Changing Populations

Issue 4
June 2019

Tackling intergenerational unfairness
How to get to 100 – and tell people about it
Focus on: Fertility and family
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www.cpc.ac.uk
Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to this edition of Changing Populations. I am honoured and privileged to have taken on the role of Co-Director for CPC, which is one of the leading centres for population research in Europe and beyond.

On behalf of the Centre, I would like to thank very much my predecessor, Professor Elspeth Graham, who has provided a wealth of expertise and leadership to the centre. She has also advised me on how such institutions as CPC operate in a constantly changing landscape of higher education and research. You can read more about Elspeth and her career in her profile on page 18.

We have now started work under our new funding phase, announced by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) last year, which supports our work for another three years. We have promised to continue conducting cutting-edge research leading to publications in top social science journals, and simultaneously disseminate our research results to a wider public and policy-makers. The task is not easy as we know – it requires a good balance between dedication, concentration and intensive communication, but I am confident that ‘Wir schaffen das’.

Brexit is still a cause of great uncertainty, not only for the research environment, but for the many areas we study as a Centre. For example, we need to consider changes to migration legislation and its effects on family and population structure; career and education choices and how these affect childbearing decisions; longer lives and where people choose to live; how people access care and health services; and more accurate and innovative ways to predict and measure population movement.

So it is vital that we continue to study people and populations at what is a time of significant change for our society. I am excited to be stepping into a leadership role within the Centre, working closely with Professor Jane Falkingham as Director and my counterpart Professor Maria Evandrou, Co-Director in Southampton, as well as colleagues, the ESRC, and the institutions involved in CPC to continue to understand and improve our world.

In this edition, you will find details of some of our latest research and activities. Highlights include: a look back over some of our activities since 2009 (p.7) and the latest on our ‘How to get to 100’ exhibition and its visit to the US (p.12). You might also notice a focus on our fertility and family strand as we examine some of their latest findings, take a look at the career of our valued colleague Professor Elspeth Graham, and hear from one of our early career researchers in the PhD spotlight. I hope you enjoy finding out more about what we do, and will join me in wishing CPC a happy 10th birthday!

Professor Hill Kulu

CPC Co-Director (Scotland)
Facts, figures and news

2019 in brief

January 2019

Jackie Wahba was reappointed to the Home Office Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) until November 2020, and has also been nominated to become a member of the Academy of Europe.

Jonas Radl from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid gave the first CPC seminar of the year on the ‘Effects of the perceived sustainability of public pension systems on social policy preferences’ in Southampton. View the video on our YouTube channel.

Maria Evandrou and Jane Falkingham attended the 2nd China-India Population Ageing Forum meeting, organised by the Centre for Population, Health and Development in the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai; along with the Institute of Gerontology, Renmin University of China; and the Centre for Research on Ageing, University of Southampton. It was attended by 30 scholars along with representatives from NGOs such as HelpAge India.

Francesco Rampazzo presented his work with Agnese Vitali, Jakub Bijak, Ingmar Weber and Emilio Zagheni on ‘Combining the Annual Population Survey and Facebook advertising data for estimating the European migrant population in the UK’ at Popdays 2019, Bocconi University, Milan.

We published CPC Working Paper 91 on ‘Variations in domiciliary free personal care across Scottish Local Authorities’ by Elizabeth Lemmon and David Bell.

Athina Vlachantoni led on a UNECE Policy Brief ‘Innovative social services and supportive measures for independent living in advanced age’ now published on the UNECE website as Policy Brief 20.

Hill Kulu, Brienna Perelli-Harris, Ann Berrington, Nora Sanchez-Gassen, Paulina Galezewska and Jennifer Holland had papers which were in the top ten most downloaded articles of 2018 in Population and Development Review: ‘The rise in divorce and cohabitation: Is there a link?’ and ‘Fertility by birth order among the descendants of immigrants in selected European countries’.

February 2019

Teresa McGowan and Kim Lipscombe presented the ‘How to get to 100’ exhibition at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting, as part of the UKRI science showcase (see more on page 12).

Jeremiah Nieves gave a seminar at CPC Southampton on ‘Globally mapping human settlements in the absence of satellite imagery’.

Anna Schneider from Edinburgh Napier University gave a CPC seminar on ‘Exploring inequalities in end of life care with linked administrative data from Scotland’ at Ladywell House, Edinburgh.


Albert Sabater, Elspeth Graham and Nissa Finney’s work was published as an ESRC Evidence Briefing ‘House prices push old and young into separate neighbourhoods’.


March 2019

Melisa Sayli, University of York, visited Ann Berrington and Agnese Vitali in Southampton to continue work on UKHLS couple fertility intentions data.

Jane Falkingham, Maria Evandrou and Nele van der Wielen attended the ESRC-DFID cash transfers project workshop, Nairobi.

Teresa McGowan and Kim Lipscombe took the condensed ‘How to get to 100’ exhibition to the Southampton Science Festival’s Science and Engineering Festival’s Science and Engineering Day. Read more on page 12.

Nicolo Cavalli, University of Oxford, gave a CPC seminar on ‘Online footprints of family change: a study based on Twitter’, Southampton.

Hector Calvo-Pardo gave a seminar on ‘Informative social interactions’ at the Centre for Research in Economics and Engineering Festival’s Science and Engineering Day. Read more on page 12.

Brienna Perelli-Harris presented her paper ‘The economic situation of cohabiting and married fathers before and after the Great Recession in Europe’ at the International Sociological Association’s Research Committee spring meeting, Frankfurt.

