Changing Populations

Pensioner poverty: Reaching the most vulnerable

Experiences of Brexit: Can we prevent new social divides?

Helping policy by improving migration scenarios
I am delighted to welcome you to this edition of Changing Populations.

The latter part of 2019 has been busy for CPC. The newly funded projects of our third phase have now started, and we have seen lots of new faces join the team to support these. You can find out more about our new starters on page 19.

Back in September, we invited colleagues attending the BSPS conference at Cardiff University to raise a glass and enjoy some cake with us to celebrate CPC’s 10th anniversary. It was lovely to be able to mark the occasion with the population studies community, and I was very proud to stand alongside my fellow Co-Director, Hill Kulu, and Director, Jane Falkingham, as they gave their speeches. Thank you to all those that were able to attend. You can read more about the event on page 8. You will also see how we are passing invaluable advice on to the next generation of researchers with our grant application tips from a BSPS panel session.

Recently, the topic of intergenerational fairness and exchange has been widespread across the news and social media, with the idea of the generational divide becoming more prevalent in public conversation. From younger people described as snowflakes to their retort of ‘OK boomer’ taking off across Twitter and Instagram, it is a time for us to ensure that research in this area can bridge these gaps. We must find ways in which society can work together to benefit everyone. We were therefore delighted to welcome a group of year ten students to our University of Southampton campus this term to get their take on generational issues. This formed part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science and you can read more about the event on page 12.

As part of a research team led by Dr Gloria Chepngeno-Langat, I have been exploring intergenerational exchange from a different perspective. We have analysed the impact of social pensions across generations in Kenya. It has allowed us to advise on whether the cash transfer programmes they have set up are reaching those most in need and alleviating poverty. You can read more about this work on page 10.

Indeed, it is not just generational divides that have been opening up. The Brexit debate continues, and our work continues within its context. On page 14, you can read about our research into Polish migrants’ experiences of Brexit and what can be done to prevent social divides.

In these turbulent political times, it is vital that social science research continues to study the effects on people’s lives. I hope you will find it interesting to discover more about our research and our research colleagues in this edition of the newsletter.

Professor Maria Evandrou  
CPC Co-Director
Facts, figures and news

News round-up

June 2019

Jane Falkingham met with the Resolution Foundation, alongside Lord David Willetts and Sir John Major, to discuss the economic and social trends shaping Britain, including the labour market, regions, younger generations and fiscal pressures.

Heini Väisänen was one of the organisers of the Femquant workshop on ‘Gender data gaps’ at the University of Kent.

Vegard Skirbekk, Columbia University, gave a CPC seminar on ‘Preferences to life expectancy - new findings from international surveys’ in Southampton.

Chris Moreh presented the paper ‘The ‘Brexit’ effect on the life satisfaction of Poles in the UK’ at the 26th International Conference of Europeanists, Universidad Carlos Ill de Madrid.

Jason Hilton was an instructor on the MPIDR capacity building course ‘Agent-based computational modelling in population studies’ in Rostock.

Jackie Wahba gave a keynote address on return migration at the Migration in Latin America workshop at the University of Edinburgh.

Francesca Fiori gave a seminar at the Q-Step Centre Edinburgh on ‘Growing up with a lone mother in Scotland: the role of employment, childcare and family ties on children’s wellbeing’.

Jackie Wahba presented the paper ‘Syrian refugees and the migration dynamics of Jordanians: Moving in or moving out?’ at the 12th Migration and Development Conference, Universidad Carlos Ill de Madrid.

David Bell gave evidence on funding of EU structural fund priorities in Scotland, post-Brexit, to the Scottish Parliament’s Finance and Constitution Committee.

Matthew Wallace from SUDA gave a CPC Brown Bag seminar on ‘Comparing migrant mortality versus origin: results consistent with selection hypothesis’ in Edinburgh.

Francesco Rampazzo attended the Bayesian Demography Summer School at Lake Como, Italy.

Jane Falkingham and Min Qin took part in the ‘Inclusive Ageing in the UK and China’ scoping workshop, Beijing.

Niels Blom presented the paper ‘Past, present and perceptions of future economic hardship and the quality of partner relationships in the United Kingdom’ at the 19th Dutch Annual Meeting of Sociologists, University of Amsterdam.

Brienna Perelli-Harris’ article with Marta Styrc, ‘Mental well-being differences in cohabitation and marriage: The role of childhood selection’, published in the Journal of Marriage and Family, was one of the journal’s top downloaded recent papers.

A policy briefing on ‘The Kenyan Older Persons Cash Transfer Programme: Understanding the impact and experiences’ was published as a result of collaborative work between the Centre for Research on Ageing, CPC and the African Population Health Research Centre (APHRC), Kenya. The findings were presented by Maria Evandrou and Jane Falkingham, along with Isabella Aboderin from APHRC, at a dissemination event in Nairobi, jointly organised with the National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS) of Kenya. Read more about the cash transfers programme on page 10.

Jonathan Forster left the University of Southampton, but remains a CPC Associate. He has taken up a new role as Head of Statistics at the University of Warwick.

July 2019

Ann Berrington, Niels Blom, Hill Kulu, Lydia Palumbo, and Brienna Perelli-Harris had papers at the Understanding Society Conference, University of Essex. At the conference, Kim Lipscombe showcased CPC research using Understanding Society data on the CPC Knowledge Exchange stand. See photos and highlights from the conference in our Twitter collection.

