practitioners of microsimulation worldwide. To this end the goals of the association are to provide:

- a repository of links to online microsimulation-related resources
- an email discussion list
- an email news announcement list
- a bibliography of microsimulation-related publications
- an online refereed journal

Submissions are also invited for the March 2006 launch issue of the association’s journal [www.microsimulation.org/IJM/](http://www.microsimulation.org/IJM/)

Finally, the association is also planning a major international conference in 2007 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Orcutt’s seminal paper, further details of which will be circulated to association members in due course.

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## Will you have Japanese population researchers with you in 2006?

The Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation and the Japan Society run an acclaimed monthly seminar series with an annual theme.

For 2006, the theme chosen is: **Life's Chances - demographic change in Japan and the UK** and the aim is to cover comparisons of the circumstances of fertility and family building/fission; marriage, separation and divorce; ageing, morbidity and mortality in the two countries.

It is important to appreciate that these seminars are for a general, not a specialist audience, and an international audience also (not just Japan and UK).

The seminar planning group would be interested to learn of any Japanese researchers who might be in the UK during 2006, who are researching subjects that could be of interest to a general population and who are likely to have the skill (including English language) to explain their work and its context to a non-specialist audience. We would also be interested to hear from UK researchers with Japanese experience.

If your research institute already is hosting or is expecting to host such a person in 2006, I would be very interested to hear from you.

Professor David Cope, Director, Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, Houses of Parliament. tel: 020 7219 2848; e-mail: [coped@parliament.uk](mailto:coped@parliament.uk)

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## NOTICES

### BSPS postgraduate student representative

For the last two years, BSPS has been fortunate to have **Dan Vickers** as postgraduate student rep, but Dan has now resigned from this position after handing in his PhD dissertation. BSPS thanks Dan for his input and sterling service, and sends best wishes for his future.

The new postgraduate student rep. is **Laura Jones** from the University of Loughborough. She can be contacted at [l.l.jones@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:l.l.jones@lboro.ac.uk). Welcome to Laura, who will attend BSPS Council meetings as a non-trustee member, and is the first point of contact for postgraduate student members. Laura is working on the determinants of body composition and pubertal development in South African urban adolescents.

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### Sponsored visits to BSPS Conference and links with LEDC universities in the population studies field

In 2004, the BSPS Council committed BSPS to a three-year trial of sponsored visits to the UK, to include the BSPS Conference, by a representative of a population studies group in a less developed country. This was inaugurated in 2005 with the visit of Sonia Catusas Cervera from Cuba, promoted by Ludi Simpson from the University of Manchester. The University of Manchester has a Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Havana. As the trial is not necessarily restricted to participants from Cuba, it would be useful to



experiences among up to five unnamed members of their personal network, with those from Self-Reported Survey (SRS) data. ATPR yielded higher rates of unintended pregnancy, lower rates of attempted abortion and successful abortion, similar rates of complications and higher rates of treatment-seeking behaviours for complications than SRS.

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names with faces. For abstract, papers and authors, please visit <http://iussp2005.princeton.edu>.

Gabriela Mejia-Pailles  
PhD student

London School of Economics and Political Science



**Viellissement et territoires à l'horizon 2030.  
International Conference on Human Ageing held at the  
Sorbonne, 13-15 September 2005.**

On 13 September 2005 an audience of about two hundred assembled in the elegant, but uncomfortable, Amphithéâtre Richelieu of the Sorbonne, for the launch of a *colloque scientifique européen* devoted to the inter-related themes of human ageing and spatial organization. The conference was sponsored by the French government body concerned with territorial planning (DATAR, *Délégation à l'Aménagement et à l'Action Régionale*), the *Comité National de Géographie* (commission for population geography), the *Population et Avenir* association, and several others. Staff of the *Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques* (INED) were also present, delivering papers and chairing sessions. Not only was this a sustained debate on a major issue, but it was also a meeting of scientists and politicians, of demographers and geographers, of consultants and government employees, and of medical doctors and local *animateurs*. Not surprisingly, most speakers were French but there were also contributions from Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland and Spain. Over sixty presentations – some covering other countries as well – were listed in a very busy three-day programme. To the initial concern – but ultimate relief – of the organizers, fifteen speakers failed to turn up; their presence would have made these congested days impossible to handle.

Under the chairmanship of Professor Gérard-François Dumont (Université de Paris -Sorbonne), and with the energetic administrative support of Dr. Philippe Boulanger, the first day was devoted to broad aspects of ageing. Members of the public were invited to attend at no charge. Dumont inaugurated the proceedings by outlining the demographic facts and projections about ageing. His talk was complemented by a keynote speech from the minister in charge of *aménagement du territoire* who highlighted the pronounced ageing of residents in town and country alike, as the 'baby boom' generation of French men and women reached retirement age and life expectancy continued to increase. The horizon of 2030, taken for the conference as a whole, was the time frame being used by the DATAR for land-use and transport projections.

After a typically French two-hour lunch break, an equally large audience reassembled this time in the Amphithéâtre Descartes for six presentations that focused on specific parts of France. Despite its large absolute numbers of elderly people ('*séniors*' in French parlance, with pronunciation close to *señor* in Spanish), the Ile-de-France (greater Paris) remains a relatively 'young' region, as a result of relatively high birth rates, migration by students and young employees from the provinces, and the implications of immigration (both recent and more distant) from abroad. Areas in the outer Paris Basin attract the capital's 'young' retirees (55-65 years of age) whose second homes become transformed into retirement homes. The

arrival of retired British, Dutch and German citizens reinforces the elderly population of many country areas in Burgundy, Normandy and western France, reversing long local histories of rural depopulation and injecting revenues into local economies but also inflating house prices and creating problematic demands for personal services and care that will increase in the years ahead.

Such issues were explored in much more detail in the following two days of 'scientific sessions' held in the much smaller Salle des Actes (capacity 50 people) to which members of the general public were not invited. Bringing a vast amount of varied knowledge to bear on such fundamental notions as 'ageing', 'retirement' and the like, speaker after speaker stressed the importance of recognizing the varying capacities of individuals of increasing age, rather than employing arbitrary age categories.



three recommendations to solve the looming problems: raise taxes, raise pension contributions and raise the retirement age. He ended his opening remarks by making the point that when retirement pensions were first implemented they applied from age 70 but this was at a time when life expectancy at birth for men was around 45 years!

The first speaker was **Professor Alan Walker, Director ESRC New Dynamics of Ageing Research Programme**. He spoke first against age discrimination and about the need for a policy towards active ageing. Age discrimination not only leads to social exclusion but is also a serious threat to economic progress and prosperity. Employers need to recognise the contribution that older people can make in the work place. There is currently an “age-employment” paradox: that the average age of leaving the workforce is decreasing at a time when longevity is increasing. A cultural shift is necessary in attitude, employers need to recognise that older workers can be productive. They also need to adopt a life-long learning policy for

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