Francesco Rampazzo gave a University of Southampton Social Sciences and Demography departmental seminar on ‘European migration to the United Kingdom in the light of Facebook data’.

Hill Kulu was awarded almost 2.5 million euros to study the lives of immigrants and their descendants in the UK, France, Germany and Sweden under the prestigious European Research Council (ERC) advanced grant.

Tom Clemens, University of Edinburgh, gave a CPC seminar on ‘Studying neighbourhood effects on pregnancy using administrative health records and quasi-experimental methods’ at Ladywell House, Edinburgh.

Alison Bowes, Alison Dawson and Rosalie Ashworth had their article ‘Time for care: exploring time use by carers of older people’ published in Ageing & Society.

Brienna Perelli-Harris and colleagues had their article ‘Mind the “happiness” gap: the relationship between cohabitation, marriage, and subjective well-being in Australia, the UK, Germany and Norway’ accepted in Demography.

Jackie Wahba and colleagues had their paper ‘The impact of refuges on employment and wages in Jordan’ accepted by the Journal of Development Economics.

Jonathan Forster gave a talk at the meeting ‘How should pension liabilities be valued? Risk aversion and demographic uncertainty’ held at the Royal Society, London.

Alison Bowes welcomed Graham Simpson MSP, the Scottish Conservatives Spokesperson for Housing and Communities, to the University of Stirling Faculty of Social Sciences to hear how its housing and ageing research is helping to stimulate debate on some of Scotland’s long-term challenges.

April 2019

Corrado Giulietti gave a CPC seminar on ‘Immigration and its effect on the local area’ in Southampton.

Oliver Reinhardt, University of Rostock, visited CPC Southampton to work with Jakub Bijak.

Ann Berrington, Jakub Bijak, Nicholas Campisi, Jane Falkingham, Katie Heap, Jason Hilton, Brienna Perelli-Harris, Francesco Rampazzo and Hein Vaisanen had papers at the Population Association of America (PAA) annual meeting, Austin, Texas.
Ann Berrington was appointed to the ESRC Strategic Advisory Network (SAN).

Brienna Perelli-Harris and Niels Blom met with members of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), London.

David Bell gave evidence as a member of the Scottish Expert Advisory Group on Migration to the Immigration Inquiry, discussing the problems facing the Scottish economy if UK Government migration proposals are implemented.

The 5th Workshop on the Economics of Migration, organised by CPC and LISER, saw 27 PhD students and early-stage researchers sharing their work, with 14 presentations given to participants from twelve countries.

Athina Vlachantoni hosted a dissemination event, in collaboration with AgeUK, for the research project ‘Extending our understanding of informal care provision in mid-life in the UK by linking qualitative and quantitative data in the National Child Development Study’, London. We published CPC Policy Briefings 46 and 47 to accompany the event: ‘Informal caring in mid-life and its economic consequences’ and ‘Social participation and health outcomes among carers in Great Britain’.

Research by Agnese Vitali, Helen Kowalewska, Albert Sabater, Nissa Finney, Elspeth Graham, Chris Moreh and Derek McGhee was presented at the BSA annual conference, Glasgow Caledonian University.

Jane Falkingham, in her role as Specialist Adviser to The House of Lords Select Committee on Intergenerational Fairness and Provision, chaired the launch event for their report on ‘Tackling intergenerational unfairness’. Read more on page 10.

Julie Ramsay and Maria Kaye-Bardgett from the National Records of Scotland (NRS) gave a CPC seminar on ‘How can the recent stalling of life expectancy gains in Scotland be best explained?’ at Ladywell House, Edinburgh.


May 2019

Daniele Vignoli gave a CPC seminar on ‘Fertility under fundamental uncertainty’ and Nicholas Campsi presented a CPC seminar on ‘Subnational variation and determinants of European fertility’ in Southampton.

Jakub Bijak met with members of the DWP in Southampton, and Ann Berrington met with the ONS fertility and family demography team to discuss population projections.

Alexandra-Andreea Ciritel presented the paper ‘Looking inside the bedroom: Does sexual satisfaction matter in living apart to together relationship transitions?’ at the 6th pairfam International User Conference, Cologne.

Heini Vaisanen took part in a research sharing workshop on ‘Human rights, reproduction and maternal health’ at the University of Southampton.

Ann Berrington, Maria Evandrou, Corrado Giulietti, Traute Meyer, Brienna Perelli-Harris and Athina Vlachantoni gave talks at the DWP Areas of Research Interest (ARI) workshop at the University of Southampton. DWP colleagues listened to our research, then discussed ways of working together to ensure that scientific evidence is used for policy development and decision-making.

Jane Falkingham gave the keynote speech on ‘Life course sensitive policy’ at the 15th China Gerontology annual conference, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Chengdu.

Katy Keenan gave a CPC Brown Bag seminar on ‘Outcomes of only children across the life course: analysis using Swedish registry data’ at Ladywell House, Edinburgh.

Agnese Vitali’s work with Romina Fraboni was published in the Journal of Marriage and Family: ‘Gender differences in couples’ matrimonial property regime in Italy’.

Jackie Wahba was an author on the paper ‘International migration as a driver of political and social change: evidence from Morocco’ published online in the Journal of Population Economics.

Francesca Fiori, Elspeth Graham and Zhiqiang Feng had their article ‘Inequalities in the transition to homeownership among young people in Scotland’ published in Housing Studies.

Coming up:

Hill Kulu, Ann Berrington, Brienna Perelli-Harris and Lydia Palumbo will be presenting their research at the Understanding Society Conference, alongside Kim Lipscombe who will be showcasing CPC’s work at the CPC exhibition stand, University of Essex, 2-4 July 2019 (further details on page 17).