Jakub Bijak gave a talk on ‘New avenues in modelling migration’ at the University of Rostock.

Jane Falkingham met with the Resolution Foundation to give a talk about the House of Lords Select Committee on Intergenerational Fairness and Provision report and to explore research ideas.

Jakub Bijak attended the annual research meeting for the Bayesian Agent-Based Population Studies project, University of Rostock. He also took part in the workshop ‘Agent-based models for exploring public policy planning’ at the Lorentz Centre, Leiden.

As part of the University of Southampton’s Distinguished Lectures programme, Jane Falkingham was ‘in conversation’ with the Rt Hon. Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, on Women in Leadership.
The CPC 2018-19 seminar series finished on a high with Chenggang Yang from the Population Research Institute at Southwestern University of Finance & Economics, Chengdu. He presented on ‘Population Ageing and Sustainable Economic Growth in China’ in a joint CPC, CRA and China Research Centre seminar – the video presentation is now available on our YouTube channel. Find out more about the CPC seminar series and our highlights from 2019 on page 7. You can also see photos and videos from the seminar series in our Twitter collection.

Albert Sabater, Elspeth Graham and Alan Marshall had their article ‘Does having highly educated adult children reduce mortality risks for parents with low educational attainment in Europe?’ published in Ageing & Society. Albert Sabater contributed an entry on ‘Aging Migrants’ to the Springer Encyclopedia of Gerontology and Population Aging. Albert left the University of St Andrews in July, but he remains a CPC Associate. He has taken up a new role as Associate Professor at the University of Girona.

August 2019
Athisa Vlachantoni took over as Director of the ESRC South Coast Doctoral Training Partnership, and was appointed to the ESRC Grants Assessment Panel.

Albert Sabater and Nissa Finney presented their paper ‘Aging, housing affordability and spatial age segregation: evidence from the UK’ at the 14th Conference of the European Sociological Association, Manchester.

Hill Kulu, Ann Berrington, Jakub Bijak, Erengul Dodd and Jane Falkingham were awarded new ESRC funding to investigate the causes of recent fertility fluctuations in the UK and forecast future trends.

Maria Evandrou and Jane Falkingham’s work with Gloria Chepngeno-Langat, Nele van der Wielen and members of the Africa Population and Health Research Centre on cash transfer schemes for older people was included as part of an ESRC-DFID policy brief on Pensioner Poverty.

Three representatives from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Guangzhou Wang, Haixia Wu and Jianlin Niu, visited with CPC members and the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Southampton to discuss future collaboration.

Hill Kulu and Júlia Mikolai’s paper ‘Divorce, separation and housing changes’ featured in PAA’s top ten article requests 2016-2018.

Heini Väisänen’s article with Emily Grundy and Sanna Read, ‘Fertility trajectories and later-life depression among parents in England’, was published online in Population Studies.

Jakub Bijak was a peer reviewer for the UK Parliament POST report on ‘Preparing for a changing world’.

September 2019
Paul Bridgen presented ‘The poverty risks of migrants who retire in their host country: Evidence from the first post-war wave of migration into Europe’ at the ESPAnet conference in Stockholm.

There was a large CPC contingent at the BSPS conference, and CPC sponsored the poster session as part of our tenth anniversary celebrations. See photos and highlights of what we got up to in our Twitter collection. Read the full story on page 8.

Biennia Perelli-Harris took part in a GCRF Health of Migrants workshop in Ukraine. With Natalia Levchuk at the Ptoukha Institute for Demography and Social Sciences, she organised the workshop with participants from the Ministry of Social Policy, UNICEF, International Organisation of Migration, and academics from around Ukraine, to discuss the challenge of resettlement for Ukraine’s 1.5 million internationally displaced people.

Our first CPC seminar of the new academic year was given by Yehuda Baruch, Professor of Management at the Southampton Business School, on the ‘Career Ecosystem’.

Hector Calvo Pardo presented ‘Subjective return expectations, inattention and stock market participation’ as part of the CEPR European Conference on Household Finance in Rhodes.

Niels Blom presented his work with Biennia Perelli-Harris on ‘Past, present and perceptions of future economic hardship and the quality of partner relationships in the United Kingdom’ at the ECSR Conference in Lausanne.

Jackie Wahba gave the keynote lecture at the CReAM/RWI Workshop on the Economics of Migration in Essen.
October 2019

Brienna Perelli-Harris attended the European School of Demography board meeting in Rostock.

Jane Falkingham presented and participated in a panel debate ‘Who are we building homes for?’ at the annual Thames Estuary Growth Day in London.

Peter Davis, University of Auckland, visited CPC and presented a CPC seminar on ‘SociaLab: A census-based simulation tool for public policy inquiry’.

Hill Kulu, Júlia Mikolai, Ann Berrington and Seb Stannard had papers at the Divorce Conference in Florence.

Hill Kulu’s work with Marika Jalovaara on ‘Homeownership after separation: A longitudinal analysis of Finnish register data’ was published as part of the Special Collection on separation, divorce, and residential mobility in a comparative perspective in Demographic Research.

Zhixin Feng and colleagues had their article ‘Relationship between neighbourhood social participation and depression among older adults: A longitudinal study in China’ published in Health and Social Care in the Community.

Jakub Bijak was the author of the editorial ‘P-values, theory, replicability, and rigour’ published in Demographic Research.

