On decomposing the causes of changes in income-related health inequality with longitudinal data

Paul Allanson Co-author(s) Dennis Petrie

Changes in income-related health inequality (IRHI) have traditionally been analysed using repeated cross-sections to identify changes in the contributions of inequalities in the individual determinants of health to the overall change in IRHI. However, longitudinal data are required to track the experience of individuals rather than of groups, such as the poor or those in a particular geographic area, whose composition may change over time. In particular, longitudinal data allow any change in IRHI to be decomposed into: (i) an income-related health mobility (IRHM) index that reveals whether the pattern of individual health changes favours the initially rich or poor; (ii) a health-related income mobility (HRIM) index that captures the effect of changes in individuals' positions in the income distribution on cross-sectional IRHI. The main contribution of this paper is to develop regression-based decomposition procedures, analogous to those available in the literature for the concentration index, that can be used to analyse the determinants of mobility and thereby evaluate performance in tackling health inequalities. Decomposition results from an empirical study using BHPS data show that IRHM between 1999 and 2004 was disequalising both in Scotland and in England & Wales, largely as a result of the positive association between (old) age and poverty given that ageing is predicted to lead to both poorer health and an increased risk of dying for the majority of the population, but that resultant increases in IRHI due to morbidity-related health changes were substantially moderated by the poor enjoying a disproportionate share of relative health gains attributable to real income growth over the five year period. Overall, the two sets of results are broadly similar, providing grounds for confidence in the empirical robustness of the procedures, with smaller and less regressive morbidity-related health losses in Scotland offset by higher mortality rates.

Datasets BHPS

Areas Inequality and Health and Psychological Well-being

Keywords income-related health inequality, mobility analysis, longitudinal data

Understanding vulnerable young people: an exploration of multiple disadvantage

Matt Barnes, Co-author(s) Rosie Green and Andy Ross

Whilst the experience of a single disadvantage can create difficulties for young people, multiple disadvantages can often interact and exacerbate one another, leading to more harmful and costly outcomes for both the young person and society as a whole. To be able to design policies for the most vulnerable young people, policy makers need a detailed understanding of the range and combinations of disadvantages that they face. The data for this study comes from the Longitudinal Survey of Young People in England (LSYPE), a large, nationally representative survey designed to follow a single cohort of young people from the age of 14 to 25. The study has now completed its seventh wave of interviews, with the respondents now aged 19/20 and a sample size of approximately 10,000. LSYPE collects a range of information on young people's characteristics, attitudes and behaviours; their family background; and the circumstances and views of their parents. LSYPE has also been linked to pupil attainment records, school characteristics and geographical indicators. This research uses Latent Class Analysis, a statistical technique that identifies patterns in multivariate data, to identify groups of young people that share similar combinations of disadvantages. We explore overlaps between measures of disadvantage such as substance abuse, criminal behaviour and being NEET. We also see whether these young people access related services. Early intervention can play a key role in preventing later disadvantage and we use the longitudinal aspect of LSYPE to identify the earlier risk factors that can help predict whether a young person becomes multiply disadvantaged, such as disengagement from school, aspirations for the future and poverty. Finally we investigate what happens to these young people as they reach the end of their teenage years, including their labour market status, educational attainment and family formation.

Datasets Other
**Areas** Social Stratification and Disadvantage and Social Behaviour  
**Keywords** Young people, multiple disadvantage

**The changing distribution of wealth in Great Britain 1995-2005**  
Francesca Bastagli, **Co-author(s)** John Hills

This paper analyses the composition and distribution of wealth longitudinally, for a panel of British households, between 1995 and 2005. Using British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) data, the paper examines trends in net worth and its components, housing and financial wealth, over the decade. It analyses the trajectories of wealth accumulation by population group characteristics – starting wealth levels, age, qualifications and tenure - to highlight variations in patterns of wealth accumulation. The paper then focuses on housing wealth. Having highlighted the continuing expansion in home ownership and the steep rise in house prices that defined the period in the first section, in the second section, the paper examines the impact of rising house prices on trends in wealth distribution and accumulation. We simulate the distribution of net housing wealth in 2005 in the hypothetical scenario in which house prices remained at their 1995 levels (in real terms), taking into account differential house price growth by region and the knock-on effects of rising house prices on levels of mortgage debt (for first-time buyers). The paper finds that wealth inequality in Great Britain fell between 1995 and 2005, with the Gini coefficient of net worth experiencing a reduction of eleven percentage points. The growth in owner-occupation and the rise in house prices had an equalising impact and were the main driving force behind the reduction in wealth inequality observed over this period.

**Datasets BHPS**

**Areas** Inequality and Other  
**Keywords** Wealth distribution; inequality

**Gender attitudes: modelling bivariate repeated ordered categorical data**  
Damon Berridge & Roger Penn

Data collected as part of large national longitudinal surveys such as the British Household Panel Study (BHPS) routinely include multiple Likert items which comprise ordered categories. For example, the BHPS includes a range of Likert items which ask respondents about their attitudes towards gender roles. Three such items are:  
a) Both the husband and wife should contribute to the household income  
b) A husband's job is to earn money; a wife's job is to look after the home and family  
c) Children need a father to be as closely involved in their upbringing as the mother  
These items comprise the five response categories: ‘Strongly Agree’, ‘Agree’, ‘Neither Agree Nor Disagree’, ‘Disagree’ and ‘Strongly Disagree’. This talk will explore the extent to which these three items are associated with each other. We will achieve this by adopting a correlated random effects approach. We start by fitting separate models to the three responses. The cumulative logit or proportional odds model will be used to model each ordered response. Residual heterogeneity will be incorporated by using a random effect in all three models. These random effects will be assumed to be independent of each other. We extend this analysis by fitting a bivariate response model with correlated random effects, thereby allowing us to estimate three additional association parameters, and to test whether there is significant association between each possible pair of responses. This bivariate model has been implemented within the software package SABRE (http://www.sabre.lancs.ac.uk), undertaken as part of the ESRC’s National Centre for Research Methods [Phase 2].

**Datasets** BHPS  
**Keywords** Statistical methods

**Factors affecting exit from the STEM pipeline: who leaves math and science in the UK and why?**  
Melissa Bert, **Co-author(s)** Tassili Pender

During the past decade the UK government has become increasingly concerned about the nation’s declining global competitiveness in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). School Minister Nicholas Gibb recently remarked on the degree of this quandary, noting “the UK continues to fall down international league tables and we now languish at 27th in the world for maths, and 16th for science – falling 19 and 14 places respectively in under 10 years” (N.Gibb, response to State of the Nation report from the Royal Society, entitled 'Increasing the Size of the Pool', 15 Feb 2011). As the UK strives to become a leader in the area of science and innovation, increasing the number of students enrolling in STEM at university is crucial to meet the nation's needs. A recent report from the Department for Education indicates that although many students indicate interest and ability in STEM subjects during early Key Stages of education, many drop out of the STEM pipeline during the transition points between the end of compulsory education and continuing with STEM at university. Research in the UK suggests that the answer lies in the prior academic performance of students, finding that it has a significant impact on the selection into and persistence in
STEM, and in particular, into science and mathematics. In contrast, other research finds individual factors help predict success in STEM into higher education -- specifically, pupils' sense of self-efficacy and level of interest in STEM. In this research, we use data from the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE), a large-scale panel survey that follows one cohort of students from age 14 to age 19, between 2004 and 2009. As the nature of the academic sequence leading to university enrollment is inherently longitudinal, we use discrete-time hazard analysis to evaluate the relative roles of prior academic achievement and individual characteristics in predicting which students are likely to exit the STEM pipeline, particularly in the areas of science and mathematics. This research contributes to the growing body of longitudinal research on the dynamics of UK education, and to the literature on the pathways of STEM students.