To keep up-to-date with our latest news, events and publications, visit www.cpc.ac.uk and follow us on Twitter @CPCpopulation and Facebook.

October 2018 – May 2019

PRESENTED

51 PAPERS

PARTICIPATED IN

85 EVENTS

IN

21 CITIES

IN

13 COUNTRIES
# CPC media highlights 2019

## January

A feature article on ‘Residential age segregation’ by Albert Sabater, Elspeth Graham and Nissa Finney was published in the winter 2018 issue of ESRC Society Now magazine.

David Bell's article ‘Time to take action on these tax anomalies’ was published in The Times and he was quoted in The Scotsman.

Jane Falkingham was quoted in the article ‘By 2025, both India and China will have higher proportion of those over 85 years’, The Indian Express.

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## February

Albert Sabater, Elspeth Graham and Nissa Finney’s work on ‘The age divide’ was published on ESRC news.

Teresa McGowan wrote a blog post ‘How to live to 100 and tell people about it!’ for the ESRC blog and also featured on the University of Southampton news blog.


Niels Blom passed his PhD, and findings from his dissertation ‘Partner relationship quality under pressing work conditions: Longitudinal and cross-national investigations’ were widely reported in various media outlets in the Netherlands and Belgium, including: de Volkskrant, Trouw, Reformatorisch Dagblad and Nieuwsblad with headlines such as ‘Couples happier if man is breadwinner’.

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## March

Chris Moreh, Athina Vlachantoni and Derek McGhee had a blog post ‘Britain’s NHS is not that great, say EU migrants’ published by The Conversation. It was the University of Southampton’s top read article in The Conversation for March 2019. Read more about this research on page 09.

David Bell was quoted in the article ‘Why the road to full employment is lined with food banks’, The Guardian.

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## April

Agnese Vitali and Helen Kowalewska’s work on female breadwinners was reported in articles by The Independent, workingmums, BSA Everyday Society and Phys.org. Find out more about this research on page 14.

Athina Vlachantoni, Chris Moreh and Derek McGhee had their article ‘EU migrants won’t take advantage of the NHS because they don’t want it’ published in The Independent. More on this on page 09.

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## May

Albert Sabater’s article ‘The nexus between housing (un)affordability and residential age segregation’ was published on the Population Geography blog.

Athina Vlachantoni was quoted in the article ‘Study Gerontology to understand age-related issues’, Times of India.

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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

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### October 2018 – May 2019

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CPC celebrates 10 years

You may have heard that here at CPC we are celebrating our 10th anniversary. Since 2009, CPC researchers have investigated some of the most critical questions about our population. We will be hosting a celebration reception at this year’s British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) conference in Cardiff, 9-11 September 2019. If you are attending, come along to the poster session to raise a glass with us and hear more about our work past, present and future. Ahead of September, we take a look back at some of the highlights and achievements of the last 10 years.

Partnership working
CPC has been working with its partners ONS and NRS to improve data collection and analysis. For example, CPC’s former Co-Director, Professor Elspeth Graham, was a regular contributor on household changes to the NRS Registrar General’s Annual Review of Trends on Scotland’s Population, and Professor Ann Berrington is an advisor to ONS. CPC members meet regularly with members of the ONS Centre for Ageing and Demography and Centre for International Migration to discuss collaborative research. In Scotland our researchers are based within the NRS offices making collaborative exchange part of everyday working.

In 2012, ONS commissioned Professor Jakub Bijak to review the national population projections. They then incorporated his findings and recommendations in future work. Our members also prepared the ONS English Life Tables in 2017. The research team’s article in the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society (Series A) on ‘Smoothing mortality data: the English Life Tables 2010-2012’ was one of the most downloaded articles in 2017.

Working with ONS and Universities UK, we have been able to see what international students choose to do after graduation. Historically it has been difficult to track students after graduation but through this collaboration we were able to collect new data.

Data sharing
Our members have constructed shared databases which have been vital to progressing research. These include:

- The General Household Survey (GHS) database of fertility, marriage and cohabitation
- Created to facilitate analysis of changing dynamics of childbearing and partnership.
- Integrated Modelling of European Migration (IMEM) Database
  Provides tables of migration flows among 31 countries in the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA), as well as to and from the rest of the world.
- Population Pyramids database: The dynamics of population structures
  Allows investigation of population pyramids from over 90 countries between the years 1780 to 2011.

Working with policy makers
We have worked with policy makers like the RT Hon David Willetts MP who visited CPC to discuss our research and share his intergenerational fairness and exchange work. His latest visit was to give the University of Southampton Distinguished Lecture in October 2018.

Last year, the House of Lords Intergenerational Fairness and Provision Committee appointed Professor Jane Falkingham as their Specialist Advisor. Others, including Professor Elspeth Graham, Professor Athina Vlachantoni and Professor David Bell, have given evidence to government select committees in both Westminster and Holyrood. Indeed, Professor Bell, alongside Professor Hill Kulu, is also a member of the Expert and Advisory group on Migration and Population for the Scottish Government, and Professor Jackie Wahba is a member of the UK Home Office Migration Advisory Committee.

In 2017, Professor Jakub Bijak and Professor Peter Smith contributed to a national consultation for the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) early warning system for asylum-related migration. The previous year, Professor Ann Berrington was a member of a guideline committee to inform the 2016 Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Green Paper on life course inequalities and social justice.