We published CPC Policy Briefing 48 ‘Polish migrants’ experiences of Brexit: anticipating new social divides’ by Sadie Marks, Chris Moreh and Derek McGhee. Read an excerpt on page 14.

November 2019


Ann Berrington, Corrado Giulietti and Athina Vlachantoni were the guest speakers at this year’s CPC ESRC Festival of Social Science event. We hosted a group of year 10 students from The Henry Cort Community College to take part in ‘The generation game – is it fair?’. Find out more about the event on page 12.

Jane Falkingham was one of the invited experts at a sounding board meeting held by the European Commission on the topic of ‘Transforming the future of ageing’ in Brussels.

Maria Evandrou, Ann Berrington, Athina Vlachantoni, Teresa McGowan and Becki Day met with members of the ONS Analytical Impact team to discuss ways that CPC research could feed into their ‘Milestones’ project on later life.

Toby Prike presented CPC research on ‘Generalizing financial decision making to other domains’ during the poster session at the Society for Judgment and Decision Making annual conference in Montreal.

Hill Kulu presented ‘Partnership status and health selection or protection’ at the IMPRS-PPHDS school annual academy at MPIDR, Rostock.

‘Social participation and health outcomes among caregivers and noncarers in Great Britain’ by Athina Vlachantoni, Zhixin Feng, Ning Wang and Maria Evandrou was published in the Journal of Applied Gerontology.

As part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science, Nele Van Der Wielen was a panel member discussing ‘The Kenyan Older Persons Cash Transfer Programme’ as part of a panel debate on ‘Ending Pensioner Poverty’ by The Impact Initiative. The research team, Gloria Chepngeno-Langat, Nele van der Wielen, Maria Evandrou and Jane Falkingham also had their article, ‘Unravelling the wider benefits of social pensions: Secondary beneficiaries of the older persons cash transfer program in the slums of Nairobi’, published in the Journal of Aging Studies.

December 2019

Brienna Perelli-Harris taught at the European Doctoral School of Demography, as part of the theory course ‘Fertility, family and the life course (consequences)’, at the Centre for Demographic Studies, Barcelona.

Guangzhou Wang from the Chinese Association of Social Sciences gave a CPC seminar on ‘The problem of Chinese low fertility and the low fertility trap’.

Jakub Bijak and Martin Hinsch had a paper, ‘Developing agent-based migration models in pairs’, at the Winter Simulation Conference, near Washington D.C.

We hosted a joint seminar with the Centre for Research on Ageing, with Xiaoting Liu from Zhejiang University presenting on ‘The trajectory and transition of cognitive function amongst older adults in China’.

In Scotland, Daniel Burns from the National Records of Scotland gave the CPC brown bag seminar on ‘Populations Projections for Scotland’ at Ladywell House, Edinburgh.

Niel Blom was an author on two articles published in the Journal of Marriage and Family: ‘Couples’ job insecurity and relationship satisfaction in the Netherlands’ and ‘Becoming a female-breadwinner household in Australia: Changes in relationship satisfaction’. 
For all the latest CPC news and comment, visit our ‘Centre for Population Change in the news’ page on Scoop.it:  www.scoop.it/topic/centre-for-population-change

www.cpc.ac.uk
Research sharing: The CPC seminar series

There have been over 230 CPC seminars in Southampton and Edinburgh since 2009. We have welcomed experts in subjects including demography, economics, geography, gerontology, sociology, social policy and social statistics, with recent seminars available afterwards on our YouTube channel. Presentations are open to all and attract an audience which includes senior academics, members of local councils, and colleagues from NRS and ONS.

The seminar series is one of CPC’s primary forums for discussing research and allows us to invite visitors from across the globe to share their latest findings.

In the latter part of 2019, for example, three academics from China have visited CPC at the University of Southampton.

Alongside the Centre for Research on Ageing (CRA), we welcomed Chenggang Yang, Director of the Population Research Institute at SWUFE and Vice President of the China Population Association. He presented on the topic of ‘Population ageing and sustainable economic growth in China’, covering the future of China’s rapid growth in economics, population change and ageing.

In another joint seminar with CRA, Xiaoting Liu from Zhejiang University visited to speak about ‘The trajectory and transition of cognitive function amongst older adults in China’. Xiaoting’s research examines the idea that cognitive function test scores of older people from younger generations are higher than those of older people from older generations. The results are useful for estimating the demand for long-term care for older people with dementia.

Guangzhou Wang from the Chinese Association of Social Sciences visited in December to give a seminar on ‘The problem of low Chinese fertility and the low fertility trap’. At the talk, Guangzhou discussed the history and consequences of misunderstanding census and survey data. His work examines the real Chinese total fertility rate (TFR) in the context of family planning policy changes in 2013 and 2015, meaning couples could have two-children unconditionally.

Our continued collaborative exchange with the academic community in China will be enhanced further in the new year. We will be hosting the ESRC-CASS workshop on ‘Healthy ageing - how to sustain social productivity with an ageing population’ in which we will explore research from China and the UK.

In October, Peter Davis from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, visited to speak about ‘SociaLab: A census-based simulation tool for public policy inquiry’. Peter is an Honorary Professor in the Department of Statistics and Emeritus Professor in Population Health and Social Science.