**Datasets** Other

**Areas** Social Stratification and Disadvantage and Other

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### Chronic illness and subjective well-being of family members

Cara L. Booker, **Co-author(s)** Amanda Sacker

Background: The hedonic definition of subjective wellbeing includes subjective perceptions of moods such as happiness and cognitive judgements of life satisfaction coupled with an absence of negative feelings. Little is known about levels of well-being within families when other family members have a chronic illness. This paper explores these associations. Methods: Data come from year 1 wave 1 of Understanding Society, a new longitudinal UK-representative household panel survey. Subjective well-being of adults (16 years) was measured using the GHQ-12, the Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale and a life satisfaction question. The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire measured well-being in youth (aged 10 to 15 years). Self-reported longterm limiting illness (LLTI) was used to indicate chronic illness. Latent variable models were used to explore associations between partners (N=4499) and among family members (n=2828).

Results: LLTI in one member of a cohabiting partnership was negatively associated not only with their own well-being but also that of their partner. This association appeared to be confounded by being cared for by partner and own mental and physical functioning scores. The association between a parent’s LLTI and their adult child’s well-being was not significant, regardless of the gender of the parent. There was a significant association between both mother and father’s LLTI and SDQ total difficulties score for youth. This association was reduced when controlling for caring for the youth, and boys appeared to have more difficulties when being cared for. Conclusions: Limiting illness affected individual’s own and their partner’s well-being, with possible confounders of this association. Adult children’s well-being was unaffected by their parents’ health, while younger children showed more socio-emotional difficulties. **Datasets Understanding Society**

**Areas** Family and Demography and Health and Psychological Well-being

**Keywords** subjective well-being, family, limiting long-term illness

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### The intergenerational transmission of smoking persistence

Heather Brown

Tobacco use explains a significant portion of the mortality gap between the rich and poor. Approximately one half to two thirds of the middle aged mortality gap could be reduced if smoking was eliminated. Research shows that in most developed countries, nearly all first time tobacco use occurs before the age of 18. Further evidence suggests that parents that smoke are more likely to have children that smoke. The intergenerational transmission of smoking behaviour may be contributing to health inequalities. The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) is a household based longitudinal survey that follows the same individuals over time. The household aspect of the dataset allows us to obtain information on parental smoking habits and household composition which are assumed to influence the initial decision to try smoking and contribute to the persistence of smoking. The longitudinal nature of the BHPS allows us to follow adolescents from the age of 11 to 30 (waves 4-18; 1994-2008). Adolescence is a time when the risk of trying cigarettes is the highest over the life course and we are able to observe the initial decision to try smoking for 75% of our sample. This overcomes the initial conditions problem where researchers are unable to observe the first period in a process leading to biased results that plagues much panel data analysis investigating the persistence of behaviours. Thus, we are able to accurately estimate the persistence of smoking in young adults for respondents who began during adolescence. The persistence of young adult smoking is analysed using a dynamic probit model controlling for initial conditions. We distinguish between true and state dependence on the persistence of smoking and the impact of past and current parental smoking outcomes. **Datasets BHPS**

**Areas** Family and Demography, Social Behaviour and Health and Psychological Well-being

**Keywords** smoking, intergenerational transmission, panel data, state dependence
Saving and mortgage debt over the lifecycle: evidence from the British Household Panel Survey

Vivien Burrows

In theory, individuals are generally assumed to either save or borrow, but in practice many individuals save and borrow simultaneously, particularly when borrowing involves mortgage debt. While mortgages are a necessary step towards home ownership, they also provide a means for accessing housing wealth, which has become one of the largest assets in the household portfolio in many countries. In an uncertain environment, this saving and borrowing behaviour may be explained by individuals’ desire to smooth consumption or diversify their portfolios, or it may reflect financial efficiency reasons or different planning horizons, and the weight of each of these reasons is likely to vary over the lifecycle. While many studies have looked at each of these issues - household saving and mortgage debt - individually, there has been little empirical work on exploring the relations between them. Therefore the purpose of this paper is to examine the relationship between mortgage debt and household saving behaviour using a sample of owner-occupiers from the British Household Panel Survey. Two approaches are adopted: first, a bivariate binary choice model is used to analyse the household saving and mortgage borrowing decision, using data from 1995 to 2008; a restricted sample is then constructed, spanning waves 5, 10 and 15, in order to explore what determines the level of household assets and mortgage debt. Uncertainty is incorporated directly into the models, by allowing the household decision to depend on their expected future means and volatility of income, house prices and the saving and mortgage interest rates.

Datasets BHPS
Areas Other
Keywords lifecycle, uncertainty, mortgage debt, saving

The causal effect of schooling on social mobility: findings from a natural experiment

Franz Buscha, Co-author(s) Patrick Sturgis

There is near unanimous agreement with the idea that education is key to social mobility, and that opening up educational opportunities to people from all social backgrounds will result in a more fluid and meritocratic society. That educational attainment is key to where an individual ends up in the social hierarchy appears to have a good deal of prima facie supporting evidence; amongst other things, upwardly mobile individuals are considerably more likely to obtain higher qualifications than those who are born into and remain within lower socio-economic groups for the duration of their working lives. Yet, there are limitations with this form of evidence, not least of which is the fact that more able and hard-working individuals are disproportionately likely to select into education and to progress further in the occupational status hierarchy. In this paper we use the 1972 raising of the school leaving age (RoSLA) in England and Wales as an instrumental variable to identify the causal effect of additional education on social mobility. Our preliminary results suggest little or no effect of education when considering the population as a whole. When focusing only on men from lower social class backgrounds, we find evidence of a small positive effect of education on social mobility. An equivalent effect is not evident for women.

Datasets Understanding Society and BHPS
Areas Labour Markets and Social Stratification and Disadvantage
Keywords Social Mobility, Education, Raising of school leave age

Intergenerational exchange in the UK

Tak Wing Chan, Co-author(s) John Ermisch and David Firth

In this paper, we use data from the British Household Panel Survey from 2001 and 2006 to explore the pattern, determinants and dynamics of the exchange of instrumental support between adult children and parents who are not living together. In contrast to results reported in previous studies, we find that the level of intergenerational exchange is actually quite low in contemporary UK. Further, analysing the data longitudinally with fixed effect models and transition models, we show that there is an asymmetry between the initiation and cessation of intergenerational exchange. We interpret our findings against the research of historians and historical demographers, and argue that the results from the British community studies are the anomalies.

Datasets BHPS
Areas Family and Demography
Keywords Intergenerational exchange

Having public policy impact with longitudinal data: wellbeing and cultural policy

Adam C. Cooper

Classic economic valuations of positive impacts from public policy (e.g. contributions to Gross Value Added etc) generally put cultural policy at a disadvantage compared with other areas of public policy (e.g.
health, education etc). In particular, they miss the core reasons that people engage in these activities. Recent advances in the use of well-being measures in economic valuation techniques have allowed DCMS to address this issue by looking at how cultural policy can contribute to well-being. As a part of the DCMS-led Culture and Sport Evidence (CASE) research programme we undertook the single largest analysis project in the history of these sectors, called ‘Understanding the drivers, impact and value of engagement in culture and sport’. Part of that project involved a peerreviewed analysis of BHPS data to look at how well-being changed in relation to cultural participation over time. A fixed effects model, controlling for other major correlates of well-being identified a significant positive relationship between reported well-being and reported frequency of culture and sport engagement. Using an income compensation technique, economic values were driven out from the well-being gains associated with engagement. I discuss the impact and challenges of this approach on public policy.