We hosted a policy roundtable event ’Tales of Migration’ at the Palace of Westminster in 2017. It was a collaboration with the University of Southampton’s Public Policy team, the ESRC UK in a Changing Europe and the Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP. Discussions centred on citizenship, benefits and identity in Brexit Britain. Our researchers recorded a video series on migration to go with the event which is still available on our YouTube channel.

In the lead up to the EU Referendum, our researchers were investigating the EU population in the UK as part of the ESRC UK in a Changing Europe project. Of particular interest were attitudes to changes and welfare entitlement. The work on migrants’ attitudes continues - read more about how they view healthcare in the UK on page 09.

During the 2014 Scottish independence referendum, Professor David Bell was awarded an ESRC Senior Fellowship to provide evidence on fiscal aspects of the referendum. We are continuing to study how Brexit migration policies and rhetoric are affecting Scottish interests. Twenty representatives from key stakeholder organisations attended a roundtable event in Edinburgh, hosted by Dr David McCollum. They discussed the important economic, demographic and cultural benefits of international students in Scotland, with the findings and recommendations published on the UK in a Changing Europe blog.
Engagement
There have been over 225 CPC seminars in Southampton and Edinburgh since 2009. We have welcomed experts in demography, economics, geography, gerontology, sociology, social policy & social statistics, with recent seminars available on our YouTube channel.

CPC members have been prolific at sharing their work at academic conferences across the world. They have contributed over 1500 papers to the conferences of the British Society for Population Studies, the European Association for Population Studies, the Population Association of America and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, to name but a few.

Back in 2011, the landmark of the global population reaching 7 billion saw us organise events for the ESRC Festival of Social Science. We engaged the public, schools and policy makers. It included a collaboration with artists from the Winchester School of Art for a Solent Showcase art exhibition. In another arts collaboration, CPC members worked with the Centre for Research on Ageing, Fevered Sleep and the Young Vic on a theatre production called On Ageing, exploring ageing over the life course.

Furthering our Brexit research, we hosted a ‘Sociology of Brexit’ seminar series. We also tackled the truths and misconceptions around the EU Referendum in the 2017 University of Southampton Research Roadshow.

In late 2018, Professors Jackie Wahba, Jakub Bijak and Jane Falkingham took part in the University of Southampton Public Lecture Series on population and migration. The series showcased the impact of our research to academics, partners, funders & influencers.

One of our biggest engagement activities has been the “How to get to 100 – and enjoy it!” project. In 2014/15, we worked with the Max Planck Institute of Demographic Research and Population Europe to design a population exhibition. We then took it to Southampton, London, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow and Belfast. It culminated in a feature on BBC Breakfast from Salford Quays. We introduced members of the public, school groups and policy makers to the themes of population change. This included what these changes mean for our lives and how well and long we live. The activities, materials and app are still available online.

In 2016, we worked with Population Europe to take “How to get to 100” to the European Parliament. There was a special opening event where research, policy and civil experts discussed population ageing in Europe.

The exhibition has since been developed and used in different formats by other Population Europe members across Europe. We even took a condensed version to Washington DC as part of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) showcase in February 2019. You can read more about this event and how the exhibition continues to develop on page 12.

Publications
Centre members have produced around 900 research publications. These include over 450 articles in peer reviewed journals and 47 reports for a range of governmental bodies. The Centre has self-published 47 Policy Briefings and 91 Working Papers. In total, people have downloaded these papers over 600,000 times. The most downloaded papers cover the key topics of migration, unemployment, Scotland, welfare, employers, living arrangements and young adults.

International work
Our work extends beyond the UK and Europe. CPC’s research explores the wellbeing of older people in an increasingly globalising world, including how migration, health and social networks affect them. For example, CPC Co-Director Professor Maria Evandrou leads the Global Ageing and Long-term Care Network (GALNet). The network brings together academics, policy makers and practitioners. They are able to share experiences and best practice from different countries to design care services.

Professor Evandrou comments: “Understanding global population ageing and what this means for long-term care has never been more urgent. Today there are 900 million individuals aged 60 and over, of whom two-thirds of individuals live in the developing world. By 2050 we expect this to more than double to over 2 billion. Eighty percent of these will be living in less developed countries, places that currently lack comprehensive systems of social protection.”

Professor Maria Evandrou
**No thanks, NHS**

In 2018, the ESRC awarded us further funding to continue CPC research until 2022. As an exciting new funding phase begins, we take a look at one of the new projects progressing our research agenda.

Professor Athina Vlachantoni, Professor Derek McGhee and Dr Chris Moreh will be continuing their work on migrants’ health and wellbeing. The project will use quantitative and qualitative methods to map transnational attitudes to healthcare during the Brexit transitional period. It will assess how EU migrants’ – as well as UK citizens’ – access to transnational healthcare is likely to change in the future.

The research team will collect primary qualitative data from five locations across the UK. They will analyse it alongside secondary data from the UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS) and an online survey created by CPC. This project will provide further context for the research team’s previous findings.

Those findings were recently published as articles on The Conversation and in The Independent. The researchers discussed the pride in the UK surrounding the NHS, and the fear that EU migrants take advantage of the universal healthcare system. But the research findings tell a different story; the team have found that EU patients aren’t that impressed with the NHS anyway. Migrants often prefer to have medical treatment in their home country, where they think the standard of healthcare is higher than in the UK. The key findings from this research show that:

- Migrants who are more integrated into British society are significantly more likely to prefer medical treatment in the UK, but not necessarily because of perceived higher quality standards.

- Low cost and convenience of medical treatment in the UK were popular reasons for migrants preferring treatment in the UK.