In his seminar, Peter talked about a tool for public policy modelling, called ‘SociaLab’. It draws on longitudinal data from the New Zealand census and uses microsimulation techniques. SociaLab potentially provides an open-source tool for deliberative inquiry in policy development. It has now been written up in Simulating Societal Change, co-authored with Roy Lay-Yee, and published by Springer in the series Computational Social Sciences.

And it’s not just external visitors that give CPC seminars – we use them to exchange knowledge and research between our partners and collaborators. For example, in December, Daniel Burns from the National Records of Scotland gave a seminar at Ladywell House, Edinburgh. He discussed the new 2018-based population projections for Scotland, published in October 2019, and provided a look at what future populations of Scotland could look like, based on past trends.

November saw CPC PhD student Nicholas Campisi (pictured) visit Ladywell House from the University of St Andrews to share his findings on ‘Spatial variation in fertility across Europe’. His research examines how local patterns of fertility across European countries contribute to continental trends, as well as reviewing recent fertility decline in high-fertility countries.

To view these seminars and explore other topics, visit our YouTube channel ‘Centre for Population Change’.
Celebrating 10 years of CPC with the population community

The British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) annual conference took place at Cardiff University in September. One of the most important events on the population research calendar, many CPC members attended to present their research and share knowledge with colleagues.

A part of CPC’s tenth-anniversary celebrations, we sponsored the conference poster session on the opening night. To help us celebrate, we invited attendees to join us for cake at the drinks reception.

CPC Director, Professor Jane Falkingham OBE, gave a speech at the event. She reflected on CPC’s achievements over the last decade, while thanking colleagues for their continued involvement and support. Professor Hill Kulu, CPC Co-Director in Scotland, also spoke about the successful collaboration between the universities in Southampton and Scotland.

Professor Falkingham said “I was delighted to be able to invite members of the research community to share in celebrating with us at BSPS. Since we set up CPC in 2009, we have seen many changes in how we live as a society. It was a proud moment for me to be able to reflect on our achievements with colleagues, many of whom we have worked alongside, plus lots of new faces that will be the future of demographic research.”

“As CPC represents the ESRC’s continued investment in population research, recently highlighted in their 2019 Delivery Plan. Our research achievements so far have helped us to better understand the drivers of change, and I look forward to continuing the work of CPC over the coming years – cheers!”

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BSPS early career panel: Grant applications

As well as many CPC members presenting their latest research findings at BSPS, CPC Director Professor Jane Falkingham and Co-Director Professor Hill Kulu took part in a panel discussion alongside CPC Modelling strand leader Professor Jakub Bijak, and Professor Melinda Mills, Director of the Leverhulme Centre for Demographic Science at the University of Oxford. Organised and chaired by CPC associate Dr Júlia Mikolai, the aim of the panel session was to pass on advice to early career researchers on applying for grants and funding. Here we summarise the notes and tips from the session, incorporating the panel members’ extensive experience as proposal writers and reviewers.

Note: Professor Mills presented her advice in ‘FOUR Rs’. Later in the discussion the wider panel added two more. We have therefore found it useful to group the advice discussed in the room under these broad headings, with thanks to Professor Mills for the concept.

Rejection
This is something that happens a lot, but the failures are not often widely talked about. They are, however, an important part of the application process. Don’t take it personally, it is the norm, just make sure you do something constructive with it.

Resilience
Those who apply for funding, get funding. It is vital to keep applying, keeping in mind that you won’t get them all. The people that, after rejection, keep trying, get the grants. Be passionate and play to your strengths, particularly your expertise coming out of your PhD.

Revision
Keep rewriting and developing your proposal. Take your time, be vulnerable, don’t just accept ‘nice’ comments, and allow people to challenge you. Ensure you leave plenty of time to compile and complete your proposal, particularly if working with international colleagues.

Reviewer
Think about how the reviewers have to grade the proposals. Find out who has been on the committee, and discover any inside knowledge on the process. Know your funder and what
they want, and know the call. Most funders have extensive guidance resources and FAQs on their websites. USE THESE. The bottom line is that your bid has to answer the specification, so it is your job to convince the panel that you can provide answers that fulfill their needs, and you are the right person to do it. You should be clear in the first paragraph about your research aims, and strive to pre-empt any questions reviewers and panelists might have. Make it obvious why they should fund you!

Risk
Reviewers are looking for innovative proposals that incorporate an element of scientific risk; consider whether what you are planning to do will bring significant change to your field. Capture a reviewer’s interest by presenting something novel, and create some urgency for what you want funded. Scientific progress is, after all, about risk-taking.

Recycle
Time spent writing proposals is not time wasted, even if rejected. The work can be used as the basis for future proposals. Be careful, though, when changing funders – as in ‘Reviewers’ above, ensure that if you recycle elsewhere, you still do your homework on the funding body and its reviewers. Try to work with senior colleagues on writing proposals and learning the process, collaborate on grants where you are not PI, and be open to invitations.

