

Understanding Society in practice: Using household panel survey data in Centre for Population Change research

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, the ESRC Centre for Population Change (CPC) is investigating how and why our population is changing and what this means for people, communities and governments. Many CPC projects rely on data from Understanding Society and the British Household Panel Survey. The data has allowed our researchers to explore the life transitions, choices and expectations of people in the UK, and how our lives compare with others around the world.

The Centre is a joint partnership between the Universities of Southampton, St Andrews, and Stirling. Our research agenda is planned in collaboration with the Office for National Statistics and the National Records of Scotland. CPC is a founding partner of Population Europe, the network of Europe's leading population studies research centres.

CPC members at Understanding Society:

Session 1: Employment and family | Tuesday 02 July | 13:00-14:00

Niels Blom, University of Southampton

Precarity and relationship quality in the UK: long-term economic uncertainty, employment shocks and perceptions of future financial outlook

Plenary | Wednesday 03 July | 11:00-12:00

Hill Kulu, University of St Andrews

Family dynamics among immigrants and their descendants in Europe

Session 4: Partnership and employment | Wednesday 03 July | 13:00-15:00

Lydia Palumbo, Max Planck Institute & University of Southampton

The relationship between economic precariousness and union formation of young British adults

Session 7: Event history analyses | Thursday 04 July | 14:15-14:45

Ann Berrington, University of Southampton

The transition to parenthood among Britain's 'generation rent': examining the changing role of housing tenure

Journal Articles 2019-2017

Expectations for family transitions in young adulthood among the UK second generation

Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies (2018).
Author: Berrington A

How we used Understanding Society data: Using the 'young adult module' which asks about expectations for cohabitation, marriage and parenthood, we explored whether family transitions among descendants of post second-world-war immigrants are converging towards those of white British young adults.

What is the impact of the research? We find significant ethnic differences in expectations for cohabiting, marrying and becoming a parent. Further research is required to identify why adolescents from different ethnic groups are postponing or foregoing marriage and parenthood to inform future policy decisions.

See also [CPC Working Paper #89](#) and [Policy Briefing #44](#)

Ethnicity and grandparental child care in the United Kingdom

Ageing and Society (2018).
Authors: Bordone V, Evandrou M, Vlachantoni A

How we used Understanding Society data: Utilising information on child care in waves 1-5, we investigated differences in grandparental child care among parents from different Black and Minority Ethnic groups.

What is the impact of the research? The findings paint a complex picture in terms of the role of social policy, which is important in enhancing opportunities for access to child care, through a combination of employment opportunities and subsidised costs for child care.

Do marriage and cohabitation provide benefits to health in mid-life? The role of childhood selection mechanisms and partnership characteristics across countries

Population Research and Policy Review (2018). 12 (3) 1-26
Authors: Perelli-Harris B, Hoherz S, Addo F, Lappegård T, Evans A, Sessler S, Styrc M

How we used Understanding Society data: By analysing a sample of 40-49 year olds who were surveyed in wave 4, we compared the consequences of new family arrangements in the UK with other countries, which represent different welfare regimes and cultural contexts: Australia, Norway, Germany, and the US.

What is the impact of the research? The findings challenge some of the fundamental assumptions on which current policy is made. Namely, that partnerships, and marriage in particular, lead to better health.

CPC Working Papers 2019-2017

87, Moving on and moving out: The implications of socio-spatial mobility for union stability, 2017, Shapira M, Graham E, Gayle V

How we used Understanding Society data: Using waves 1-18 of the British Household Panel Survey, we linked prospective and retrospective data on partnership, employment and migration histories to undertake a duration analysis of union dissolution.

What is the impact of the research? Findings suggest that the period shortly after a residential move is when families experience the biggest strain. Providing couples and families moving into an area with help, advice and general support through workplaces, local authorities, and local communities, could considerably reduce stress and contribute to protecting union stability. Future policy should focus on providing support to the families of both international and internal migrants.

86, Income, welfare, housing and the transition to higher order births in the UK, 2017, Stone J, Berrington A

How we used Understanding Society data: We used a sample of women aged 20-44, present in at least 2 consecutive waves, to examine associations between income, receipt of child tax credit, housing tenure and progression to a 2nd, 3rd or 4th birth.

What is the impact of the research? The results indicate that welfare receipt and fertility behaviour are interrelated in the UK, providing much needed empirical evidence in an area of debate that tends to be based on assumptions.