Dr Moreh tells us more: “Our research shows that while the NHS may be a national treasure to British people, EU migrants would rather be treated in their countries of origin. As a 38-year-old woman from Germany put it: ‘Sorry, NHS? No thanks.’ And the reasons for rejecting the NHS? A 25-year-old man from the Netherlands says it’s because the ‘NHS is slow and the medical care mediocre’. Or, at least, it ‘is rather poor compared to healthcare in my country,’ explains a 45-year-old woman from Germany.”

Dr Moreh continues: “But why should British people worry about what EU migrants think of their health service? What EU migrants think and choose is important because they are familiar with at least two European healthcare systems. They have the information and personal experience that most British citizens do not. There is a lot to be learnt from them.”

**Informing policy: what does a successful immigration policy look like?**

CPC will be co-hosting a one-day conference in the UK Parliament on 22 October 2019. The event will explore the policy challenges posed by migration, especially its implications for local communities and impact on recent and future demographic trends. It will bring together policymakers, scientists, third sector representatives and experts from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Further information and bookings will be made available closer to the event, so keep an eye on our website cpc.ac.uk, Twitter @CPCpopulation and Facebook accounts if you are interested in attending.
Tackling intergenerational unfairness

Following on from our report on ‘Relations between the young and old’ in the November 2018 newsletter, CPC Director, Professor Jane Falkingham OBE, was in London on 25 April to chair a special seminar. The event marked the launch of the report on ‘Tackling intergenerational unfairness’ by the House of Lords Select Committee on Intergenerational Fairness and Provision.

Professor Falkingham has been the specialist adviser to the Committee since it was appointed on 9 May 2018. The Committee’s broad remit has been “to consider the long-term implications of government policy on intergenerational fairness and provision,” considering written and oral evidence from witnesses in a range of sectors including government, academia, business, media and charity. These included CPC members Professor Athina Vlachantoni and Professor Elspeth Graham.

The launch event at the British Academy brought together members of the Committee, as well as experts and report witnesses, to talk about the findings of the report. They also took part in a panel discussion with attendees. Introduced and chaired by Professor Falkingham, speakers included:

– The Lord True CBE, Chair of the Committee
– Professor Sarah Harper CBE, Professor of Gerontology at the University of Oxford, a Fellow at University College and the Founding Director of the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing
– Lewis Addlington-Lee, Deputy Chair, British Youth Council
– The Rt Hon. The Lord David Willetts, Executive Chair of the Resolution Foundation

Echoing the ongoing work of CPC and our ‘Exchange between the generations’ research strand, the report makes recommendations for how governments can start to tackle the increasing ‘unfairness’ opening up between generations in the UK. There is a perception that young people have fewer opportunities and economic benefits than previous generations. At the same time, society is ageing, and people are working longer and retiring later.

The Committee has reached conclusions covering six main areas:

1) Lack of political will has meant that data is not collected and published on generational differences in income wealth, or differing effects of policy on different generations.

2) The failure of successive governments to ensure a sufficient supply of affordable housing has meant that many younger people struggle to secure affordable housing.

3) We are living longer, which means we will work for longer. All generations will need support in learning throughout their life and adapting to a rapidly changing labour market.

4) Younger generations are facing a labour market characterised by weak pay progression and insecurity. As people lead longer working lives, initiatives such as flexible working, mid-life career reviews and programmes to tackle ageism will become important.

5) Active communities have a key role to play in meeting generational challenges.

6) Changes are necessary to the current tax and benefit system, to rebalance generational fairness.

Alongside this report, within CPC our researchers have been examining support across the generations, investigating how parents and children care for each other and how younger and older people live together.

Professor Falkingham comments: “I am delighted to have been a specialist adviser to the House of Lords Select Committee on Intergenerational Fairness and Provision over the last year, bringing to light vital research findings and working towards a solution that will allow governments to plan policies that benefit all generations, both now and in the future. I hope that the publication of the Committee’s report will ensure that we continue to examine how different generations live together or apart, and the social, financial and housing dimensions of these decisions. The policy implications of the report need to be considered across all government and planning bodies to strengthen intergenerational ties and improve wellbeing across generations.”

The full report ‘Tackling intergenerational unfairness’ is available online. You can also follow updates on Twitter #LordsIFPReport and @LordsIntergen

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)
Our long-standing collaboration with the Population Europe Network and the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research has seen our shared exhibition, ‘How to get to 100 – and enjoy it’, grow and adapt to reach new audiences. The exhibit asks people to explore how our early years, lifestyle, work and where we live can affect our lifespan, as well as discussing other major demographic themes such as migration.

In conjunction with the Population Europe network, CPC has brought the exhibition to the UK, the European Parliament and now the US. As one of only five UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) investments chosen to represent Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the activities were showcased in Washington DC for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting on 14-17 February 2019. The event attracted around 10,000 scientific and business professionals, school groups and members of the public.

A major part of our work has been tailoring content for regional audiences. Our latest activities build on the original app design, and include two new interactive games.

'A Life Journey' interactive app
The app “A Life Journey” contains interactive quizzes and games, and the latest demographic research from experts across Europe.

Population pyramid Lego activity
A population pyramid is a graph showing how many men and women of different age groups are in a population. This activity encourages visitors to build their own Lego population pyramids. As they construct their pyramids, our researchers are on-hand to discuss visitors’ decisions about who is in their hypothetical population and what it means for society.

‘How do we think about ageing?’ data game
This game is a user-created chart that captures demographic and opinion data from our visitors. We use it as a tool to visualise the type of data we collect and use in social sciences.