Common mistakes
1. A proposal not tailored to the call.
2. A proposal not professionally prepared (typos, fonts etc.). This looks sloppy and introduces doubt into a reviewer’s mind - don’t give them any excuses to disregard your proposal.
3. Quickly submitted, low quality work – you risk your reputation.
4. Overplaying your strengths with hyperbolic language - avoid clichés and jargon.
5. Overuse of technical or specific language. This is where it helps to know the type of panel and reviewers you are submitting to. They are usually a mixed group who may not have an in-depth knowledge of your area of research, so write in a way that doesn’t assume prior knowledge of the subject. Where possible, give your proposal to a colleague from a completely different field to check if it’s understandable.
6. Work that hasn’t been planned properly with obvious inconsistencies or repetition throughout.
7. Including literature reviews or feasibility analyses. It should transpire from the proposal that, to some extent, you are already working on it, you are well read, you know where the gaps are, and that your aim is to fill these gaps. Having recently done a PhD, you are in a good position to show this.
8. Allowing too much feedback. While some feedback is vital, ensure you maintain ownership of your work and your conviction so that you don’t lose your voice. Also be wary of circulating your work too widely, keep your feedback circle limited.
9. Limiting yourself to a certain funding bodies. Think outside of the box for the funders you apply to. Don’t just focus on one. You might be surprised how many funders look for a social sciences element in their calls. Scan as many calls and funding bodies as you can, including government bodies, local authorities and commercial companies, because there is demand for expertise everywhere that often goes unmet.
10. Unclear invitations to collaborators. Ensure you send a concise, succinct invitation that will persuade a collaborator to join your team. Collaborators are often more experienced, very busy and will not be in a position to take on projects without confidence in you that you can successfully manage the work. It is your job to convince them that you are capable of delivering, that you know what your value added is, and have thought about activities for impact, so consider sending them a summary of your case for support for this purpose. If you are planning to collaborate with a non-academic person / organisation, ensure you outline what’s in it for them.

Remember
Reviewers do know what it’s like to be at the start of your career, and will be sympathetic to that. They are all volunteers, and want to contribute and foster the research careers of the next generation. Keep applying and don’t be discouraged!

Resources
UKRI funding opportunities, including links to Research Council funding opportunities
https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/
Wellcome Trust
https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding
Leverhulme Trust
https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/schemes-at-a-glance
UKCDR info on major global development funding programmes
https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/funding-landscape/funding-calls/
The British Academy
https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities
The Royal Society
https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/
Early Career Researchers Central
https://ecrcentral.org/fundings

Panel members: Professor Jakub Bijak, University of Southampton; Professor Jane Fafkingham, University of Southampton; Professor Hill Kulu, University of St Andrews; Professor Melinda Mills, University of Oxford
Chair: Dr Júlia Mikolai, University of St Andrews
Notes compiled and edited by Becki Dey, ESRC Centre for Population Change, University of Southampton
The project team, led by Dr Gloria Chepngeno-Langat, includes Professor Maria Evandrou, Professor Jane Falkingham, Dr Nele van der Wielen, and Dr Isabella Aboderin, who leads the Ageing Programme at APHRC.

The Older Persons Cash Transfer Programme (OPCTP) is part of the Kenya National Safety Net Programme. It is a central element of Kenya’s response to a growing population of older people, many of whom are entering later life without a secure source of income. The aim of the targeted OPCTP has been to guarantee a basic income for the most vulnerable and most impoverished Kenyans aged 65 years or older.

The research team used nationally representative household survey data and a detailed case study of older people living in Korogocho and Viwandani, two informal settlements in Nairobi. The study is the first evaluation of the OPCTP. It has provided the National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS) of Kenya with invaluable evidence into how practical the benefit is, and its impact upon the lives of older people and their families.

The OPCTP has since been extended to become a universal benefit payable to all older people aged over 70 in Kenya. It is designed to address the issue of benefits not reaching those most in need.

However, the research team found that more must be done to reach vulnerable ‘hidden’ older persons who may be unable to enrol on the programme. These include those with disabilities, those who are incapacitated or isolated, and those without identity documents.

The research suggests continuing investment in social protection for people aged 65–69 while increasing coverage at 70 plus. Also, targeted as well as universal programmes can increase efforts to reach out to ‘hidden’ older persons through, for instance, community-based registration (to minimise the barriers associated with travel to a registration office) and door-to-door campaigns (to identify those left behind).

In June, the findings from the project were presented by Professors Evandrou and Falkingham, along with Dr Aboderin, at a dissemination event in Nairobi, jointly organised with the NSPS of Kenya. The research team published the findings in CRA policy briefing, ‘The Kenyan Older Persons Cash Transfer Programme: Understanding the impact and experiences’.

The findings and recommendations were also published in a broader ESRC-DFID Research for Policy and Practice briefing on ‘Pensioner poverty’ by The Impact Initiative. It included this work alongside that of Professor Nicola Ansell of Brunel University on social cash transfers. It highlights the need to

Researchers from CPC and the University of Southampton’s Centre for Research on Ageing (CRA) have been working with colleagues at the African Population Health Research Centre (APHRC), Kenya, on an ESRC-DFID funded project examining the ‘Impacts of social pensions on multiple dimensions of poverty, subjective wellbeing and solidarity across generations’.

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recognise the considerable potential of older people and longer lives in being able to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To support this paper, Dr van der Wielen recently took part in a panel debate organised by The Impact Initiative as part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science. The event on ‘Ending pensioner poverty’ took place at the Libraria Bookshop, Hanbury Street, London.

With older people often forgotten or overlooked in the ‘money and savings’ conversation, this event saw researchers and NGOs brought together in a lively panel discussion. They debated the challenges for financial inclusion and proposed innovations for change.

Keetie Roelen from the Institute of Development Studies chaired the discussion, and Dr van der Wielen was joined on the panel by Nicola Ansell from Brunel University; Lily Parsey from the International Longevity Centre; and Florian Juergens from HelpAge International.

