Changing Populations

November 2017 | Issue 2

The geography of where the young and old live

Improving our understanding of international student migration

Improving the evidence base for asylum policies in Europe
Welcome

Hello and welcome to Changing Populations, the biannual research chronicle of the ESRC funded Centre for Population Change.

The population is continually changing because the people within it change. Not only are new people arriving while others leave, but our aspirations and desires evolve, both over the life course and over generations. The potential for people to realise these goals also varies, with fluctuating economic fortunes, moving policy priorities and an increasingly volatile environment. From unpicking these complex drivers of population change to training the next generation of population scientists, people are at the heart of everything we do here in CPC.

In this edition of Changing Populations we share with you some of our latest research findings. A few highlights include: discover how Brexit is influencing migrants’ decisions to stay or leave the UK (p.16). Find out what influences the number of children we have and want (p.6) and learn about the effects of juggling care giving and employment (p.12).

We hope you enjoy discovering more about our latest research. Do let us know what you think.

Teresa McGowan

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A week in the life of...

Professor Jane Falkingham CPC Director

I start the week as usual with the 9am Monday morning meeting of the University Executive Board, reflecting the fact that in addition to my role as Director of the Centre for Population Change (CPC) I am also the Dean of the Faculty of Social, Human & Mathematical Sciences at the University of Southampton. The combination of roles keeps me busy, but it also means that CPC maintains a high profile in the University and being sighted on the strategic direction of the University, and indeed wider UK HE policy, helps CPC stay relevant. The University Executive Board meeting finishes at 11am and I head straight to the station to catch a train to London where I am looking forward to spending the afternoon co-chairing a meeting organised by the ESRC funded Cohort and Longitudinal Studies Enhancement Resources (CLOSER) on the future of longitudinal studies. I arrive at the British Academy just in time to grab a quick sandwich and touch base with my co-chair Lord Willetts. The afternoon goes very well with a mixture of presentations and lively discussion and debate. The chair of the panel for the ESRC Review of Longitudinal Studies, Professor Pamela Davies-Kean from University of Michigan is also at the meeting so we take the opportunity to have a quick catch up over dinner before heading back to Waterloo and ultimately Southampton.

Tuesday is a research day, I spend the morning in meetings with my various PhD students and post docs working with myself, Maria Evandrou and Athina Vlachantoni on the changing life course and intergenerational relations strand of CPC. Lots to catch up on, including discussing the revisions for our paper on the dynamics of care and employment in mid-life which are due to be submitted to Ageing & Society by the end of the week, as well as updates on projects examining the sandwich generation, difference in work histories by cohorts, and early life adversities and late life health. After a quick lunch discussing the CPC impact strategy with the CPC Research Manager I spend a bit of time catching up with emails before hosting a meeting with colleagues from ONS & UUK on our joint project on the new Survey of Graduating International Students, the fieldwork for which was completed last month. The early results look exciting, indicating that the majority of international students intend to leave either immediately after graduating or within 12 months. This suggests that the earlier estimates of ‘over-stayers’ may be significantly over inflated, strengthening the case to remove international students from the net migration target – although not from measures of net migration. We discuss the dissemination strategy and agree to time the publication of the results to coincide with the next ONS migration release. I also somehow volunteered to write a blog for the Times Higher.

Up early on Wednesday to catch a train to Essex with CPC Researcher Frank Feng for the meeting at ISER of the projects granted access to the early release of the wave 8 data from Understanding Society to explore the referendum result. Ours is the only project focussing on a demographic perspective, examining the role of being in a bi-national partnership, both without and without children. This is a great opportunity for one of our researchers to further his experience at presenting research to an audience of stakeholders and academics; capacity building among Researchers is a key goal of CPC and it’s very satisfying seeing early career researchers grow and develop.