These activities are the starting point for meaningful engagement with the public. We have found visitors to be forthcoming in asking insightful questions on topics from life expectancy to migration.
Teresa McGowan, CPC’s Research Manager, explains how we have been using the exhibition to harness people’s inquisitiveness and get them talking and thinking about population change: “The exhibition is a tool to open up conversations between researchers and the public. By having eye-catching activities that people can participate in, we draw them into a discussion and deepen their understanding of population issues. In turn, people can use the free take-home app as a talking point with others. Our evaluation has shown that visitors leave the exhibition with a better understanding of demographic issues and a curiosity to find out more in the future.”

CPC’s Events Administrator, Kim Lipscombe, was pivotal in designing the latest activities for the exhibition. She was also on-hand to help visitors at each event. Here, she talks about the impact of the activity:

“We can track success in various ways. One way is to ask people how they might use the information we have shared with them. We can also look at our website and social media metrics to see if visitors followed up their visit with some online reading. My personal barometer of success is gaining satisfaction from engaging the public in scientific research, hearing their questions and seeing how excited they are to take part in our activities. They say mimicry is the highest form of flattery, so I was very happy when a school whose teacher visited our exhibit tweeted us a picture of their classroom activity using Lego population pyramids. We worked hard to ensure our activities were suitable for all ages, so it was great to see Dr Natalie Hengstebeck, Sanford School of Public Policy, describe our stand at AAAS as the ‘best conference exhibit [they’ve] ever seen’. High praise indeed!

Attending AAAS also gave us an opportunity to strengthen our collaborative partnerships. Emily Lines of Population Europe worked with us on the exhibition stand, and we were all invited to the UKRI VIP evening reception. It was a great opportunity to network with other collaborators.

The energy and engagement from the visitors at these events was a delight, the positive reception encourages us to find new ways to engage with the people our research is for and about."

Closer to home, we took the exhibition to the annual Science and Engineering Day as part of the Southampton Science and Engineering Festival (SOTSEF). The event attracted around 5,000 visitors of all ages who came to enjoy the STEM-based activities.

Download the app and find out more on the project at: www.liveto100.cpc.ac.uk and see photos and tweets from AAAS in our Twitter moment: twitter.com/i/moments/1098624298875539457
Focus on: Fertility and family

To help inform policy that can better support people, at CPC we are committed to continuing our research into the reasons for people entering relationships, splitting up or having children.

“Family life is a topic that affects everyone, and our research is important for understanding how families are changing in the UK and around the world.”

In the next phase of CPC, Professor Ann Berrington and Dr Brienna Perelli-Harris will continue to explore partnership formation, dissolution and childbearing. They will use the UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS), and other secondary data, to examine partnership dynamics and housing and labour market transitions across the lifecourse. The work will focus on the UK but will reflect on the changing nature of partnerships within Europe and the US.

Professor Hill Kulu, CPC’s new Co-Director, has been awarded almost 2.5 million euros to study the lives of immigrants and their descendants in the UK, France, Germany and Sweden. The project, funded by the European Research Council (ERC), is called ‘Understanding life trajectories of immigrants and their descendants in Europe and projecting future trends’ (MIGRANTLIFE). It will investigate how employment, housing and family trajectories evolve and interact in the lives of immigrants and their descendants. It will also uncover how societal factors, early life and critical transitions shape their life histories. The five-year study will project their future life trajectories using innovative computer simulation techniques, considering the main life domains and diversity between and within immigrant groups.

In other grant successes, the ESRC has recently awarded a responsive mode grant for “Understanding recent fertility trends in the UK and improving methodologies for fertility forecasting” to Professors Kulu, Berrington, Bijak, Falkingham, Graham and Dodd. The project will investigate the significant fluctuations in fertility levels in the UK in the last two decades and their causes, and will develop improved methodologies for fertility forecasting. Dr Perelli-Harris has also secured Secondary Data Analysis Initiative (SDAI) funding to study relationship quality and family transitions. Using data from Understanding Society, this project will investigate multiple dimensions of relationship quality measures and how these differ by partnership type and gender. It will also examine indicators of disadvantage such as financial strain and long-term unemployment.

Professor Berrington, who coordinates the CPC fertility and family strand, comments: “Family life is a topic that affects everyone, and our research is important for understanding how families are changing in the UK and around the world. So far, we have examined the rise and consequences of people living together without being married, the rise of people choosing to split up, as well as choosing to have children outside of marriage. We have discovered that more women are becoming the main earners in families across Europe. And we have uncovered relationship and childbearing trends in the UK and Europe during the economic recession.”
Young adults’ expectations for living together, marriage and parenthood

Professor Berrington has been exploring whether young people’s expectations of living together, marriage and parenthood differ by ethnic group, and whether the expectations of the UK second generation are becoming similar to those of their white British counterparts.

The research, using the Understanding Society household survey, has investigated the expectations of young adults aged 16-21 and explores whether family transitions among descendants of post second-world-war immigrants are converging towards those of white British young adults.

Findings show that:

– expectations for marriage and parenthood are unanimously high, but there is greater uncertainty among white British and black Caribbean adolescents as to what age they will be when it happens;

– South Asians, particularly second-generation Bangladeshi and Pakistani adolescents, have significantly lower expectations that they will cohabit; and

– ethnic group differences remain when religiosity, parental background and individual characteristics are taken into account.

