

Population Matters:
Forums on the impact of Population Growth on the
Millennium Development Goals to complement the
Joint Declaration on the 2001-2015 Parliamentary H

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in the Albert Dock along with the TICPG delegates closed a very successful second and last day of Popfest sessions.

Day 3: Wednesday 21st June

Morning sessions of the TIPGC were attended by delegates of Popfest. A final plenary chaired by Phil Rees titled *The ESRC/JISC Census Programme* by **David Martin, Paul Boyle** and **John Stillwell**, closed three days which provided an excellent opportunity to learn more about the diversity of population studies and the intricacies of each other's research. The high standard of papers and posters as well as the enthusiasm of the delegates helped to ensure the continued success and enjoyment of Popfest.

Popfest 2006 gratefully acknowledges the support of the following **sponsors**, without whom the conference would not have been possible:

British Society for Population Studies

census (as opposed to a interviewer-assisted survey) and as

did not show up 47 are from developing countries that might have missed the opportunity due to lack of travel grants. Some of the oral sessions were also affected by such 'no show'. It would be nice if the potential absentees were identified by proper communication and their names be deleted from the programme. About 45 percent empty boards put a bad impression on the session that was not enjoyable for the presenters as well as the viewers. I also had a poster at the session located in the middle of couple of empty boards. That was like a single inhabitant in a remote island. My understanding is that some of the posters presented at the session could be rescheduled in appropriate oral sessions against any 'no show' in that session. However, the lesser number of posters gave some extra time to the viewers to concentrate more on the posters of their interest.

A grant of £250 from the British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) was very helpful to me that enabled me to present my poster at the conference. I would like to thank BSPS for their kind support. I also thank Prof. Bill Gould, Department of Geography, The University of Liverpool and Laura Staetsky, Division of Social Statistics, University of Southampton for providing me some important information on the poster session.

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: The 19th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, 27-30 June, 2006, Leiden, the Netherlands

The European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies is a conference that is organised once in every two years by the European Association of South Asian Studies (EASAS). This conference is a unique place to present and share the research findings on South Asian countries. It is multidisciplinary in nature and covers issues related to history, politics, economics, population, culture, religion and linguistics. This year the conference was organised by EASAS jointly with International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) that took place at university of Leiden, Leiden, the Netherlands during 27-30 June, 2006. A total of 49 panels were organised in the conference. I presented a paper in panel 46 on 'Fulfilling Millennium Development Goals: Institutional Responses in South Asia'. My presentation was on 'Men's awareness of HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh: How far we are from the Millennium Development Goal?' Panel 46 was the only panel on population issues that addressed some other components of Millennium Development Goals, such as, education, poverty alleviation, microfinance, health, and gender discrimination etc. and presentations were scheduled in two sessions in two successive days. I attended some other sessions of my interest during my stay at Leiden on South Asian politics, education and Culture. The conference was a gathering place of good number of scholars from South Asia as well as researchers working in developed countries. I enjoyed the presentations that I attended as well as the informal discussions with many of the conference participants. A number of my country men were also present at the conference

with whom I passed some memorable time. I have met some scholars those I met in the 18th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies in Lund, Sweden in June, 2004. A conference on South Asian Studies helps to realise the difficulty to implement the policies generated from the research findings into socio-cultural and political settings like South Asia. My trip to Leiden was successful in terms of dissemination of my research findings, exchanging views with other scholars, and gathering knowledge on areas other than my research interest. The natural beauty of Leiden and organised canal network amazed me very much that will remain in my memory for a long time. I thank the British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) for providing me a partial grant towards my conference attendance that helped me to present my research work at the conference.

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synopsis of the data needs for researching an ageing population. He illustrated population ageing in the UK using population projections to measure changes to the age structure and dependency ratios in the future. With the increase in numbers at older ages, particularly the oldest old, Steve recognised the increasing diversity of this group in terms of health and caring, employment and income and ethnicity. Based on this, Steve accentuated the need for good data sources, which capture this group, and allow for the analysis of cross-domain relationships. In particular Steve stressed the importance of using a life course approach. Longitudinal data analysis is beneficial as it can be used to track individual's experiences and circumstances over time. Steve warned that as the composition of the ageing population is changing and becoming more diverse, data requirements are becoming more complex.