Welcoming time at my desk Thursday morning, dealing with inbox and urgent Faculty matters before joining the BSPS Council meeting in London by teleconference. Fortunately the technology works perfectly and colleagues from across the UK are successfully connected. Afternoon meeting with Maria Evandrou, Gloria Langat and Nele van der Wielen, the team working on the ESRC-DFID project on social pensions. Having everyone together also provides an opportunity to plan the forthcoming meeting in Nairobi of the GCRF Global Ageing & Long Term Care Network (GALNet), involving collaboration with colleagues from China, India, Latin America and across Sub Saharan Africa. Final meeting of the day is with the CPC Knowledge Exchange team to discuss the forthcoming CPC exhibition on migration and migrants that will be part of the University of Southampton Roadshow at ‘Country File Live’. The KE team also suggests the CPC Director should write a piece for the next edition of Changing Populations on a week in the life of the Director so I hope this meets their expectations!

Friday morning is another early start taking the train to London for the ESRC Council meeting. I arrive back in Southampton to a beautiful sunset and a moment to reflect on another productive week.

02 | 03
Facts and figures

October 2016 – September 2017

135 PAPERS
58 EVENTS
39 CITIES

SIXTEEN COUNTRIES

Presented
Participated in
In
In

CHINA
FINLAND
FRANCE
GERMANY
HUNGARY
ITALY
KENYA
LUXEMBOURG
MOROCCO
ROMANIA
SLOVAKIA
SPAIN
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND
UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

12 BOOK CHAPTERS
6 WORKING PAPERS
3 BRIEFING PAPERS

200,000 WEBSITE VISITS
500,000 IMPRESSIONS ON TWITTER

www.cpc.ac.uk
News in brief

24 November 2016 – CPC Associate Professor, Dr Brienna Perelli-Harris was invited to discuss her research on marriage and cohabitation on BBC World News.

17 February 2017 – CPC’s Professor Asghar Zaidi contributed to the development of a new Index of Wellbeing in Later Life in collaboration with Age UK, highlighting that taking part in social activities has the most direct influence on improving a person’s wellbeing in later life.

27–28 March 2017 – CPC’s Professor Traute Meyer presented a paper on ‘Democracies, economies and social protection: Understanding welfare state development in Asia and Europe’ during a two day workshop in Taiwan.

29 March 2017 – CPC’s Director Professor Jane Falkingham presented a keynote speech ‘Population Change in the UK (and in the World)’ at the Museums Association one day conference ‘Future of Museums: Audiences’.

24 April 2017 – CPC colleagues Professor Derek McGhee, Professor Jakub Bijak, Dr Paul Bridgen, Dr Hector Calvo-Pardo and Professor Jane Falkingham contributed research evidence to a CPC organised Policy Roundtable event on Migration at the Houses of Parliament.

26 April 2017 – CPC’s Professor Jakub Bijak discussed ‘Migration: illusion of prediction, illusion of control’ in a blog for The UK in a Changing Europe.


19 May 2017 – CPC’s Professor Traute Meyer joined top experts from around the globe at the Finnish Centre for Pensions in Helsinki to present her research about migrants’ pension rights, and discuss the direction and impact of changes in the labour markets, life courses and pensions.

11 July 2017 – CPC’s Professor Ann Berrington organised a session on ‘family dynamics’ at the Understanding Society Conference that brought together researchers working with data from the Generations and Gender Survey, in conjunction with other surveys including the British Household Panel Study (BHPS).

24 August 2017 – CPC collaborated with the Office for National Statistics and Universities UK to produce the publication of the 2017 Survey of Graduating International Students Technical Report. The report provides valuable information about the post-study intentions of international students, the certainty of these intentions, their travel patterns, use of public services, and working patterns whilst studying.

4 October 2017 – CPC’s Dr Agnese Vitali gave a keynote speech at the ‘Momketing: new moms, new marketing’ Conference in Milan.