**Datasets** BHPS  
**Areas** Health and Psychological Well-being and Other  
**Keywords** well-being, policy, culture, sport

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The role of financial literacy and risk attitude in households’ choice for mortgage products  
*Ruben Cox, Co-author(s) Dirk Brounen, Peter Neuteboom*

In today’s markets, households are offered an array of mortgage products, each of a bewildering complexity. Making informed choices on such complex financial products is still a daunting task for most individual households; life-cycle characteristics, financial literacy, risk aversion and (professional) advice all play a major role in the ultimate decision of households. In this paper, we investigate the drivers of households’ mortgage choice. Firstly we introduce a measurement for complexity of mortgage products. Secondly, we employ a multinomial logit model to analyse how financial literacy and risk aversion impacts on households’ mortgage choice (in terms of our complexity measurement). Thirdly, we examine if, and how, changing literacy level and/or risk attitude on a household level alters actual mortgage decision making. Finally, we explore the moderating effect that financial advice may have on the mortgage decision. Our data stems from a Dutch longitudinal survey: DNB Household panel (a look alike of the British household Panel). This comprehensive panel survey follows households over time and gather information, amongst others, on household characteristics, current mortgage choice and a palette of information on our prime variables of interest: financial literacy, risk aversion and (professional) advice. We have data available over the period 1994-2009; with, on average, 500 cases a year. Our results show that the less literate households and the more risk averse households are significantly less likely to opt for a non-traditional mortgage product; with risk aversion decreases as financial literacy increases. Moreover we document a significant impact of financial advice within the mortgage decision process, supporting the hypothesis that financial advisors reduce cognitive errors. Finally, we also find that for the more experienced households (i.e. non first-time buyers) house price expectations have a negative impact on the level of complexity of actual mortgage choice.

**Datasets** Other  
**Areas** Beliefs and Values and Other  
**Keywords** mortgages, financial literacy, risk aversion, household finance

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Why we need more people like Ray Pahl  
*Graham Crow*

This presentation will provide an overview of the career of the sociologist Ray Pahl, highlighting its progression through various stages and how it included public engagement and ‘impact’ beyond the academic field. Ray Pahl is a good example of a scholar who has the capacity to ask good social science questions, the ability to link private troubles and public issues, an appreciation of the value of methodological pluralism, and (last but not least) enthusiasm for intellectual dialogue. Alongside these points of celebration it will be noted that academic biographies are not hagiographies; one does not have to be a candidate for sainthood to be appreciated as a good academic.  

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The dynamics of poverty in pre-crisis Britain  
*Giacomo Damioli*

This paper studies whether the length of time that working-age adults spend in poverty has changed in Britain between 1992 and 2006. Using correlated poverty exit and reentry hazard rate models that control for unobserved heterogeneity and initial conditions endogeneity, I find that poverty spells length has shortened since the second half of the 1990s. The analysis of heterogeneous trends suggests that the change is related to reforms of in- and out-of-work benefits targeted to families with children. Lone parents experienced the largest drop in poverty duration over the period, while childless single individuals became the household type that stays the longest periods poor in the 2000s.
HIV prevalence estimation in the presence of missing data: a bounding approach
Elisabetta De Cao, Co-author(s) Bruno Arpino & Franco Peracchi

Knowing the HIV prevalence is crucial for policy makers in order to plan control programs and interventions. HIV prevalence estimated from population-based surveys is usually seriously affected by the presence of nonignorable missing data.

The aim of this paper is to assess the uncertainty about HIV prevalence estimated using data from sample surveys, avoiding the use of strong assumptions that are often made to solve the identification problem caused by the presence of missing data. We adopt a bounding approach. Together with worst-case bounds that consider only cross-section information, we propose dynamic bounds which consider the longitudinal information about the HIV status.

Our dynamic bounds exploit the absorbing nature of HIV (i.e. the fact that a person infected in period t has zero probability of becoming HIV negative in period t+1, while a person HIV negative in period t was also HIV negative in period t1 with probability one). The dynamic bounds reduce, without any additional restrictions, the interval width produced by the worst-case bounds. Then instrumental and monotone instrumental variables restrictions can be used to further narrow the bounds.

We apply this approach to data from Malawi, the Malawi Diffusion and Ideational Change Project (MDICP). The MDICP is the result of a collaboration of the University of Pennsylvania with the College of Medicine and Chancellor College at the University of Malawi. It is a longitudinal study with survey rounds in 1998, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2010 that collected data on three Malawian districts: Rumphi, Balaka and Mchinji. We focus, in particular, on the three waves 2004, 2006 and 2008 that contain HIV test results.

Our results clearly show that uncertainty caused by missing data is a serious issue. For example, in 2004 the percentage of missing HIV status is about 40%, the worst-case bounds are 3%-46%. By only using empirical evidence, dynamic bounds help in shrinking the worst-case bounds, but not sufficiently to get satisfactory results (e.g., dynamic bounds in 2004 are 3%-31%).

Plausible instrumental variable restrictions, based on interviewers’ characteristics, are effective in narrowing the bounds. For example, in 2004 using interviewers’ age as instrument produce bounds equal to 5%-9%.

Finally we notice that ignoring the missing data on HIV status, and computing the so called complete case estimates based only on known HIV status, we obtain estimates that are close to the lower bounds, but the HIV prevalence could be much higher.

Measuring school value added with administrative data: the problem of missing variables
Lorraine Dearden, Co-authors Alfonso Miranda, Sophia Rabe-Hesketh

The UK Department for Education (DfE) calculates contextualised value added (CVA) measures of school performance using administrative data that contain only a limited set of explanatory variables. Differences on schools’ intake regarding characteristics such as mother’s education are not accounted for due to the lack of background information in the data. In this paper we use linked survey and administrative data to assess the potential biases that missing control variables cause on the calculation of CVA measures of school performance. We find that ignoring the effect of mother’s education leads DfE to erroneously over-penalise low achieving schools that have a greater proportion of mothers with low qualifications and to over-reward high achieving schools that have a greater proportion of mothers with higher qualifications. This suggests that collecting a rich set of controls in administrative records is necessary for producing reliable CVA measures of school performance.

Keywords administrative data, measurement

Determinants of participation in the United Kingdom: a preliminary analysis
Emanuele Ferragina, Co-author(s) Mark Tomlinson, Robert Walker

We present a preliminary analysis of Understanding Society data to explore the factors associated with participation and prepare a baseline against which change can be measured in future years. Participation is defined and measured as the combination of social participation and consumption. The variation of the pattern of participation is investigated through a MIMIC model: first a confirmatory factor analysis is used to generate the latent dimensions of social participation (neighbouring, general trust, interest in politics, social, material and environmental consumption), second, those dimensions are simultaneously regressed on seven socio-demographic predictors. We find that five of the six dimensions of social participation co-vary

Datasets BHPS
Areas Family and Demography, Labour Markets and Poverty and Income Distribution
Keywords hazard rate models, poverty duration, social security reforms
such that a high score on one is associated with a high score on another. Furthermore, all six dimension of participation are positively correlated with income and education, while difference in participation relating to ethnicity are small and will need to be examined with the full dataset. People in their immediate pre-retirement years tend to consume more and participation increases proportionally with age. Men exhibit higher levels of social participation than women with the exception of informal engagement. Adults living with school aged children tend to have higher levels of consumption and to be more involved in their neighbourhood. In terms of regional differences, English respondents have the lowest neighbouring scores while Welsh respondents average the highest ones; Scottish respondents have below average scores on social expenditure and respondents from Northern Ireland have the highest scores on trust and the least interest in politics.