Ed Harding (ILC-UK) widened the perspective of the seminar by presenting the key findings from 'The State of Ageing and Health in Europe', published by ILC-UK on the 28th June. Ed concluded this with a plea for action to improve the scope of data about older people and the issues surrounding them. Notably he asked for better health data, a movement away from treating older people as one homogenous group aged over 65, for vulnerable people not to be missed, age to be included in the health inequality debate, the need to recognise the role of the informal carer, and better recognition of the issues of mental health.

Emily Grundy (LSHTM) presented an overview of the demography of ageing over the past century and what impact these processes have, and will have, on family and social structures. Emily begun by demonstrating the historical changes to the proportion of people aged over 65, and reiterated that population ageing is as a result of a long evolution of change; falling fertility since the late nineteenth century, and more recent improvements in life expectancy.

Emily demonstrated other demographic changes that would impact on the ageing population, such as marriage patterns and family formation behaviour. Whilst disputing concerns that ageing is a negative phenomenon Emily reasoned that there will be improvements to kin availability both because people are being widowed later in life, and, because there will be increases to the proportion of families with 2 or more living generations.

However Emily pointed out that the demographic availability of close kin is a necessary, but not always a sufficient, requirement for the provision of family support. Other concerns have been raised about possible changes in the willingness or ability of younger generations to provide assistance, although Emily had seen little research evidence that suggested this was true. Such concerns have been coupled with the increase in the proportions of older people living alone. These changes in living arrangements have a number of important implications on demand for housing, health and social care.

Emily concluded by pointing out that population ageing has major implications for all aspects of public policy, and for individual and family life planning. On the positive side there

are improvements in the proportion of older people with close relatives, and levels of family interaction. However on the flip side this will be reversed after 2030, when cohorts with more childlessness, lower marriage rates and more family dissolution reach older ages.

Jane Falkingham (University of Southampton) started by showing how important it is to look beyond simple age based measures of the ageing population. Age based dependency ratios are simplistic, as many other things other than age determine whether someone is dependent or not. By basing these calculations on age alone, it is insinuated that older people are just recipients in society (dependents) and treats people over retirement age in one homogenous group. Jane suggested that economic dependency ratios are of greater value, as they take account of other variables such as, education, unemployment, female labour participation and early retirement.

Jane provided a historic look at changes to participation in the labour market, observing that, over the long term, retirement can be considered a fairly new phenomenon. At the start of the twentieth century people would work from 15 years old until their late 60s or even 70s. In contrast, more recently there has been shrinkage of the working life, where recent cohorts have entered the labour market later and withdrawn earlier. For men the average working life has reduced from 50 years at the beginning of the 1900s to 40 years in 1970. In contrast recent increases in female labour market participation have offset the changes to male labour market participation.

Jane presented labour market forecasts for the twenty-first century based on analysis using a micro-simulation model developed by the SAGE Research Group. For male cohorts born after 1972 it is expected that there will be a reversal of the trend for lower participation rates. For females, changes are anticipated to be more substantial, particularly due to the rises to retirement ages.

Jane then examined how these changes would impact on the economic welfare of older people, presenting analysis both on the current situation and in the future. The economic position for older people today was seen as positive due to increases to

by occupation and education. In addition there is a need to understand the interaction between employment and family.

George Clark (Department for Work and Pensions) provided a policy perspective to the topic of the ageing population. The key to DWPs approach to ageing is the idea that what happens all the way through a person's life course determines their circumstances at older ages. Building on this idea, George outlined a few issues and considerations faced by the department.

Population ageing has become an important issue, particularly as the topic has moved up the political agenda in the last 20 years. As pensions currently represent a £60 billion of public spending, it is necessary to understand the affordability of pension spending in the future. Many factors affecting pension provision and saving for the future are marred by the general perception among the population that people will not survive to 90, despite projections of life expectancy suggesting otherwise. George explained that as health and economic activity can impact on pension provision it is important to understand their long term trends.