8–9 November 2017 – CPC collaborated with other ESRC funded research centres NCRM and ADRC- E to open two days of public engagement events as part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science.
The number of children people have at the end of their fertile lives varies dramatically across Europe. England and Wales currently has one of the highest levels with completed lifetime fertility of 1.9 children per woman and Italy has one of the lowest with 1.5 children per woman. This difference exists despite a similar proportion of women in the UK and Italy remaining childless. The main difference between the two countries is in the likelihood of having more than one child. CPC research throws new light on these trends.

Using data from two nationally representative samples of partnered women and men of reproductive age, CPC’s Francesca Fiori and Elspeth Graham, in collaboration with Francesca Rinesi from the Italian Statistical Office, investigated childlessness in Britain and Italy. Despite both countries having similar levels of lifetime childlessness, childlessness in Italy is more likely to be involuntary than in Britain and to result from people postponing fertility and subsequently failing to realise the intention to have a child. Their findings also highlight the link between socio-economic disadvantage and childlessness for British men, as well as the importance of men’s employment for childbearing decisions in Italy. These different pathways into childlessness have equally distinct implications for the efficacy of policies designed to ease constraints on parenting.

In related work, using the 1970 British Birth Cohort Study, Ann Berrington examined the childbearing intentions of childless men and women at age 30, and investigated the likelihood of these men and women becoming a parent by age 42. Findings reveal that relatively few men and women from the BCS70 are rejecting parenthood per se, however at age 30 many were postponing their fertility. Just under two-thirds of childless men and women at age 30 said they wanted to have a child in the future. However, 30% of those who were childless at age 30 and who said they intended to have a child were still childless at age 42.

The study looked at the reasons given for not (yet) having had children among those who were childless at age 42. Three in ten said they “had not wanted children”, and two in ten said they had “never met the right person”. Health issues were also frequently cited, especially by women, who were more likely than men to have reported their own infertility problems. Because women’s ability to conceive decreases with age, especially over age 35, the delay in childbearing to later ages and the increased level of childlessness among cohorts born from the 1950s onwards may be causally linked.

For Italy, Fiori, Graham and Rinesi found that around 70% of women with one child who intended to have another, had a second birth within seven years and that non-continuous employment was associated with a delay in the realization of fertility intentions. In a complementary study, the authors show that the proportion of mothers in Italy with one child who did not intend to have another increased between 2002 and 2012 (after the global economic crisis). This increase is mostly due to a substantial rise in the proportion of mothers whose decision not to have another child are motivated by economic constraints. These findings reflect the deterioration of labour market participation for all households in Italy and indicate that the uncertainty introduced by the recent economic recession is likely to suppress fertility further as more women ‘stop at one’.

CPC fertility research is being used to inform the fertility assumptions in the UK National Population Projections. The National Population Projections predict changes in the size and age structure of the UK population, they are widely used by the government, local authorities, businesses and the public.

Read more in:
Dispelling the myths of large families

The proportion of births that are a third or higher order birth in the UK is one of the highest in Europe. New research by Ann Berrington and Juliet Stone dispels the myth that the large family sizes in the UK are due simply to the recent high levels of international migration. The prevalence of large families has remained high among white British women as well as among those of immigrant background. Ann and Juliet demonstrate that age at entry into motherhood continues to be the most important predictor of completed family size, net of other factors. Thus, there is a strong social polarisation in childbearing in the UK whereby women from lower socio-economic backgrounds enter motherhood earlier and continue to have more children.

