

BSPS NEWS

www.bsps.org.uk

Issue No. 95

November 2007

BSPS MEETINGS

BSPS CONFERENCE 2008

The 2008 BSPS Conference will be held at the University of Manchester from Wednesday 10-Friday 12 September 2008. Further information will appear in forthcoming Newsletters, and will be posted to the BSPS website and circulated to members as available.



FORTHCOMING DAY MEETINGS

Day meetings for 2008 are currently being organised, and full information will be distributed as available. Members who would like to suggest topics for future day or half-day meetings, or who would be interested in organizing such a meeting, are invited to send their suggestions to the Secretariat at pic@lse.ac.uk.

artificially manipulated in theoretical models. We will also bring together theoretical and empirical perspectives on these trade-offs. A third goal of the workshop will be to discuss the prospects for applied work in this field. Work on these trade-offs has so far been largely confined to, and disseminated within, an academic context, but has the potential to yield insights which have important practical applications.

Date and Location of the Seminar

A 3-day seminar 23-25 July 2008 at the University of Bristol, United Kingdom.

Local organising committee: Dr Mhairi Gibson (local host) and Dr Rebecca Sear.

Format of the seminar

The seminar will be limited to 26 participants (including all speakers and organisers), and will be organised around three crucial life-history trade-offs, with papers that address the overall theoretical perspective, overview current knowledge and introduce new research findings:

- Day 1: Age at first reproduction
- Day 2: Total fertility
- Day 3: Parental investment

We invite both empirical and theoretical contributions, as well as contributions that blend theoretical models with empirical data. Empirical support may be at various levels, including:

1. Molecular and cellular (e.g. hormones, immunological status and disease susceptibility over the lifespan).
2. Physiological and developmental (e.g. trade-offs between reproductive and somatic functions, between growth and reproduction).
3. Psychological (e.g. emotional, sensory and cognitive differences)
4. Behavioural and sociological (e.g. parenting, grand-parenting, family structure and family behaviour)

In addition, we have invited four plenary speakers to contribute to the seminar:

- *Professor Gillian Bentley*, University of Durham
- *Professor Emily Grundy*, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- *Professor Kristen Hawkes*, University of Utah
- *Professor Beverly Strassmann*, University of Michigan

Submission procedure

The IUSSP Scientific Panel on Evolutionary Perspectives in Demography invites researchers in the field to submit a detailed 500-1000 word abstract (and if the author(s) wish, a full paper which must be unpublished) and fill out the online submission form before 22 February 2008 directly to the IUSSP website at:

<http://www.iussp.org/Activities/biol/call08.php>

If the paper is co-authored, please indicate the names of co-authors at the end of the abstract. Submission should be made by the author who will attend the seminar.

Abstracts and papers must be submitted in English. The working language at the meeting will be English. In addition

to dissemination through posting on the member-restricted portion of the IUSSP website, seminar organisers will explore possibilities for publishing the papers, after the seminar. Please be aware that the programme committee

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 Catus 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

short-list will be requested to submit a more detailed application with writing samples, reference letters, at a later stage. We will accept applications until December 15, 2007.

REPORTS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

BSPS Developing Countries Initiative 2007

Report on the visit of

Andre' Caetano, Catholic University of Minas Gerais / Cedeplar/Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais

Professor Andre' Junqueira Caetano visited the UK from the 8th to the 22nd of September with the financial support of the 2007 BSPS developing countries initiative. He has been invited by Dr Leone from the LSE and Dr Padmadas from the University of Southampton to strengthen their existing collaboration and work on future research projects.

Overall, Andre's visit was academically highly successful. Andre' interacted with many other British academics and exchanged research ideas especially while he was at the 2007 BSPS annual conference in St. Andrews. At the BSPS conference, he presented a paper entitled 'Brazilian fertility transition toward replacement level and beyond: The great regional divide'. The paper described regional variations in the fertility decline in Brazil over the last 25 years. He concluded

to set up, they are highly successful in reaching needy populations. Dr Gorter concluded by saying that these schemes should be applied to a wider range of health services.