With older people often the most vulnerable to poverty, Dr van der Wielen spoke about the challenges of both targeted and universal social pensions. She called for less focus on the different modes, and more emphasis on reaching the most marginalised and poorest in the community. As supported by her research team’s findings, she highlighted that these are the people who get missed out by both.

This research is jointly supported by the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Department for International Development (DFID).

Further reading:
The Kenyan Older Persons Cash Transfer Programme: Understanding the impact and experiences (CRA policy briefing)
Unravelling the wider benefits of social pensions: Secondary beneficiaries of the older persons cash transfer program in the slums of Nairobi (Journal of Aging Studies)
Pensioner poverty (ESRC-DFID Research for Policy Practice briefing)
The generation game – is it fair?

How can we tackle the increasing ‘unfairness’ opening up between generations in the UK? We challenged a group of year ten students from The Henry Cort Community College, Hampshire, to play our ‘Generation game’ and find out. The event, which took place in November, was part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science. The Festival is an annual week-long celebration promoting UK social science research to new audiences.

The students took time out of their PPE revision to visit the University of Southampton’s Highfield Campus. They spent the morning discussing intergenerational exchange with CPC researchers using interactive games, talks and group activities.

The session aimed to bring CPC’s work on intergenerational exchange to a new audience of young people, asking them to think about how it affects the lives of everyone in our society. Through the activities, they considered the contract between young and old, and how we behave towards each other. The games were designed to show them how intergenerational exchange is practised within families, by policymakers and within the workplace.

We used the recent report from the House of Lords Select Committee on Intergenerational Fairness and Provision on ‘Tackling intergenerational unfairness’ (25 April 2019) as a basis to explore young people’s views. Professor Jane Falkingham OBE, Director of CPC, was Specialist Adviser to the Committee and ‘Exchange between the generations’ is a core strand of CPC’s research programme.

There is a perception that young people today have fewer opportunities and economic benefits than previous generations. At the same time, society is ageing, and people are working longer and retiring later.

These discussions are rife in the media, with ‘snowflake’ and ‘OK boomer’ used as derogatory terms from each side of the often imagined young vs old divide. Even avocado expenditure is used as a reason for younger people being unable to afford to buy their own homes.

We were curious to find out younger people’s thoughts and ideas about this, so we invited the group to take the lead on devising solutions and thinking about bringing the generations together.

We began the day by asking the students and their group leaders: what is a generation? Teaching Fellow, Yazhen Yang, used an interactive game to explore what the group understood of different generational groups and the stereotypes attributed to them.

First, the students were asked to match birth-year ranges under the headings: Silent generation; Baby boomers; Generation X; Millennials; and Generation Z. They were then invited to match some famous faces, facts and assumptions to each group. The students noticed many similarities in the assumptions attributed to each group. They concluded that, while grouping generations in this way can sometimes be helpful, creating artificial differences can be divisive.

The students then heard from some of CPC’s leading academics:
– Professor Athina Vlachantoni asked the students to reflect on the kinds of things that they currently do for family members and why. Do families support the generations within them because of love, or on the expectation of support in return? The students responded well to the theories of exchange based on altruism vs reciprocity. They also learnt how social scientists tackle issues like this in research.
– Professor Ann Berrington spoke about young people and their life choices and opportunities. How are young people’s lives affected by the generation into which they are born?

It is important to respect all generations, and the generations to come, because we will all have issues at some point that we might have to face together.

You don’t know what’s happening in other people’s lives, so must respect that some generations haven’t grown up in the way we have.
Ann asked the students to think about the opportunities they have as a young person today. Will their lives follow the same path as that of their parents and grandparents? They discussed the rise of egalitarianism, women in the workplace, changing family structures and access to wealth and education.

- Professor Corrado Giulietti spoke about economic changes, how researchers measure them and how these changes might have consequences across generations. From pensions systems to Brexit, students explored how young people's lives today are affected by the choices made by previous generations, and were invited to consider ways to ensure fairness across generations.

Armed with this new knowledge, the students were then tasked with solving real-world issues caused by generational divides.

- One group discussed housing with Dr Jason Hilton. More and more young people are living with parents, or “boomerang-ing” back to the family home after university or time out of the family home renting, unable to get onto the housing ladder. How can a local authority assist both younger and older people with their housing needs?

- Dr Min Qin helped her group in a discussion about pensions. People are living longer and having fewer children – meaning older generations will require more pension support while there are fewer young people paying taxes to provide this. What solutions could the students think of to ensure pension funds are fair and fit for all?

- Dr Niels Blom helped the students explore issues around flexible working. One in five people aged 45-65 provide informal care for family or friends. How can the workplace accommodate the needs of this broad demographic?

- The final group were assisted by Lisa Davison to think about TV licenses. In June 2019 the BBC announced that those over 75 may have to start paying a license fee to watch BBC programmes, cutting off many older persons from their window to the outside world. Over 75’s are a large percentage of BBC viewers, and many are increasingly wealthy. What solutions could the students suggest to help the BBC balance the budget, without disadvantaging the third of pensioners who live below the poverty line?

Teresa McGowan, who convened the session, said “All groups came up with excellent and novel solutions, helped by our CPC researchers, and contributed to a lively group discussion. It was encouraging to hear them engaging with nuanced and complex issues.”

Instead of blaming the other generations for problems, try to work together to solve them.