Read more in:


Call for papers

Going beyond the country: Exploring sub-national effects on socio-demographic phenomena with European Social Survey data

ESS ERIC Academic Publishing Workshop
18–19 January 2018

The workshop will bring together academics who are interested in exploring the sub-national dimension in socio-demographic studies and will promote ESS as an individual instrument in this respect. The aims of the workshop are:

— To reflect on the role of sub-national contexts for explaining differences in socio-demographic attitudes and behaviours across Europe

— To discuss how new attitudes and behaviours spread spatially across geographical areas that may overcome national boundaries

— To discuss how multilevel and spatial models can be fruitfully applied to study the regional vs. national influence on individuals’ outcomes

No fee is required to participate in the workshop. A limited number of travel and accommodation grants are available (preference will be given to early-career researchers). Please read the full call for papers here.

http://www.cpc.ac.uk/seminars_&_events/?seminar=376

Please submit an original extended abstract (5 pages maximum) or a full paper to:
ess-apw@soton.ac.uk by 15.11.17

Organisers: Dr Agnese Vitali, ESRC Centre for Population Change and Dr Bruno Arpino, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Profession Ann Berrington
a.berrington@soton.ac.uk
Dr Juliet Stone
j.stone@soton.ac.uk

CPC Research Programme:
Fertility and Family Change

Professor Ann Berrington
a.berrington@soton.ac.uk

Dr Juliet Stone
j.stone@soton.ac.uk

CPC Research Programme:
Fertility and Family Change
Ethnic and socio-economic segregation in where people live in the UK have long been topics of social and political concern. Now, CPC researchers have found that there is a growing separation between where younger and older adults are living in most local areas of England and Wales.

Like other forms of segregation, residential age segregation could have serious consequences for social cohesion by fostering distrust, stereotypical thinking and misunderstanding, leading to a loss of individual and societal benefits associated with intergenerational mixing. In the current climate of austerity, increasing age segregation may lead to increased competition for limited public and private resources to meet age-specific needs, and fewer opportunities for different age groups to share common goals. With this in mind, the team wanted to find out which geographical areas or Local Authorities might be most vulnerable in order to inform policy response.

Elspeth Graham, Albert Sabater, and Nissa Finney used data from the last three censuses of England and Wales to show that residential segregation between adults aged 65+ and adults aged 25–40 has risen rapidly since the 1990s. Within local neighbourhoods, there is now, less of an age mix than there was in the past.

The team found that almost every local authority district in England and Wales – over 97% – experienced some increase in residential age segregation in the last 20 years, suggesting that this is a widespread phenomenon. Whereas only 9.4% of all districts (33 districts) displayed moderate or high age segregation* in 1991, by 2011 the proportion had reached 56.8% (198 districts). In a small number of Local Authorities segregation more than doubled after 1991.

Figure 1 shows the five most and five least age-segregated local authority districts in 2011, and the change between 1991 and 2011.

Age segregation tends to be higher in rural areas, especially those that attract older retirees, in part because young people favour residence in urban centres. However, the most rapid increase in age segregation between 1991 and 2011 happened in urban areas, especially in former industrial cities in the north of England such as Manchester and Leeds.

The research gives us an accurate measure of age segregation in the UK today, without which it would be difficult to set appropriate policy responses. As the age-related voting patterns evident in the 2016 EU referendum and 2017 General Election have indicated, the decline in residential age mixing may already be having an effect.
National Records of Scotland greatly values its collaboration with the Centre for Population Change. CPC have helped to facilitate the sharing of information between academics and research users as well as providing NRS and the Scottish Government with valuable staff development opportunities. The Registrar General’s Annual Review has been enriched by CPC contributions – the latest one relating to changing living arrangements and housing. CPC research has also helped provide evidence to inform policies relating to migration and the implications of an ageing population, both of which are of great relevance at the current time. CPC members have also provided valuable expert advice on the assumptions underpinning the biennial Scottish population projections.

Kirsty MacLachlan
Head of Demographic Statistics, National Records of Scotland

Figure 1: Top and bottom 5 Local Authority Districts in England and Wales according to age segregation levels in 2011

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<tr>
<th>Local Authority District</th>
<th>Segregation 1991</th>
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<td>Central Bedfordshire</td>
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<td>Swindon</td>
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<td>Richmondshire</td>
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<td>Wiltshire</td>
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<td>Colchester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neath Port Talbot</td>
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<td>Eden</td>
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<td>Carmarthenshire</td>
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<td>Merthyr Tydfil</td>
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<td>Blaenau Gwent</td>
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*As measured by the index of dissimilarity which takes values from 0 (no segregation) to 100 (total segregation), with values between 30 and 60 denoting moderate segregation.

