

3) Special sessions in our annual meetings.

Job Vacancy

Research Assistant/ Research Fellow

The Centre for Population Studies, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is seeking a full time Research Assistant/ Research Fellow for 2 years to work on a Wellcome Trust funded research project addressing key health consequences of rapid urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa. The post will involve some travel to Kenya and will be responsible to Professor John Cleland.

The RA/RF will have a post-graduate degree in statistics, demography, epidemiology or social sciences, research interests in reproductive and sexual health in Africa, and experience of analysis of large data sets. A track record of publication is desirable, and fluent spoken and written English language skills and a commitment to working in a team are also required.

Further details are available from Carolyn Hartley, Centre for Population Studies, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

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UNION FOR AFRICAN POPULATION

that the MDGs would be difficult or impossible to achieve in sub-Saharan Africa. Alex Ezeh discussed population growth and poverty with specific reference to the urban poor. John Cleland outlined some family planning success stories and failures, concluding that Kenya's success depended on strong political commitment, heavy expenditure on communication, and a range of available contraceptive methods. Ndola Prata, who was a medical doctor in Angola, presented some 'views from the field' with some perspectives from clients of family planning programmes. She noted that there were growing disparities between the rich and poor, with the poorest having the highest Total Fertility Rate, the lowest Contraceptive Prevalence Rate, and the highest unmet need. She also outlined the huge number of barriers to fertility regulation and discussed how to make family planning easier, with the importance of choice and freedom. There were questions from the floor, before Malcolm Potts summed-up by stating the importance of listening to what women want, the need to restore focus on family planning, as well as the need to work together.

I presented a methodological paper co-authored with Shane Norris and John Pettifor from the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, and Noël Cameron and Paula Griffiths, also of Loughborough University. The paper was entitled 'How can we learn about community socio-economic status and poverty in a developing country urban environment? An example from Johannesburg-Soweto, South Africa'. This paper was presented in the session on 'Methodological issues in measuring poverty and human welfare'. I also acted as Discussant for the session on 'Trends and determinants of child health and mortality in sub-Saharan Africa'. I would like to thank the BSPS for awarding me with an international travel grant and UAPS for awarding me a travel award to partially fund my trip to attend and present at the conference. For more information about the conference, please see the UAPS website: <http://www.uaps.org/>.

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