Datasets Understanding Society
Areas Poverty and Income Distribution and Social Behaviour
Keywords participation, consumption, trust

Working beyond state pension age: does work history matter?
Naomi Finch

Work history is likely to influence a decision to work beyond state pension age (SPA), since income in old age is influenced by years worked, level of earnings, occupation and timing of career. Thus, you would expect those with broken work histories to be more likely to work beyond SPA with the view to supplement their income, and build up greater pension provision for the future. However, there is evidence that having a low income does not always lead to high propensity to work beyond SPA: Those with the lowest financial resources are less likely to work longer, even controlling for other factors. This may be a reflection of careers in lower-skilled positions, with fewer labour market opportunities in old age. Thus, it may be that work life histories interact with income levels to influence extending working life. This paper attempts to examine quantitatively how work history influences the likelihood of working beyond SPA. It undertakes secondary longitudinal data analysis using retrospective work history data for the first 14 waves of the British Household Panel Survey to summarise work histories, including labour market attachment and occupation. Logistic regression is used to understand the impact of work histories on working beyond SPA, holding income and other factors constant. It finds that high personal income reduces the odds of working longer, even after controlling for other factors, but that work history is important even after income (and other factors) have been accounted for. Moreover, whilst lengthy years in employment increase the likelihood of working longer, periods of inactivity reduce the likelihood. This indicates that those with broken work histories, and seemingly in the most financial need, are less likely to do work beyond SPA, perhaps due to reduced negotiating power in the labour market.

Datasets BHPS
Areas Labour Markets and Poverty and Income Distribution
Keywords State Pension Age, Work history, Income, Pensioner poverty

Investigating the extent to which area-level characteristics of local labour markets affect minor psychiatric morbidity outcomes, independently of individual-level exposure to joblessness and insecure employment.
Ellen Flint, Co-author(s) Amanda Sacker, Nicola Shelton, Mel Bartley

Existing longitudinal evidence suggests a causal relationship between joblessness and minor psychiatric morbidity (MPM) at the individual level. Is this relationship affected by where the individual lives, and do the socioeconomic characteristics of an area have an independent effect on an individual’s psychological wellbeing, over and above individual exposure to risk factors? This study is based on working-age original sample members of the British Household Panel Survey. All eighteen currently available waves of the study are used (1991-2008). Minor psychiatric morbidity is measured in the BHPS using the 12-item version of the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12). The analysis presented uses the likert-scaled continuous version of GHQ-12 score. The geographical unit of analysis used is Local Authority District. A series of two-level, three-level single time point, and three-level longitudinal multiple membership multilevel models are presented showing the association between labour market position and MPM before and after adjustment for confounding and mediating factors at the individual level and the area level. Individual-level covariates include educational attainment, physical health problems, spousal GHQ-12 and unemployment, perceived job security level of the employed, housing tenure, substance abuse, equivalised household income and subjective assessment of financial situation. Variables at the area level include claimant count rate, and average house prices.

Datasets BHPS
Areas Labour Markets and Health and Psychological Well-being
Keywords GHQ-12, minor psychiatric morbidity, mental health, BHPS, regional, labour market status
**Older smokers in the old and new world - do they behave differently?**

**Author** Elena Fumagalli, **Co-author(s)** Dean Lillard, **Presenter** Laura Fumagalli

We evaluate and compare life-course smoking behavior of older people surveyed by the Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), and the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). These surveys initially sample people age 50 and older (and their spouses) and then resurvey them at regular intervals. We describe and compare patterns of smoking behavior of different cohorts of older residents in each country. While descriptive, this exercise is nonetheless informative because different cohorts experienced very different conditions during critical periods of life. For example, about 95 percent of ever-smokers started between the ages of 14 and 20. This means that the HRS respondents who were 50 in 1992 when initially sampled started to smoke between 1957 and 1962, well after World War II had ended. HRS respondents who were 70 and older in 1992 started to smoke between 1937 and 1942 - as the US entered the war. We incorporate two new methods to adjust for known biases that arise in retrospectively reported (smoking) data. We first adjust our estimates of life-course prevalence using a new algorithm developed by Christopoulos et al. (2011) to account for differential mortality rates of smokers and non-smokers. We also use the method developed by Bar and Lillard (2011), to correct for bias that is introduced when survey respondents give only approximate ages in response to questions about the age they started to smoke and the age they quit. We then use our "corrected" data to compare and contrast life-time patterns of smoking in the US and in different European countries. We find surprising differences, by sex and cohort, in lifetime smoking behavior in the represented countries as we interpret those as "true" differences in smoking rather than in reporting behaviour.

**Datasets** Other

**Areas** Health and Psychological Well-being, Survey Methods and Analysis and Other

**Keywords** Health, ageing, retrospectively reported data, heaping, differential mortality

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**Does temporary employment mitigate the scar effects of unemployment? A cross-country comparison based on British, German and Swiss Panel Data.**

Michael Gebel

Previous research has shown that unemployment represents a scarring event in the individual life course. This paper investigates the potential integrative power of temporary jobs for unemployed workers. On the one hand, temporary jobs serve as a "stepping stone" and give the unemployed the chance of gathering experience, contacts and signalling their employability. On the other hand, temporary jobs might represent "dead ends" inducing cycles of insecure precarious positions. Thus, it might be better to reject temporary job offers. In this respect, studies on unemployment scarring promoted the beneficial role of welfare state support allowing unemployed to search longer for better jobs instead of directly accepting low-quality temporary jobs. Whether the "stepping stone" or the "dead end" finally dominates remains an empirical question and it should depend on the institutional and economic context. Comparing the integrative power of temporary jobs in Germany, Great Britain and Switzerland should deliver insights into the mediating role of the institutional and economic context. While the liberal British welfare state with its flexible employment regime contrasts the conservative German welfare system and protected, occupationally-structured German labour market, Switzerland mixes liberal and conservative elements with a flexible, occupationally-structured labour market. The analyses are based on the British Household Panel Study, the German Socio-Economic Panel and the Swiss Household Panel Survey for the period 1992-2009. Using an inflow sample of unemployed, the longitudinal data structure allows analyzing the long-term employment chances and scar effects of unemployment for those who take up a temporary job. Scar effects are measured in multiple ways based on income and occupation mobility data. In order to estimate "causal effects" a difference-indifference propensity score matching approach is used, which applies propensity-score matching techniques in a dynamic setting.

**Datasets** BHPS, GSOEP and SHP

**Areas** Labour Markets and Social Stratification and Disadvantage

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**Differences in the pattern of in-work poverty between Germany and Great Britain. What is the role of trade union power?**

Marco Giesselmann

Since the middle of the 90s, the labour market regime in Germany has undergone incremental changes; these changes have led to a departure from the conservative regime towards a convergence with the liberal model. As a result, the labour market frameworks in Germany and Great Britain by now exhibit strong similarities. Whilst in Great Britain the implementation of liberal ideals in the early 80s was carried out against a background of weakening trade unions, in Germany the wage bargaining system's framework remained relatively stable. The degree of trade union bargaining power therefore constitutes the central difference between the two countries, nowadays. In turn, this differentiation has an influential effect on individual
labour market results: analyses on the basis of harmonized versions of the BHPS and the GSOEP (2003 – 2006) reveal that in Germany workers on the periphery of the labour market (both entrants and re-entrants), lower educated persons and women are particularly affected by poverty, while in Great Britain especially older workers live in precarious economic conditions. The causes behind the observed country-specific patterns of in-work poverty are accounted for by taking the rationality of trade unions into consideration. This predicts that trade unions provide insiders’ positions on the labour market with boundaries, thereby constituting a powerful closure device and protecting especially persons with high seniority from market forces. As most obvious expression of variations in union bargaining power between GER and GB strong differences in the system of labour protection are outlined. Additionally, differences in the degree of skill transparency of the education system and disparities in family policy configuration are used to explain country specific differences in the patterns of in-work poverty.