Read more about this research in the journal Demographic Research [https://www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol36/25/default.htm](https://www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol36/25/default.htm)

Professor Elspeth Graham
efg@st-andrews.ac.uk
Dr Albert Sabater
albert.sabater@st-andrews.ac.uk
Dr Nissa Finney
nissa.finney@st-andrews.ac.uk

CPC Research Programme:
Fertility and family change
Improving our understanding of international student migration

CPC has recently collaborated with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Universities UK (UUK) to conduct a novel online survey that collects detailed information from international students in their final year of study at UK Higher Education Institutions: ‘The 2017 CPC-ONS-UUK Survey of Graduating International Students’.

The UK attracts large numbers of international students each year, second only to the US. Estimates from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) show that the number of migrants moving to the UK for study purposes was 132,000 in the year ending December 2016. Over the same period, it is estimated that 63,000 former students emigrated from the UK. This gap between ‘arrivers’ and ‘leavers’ has been used to suggest that (assuming immigration has remained steady) some 69,000 international students remain in the UK after completing their studies. Our new survey aimed to shed light on the strength and limitations of using the IPS for estimating international student migration and investigate the trends underneath the figures.

What motivates students to study in the UK? Figures from the survey show that two thirds of students chose to study in the UK due to global recognition of British qualifications, and more than half of the study participants were encouraged by the reputation of the university.

How long do international students plan to stay? The study found that most international students plan to leave the UK within a year of finishing their studies. Interestingly, on finishing their current course 15% of respondents planned to study further in the UK, whilst 11% planned to study further outside the UK. Only one in five wanted to look for a job in the UK and only 6% already had secured a post-study job in the UK. Overall, more than half of the sampled students were certain of their plans after study, though a quarter were not certain.

Commenting on the findings of the study Professor Jane Falkingham remarks “International student migration, and in particular its impact on the Government’s net migration target, is an area that has received considerable attention and debate in recent years. Many commentators have questioned whether the IPS is the best source of data for estimating the..."

Figure 1: Intentions to Stay in the UK after finishing Current Course

- 32.02% Leave immediately
- 24.24% Less than 3 months
- 7.87% More than 3 months but less than 6 months
- 3.71% More than 6 months but less than 12 months
- 14.52% 12 months or more
- 15.76% Intend to stay
movements of students, our findings show that the IPS is limited for this purpose. If the government is overestimating the number of international students who are staying on in the UK, then including such students in the net migration target and enacting increasingly restrictive policies with the aim of reducing this figure, may be misplaced. Indeed, it may even run the risk of harming UK PLC as the international education sector makes a significant contribution to the UK’s service exports. The time has now come to remove international students from the net migration target and to treat students as temporary migrants, as is the case in Australia, Canada and the USA."

Many students in our survey have agreed to take part in a follow-up survey that will take place this winter. This will allow us to compare the intentions stated as finalists with their actual migration choices and add to the evidence base on international student migration.

The full report is available on the CPC website: http://www.cpc.ac.uk/docs/2017_SoGIS_Technical_Report.pdf
How does caring for an older parent affect employment for those in their 50s?

Today informal care giving is integral to how we support and fulfil the needs of older people in our communities. Those who give this care can be an invisible workforce who require support to be able to best balance their own needs for work, health and wellbeing as well as those of the older people they care for. Analysis of data from the 2001 and 2011 Census highlights that the prevalence of caring peaks in mid-life, with one in five women and men aged 45 to 64 providing some level of informal care to an elderly or dependent person. Looking at a snapshot only captures those caring at that point in time, but the likelihood of providing care at some point during mid-life is much higher. Of those with at least one parent/parent-in-law alive (and thus ‘at risk’ of providing care), three quarters of those born in 1958 and interviewed as part of the National Child Development Study (NCDS) reported providing support to their parents at some stage between ages 46 and 55.