Professor Berrington says: “The research shows that marriage is being foregone by increasing numbers of especially white British and black Caribbeans, despite there being very few young people who don’t expect to marry. Further investigation is required to identify what causes them to change their mind as they grow older, or the barriers which prevent them from marrying.”

She continues: “In the future, we might expect to see a fall in family size of Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups, where it seems that high aspirations for education mean they are postponing their entry into family formation. Interestingly, young second generation Indian men and women are more likely to expect to cohabit in the future than are Pakistani or Bangladeshis. Further research is required to find reasons for this difference, but they are likely to include religious beliefs and traditional marriage rules.”
CPC has published Briefing Paper 44 ‘UK second generation young adults’ expectations for living together, marriage and parenthood’ to accompany the full paper, which gives an overview of the research.

The full journal article, entitled ‘Expectations for family transitions in young adulthood among the UK second generation’, features in the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies Special Issue ‘Ethnic diversity in the UK: new opportunities and changing constraints’.

Is living together as good for your health as marriage?
A study by Dr Brienna Perelli-Harris and co-authors has found that it is not just married couples that benefit from being together; couples living together in long-term relationships seem to be just as healthy as those that are married.

The study compared data from five countries: the US, UK, Australia, Germany and Norway. In these countries, an increasing number of couples choose to live together for extended periods of time without marrying. The findings suggest that, for those in mid-life (aged 40-49), there is a positive link between living in a partnership and health.

Partnerships seem to be important for both men and women’s health, but other aspects of people’s lives contribute to how they rate their health – and whether they feel that they benefit from living with a partner.

For example, previous research has suggested that in the UK and US, living together without being married is associated with disadvantage and poverty. Welfare policies often play a part in this; low benefits coupled with low income can make it more difficult for individuals to feel financially secure enough to get married.

In contrast to the US and UK, respondents in Australia, Norway, and Germany rate their health at similar levels regardless of whether they are cohabiting or married in mid-life. Australia legally recognises cohabiting partnerships, which likely follows a general social acceptance where fewer people feel the need to marry. Norway has a long history of cohabitation without any current stigma attached and is moving towards legally equalising cohabitation and marriage.

“Significant differences between cohabitation and marriage are only evident in the US and the UK, however they disappear when economic background is taken into account,” concludes Dr Perelli-Harris. “The findings suggest that cohabitation and marriage are similar to each other, which challenges the assumption that only marriage is beneficial for health.”


Households where the woman is the sole earner are significantly poorer
The Independent recently reported CPC fertility and family research findings in the article: ‘UK households where women are sole earner significantly poorer than in US and Western Europe’. The term ‘female breadwinner’ conjures images of corporate businesswomen who are bucking traditional gender norms. But high-earning women make up only a small proportion of female breadwinners.
The majority tend to work fewer hours than male breadwinners, and are less likely to be in managerial positions.

The ESRC research project ‘Female-Breadwinner Families in Europe’ has been shedding light on the economic characteristics of female-breadwinner couples using data from the Luxembourg Income Study.

CPC’s Dr Agnese Vitali and Dr Helen Kowalewska analysed survey data on 171,697 people in the United States, Australia, Canada and 17 European countries, examining working households containing two heterosexual cohabiting spouses or partners aged 18-65. They found stark economic differences between couples in different countries.

British households where women are the sole earners average $3,000 (USD) less disposable income compared to a male sole earner. This is similar to results for the majority of countries in Southern and Eastern Europe.

Dr Kowalewska recently presented this new research at the British Sociological Association’s annual conference in Glasgow:

“Our findings shed doubt on popular depictions of female breadwinners as high-earning, empowered women — instead they are often lower-educated,” Dr Kowalewska told the conference.

“Rather than reflecting women’s empowerment or greater gender equity, female breadwinners are in this position by default, forced to take up employment when their partner loses his job.”

Yet, female breadwinners earning less than male counterparts is not a universal norm. In Western Europe, the US, Canada and Australia, households with women as the sole breadwinners typically earned more than those with just the men in employment, with only Germany and Norway an exception.

Dr Kowalewska explains: “One reason why the UK bucks the trend for Western Europe is that women who are the sole breadwinners work significantly fewer hours, an average of 34 a week, compared with sole men breadwinners who work 43. They are also less likely to be in managerial or professional occupations – 29% – compared with 26% for men sole breadwinners.”

She continues: “The result for the UK means that families where women are the only wage earner are, on average, poorer than other family types. We therefore encourage social policy analysis to pay greater attention to female breadwinners, who may be disproportionately impacted by modern day social risks such as in-work poverty, and work/care conflicts.”

You can read more on Dr Vitali’s work in this area in the Journal of Marriage and Family ‘Gender Differences in Couples’ Matrimonial Property Regime in Italy’.

CPC at the Understanding Society conference

From 2-4 July, members from CPC’s fertility and family strand will be presenting their work at the Understanding Society Scientific Conference. Held at the University of Essex, the conference provides an international forum to exchange research based on longitudinal household panel studies. We will also have a CPC exhibition stand at the conference. If you are there, come along to pick up relevant publications and find out more about our work using data from Understanding Society, the British Household Panel Survey and other household panel studies.

Hill Kulu
Plenary: family dynamics among immigrants and their descendants in Europe

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

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

Ann Berrington
The transition to parenthood among Britain’s ‘generation rent’: examining the changing role of housing tenure
In early 2019, Professor Elspeth Graham stepped down from her role as CPC Co-Director. Professor Graham was an academic trailblazer, having been the first woman to be made a Professor of Geography at the University of St Andrews, Scotland. We take a look back over a distinguished career and her contribution to CPC over the last ten years.