Datasets BHPS and GSOEP
Areas Labour Markets, Inequality, Poverty and Income Distribution and Social Stratification and Disadvantage
Keywords in-work poverty, union bargaining power, country comparison

Extending the empirical basis for wealth inequality research using statistical matching of administrative and survey data
Markus M. Grabka, Co-author(s) Anika Rasner, Joachim R. Frick
Social security entitlements are a substantial source of wealth that grows in importance over the individual’s lifecycle. Despite its quantitative relevance, social security wealth has been thus far omitted from wealth inequality analyses. In Germany, it is the lack of adequate micro data that ac-counts for this shortcoming. The two main contributions of this paper are: First, to elaborate a statistical matching approach that complements information on net worth as surveyed in the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), a population representative panel study, with informa-tion on social security wealth from the Sample of Active Pension Accounts (SAPA), a large-scale administrative dataset maintained by the German Statutory Pension Insurance. Second, we show to what extent the inclusion of social security wealth affects the level and the distribution of individual net worth as well as overall inequality. The present value of pension entitlements (including entitlements from the statutory pension system as well as from the separate system for civil serv-ants) amounts to 5.6 trillion Euros, which corresponds to an average of 78,500 Euros per person – thus almost doubling the level of net worth. Compared to results based on net worth only, ine-quality of our amended wealth measure is about 25 percent less. Moreover, we present significant differences in pension entitlements across occupational groups with civil servants gaining most from the inclusion of public pension wealth in the extended wealth measure and self-employed benefiting the least. Overall, our results provide clear indication for the relevance of including the notional wealth held in pension entitlements providing a less biased picture of the level and the socio-economic structure of wealth in Germany. Above and beyond such within-country varia-tion, our findings may also be most relevant for comparative analyses across welfare-regimes.

Datasets GSOEP and Other
Areas Inequality and Survey Methods and Analysis
Keywords Wealth inequality, statistical matching, public pension entitlements

The role in changes in perceived social cohesion upon future levels of psychological distress
Giles Greene, Co-author(s) Daniel Farewell
The role of perceived neighbourhood cohesiveness upon physical and mental health is becoming well established. When examining the relationship between cohesion and mental health, however, a same-source bias commonly arises, whereby those experiencing poorer mental health may in turn be more likely to view themselves as more isolated and be more pessimistic about the cohesion in their communities. The BHPS allows an examination of the longitudinal effects of social cohesion upon mental health: it collects data on social cohesion, using a subset of the neighbourhood cohesion scale (Buckner, 1988) and on mental health, using the GHQ-12 (Goldberg, 1992). The present analysis looks at how the change in levels of perceived social cohesion between waves 8 and 13 predicts the level of psychological distress at wave 18. When assessing the change in social cohesion, the issue of direction of change arises since the starting position constrains the possible changes. Since the scale is bounded, those reporting higher social cohesion at wave 8 were more likely to report a negative change (and vice versa). Therefore, the starting level of social cohesion in wave 8 was controlled for. Examining possible gender differences, it was found that positive change in social cohesion is related to mental health benefits in women only, with men being unaffected. The relationship persists after controlling for known independent predictors of mental health, including employment status, house tenure, social class, income and area deprivation. To explore the causal direction a second analysis examined the predictive power of changes in mental health between waves 8 and 13 upon
levels of social cohesion at wave 18: this was not significant. In conclusion, it appears that changes in cohesion independently predict mental health scores in a plausible causative direction, lending greater weight to findings from cross-sectional surveys.

Datasets BHPS
Areas Health and Psychological Well-being
Keywords Social cohesion, GHQ-12, same-source bias

Who supports whom? Poverty, financial strain and intergenerational co-residence
Maria Iacovou and Maria A. Davia
Maria Iacovo, Co-author(s) Maria Davia
The proportion of young adults living with their parents varies hugely across Europe, with extended co-residence the norm across much of Southern and Eastern Europe. Even in countries where home-leaving traditionally takes place early, the past decades have witnessed a trend towards later home-leaving. This is often attributed to adverse economic conditions - unemployment, precarious employment, and/or low wages - and is often assumed to be a burdensome arrangement for parents, who have to provide for their offspring for increasingly long durations. This paper examines the extent to which economic support between children and their adult offspring is a two-way phenomenon. We assess the proportion of household incomes contributed by young people to the family coffers, and the role which some young adults play in keeping their families out of poverty. A key unknown in research of this type is the extent to which financial resources are shared between household members. By examining the relationship between young people’s incomes and their families’ perceptions of financial strain, we are able to assess the extent to which young people’s resources are shared among their families.

Trends in individual income growth: measurement methods and British evidence
Stephen Jenkins, Co-author(s) Philippe Van Kerm
Assessments of whose income growth is the greatest and whose is the smallest are typically based on comparisons of income changes for income groups (e.g. rich versus poor) or income values (e.g. quantiles). However, income group and quantile composition changes over time because of income mobility. To summarize patterns of income growth while also tracking the fortunes of the same individuals, a longitudinal perspective is required. For this case, we develop dominance conditions and summary indices for comparisons of distributions of individual income growth, together with associated methods of estimation and inference. Using these methods and data from the British Household Panel Survey, we study individual income growth for periods between 1991 and 2005. We show that income growth was significantly more pro-poor in the early years of the Labour government than in earlier Conservative years.

Datasets BHPS
Areas Inequality and Poverty and Income Distribution
Keywords individual income growth; pro-poor growth; progressive income growth; income mobility; mobility profile; British Household Panel Survey

Values, personality, and labour supply decisions
Presenter Dr Sarah Jewell Author Dr Marina Della Giusta Co-author(s) Dr Sarah Jewell
We provide empirical underpinning to a recent strand of papers considering the role of values in economic behaviour (Corneo and Jeanne, 2009; Akerlof and Kranton, 2000, 2002) addressing the role of values and personality in the context of labour supply decisions. We use the 2003 and 2008 waves of the British Household Panel Survey where questions were asked about values (the importance of various life domains). We estimate a model of the probability of participating in the labour market- separately by gender, and then examine hours supplied for those in employment. Once controlling for various socio-demographic variables and subject to labour market constraints values and personalities affect labour market behaviour, but these effects vary by gender and whether women have partners or children. Including personality and values also reduces the effect of some of the more traditional labour supply variables. Those who value having a job more highly are more likely to enter the labour market and work for longer hours. Labour market participation is affected by the importance of money for men and the importance of owning own home for women. Women who hold more traditional attitudes about family life have a lower probability of participating, and work fewer hours but these attitudes have no effect for men. We find that the more conscientious work longer as do coupled women more open to experience, whilst more extravert women and agreeable single women supply fewer hours. Values have less impact on hours supplied for men than for women. Our results suggest a more behavioural economic approach (Ariely, 2008, Thaler and Sunstein, 2008) may be necessary to fully understand labour market decisions. Therefore differences in values, personality and attitudes should be taken into account when considering policy changes, since labour supply decisions are not solely driven by financial incentives.
In search for volunteers for David Cameron’s Big Society: individual histories of volunteering in Great Britain
Daiga Kamerāde

In July 2010 David Cameron re-launched his policy idea of the ‘Big Society’ – a society where many public services are run by groups of volunteers. Alongside funding, the key factor which will determine the success of this idea is the availability of volunteers: people who will work for nothing, giving up their time and skills for free. How large is the untapped pool of adults in Great Britain who is not involved already? To answer this question, this paper adopts an underutilised dynamic approach to involvement in voluntary associations. Using data from the British Household Panel Study this paper examines the movement of individuals into and out of voluntary associations in Great Britain between 1991 and 2007. This paper demonstrates that the aggregate rates of volunteering in Great Britain have been stable for at least two decades and suggests that around half of adults in Great Britain can be classified as ‘non-volunteers’ at each point in time. However, behind this apparent stability there is a considerable movement of individuals into and out of voluntary associations. Vast majority of British adults have volunteered at least once between 1991 and 2007. However, most of them volunteer episodically and tend to change the type of associations they volunteer for frequently. These findings suggest that the untapped pool of individuals who have never volunteered but might potentially be recruited for Big Society is rather small. Therefore, in addition to asking how more people can be encourage to join voluntary associations, it is equally important – perhaps even more important - to ask how we can prevent them from stopping volunteering once they have started to do it.