83, Understanding third and fourth births in Britain: What role do increased immigration and multiple partnerships play?, 2017, Berrington A, Stone J

How we used Understanding Society data: We used retrospective fertility histories collected in wave 1 to establish women's level and timing of childbearing, updated with new births occurring during the first 4 waves (2009-14) of the survey.

What is the impact of the research? We have provided new understanding of how patterns of parity progression and completed family sizes vary between different demographic groups and across cohorts.

Copies of CPC Working Papers and Policy Briefings are available on the CPC exhibition stand.

81, Youth social citizenship and class inequalities in transition to adulthood in the UK, 2017, Berrington A, Duta A, Wakeling P

How we used Understanding Society data: We used data from the British Household Panel Survey, Understanding Society and the UK Labour Force Survey to examine how markers of transition to adulthood have changed in the UK over 25 years.

What is the impact of the research? We find significant delays in transitions to adulthood among all social groups. This evidence can be used to predict the impact of future policy, and if current policy remains unchanged, differences in transitions to adulthood according to social background are likely to widen further.

CPC Policy Briefings 2019-2017

39, Who moves up the social ladder in the UK?, 2017, Nightingale G, McCollum D, Ernten A

How we used Understanding Society data: Using the British Household Panel Survey and Understanding Society data from 1991 to 2015, we calculated social mobility rates according to age, gender, unemployment and moving house.

What is the impact of the research? We found that since 2005 there has been a sharp decline in social mobility, with fewer people moving either up or down the social ladder. This ties in with national unemployment rates. More research needs to be done on the reasons behind the trends so that policy can respond.

38, Ethnic variations in internal migration in the UK, 2009-2015, 2017, Nightingale G, McCollum D, Finney N, Ernten A

How we used Understanding Society data: This project used Understanding Society data, including the ethnic minority boost sample, to measure the number of moves between regions within the UK.

What is the impact of the research? Understanding the different rates of internal movement by different ethnic groups can help us to improve social cohesion and target services to reduce poverty.



Download all CPC Working papers and Policy briefings at:
www.cpc.ac.uk

CPC members at Understanding Society



Ann Berrington Professor

Ann will be presenting in session 7 on Thursday. Ann is the co-ordinator of the CPC fertility and family strand.



Niels Blom Research Fellow

Niels will be presenting in session 1 on Monday. Niels' research focuses on the influence of partner relationship quality and family transitions.



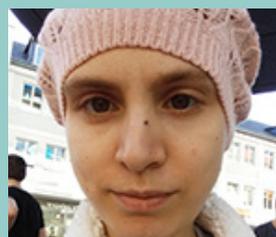
Hill Kulu Co-Director

Hill is the plenary speaker on Wednesday. Hill jointly co-ordinates the migration and mobility strand of CPC, as well as working within the fertility and family strand.



Kim Lipscombe Events Administrator

Kim will be on the CPC exhibition stand to discuss our work with you.



Lydia Palumbo PhD Student

Lydia is presenting in session 4 on Wednesday and is joint funded by the the Max Planck Institute of Demographic Research and the University of Southampton

CPC at 10 years

In 2019, the ESRC Centre for Population Change celebrates its 10th anniversary year. Since 2009, CPC researchers have been investigating society's most critical questions about population change.

As a group of over 40 academics and around 18 PhD students, CPC has been advancing knowledge on changes in births, deaths, relationships and migration, enabling policy makers and planners to know how, when and where to respond.

In 2018, CPC was awarded further funding from the ESRC to continue research until 2022. Our members have also secured over 80 additional research grants and contracts over the last 10 years.

“I am delighted to be coming up to such an important milestone. The last 10 years have seen many changes in how we live as a society, and those changes are happening more rapidly than ever before. Our research achievements so far have helped us to better understand the drivers of change and contribute to the national and international conversation on how to respond.”



Professor Jane Falkingham OBE,
CPC Director.



UNDERSTANDING
POPULATION CHANGE

Invitation

CPC would like to celebrate its 10th year of research with colleagues and supporters in the BSPS community. Please join us to celebrate our milestone:

BSPS Conference 2019 | University Hall, Cardiff University | 09 September 2019

18:30-20:00 Poster Session

*You must be registered to attend the conference: <https://bit.ly/2ErlDxX>

ESRC Centre for Population Change

Building 58
Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Southampton
SO17 1BJ

Tel: +44 (0)23 8059 2579
Email: cpc@southampton.ac.uk

 @CPCpopulation

 /CPCpopulation

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cpc.ac.uk