Dr Dominique Béhague is an anthropologist (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Federal University of Pelotas). She presented work done with HD Gonçalves on 'Reproductive events, stigma, and mental morbidity: class struggles amongst youth in Pelotas, Brazil'. The study uses data from the longitudinal study conducted in the Pelotas Brazil combined with ethnographic data to analyse mental health morbidities and pregnancies of young women aged 11-16. The author concluded that there is a wider need for public health to tackle these issues. The preliminary results of the study show that society pushes youth towards pregnancy for rational reasons such as prejudices towards class inequalities.

Dr Maria Helena Bastos is a gynaecologist obstetrician (Thames Valley University). She presented on 'Promoting evidence-informed obstetric care in middle-income countries: Challenges and opportunities'. The study analyses the major issues linked with over-medicalisation in maternal care in Brazil from a policy perspective. The country has one of the highest c-section rates in the world and the over intervention at delivery is a serious issue. The author analysed the major trends at national and regional level and described the major policy issues. She concluded with some recommendations on the framework for maternal care. The main message being that pregnancy and childbearing are life events and women should be in the position to be able to make an informed decision.

Tiziana Leone
LSE



Fifth Meeting of the European Network for the Sociological and Demographic Study of Divorce, 17-18 September 2007

A two-day meeting entitled "Comparative and Gendered Perspectives on Family Structure" was sponsored jointly by the BSPS, the ESRC Gender Equality Network, and the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion took place at the London School of Economics and Political Science. This meeting brought together an international group of scholars working on issues related to the causes and consequences of relationship dissolution.

The first presentation session concentrated on factors and processes which increase the risk of divorce. **Michael Wagner** (University of Cologne) opened the meeting with a paper on the effect of conflict behaviour on relationship satisfaction and stability. He argued that these effects vary depending on the exit costs in a relationship. In the following presentation, **Kadri Rootalu** (University of Tartu) provided evidence of a positive association between higher education and relationship quality in Estonia, especially for men. Using Norwegian register data, **Torkild Hovde Lyngstad** (Statistics Norway) illustrated in his presentation that the intergenerational transmission of divorce varies by children's age at parents' divorce. Those who experience a parental divorce at younger ages are more likely to

divorce than those whose parents divorce at older ages. He also found a stronger effect for women who experienced divorce as a child than for men.

emphasis on gender in relation to marital stability. **Lynn Prince Cooke** (University of Kent) and **Vanessa Gash** (University of Manchester) presented a paper investigating whether part-time employment may increase relationship stability in West-Germany, the UK and the US. Surprisingly, their results indicate no significant difference with part-time employment but instead full-time employed women may be less likely to separate than women who are not employed in West-Germany and the UK. **Dimitri Mortelmans** (University of Antwerp) then presented a paper looking at cross-national differences in the effectiveness of coping strategies after divorce from a comparative perspective. He showed that the pace of recovery to the levels before the dissolution varies between countries, even if within-country differences are even larger. He suggested that a country's wealth and female employment rate contribute to explaining the remaining country variance. Investigating whether gender inequality in earnings is smaller among cohabiting couples than in married couples, **Deborah Price** (King's College London) showed that although this difference exists, for women it is largely explained by women's age and maternal status. For men, however, greater inequality in partners' earnings is indeed associated with being married rather than cohabiting in addition to their age and their youngest child's age.

The final session looked at a variety of issues ranging from regional variations in divorce risk, to father involvement, economic well-being after separation and support in later life. In his paper on regional variations in divorce risk within Belgium, **Jaap Dronkers** (European University Institute) argued that the regional difference can partly be attributed to macro-level differences in religiosity. **Bryndl Hohmann-Marriott** (Pennsylvania State University) then compared fathers' involvement after union dissolution in the UK and the US and concluded that fathers' involvement before parents' separation is a strong predictor of their involvement afterwards. **Letizia Mencarini** (University of Florence) presented a paper on marital disruption and multidimensional indicators of economic well-being. Results show considerable differences between welfare state regimes in people's deprivation after relationship breakdown. **Karen Glaser** (King's College London) presented the final paper, comparing Italy and the UK with respect to support in later life for people who had experienced family breakdown. She showed that in both countries separated people aged over 65 are more likely to receive help from their children than partnered people. The workshop concluded with an open discussion about data needs and possible new directions for research.

Pia Schober
London School of Economics and Political Science
p.s.schober@lse.ac.uk