Given the high likelihood of being involved in the provision of care for aged parents, the research team of Maria Evandrou, Jane Falkingham, Madelin Gomez-Leon and Athina Vlachantoni set about investigating what effect providing care has on reducing or giving up work for adults in their 50’s using data from the NCDS. The research found that a significant proportion of both men and women caring for parents/parents-in-law change their employment patterns in order to accommodate their caring role. In particular, those women and men providing personal care, such as help with washing, dressing or eating are, and those doing higher hours of care were more likely to stop work entirely. Amongst men, intense care-giving was also associated with reducing working hours but the same effect was not significant for women – suggesting that women face either juggling intensive care commitments alongside work or end up leaving work altogether.

The research has important implications for government policies. On the one hand, many governments are now introducing policies to extend working lives, including in the UK raising the state pension age. However, in order to meet the growing care needs of the ageing population, an increasing number of mid-life adult children will need to provide care, and supporting these adult children to reconcile employment and care-giving successfully will be a precondition to securing future family care-giving. Our research highlights the importance of flexibility in employment to support carers to remain in work and suggests that much more should be done to support people who are experiencing an intensification of their caring roles.

This research is published open access online in Ageing & Society.
Analysis of data from the 2001 and 2011 Census highlights that the prevalence of caring peaks in mid-life, with one in five women and men aged 45 to 64 providing some level of informal care to an elderly or dependent person.

Professor Maria Evandrou
maria.evandrou@soton.ac.uk

Professor Jane Falkingham
j.c.falkingham@soton.ac.uk

Dr Athina Vlachantoni
a.vlachantoni@soton.ac.uk

CPC Research Programme: Exchange between the generations
Improving the evidence base for asylum policies in Europe

In 2016 CPC was commissioned by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) to provide evidence to help European Union (EU) member states better understand and predict asylum-related migration, a crucial project that could impact asylum policies in Europe.

EASO is a specialist agency of the EU that coordinates and supports asylum processes across Europe. As well as facilitating and offering support for asylum-related operations, EASO provides the EU and the Member States with research, expertise, and evidence-based recommendations related to asylum policymaking and legislation in Europe.

In 2015 and 2016, EU countries, as well as Norway and Switzerland, received a record number of applications for asylum from over 2.5 million people displaced from their home countries by war and persecution. In 2016 alone, around a half of the applicants came from three countries: Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The CPC research team: Jakub Bijak, Jonathan J Forster and Jason Hilton, conducted a survey of methods to assess, model and predict asylum-related migration. The project aimed to identify, review and evaluate the various methods currently available for explaining and predicting asylum-related migration, and to develop a bespoke model for quantifying migration related to asylum in Europe.

Project work covered three areas. Firstly, the team assessed the data available for modelling asylum-related migration and its various drivers. Secondly, a comprehensive overview and critical evaluation of existing statistical models of asylum-related migration was carried out. For that, the team reviewed both the academic literature, as well as examples of best policy practice across Europe. Finally, the team conducted a feasibility study, investigating the possibility of building new models of asylum-related migration flows for all EU countries, and limitations of such models. The team provide official recommendations and guidelines on the construction and interpretation of these models, and on communication of their results to policy users. Key recommendations include adopting a forward-looking perspective to monitoring asylum-related flows by using statistical models. Such an early warning system would enable EASO and authorities responsible for asylum in individual Member States to react more swiftly to changes in migration trends.

The full report is available from the EASO website: https://www.easo.europa.eu/events-and-publications

Professor Jakub Bijak
j.bijak@soton.ac.uk
Professor Jonathan Forster
j.j.forster@soton.ac.uk
Dr Jason Hilton
j.d.hilton@soton.ac.uk

CPC Research Programme:
Estimation & Forecasting

Some of the most volatile and impactful migrations are asylum-related. Managing them better requires timely warnings, which our new statistical models provide.