George agreed that it was important to use economic dependency ratios, and have an understanding of the balance between workers and non-workers. The Government aspiration is to achieve a target of 80% employment (in the past it has been 70 to 75%) by trying to draw economically inactive groups back to work. This would encourage better outcomes for future older age groups. For the individual this equates to better employment, encouraging savings and leading a healthy life. For employers, as more people will remain in employment at older ages, they should provide flexible working life and continued investment in skills beyond the early years of employment.

The health impacts on pension provision are less clear as there a number of conflicting theories. Increasing longevity suggests that people may be able to stay economically active longer. However this is only achieved if people remain healthy in their later years. Similarly the notion of more older people also suggests there will be larger number of people needed to provide informal care. These informal carers could themselves find their employment affected, and could be poorer in old age.

The floor was then opened for comments and discussion. Two main issues emerged; geography and living arrangements. One participant commented that the seminar lacked a geographical perspective. He offered that it is was important to understand what issues such as socio-economic inequalities look like on the ground, stressing that geography is an essential data requirement for service provision. This was supported by the view that there are large variations in the health experiences between regions of the UK. Another delegate suggested that analyses looking at geographic differences of certain outcomes should control for socio-economic group. For example, while geographical differences in private pensions take-up exists, these differences largely reflect differences between socio-economic groups and the geography of these groups.

Several discussants highlighted the need for a better understanding on how families and households will be formed

in the future. In particular there is a data requirement for projections of cohabitation and intergenerational families for addressing housing and caring needs. Similarly there was a request for better data on older people living in communal establishments, particularly the needs of such residents.

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: **Joint ESRC/ONS/BSPS Seminar 3 'Globalisation, population mobility and the impact of migration on population'**

21st July 2006 - Royal Statistical Society, London

Jil Matheson, Director of Social Statistics at ONS, chaired the seminar and began by saying that migration was an important topic for ONS at present. Recently a cross departmental task force had been set up to explore ways that the measurement of migration can be improved. The seminar consisted of two presentations by academics and then a government policy response.

John Salt (University College London) gave the first presentation. He began by noting that 2004 had seen the highest ever recorded net migration gain and that in recent years migration had overtaken natural change as the major driver of population growth. Looking just at movements rather than the strict UN definition of migration¹ the recent flows from Eastern Europe were likely to have been the largest ever single wave of movement to the British Isles in history. Looking back over the last decade, a number of events affecting migration were not easy to foresee, including the IT boom, health service recruitment, the big rise in foreign students in British universities, as well as changes in Eastern Europe.

Migration has the propensity to be more volatile from year to year than natural change (at least over the last few decades). An examination of European projections in the 1990s had shown that only one country had an error of under 10 per cent five years into the projection, and a number of countries had errors of more than 100 per cent. Migration was also a difficult topic as it involved complex concepts and definitions. The reducing of the debate on migration to sound bites and the conflation of terms like migrant and asylum seekers by sections of the media were unhelpful. While the numbers of foreign citizens here were large in absolute terms compared with other countries, their proportion of the total population is around average for European countries. The rise in non-British inflows over the last decade has led to a rise in the number of foreign citizens from around 750,000 to 1.5 million. A rise has also been seen in the data for acceptances for settlement. Asylum as a percentage of all immigration has fallen from a peak of around 26 per cent in the late 1990s, to around 10 per cent now, reflecting both falls in asylum seekers but also the increase in other forms of migration.

Having demonstrated using Labour Force Survey data that migrants from different areas have different skill levels, John went on to examine skills data from the Work Permit (WP)

system and Workers Registration Scheme (WRS). WPs were almost exclusively for managerial, professional and associate professional jobs, whereas those on the WRS were mainly in unskilled or construction jobs.

John then posed the question 'how can we become statistically better informed, especially on the scale of the migration flows?'. Most migration data are derived from data collected for other purposes, thus when comparing data from different sources there are discontinuities and differences, some caused by timing and some by definitional issues. The International Passenger Survey (IPS) is virtually the only source of data for emigration but suffers from a small sample size and consequently has large standard errors and is therefore particularly difficult to use sub-nationally. However, John cautioned that even in countries with registers emigration data can be of poor quality as those from abroad have incentives to register when they arrive but not to deregister when they leave. John also felt that efforts should be made to quantify 'irregular' migrants but again this was difficult because of the agenda of some of the media. The UK is not alone in these issues. In the EU progression towards common policies on migration is slow. At present only the UK, Ireland and Sweden had opened their borders to the A8 countries, although the Mediterranean countries will next. A further issue was the lack of understanding of how many Britains were leaving the UK and why.