Professor Graham’s most recent positions have been as Professor in Geography at the University of St Andrews and Co-Director of the ESRC Centre for Population Change. Her research interests are population and health with a particular focus on: issues related to low fertility in Europe; social deprivation, migration and geographies of health; fertility and family in Singapore; and housing and demography.

She completed her PhD in 1978 at the University of Durham, with her thesis, ‘On the nature and limits of explanation in urban geography’. Her PhD work won the International Geographical Union (IGU) Population Geography Trust Competition in 1976, and she presented a paper at the 23rd Congress of the International Geographical Union in Moscow.

Her work has been published in more than 70 journal papers and book chapters, as well as two books, covering geography, demography, environmental studies, history, economics, family studies, social sciences, psychology and sociology.

Elspeth took up the role of CPC Co-Director in 2010 when Professor Paul Boyle left CPC to become the Chief Executive of the ESRC. Working closely with CPC Director Professor Jane Falkingham and Professor Maria Evandrou as Co-Director, Elspeth led the Scottish consortium, as well as coordinating the fertility and family strand alongside Professor Ann Berrington. She has led or collaborated on the following CPC projects:

- Fertility in the context of economic recession and international migration: a study of Italy, Spain and the UK
- Growing up and growing old in Scotland: housing transitions and changing living arrangements for young and older adults
- Local cultures of fertility
- Residential age segregation in Britain
- Children’s educational attainment and the longevity of parents: The impact of upward intergenerational health transfers
- Moving on and moving up: the implications of socio-spatial mobility for partnership and fertility

Findings from her CPC research have shown that people’s childbearing behaviour usually mirrors the childbearing behaviours of others in the area they live. Alongside her colleagues, her work has been uncovering how economic recession and international migration are affecting parenting decisions and family life, as well examining the health benefits for parents of having well-educated children. Her research collaboration with Dr Albert Sabater and Dr Nissa Finney has paved the way for investigating housing inequalities between the young and old, with suggestions that the housing crisis in the UK is more about where different generations live than about housing supply.

Outside of CPC, Professor Graham is continuing her research work in Southeast Asia. Along with Dr Lucy Jordan (also a former CPC member), Dr Aree Jampaklay and Professor Brenda Yeoh, she has recently been awarded HK$1.3 million by the Hong Kong Research Grants Council to build a unique longitudinal dataset. The aim is to trace and re-interview participants from the Child Health and Migrant Parents in Southeast Asia (CHAMPSEA) and Children Living Apart from Parents Due to Internal Migration (CLAIM) surveys in Thailand. The CHAMPSEA project covers four Southeast Asian countries. It has examined, for the first time, the effects on children ‘left-behind’ when one or both parents migrate, often to work in wealthier countries as labourers, domestic workers, or carers, with infrequent visits home.

Professor Hill Kulu now takes up the CPC Co-Director mantel. He is Professor of Human Geography and Demography at the University of St Andrews, researching family, fertility, migration and health studies, alongside the development and application of longitudinal models in social science research. We hope you will join us in thanking Elspeth for her contribution as CPC Co-Director, and in welcoming Professor Kulu to his new role.
Nicholas Campisi is a St Andrews-Max Planck funded PhD student researching spatial variation in fertility patterns across Europe. He is supervised by Professor Hill Kulu and Dr Julia Mikolai at the University of St Andrews, and Professor Mikko Myrskylä and Dr Sebastian Klüsener at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research.

“This year, I have been presenting on the first project of my PhD in a poster titled ‘Cross-National and Sub-National Fertility across Europe’. This project focuses on spatial trends in local fertility in 21 European countries, particularly small geographical areas, allowing me to explore persistent low fertility in (urban) areas that have high population density and higher fertility in neighbouring (rural) areas.

My analysis demonstrates country-specific variations in what ‘high’ or ‘low’ fertility may be, which creates similar patterns of fertility and similar levels of fertility in adjacent regions in different countries. On a European level, spatial modelling demonstrates strong relationships between local fertility and economic, sociocultural, and geographic factors. Relationships between fertility and related factors have undergone recent changes – in some cases from historically strong relationships to now weak. My research helps us to understand these relationships in light of these changes and advocates sociocultural perspectives on fertility trends.

Urban-rural fertility patterns are historically robust across almost every context. Understanding how fertility patterns are shaped and what large-scale contexts contribute to small-scale patterns will help researchers understand European trends of below-replacement fertility. This will also allow policy-makers to understand where demographic trends are leading to natural population growth and what factors contribute to this growth. My research specifically ties together projects focusing on single-country contexts that omit countries with drastically different fertility levels, and projects that examine many countries but do not explore local contexts or fertility levels.

I am delighted to be working within CPC’s fertility and family strand, and see it as a great opportunity to work alongside and interact with population researchers from all over the world. I hope to gain international perspective on my European research by presenting at conferences such as the Population Association of America (PAA) annual meeting that I attended in April.”

Dr Nicholas Campisi
PhD Student

PhD congratulations

Dr Niels Blom, whose dissertation findings on ‘Partner relationship quality under pressing work conditions: Longitudinal and cross-national investigations’ were widely reported in various media outlets in the Netherlands and Belgium, was awarded a PhD in February. He is now working with Dr Brienna Perelli-Harris on the project ‘Relationship quality and family transitions: The UK in international comparison’.

Dr Maja Emilie Fuglsang Palmer passed her PhD viva in April. Her PhD title was ‘Pathways into informal care’ and she is working as a Teaching Fellow in the Department of Gerontology at the University of Southampton.
Keep in touch!

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