Datasets BHPS
Areas Social Behaviour
Keywords volunteering, Big Society, voluntary associations

Time for bed? The relationship between bedtimes and socioemotional and cognitive development in 7 year old children: findings from the UK Millennium Cohort Study
Yvonne Kelly Co-author(s) John Kelly, Amanda Sacker

Background: The links between sleep deprivation and health and well being in adults and teenagers are well documented. Less is known about sleep and healthy development in younger children. Aim: To examine whether the time children go to bed is associated with socioemotional and cognitive development, and to assess whether socioeconomic and psychosocial environments contribute to observed associations. Methods: We analysed data from the UK Millennium Cohort Study (n=12275) cohort members with data at 7 years of age. Bedtimes on term time weekdays were categorised (before 7.30pm, 7.30-8.00pm (reference), 8.00-8.30pm, 8.30-9.00pm, after 9.00pm) and no fixed time. Multivariate regression models were run to assess associations between bedtimes and socioemotional difficulties (clinically relevant scores on the strengths and difficulties questionnaire) and cognitive (test scores for reading, maths and spatial abilities). Results: Girls and boys who went to bed at 7.30-8.00pm had the lowest prevalence of clinically relevant socioemotional difficulties (4.4% and 9.5%), and the highest reading (115.3 and 111.8), maths (9.7 and 9.8) and spatial (53.8 and 54.2) test scores. ‘Late’, after 9.00pm, bedtime was associated with an increased likelihood of socioemotional difficulties in girls (OR=1.6, 95%CI=1.0-2.5) and lower test scores for girls (reading=110.6, maths=9.3, spatial=52.0, all p<0.01) and boys (reading=108.5, maths=9.3, spatial=50.3, all p<0.01). Not having a fixed bedtime was associated with an increased likelihood of socioemotional difficulties in girls (3.2, 1.8-5.7) and boys (2.1, 1.3- 3.5) lower test scores for girls (reading=107.3, maths=8.9, spatial=51.6, all p<0.01) and boys (reading=106.3, maths=9.1, spatial=50.7, all p<0.01 ). Adjustment for socioeconomic and psychosocial markers attenuated some but not all associations. Conclusion: Our results suggest that the time children go to bed is important for their socioemotional and cognitive development. Some but not all of these relationships are confounded by socioeconomic characteristics, whilst psychosocial factors partly mediate some of the observed relationships.

Datasets Other
Areas Inequality
Keywords Sleep, child development

Uptake of prevention and screening tests in the UK: evidence using the BHPS
Alexander Labeit, Co-author(s) Abbi Kedir

Prevention can reduce prevalence of chronic diseases, cancer and mortality rates and is therefore a key priority of NHS. Based on the existing literature on the economics of prevention the uptake of different
preventative measures is studied empirically. In doing so, the role of income, education, cultural and other crucial socio-economic characteristics that affect uptake of screening as a preventative health care activity is investigated. The influence of education of individuals is of particular importance in our study. A priori, education can have different ways of influencing the uptake of preventive screening: better awareness of importance of regular check-ups, understanding of outcomes and implications of periodic tests and communication with health care professionals. Also there can be a different influence of prior learning (educational level) and continuing learning during adult life which we will carefully examine. Furthermore, histories of screening behaviour, health status, and an indicator of risky behaviour such as tobacco smoking will be controlled for in our empirical estimates. The importance of personal characteristics as confounding variables like household income, own and parental socio-economic status, age, marital status, ethnicity, number of children, periodic effects are also considered. Also geographical area effects of uptake of screening are analysed. We also focus on all types of screening provisions from public (NHS), private, and both public and private. As opposed to previous studies, we aim to identify the significant factors associated with different screening up-take instead of focusing only on screening for one health condition. So we exploit individual level information in relation to screening for blood pressure, arthritis, cervical cancer, breast cancer, cholesterol levels, chest x-rays, dental treatment and eye tests. We use all relevant waves of the British Household Panel Study (BHPS) or Understanding Society up to the most recent one containing information about preventative uptakes. For estimation, we adopt dynamic discrete panel data models accounting for time-variant and time-invariant heterogeneity. Our results will improve our understanding of the fundamental barriers to prevention by identifying the significant individual and socioeconomic determinants of screening uptake. Hence, they can be used to design and promote preventive policy measures that enhance the health and quality of life of individuals in the UK.

**Datasets BHPS**

**Areas** Health and Psychological Well-being

**Keywords** health economics, education, panel data, prevention, screening

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**Living arrangements and time allocation: evidence from the United Kingdom**

Sarolta Laczo

Cohabitation of non-married couples has been on the rise in developed countries. In the United Kingdom in 1996 one tenth of all couples were cohabiting. By 2006 their share rose to one sixth. In many countries, including the UK, cohabiters have no rights to assets acquired by their partner at separation. At the same time, the cost of separation is lower than for married couples. These institutional differences may provide incentives that affect couples’ economic decisions. To my knowledge, there is a lack of empirical evidence that married and cohabiting couples behave differently with respect to their main economic decisions, namely consumption, savings, labour supply, and home production. This paper focuses on time allocation decisions, in particular, labour supply and housework hours. I use data from the BHPS from 1992 to 2008 to estimate labour supply equations, as well as similar regressions for housework hours. I apply the method proposed by Semykina and Wooldridge (Journal of Econometrics, 2010) to account for unobserved heterogeneity, to correct for selection into the labour force, and to deal with the endogeneity of wages and non-labour income at the same time. I instrument aftertax wages and non-labour income by tax rates, tax credits, tax allowances, and national insurance contribution rates, interacted with education and cohort dummies (see Blundell, Duncan, and Meghir (Econometrica, 1998) for a similar approach). Preliminary results suggest that cohabiting women work more hours and their elasticity of labor supply is lower than that of married women. Cohabitting women do less housework than married women, while cohabiting men work more at home than married men.

**Datasets BHPS**

**Areas** Family and Demography and Labour Markets

**Keywords** family labour supply, housework, intra-household risk sharing

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**Falling out of love and down the housing ladder? Union dissolution and house ownership**

Phillip Lersch, **Co-author(s)** Sergi Vidal

This paper sheds light on the causal association between union dissolution and house ownership outcomes. Effects of union dissolution on ex-partners have been analysed widely. Regarding housing outcomes, there is empirical evidence that union dissolution is a disruptive event in the residential career and might cause moves out of house ownership into rental accommodations. This affects the subsequent life courses of the ex-partners and their children negatively. For example, house ownership is an important asset and functions as a financial safety net for later life stages. As a novelty, in the present paper we propose that partners are aware of the risk of union dissolution and this is reflected in couple-specific investments in house ownership. Therefore, more committed couples will select into house ownership, and those couples that are house owners are less likely to separate. Past empirical research did not consider this endogeneity of house
ownership and partnership status. By means of simultaneous equation estimation predicting both, the house ownership status and the risk of union dissolution, we allow partnership decisions to be endogenous in house ownership choices and the other way around. As couple-specific investments are very sensitive to variations at the institutional level, above all regarding family policies, we compare two different settings: Britain and Germany. To this end, longitudinal data from the British Household Panel Study and the German Socio Economic Panel Survey for the years 1991-2008 is used. Preliminary results show how high risks of union dissolution are associated to lower initial investments in home-ownership. After controlling for the selection of couples with higher risks of separation, we observe that union dissolution still has a positive effect on the transition to home- renting, but not as dramatic as previous research predicted.