In conclusion, John despaired of the UK ever having a sensible(a)s ,.sbroad ha6nkkilledr 9.96001 42.54001c6sedr 9tnd ;purpose7(P)2ountly h

were the change in the ethnic composition of the population and the ageing of the population.

All of the above was happening in a context of increasing complexity: borders are becoming harder to define and monitor; there was instability in many parts of the world; the changing EU, both current and planned; improvements in opportunities to travel; and also in global communications were some examples. These set challenges on mass movement and migration, organised crime, terrorism and community change. There had been numerous policy responses to these challenges.

- The meeting of the tipping point target of more asylum removals than arrivals and the implementation of the new asylum model.
- The development of the points based migration system.
- Establishing and growing the airline liaison officers' network overseas.
- The use of biometric information on UK visas and more overseas posts working on visa applications.

Helen ended by identifying some perceived data gaps. These included: embarkation control data to produce robust net flows; methodology for assessing skills gaps and the skills of migrants that may meet those gaps, particularly those from beyond the accession countries; the effects of dependants; and, migration and social cohesion. She was aware on the last point that the Audit Commission were planning work in the autumn.

There then followed a lively series of questions and discussions. In response to a question on the fertility assumptions underlying the ethnic projections Phil pointed out that his assumptions derived by the own child method from the census, were for higher fertility for minority ethnic groups than the assumptions for ethnic groups in the other projections and he had held Census differentials constant.

A question about lack of information on ethnic groups and communities prompted mention of work carried out by the Eastern regional development agency where there had been a recent migrant workers and employers' survey carried out. It was hoped other agencies would carry out studies on migration, ethnicity and integration.

There was support for Phil's call for the use of embarkation cards, including the fact that they should be designed to be electronic/swipable. Helen responded that the current review of Home Office work may lead to change being considered. She would certainly pass on the comments about the limitations of e-borders. However, it was hoped some of those limitations could be met by linking e-borders inflows and outflows data. The e-borders data would certainly play a part in improving

emigration and immigration control. 0040-1037851 (w-011627-11) (East km) 13 (dr k-10) 005 Tc13(a would to)6(j)6arr1)JTJTEMCarrie(

across the country. Furthermore the multiplier effect within the formula grant is very large, perhaps of the order of £500 per person (varying across the country), which massively amplifies the effects of changes and uncertainties in the population distribution. Other specific grants (tied to particular services) are also often based on elements of the formula grant calculation, so the final effect on resources available for some authorities can be substantial.

The technical value of the quality checks undertaken by ONS was recognised in the discussions and it was concluded that there were two distinct types of QA:

1. *Annual Cycle QA* - to check and sign-off the annual ONS production of the estimates. It was recognised that timescales limit possible checks but that they should include 'sentf,781-192on ofinps 12o-t3(ulaeck of)6(the on)13ifies

Technically, it was unclear whether Census data could be used to identify difficult sub-groups within each definition. Even so, bearing in mind existing problems, the key issue was the availability of suitable administrative sources or survey data to

within a cluster rather than at an extremity. A fifth case study, preferably in an area with a large armed forces population, was suggested since this was a risk factor in the selection process and this group is a concern within the existing methodology.

The scale and distribution of international migration was seen as a particularly challenging issue, especially given the available data sources. However, the concept of an intermediate geography for international migrants was challenged, especially for London where it was felt that only a distinction between inner and outer London was appropriate. Research into the use of GP lists to assist work on the international migration component was suggested. Refinements in collection of health data by the NHS could assist work on international as well as on internal migration. The presenters indicated that research was also planned on propensities for international out-migration.

Despite its high profile, international migration was only one element of current concern about the estimates. Other issues arising during discussion included:

- The value of research on differential registration with GPs, particularly by students and young men.
- The removal of the unidentified population change adjustment in the components of change had had the most