Further reading:
Informal caring in mid-life and its economic consequences (CPC Policy Briefing 46)
(Un)Affordable housing and the residential separation of age groups (CPC Policy Briefing 45)
Caught in the middle in mid-life: provision of care across multiple generations (Ageing and Society)
To downsize or not? Household changes and housing consumption among older adults in Scotland (CPC Policy Briefing 30)
The dynamics of social care and employment in mid-life (Ageing and Society)
Intergenerational flows of support between parents and adult children (Ageing and Society)
Intergenerational exchanges, children’s education and parents’ longevity in Europe (CPC Working Paper 77)
Experiences of Brexit: Can we prevent new social divides?

Migrants have, so far, been the most affected by the Brexit process. Polish nationals are the largest single EU nationality group in the UK, and their ongoing experiences and expectations will shape their social attitudes post-Brexit. These attitudes can signal the emergence of new social divisions.
Professor Derek McGhee, Professor Athina Vlachantoni, Dr Chris Moreh, Dr Giuseppe Troccoli and Ms Sadie Marks have been undertaking research to understand the attitudes and experiences of Polish nationals in the UK. For this study, they collected data through an online survey of the UK’s Polish community. The responses suggest that Poles are most worried about their future financial situation. These fears are expressed in two ways. On the one hand, the concerns of migrants are not the same as those of the British population, creating a sense of division. On the other hand, many of the worries expressed by migrants are the same as those of British citizens, highlighting a sense of shared experience and community.

Key findings of the study are:

- Polish migrants were mostly concerned about the economic and financial aspects of Brexit.
- Economic and financial concerns over Brexit can lead to new social divides, but can also be the basis for a strengthened sense of community.
- There is a risk that these feelings of ‘separation’ will become more deeply ingrained and will continue after Brexit.
- More explicit information from the government on economic rights (e.g. to healthcare and work), and some financial concessions (e.g. reducing naturalisation costs) could strengthen the feeling of community.

For policy-makers, being aware of the emotional factors posed by Brexit will be vital to achieving social cohesion post-Brexit. They must then devise policies which reinforce a sense of community. A government determined to be proactive in preventing new social divides could consider several policy measures based on these findings:

1. Eliminating or reducing the cost of naturalisation for those who hold settled status. This would signal acceptance in financial terms;
2. Being clear on the continuation of healthcare rights to those settled and their families would signal stability;
3. A targeted public information campaign regarding the economic rights of settled EU nationals would also indicate genuine determination towards community-building post-Brexit.

Registration and abstract submissions are now open for the 3rd International Conference on Migration and Mobilities (iMigMob), taking place from 8-10 July 2020.

This year’s event is being organised by CPC members Dr David McCollum and Dr Nissa Finney and hosted at the University of St Andrews.

This three-day conference will bring together scholars from a range of disciplines to discuss the latest research in migration and mobilities.

This conference will have four themes, which have been chosen to reflect key contemporary conceptual and policy concerns:

- Internal migration and urban change, keynote speaker: Professor Darren Smith, University of Loughborough
- Forced migration and bordering, keynote speaker: TBC
- Visualising mobilities, keynote speaker: Professor Alex Singleton, University of Liverpool
- European migration in turbulent politic, Keynote speaker: Dr Kate Botterill, University of Glasgow

The key closing dates for registration and submission are:

Abstract submission close: 14 February 2020
Registration close: 9 June 2020
(Early bird close: 14 March 2020)

Full details and submission information can be found at: www.imigmob2020.org/38418

Further reading:

This is an excerpt from CPC Policy Briefing (48) ‘Polish migrants’ experiences of Brexit: anticipating new social divides’ which you can read in full on the CPC website.

‘Stakeholder identities in Britain’s neoliberal ethical community: Polish narratives of earned citizenship in the context of the UK’s EU referendum’ (The British Journal of Sociology)
Helping policy by improving migration scenarios

Congratulations to Professor Jakub Bijak who has been successful in gaining over €3 million of funding for a European Horizon 2020 project ‘QuantMig: Quantifying migration scenarios for better policy’. Led by the University of Southampton, the project is a collaboration between seven European demographic and migration research institutions.

QuantMig aims to produce comprehensive, multi-perspective and robust quantitative migration scenarios to support various areas of European migration policy. The project will further the understanding of European migration flows and their key drivers in origin, destination and transit countries. Particular focus will be on the mobility of third-country nationals and the decision-making of migrants.

“I am delighted to have received funding for this project. We will be able to advance the methodology of scenario generation while being firmly grounded in cutting-edge developments in conceptualising, explaining, estimating and forecasting migration.”

Says Professor Bijak.

“The strong quantitative slant of the project will improve migration data and related analytical methods. It will offer an innovative assessment of their quality and uncertainty, in line with current European policy priorities.”

The three-year project is due to start in February 2020. It is a collaboration between the University of Southampton; Danube University Krems; the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis; Population Europe – Max Planck Gesellschaft; the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (KNAW); the Peace Research Institute Oslo; and the University of Oslo.
CPC member, Professor Peter W. F. Smith, has been elected as a Fellow of the British Academy. He is Professor of Social Statistics at the University of Southampton, and jointly coordinates the modelling strand of CPC.

Professor Smith has worked at the University of Southampton for nearly 30 years. He obtained a First Class BSc in Mathematics in 1986 from Lancaster University. He returned there to complete a PhD in Statistics in 1990, having received an MSc in Probability and Statistics with Distinction in 1987 from the University of Sheffield.