**Datasets** BHPS and GSOEP  
**Areas** Family and Demography  
**Keywords** Union dissolution; House ownership; Simultaneous equations; Cross-national comparison

*Is emigration for the bold or the vigorous? New evidence of healthy migration using smoking outcomes in six source countries*

Dean Lillard, Co-author(s) Rebekka Christopoulou

In this project we will examine whether and how people who migrate to the US differ from non migrants on a dimension that researchers rarely get to observe - on their preferences for health. In particular, we will compare life-course smoking behavior of migrants and non migrants using a unique combination of data from US and country of origin surveys. Our research design is innovative in how we combine these survey data. Briefly, we will match immigrants in the US to observationally comparable individuals in their country of origin (i.e. we will match individuals to individuals rather than to a particular cohort), and we will compare the smoking behavior of non-migrants with that of migrants over the period before they migrated. We will study smoking behavior of migrants from six countries of origin, from which a plurality of US migrants come. These are: Mexico, Canada, China, Russia, Germany, and the UK. With the matched information, we plan to test (i) whether (and how much) migrants smoked differently than their peers when both were still in the country of origin; (ii) whether smoking later in life systematically differs for migrants and non migrants; (iii) whether the observed differences in smoking behavior, which is often used as a proxy for rates of time preference or discount rates, are associated with observed differences in education and earnings; (iv) whether these patterns differ by sex, year of migration, and economic conditions in the country of origin.

**Datasets** BHPS, GSOEP and Other  
**Areas** Labour Markets, Health and Psychological Well-being and Other  
**Keywords** Healthy migrant bias, retrospectively reported data, labor returns

*The dynamics of household membership and labour supply decisions of young adults in Britain: a panel data approach.*

Serkos Manoukian

This paper examines the determinants of the decision to leave home and the decision to work of young adults in Britain. These behavioural outcomes are jointly modelled using a bivariate dynamic setting that accounts for unobserved heterogeneity estimated on the first fifteen waves of the British Household Panel Survey. We augment previous research by examining the effect of current parental labour supply which could affect young adults’ decisions through time spent in the household rather than income. Results show that, for men, parental labour supply rather than current parental income affects the two decisions. Strong gender differences emerge from this analysis where unobserved factors seem more important for women and men tend to be affected by parental characteristics more. Furthermore a model with age interactions shows ageing changes the process more for men than women. On methodological grounds, this paper shows that the two decisions are highly correlated and should therefore be studied jointly but separately for men and women.

**Datasets** BHPS  
**Areas** Family and Demography, Labour Markets and Social Behaviour  
**Keywords** Household formation; leaving home; labour supply; BHPS; panel data; bivariate dynamic random effects probit.

*When 'non-standard' is the norm: women's employment and careers in female occupations*

Bill Martin, Co-author(s) Belinda Hewitt

Many women work in occupations where men are a rarity. Yet our understandings of the employment and career processes that operate in these labour markets are limited. They are largely based around the male model of full-time, uninterrupted employment and career. In this paper, we analyse the employment
pathways and labour market processes in a number of women’s occupations, where periods of part-time work and career interruptions are the norm. Our paper is motivated by recent feminist theorising which uses a Bourdieu inspired ‘multiple capitals’ conceptualisation to suggest that women’s domestic and private caring activities provide them with ‘feminine capital’. This is caring know-how and legitimacy, and it can be converted to advantage in some female dominated occupations. This approach suggests, for example, that career breaks in which women engage in domestic caring may increase their stock of feminine capital and therefore improve their position on some labour markets. This is quite the opposite effect to that suggested by standard approaches which see career breaks as usually harmful to workers’ labour market position. We use the Household and Labour Dynamics Australia (HILDA) data, a large Australian national longitudinal dataset which currently extends to 9 available annual waves. We focus on three main tasks. First, we identify occupations where over 70% of workers are women. We use sequence analysis to identify clusters of pathways amongst women who have spent at least one year in one of these occupations. Pathways are defined by labour force participation, key job characteristics (f/t vs. p/t), and caring responsibilities. Second, we use multivariate models (including fixed effects multinomial logits) to examine the main determinants of which pathway pattern women follow. Third, we assess whether different pathways lead to different labour market outcomes for women, even though their main ‘human capital’ characteristics may be the same.

**Datasets:** Other

**Areas:** Labour Markets, Inequality and Social Stratification and Disadvantage

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**Eliciting expert opinion about missing data in longitudinal studies**

Alexina Mason

Longitudinal studies inevitably suffer from missing data, which if handled inappropriately can distort scientific investigation. It is important to think carefully about the causes of the missingness and to incorporate realistic assumptions about these into the analysis. Subject experts may be able to provide valuable information about the missingness process, and in this talk we look at ways of eliciting their opinions and converting this information into informative prior distributions that can be incorporated into Bayesian models. This is illustrated with an application to modelling changes in mothers’ income using data from the Millennium Cohort Study.

**Datasets** Millennium Cohort Study

**Keywords** Research methods, missing data

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**Who’s in the passing lane? University versus Polytechnic Graduates’ Labour Market Outcomes in Germany and the UK**

Maren M. Michaelsen **Co-author(s)** Jan Kleibrink

Higher Education systems are constantly subject to reforms. One important reform in the UK was the Further and Higher Education Act from 1991 which granted polytechnics university status and eliminated the ‘two-tier’ system. In Germany, the ‘two-tier’ system still exists, where universities are distinguished from Fachhochschulen. The latter are supposed to be less academic with teaching focusing on labour market demands. The same applies for polytechnics. This raises the question if there are considerable differences in labour market outcomes of graduates of these institutions. Do degrees from different institutions offer the same possibilities in the labour market? Little research on this topic has been done so far. We fill this gap using rich panel data sets: The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) and German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) for the years 1991-2008. For Germany, we find a significant wage penalty and higher propensities to be unemployed for graduates from Fachhochschulen compared to university graduates. These findings are constant over the investigated period. In the UK, we find considerable differences. While a wage gap existed in the 1990s, graduates from former polytechnics catch up with university graduates in terms of average wages in the new century – even when controlling for a large set of schooling, family and workplace characteristics. When we include the estimated individual propensity to be employed, the wage premium is reduced while it stays the same when correcting for selection using a Heckman selection model. The findings have important implications for the debate on raising tuition fees and funding higher education as well as measuring university output in both countries.

**Datasets** BHPS and GSOEP

**Areas** Labour Markets, Inequality and Poverty and Income Distribution

**Keywords** Higher Education, Wage inequality, Employment probability

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**The impact of pension reforms on the occurrence of poverty during retirement: evidence from Britain and Germany since the early 1990s**

Katja Moehring

The financial situation of the elderly population has become a prominent topic of welfare state discussions and research in Europe. Frequently, pension retrenchment reforms, like benefit cuts and privatisation, are...
related to an increasing poverty risk for retirees. In Britain, profound reforms towards an expansion of private provision for old age were undertaken in 1986 already. Germany introduced rather incremental pension reform steps including actuarial reductions for certain groups of retirees in the mid-1990s. In this analysis, the risk of being affected by income poverty during retirement in Germany and Britain is examined on the background of the differing reform pathways. The underlying question is whether and how institutional changes evoked by pension reforms affect the risk of being affected by income poverty during retirement. Since Eastern and Western Germany are analysed separately, a comparison of three distinct samples of retiree population is undertaken. With the hybrid method of panel regression, period and cohort effects as well as individual impact factors and events are incorporated in the analysis of the occurrence of income poverty during retirement. As data source longitudinal information on the income situation of retirees from the German Socio-economic panel (GSOEP) 1992-2009 and the British Household Panel (BHPS) 1991-2006 is combined. The results show clear country differences in the effects of pension reforms: Whereas the profound reforms in Britain have noticeable cohort effects, the rather incremental reforms in Germany do not have a marked impact on the current generation of elderly. The pension privatisation in Britain especially hit people who retired until the beginning of the 1990s. Due to the introduction of additional redistributive and targeted benefits in recent years, British low-income elderly are increasingly less affected by poverty during retirement towards the end of the analysis period. In Germany, differences between Eastern and Western German retiree cohorts reveal that the pension system increasingly reinforces existing social inequalities.