Professor Jakub Bijak
Project lead
The decennial life tables, known as the English Life Tables, are an official publication which has been produced after every decennial census since 1841 (with the exception of 1941 when no census was carried out). The life tables are designed to provide a snapshot of the mortality experience in England and Wales, by age and sex in the three year period around the census year.

The most recent English Life Tables, ELT17, were prepared by Jakub Bijak, Erengul Dodd, Jonathan J. Forster and Peter W.F. Smith of the University of Southampton at the invitation of the Office for National Statistics. The tables are graduated, or smoothed estimates of central mortality rates, by age and sex, based on mortality data for England and Wales over the years 2010–12.

Crude mortality rates are smoothed using a combination of a generalised additive model and low dimensional parametric models. The approach to graduation acknowledges uncertainty, particularly in the highest age groups, by model-averaging, using a simplified version of a full Bayesian analysis.

The statistical methodology used to produce ELT17 is published in Journal of Royal Statistical Society, Series A (Statistics in Society). The tables are also available in spreadsheet format on the ONS website.
Has Brexit affected EU migrants’ plans to stay in the UK?

CPC’s research project ‘EU migrants’ attitudes towards a changing United Kingdom’ was a timely investigation that preceded the UK referendum on membership to the European Union (also referred to as ‘Brexit’). An online survey was developed to collect data on the opinions, fears and future plans of EU migrants living in the United Kingdom in the context of Brexit. The survey reached a broad range of EU nationals living in the UK and produced rich data allowing a variety of topics to be investigated, of interest to both academic researchers and policymakers.

The project team: Derek McGhee, Athina Vlachantoni and Chris Moreh questioned survey participants on the actions they expect to take as a consequence of the Brexit vote, results suggest that many EU migrants plan to remain in the UK regardless of the outcome of the EU referendum, with a high proportion planning to naturalise as British citizens. The team are also exploring the data to address a variety of questions, such as how the ‘effect’ of Brexit on different groups of EU migrants can be defined and measured, migrants’ attitudes to social benefit provisions and the welfare state, transnational healthcare practices, and the changing meaning of 'British citizenship'.

Findings from the project have been presented at international academic conferences and various policy events including a Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology Conference. This has allowed the findings of the research to be discussed with policy-makers and agencies working with migrants (such as the Migrant’s Rights Network) and enabled the research team to answer specific policy-relevant questions about life after Brexit. In this way, research results have been translated into useful evidence, while newly emergent policy concerns have been reincorporated into further academic research.

Further research undertaken by Derek McGhee and Chris Moreh is currently ongoing.

The project has been expanded to integrate available secondary data as well as undertaking a second survey looking at the post-Referendum context, and conducting qualitative interviews in order to contextualise and deepen the quantitative findings. The project attracted additional funding from the Sociological Review Foundation for a research seminar series on the topic of the ‘sociology of Brexit’ (2016–2017), and grant applications for smaller projects on different specific themes that have emerged from the research are planned for the Wellcome Trust and the British Academy.


Professor Derek McGhee
d.p.mcghee@soton.ac.uk
Dr Chris Moreh
c.moreh@soton.ac.uk
Dr Athina Vlachantoni
a.vlachantoni@soton.ac.uk

CPC Research Programme:
Mobilities and migration
We collaborated with CPC to engage with policymakers about migration in post-Brexit Britain. Our project ‘Tales of Migration: citizenship, benefits and identity in Brexit Britain’ culminated in a policy roundtable in Westminster hosted by Hilary Benn MP, Chair of the Select Committee on Exiting the EU. Together with CPC, we have been able to highlight both the importance and complexity of migration policy and have raised awareness of the University of Southampton’s research excellence in this area.