His research interests include developing new statistical methodology, including methods for handling non-response and for modelling longitudinal data, and applying sophisticated statistical methods to problems in demography, medicine and health sciences. Within CPC, he has collaborated on studies concerning migration forecasting methods and models, modelling and forecasting UK mortality, population forecasting, and databases of European migration flows.

Professor Smith said: “It is a great honour for me to have my work recognised in this way. However, this could not have happened without the support of my colleagues at the University of Southampton over the last 28 years. Therefore, I believe this is also a recognition of the excellent work undertaken in Social Statistics at the University.”

Each year, the British Academy elects to its Fellowship up to 80 outstanding UK-based scholars who have achieved academic distinction as reflected in scholarly research activity and publication.
Dr Jason Hilton has recently begun a lectureship within Social Statistics at the University of Southampton. Previously, he was a CPC Research Fellow, working on demographic estimation and forecasts. As we say farewell to Jason from the CPC team, he tells us more about his role at CPC and how his research career has developed.

“The Centre for Population Change has been fundamental to my development as an academic. I have been lucky enough to spend three years working at CPC as a Research Fellow, and the experience has widened my horizons enormously.

Working within CPC’s demographic forecasting and estimation strand, I have had the opportunity to learn from world-leading academics; to lead cutting-edge research; and to work with external bodies at the front-line of demographic policy-making, such as the European Asylum Support Agency and the Greater London Authority. I have also benefited from the wider environment at CPC, and especially from exposure to fascinating population-themed work conducted by colleagues from a variety of disciplines.

Before starting at the Centre, I was part of the Complex Systems Simulation Doctoral Training Centre at the University of Southampton, a multidisciplinary centre that provided an amazing background in programming and systems thinking. As my PhD came to an end, the position that came up at CPC seemed like a perfect fit; it allowed me to apply the demographic, statistical, and programming skills I had developed during my studies to the hugely important problems of how to forecast demographic change.

I am now taking up an exciting new position in the Department of Social Statistics and Demography as a lecturer in Social Statistics and Data Science. In this role I will be able to build on my experiences as a CPC Research Fellow to develop exciting new modules and pursue innovative research projects.”

Promotions success for Brienna Perelli-Harris

CPC member, Professor Brienna Perelli-Harris, has been promoted to the role of Professor of Demography at the University of Southampton.

Working within the fertility and family strand of CPC, her research investigates changes in the family in comparative perspective.

Professor Perelli-Harris works with researchers across Europe, the USA and Australia. She uses demographic techniques, advanced quantitative methods, in-depth qualitative approaches, and policy analysis to explore the underlying reasons for the development of new family formation behaviours.

She joined the University of Southampton in 2011. Previously she was a Research Scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock, Germany, and a post-doc at the University of Wisconsin, USA. She completed her PhD in Sociology at the University of Michigan in 2006.

She is Associate Editor for the European Journal of Population, a member of the scientific board of the UK Household Longitudinal Survey, a member of the Generations and Gender Programme Council of Partners, and Chair of the IUSSP Scientific Panel on New and Emerging Family Forms around the Globe. In 2016, the European Association for Population Studies awarded her the Dirk van de Kaa Award for Social Demography.
New starters

Mary Abed Al Ahad joined the University of St Andrews as a PhD student working with Hill Kulu. Mary is studying climate change, air pollution, and ethnic inequalities in health, based on Scottish longitudinal register data.

Joining CPC as a Senior Research Assistant, Shih Yi Chao is working on the project ‘Partnership, fertility, housing and labour market transitions across the life course’ with Ann Berrington and Brienna Perelli-Harris.

Peter Dorey joined the University of St Andrews as a PhD student working with Hill Kulu. Peter is examining spatial variations in fertility in Scotland.

Anne Gasteen joined the University of Stirling as a Research Fellow evaluating the linkage of administrative data to longitudinal studies of ageing within the CPC life course strand.

Armine Ghazaryan joined CPC as a Senior Research Assistant on the ‘Effects of immigration on health and wellbeing’ project, working with Corrado Giulietti and Jackie Wahba.

Rosie Seaman has joined the University of Stirling as a lecturer in Demography, and is working within CPC’s life course strand.

PhD student Stephanie Thieoff joined the University of Southampton working with Ann Berrington. Her research is about the diffusion of new fertility behaviour in England and Wales, as well as Germany, using spatial statistical techniques.

We welcomed Giuseppe Troccoli as a Research Fellow at the University of Southampton. He is working on the research project ‘Transnational healthcare and wellbeing among Polish migrants in the UK’ within the migration strand of CPC.

PhD congratulations

Maria-Herica La Valle passed her viva in June. Her thesis was titled ‘Life events and changes in health-related behaviours: An investigation using the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing’.

Nadine Thomas passed her viva in December. Nadine was an ESRC-CPC funded student examining ‘Carers time use: implications of personalisation and self-directed support’ under the supervision of Alison Boves and Alison Dawson at the University of Stirling.

Yazhen Yang also passed her viva in December. Yazhen is a member of the Centre for Research on Ageing supervised by Maria Evandrou and Athina Vlachantoni at the University of Southampton. The title of her project was ‘Intergenerational relations: The changing pattern of economic, social and psychological transfers in Chinese families’.
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