Gavin Costigan
Director, Public Policy, Southampton

Some people may be surprised to discover that a majority of EU migrants are planning to remain in the UK long-term, with a high proportion planning to naturalise as British citizens.

Dr Chris Moreh
Project team member
This summer, CPC experienced being part of the 2017 University of Southampton ‘Bringing Research to Life Roadshow’ that travels the length and breadth of the UK. Forming a key exhibit at the Thomas Hardye School, Cheltenham Science Festival, Winchester Science Festival, BBC Countryfile Live and Bournemouth Air Festival, we were delighted to ‘make learning fun’ and engage with over 3,000 members of the public.

Overcoming the outdoor elements at festival environments, a giant Connect Four quiz and giant jigsaw puzzle were used to share world leading social science research in a fun, understandable and accessible way to help tackle public misconceptions about Brexit and EU migrants. With colourful eye catching giveaways and approachable knowledgeable staff, our stand engaged with visitors of all ages. One school-aged visitor shared that they now know “the European Union is called the EU” and another claimed that they learned “Migration is when people move from one country to another for different reasons”. Even adults could learn something new, with one person commenting “I found out today that EU Migrants do not have the same rights to benefits as UK born nationals” and another observing “Many of my opinions were misconceptions, this makes you think.”

Being part of the University of Southampton ‘Bringing Research to Life Roadshow’ was a great success for CPC and we plan to share more of our world-leading research with the public through this activity in the future.
The answers to our quiz questions were based on CPC migration research findings. Although the Roadshow is now complete for 2017, our migration research is still accessible by downloading the following briefing papers from our website:

CPC Briefing Paper 33 — ‘Who are the EU migrants in England and Wales?’
http://www.cpc.ac.uk/docs/BP33_Who_are_EU_migrants.pdf

CPC Briefing Paper 34 — ‘Expense turns to investment: How the welfare state supports EU migrants’ economic achievements’
http://www.cpc.ac.uk/docs/BP34_Expense_turns_to_investment.pdf

CPC Briefing Paper 35 — ‘Should I stay or should I go? Strategies of EU citizens living in the UK in the context of the EU referendum’
http://www.cpc.ac.uk/docs/BP35_Should_I_stay_or_should_I_go.pdf

We were very pleased that the CPC was able to bring their migration research activities onto the annual Bringing Research to Life tour this year. Their activity design worked well with the diverse audiences we meet each year, and visitors had time and space to discuss the issues in dialogue with researchers and CPC staff.

Dr Steve Dorney,
Director of the University Public Engagement with Research Team

I am interested in the causes and effects of migration within the European Economic Area. The biggest highlight of my time here has to be when I had the opportunity to be a Research Assistant on a project funded under the UK in a Changing EU initiative. The project investigated how migrants use the welfare state and whether the label of ‘burden’ is valid. The research was designed to give the general public accessible information related to the EU referendum and this gave me real insight in to the use of research, beyond academic enquiry. During this period I was given the chance to do things which I could not have experienced by only working on my PhD. Within a year I worked with colleagues to complete a research project from start to finish, presented that research at a conference, published accessible analysis pieces on the UK in a Changing EU’s website, and published a policy brief with the CPC, amongst other things. I have also been able to get involved with the CPC’s exhibit at the University of Southampton Roadshow, which has involved talking to the public about my research at different events across the UK. In doing this I have learnt a huge amount about meaningful, applicable research and how to ‘do’ research. The PhD experience has been better than I expected! With the help of the CPC team I have networked and developed ideas with academics I otherwise would not have met, I have been able to gain access to data that I otherwise would not have found, and have been given the chance to get involved in different policy and research dissemination events. I strongly recommend that anyone planning on doing a PhD in any of the research areas covered in the CPC should consider coming to Southampton for opportunities that they wouldn’t get elsewhere.
Keep in touch!

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T:  +44 (0)23 8059 2579
E:  cpc@soton.ac.uk