Datasets BHPS and GSOEP

Areas Inequality and Poverty and Income Distribution
Keywords poverty, retirement, pension reforms, country comparison, hybrid panel regression

The puzzle of job search and housing tenure: a reconciliation of theory and empirical evidence
Andrea Morescalchi

This paper attempts to reconcile the empirical evidence with the argument in favour of a positive effect of homeownership on exit rates from unemployment, known as "Oswald's thesis". While the theory would suggest that homeowners experience more difficulties than renters to exit unemployment due to lower residential mobility, the empirical literature has typically found lower unemployment duration for homeowners. Taking into account some of the reasons for the falsification of the Oswald's thesis, we provide evidence which supports it. At first, in a theoretical model of endogenous job search we show that homeowners' higher moving costs imply unambiguously lower search and lower job finding rates, even though an opposite effect works for jobs which do not require a move. Then, in the empirical analysis we make use of data drawn from the British Household Panel Survey to compare job search intensity measures by housing tenure. We find that, controlling for housing costs and for different residential statuses, non-employed outright owners have definitely a lower attachment to the labour market than renters, and that this effect is even more evident when we compare them to private renters.

Datasets BHPS

Areas Labour Markets
Keywords Job search, housing tenure, Oswald effect

Relationship between 'survey experience’ and subsequent response on Understanding Society
Anni Oskala, Co-author(s) Gerry Nicholas, Richard Boreham

Declining participation rates are a major challenge for longitudinal surveys, not only because this results in progressively smaller sample sizes but also because it increases the risk of the sample becoming less representative of the population of interest. Consequently there is significant motivation to improve our understanding of how a respondent’s survey experience in an earlier wave relates to their likelihood of future cooperation.

Existing evidence is limited, particularly for face-to-face surveys and within the UK context. Some studies suggest that respondents’ concerns at initial contact and attitudes towards the survey are strongly correlated with future response (McCarthy & Jacob, 2009; Branden, Gritz & Pergamit, 1995). It has also been suggested that item non-response could indicate lack of motivation which could be related to future non-response. Others have examined the relationship between the length of the previous interview and response at the subsequent wave, with inconsistent findings.

In this paper we will examine the relationship between available indicators of the ‘survey experience’ on Wave 1 of Understanding Society and subsequent response on Wave 2. The indicators considered will include initial level of household resistance and queries on the doorstep, the number of calls and issues required to acquire a productive interview, the interviewer observations about the respondents’ overall level
of co-operation, suspicion across all interviewed adults in a given household and Wave 1 item non-response. We will also consider the overall interview burden, looking the individual interview as well as other parts of the Understanding Society survey instrument including the paper self-completion questionnaire, household-level enumeration and household questionnaire, and proxy interviews.

We will conclude by suggesting some practical steps to identify households most at risk of non-response and develop contact strategies that could be used to mitigate that risk.

Datasets: USoc
Areas: Survey Methods and Analysis
Keywords: Non-response, Survey experience

Changing attitudes to gender roles in Britain between 1991 and 2007
Roger Penn & Damon Berridge

Declining participation rates are a major challenge for longitudinal surveys, not only because this results in progressively smaller sample sizes but also because it increases the risk of the sample becoming less representative of the population of interest. Consequently there is significant motivation to improve our understanding of how a respondent’s survey experience in an earlier wave relates to their likelihood of future cooperation. Existing evidence is limited, particularly for face-to-face surveys and within the UK context. Some studies suggest that respondents’ concerns at initial contact and attitudes towards the survey are strongly correlated with future response (McCarthy & Jacob, 2009; Branden, Gritz & Pergamit, 1995). It has also been suggested that item non-response could indicate lack of motivation which could be related to future nonresponse. Others have examined the relationship between the length of the previous interview and response at the subsequent wave, with inconsistent findings. If anything, the relationship between interview length and future response has been found to be a positive one, with longer interview inferred to be yet another indicator of higher level of cooperation and engagement - therefore higher chances of future participation too - by the respondent (Branden, Gritz & Pergamit, 1995). In this paper we will examine the relationship between available indicators of the ‘survey experience’ on Wave 1 of Understanding Society and subsequent response on Wave 2. The indicators considered will include initial level of household resistance and queries on the doorstep, the number of calls and issues required to acquire a productive interview, the interviewer observations about the respondents’ overall level of co-operation and suspicion across all interviewed adults in a given household, and Wave 1 item non-response. We will also consider the overall interview burden, looking the individual interview as well as other parts of the Understanding Society survey instrument including the paper self-completion questionnaire, household-level enumeration and household questionnaire, and proxy interviews. We will conclude by suggesting some practical steps to identify households most at risk of non-response and develop contact strategies that could be used to mitigate that risk.

Datasets Understanding Society
Areas Survey Methods and Analysis
Keywords Non-response, Survey experience

Risk sharing and social networks in the UK: an empirical analysis on British Households Panel Survey
Filippo Pericoli Co-author(s), Luigi Ventura, Eleonora Pierucci

The object of this work is twofold. By using the BHPS database, it consists on the one hand in investigating the degree of consumption insurance among U.K. households applying the empirical strategy firstly introduced by Cochrane (1991) and Mace (1991). On the other hand, the traditional analysis is extended in order to account for the impact of private social networks onto households’ insurance capabilities. Personal contacts, geographic proximity and information flows foster agents’ insurance against shocks to income (Cochrane 1991; Townsend, 1994; Sørensen and Yoshia, 2000). This idea, firstly outlined by Cochrane (1991), has been empirically tested for a number of developing countries (e.g. Townsend, 1994; Decon and De Weerdt, 2002; Fafchamps and Lund, 2003) and recently received theoretical foundations within the social network approach (e.g., Bramouille and Kranton, 2007; Ambrus et al. 2010). The novelty of our study lies in the assessment of the effect of various types of networks onto risk sharing in the case of an industrialized country where, contrary to the case of developing countries, formal and informal insurance mechanisms often coexist. To evaluate the role played by social networks onto households’ consumption smoothing patterns we exploit the empirical strategy due to Melitz and Zummer (1999), frequently implemented for risk sharing analyses among countries, and based on interacting several proxies for household’s inclusion in social networks with standard regressors. Moreover, our analysis allows for asymmetric responses of consumption to income shocks as we distinguish between positive and negative realizations of the shock variable.

Datasets BHPS
Areas Family and Demography and Social Behaviour
Does maternal employment protect against poor health and smoking of their children?
Jitka Pikhartova, Co-author(s) Yvonne Kelly, Annie Britton, Tarani Chandola, Anne McMunn

Objective: Maternal employment has been shown to influence number of child and adolescent health, cognitive and behavioural outcomes. There is, however, only limited number of UK studies using health measures as study outcomes. The aim of this study is to look at influence of maternal employment in three periods of childhood on health outcomes among young people aged 16-21 years in BHPS. Methods: Annual BHPS has started in 1991. There are 3,696 individuals for whom at least one measurement of self-rated health (SRH) and/or GHQ-12 and/or smoking at age 16-21 and maternal employment prior to age 16 years are available. Other variables, such as gender, maternal age, maternal education and marital status, household income or maternal smoking were used as covariates. Multilevel logistic regression (using clustering of repeated measurements within individuals) was used for the analysis. Results: 19% of young adults aged 16-21 reported poor SRH and 29% reported being current smoker. 40%, 59% and 68% of mothers worked at age 0-4, 5-11 and 12-16 of their child. Children of mothers who were not employed reported OR of poor SRH 1.53, 1.32 and 1.51 for 3 periods of exposure. Children of mothers who were not employed were more likely to smoke with the strongest effect of last period of exposure (OR 2.56, 95% 1.21-1.64). These effects were partly explained when adjusted for maternal education and household income. The differences in GHQ-12 by maternal employment were limited. Conclusions: The associations between maternal employment in childhood and young adults’ health and smoking exist at least partly because of the generally higher social position and more stable family structure of households with working mothers. Maternal education and household income seem to be stronger social predictors of study outcomes than maternal employment status.

Datasets BHPS
Areas Family and Demography, Labour Markets, Inequality, Social Stratification and Disadvantage, Social Behaviour and Health and Psychological Well-being
Keywords self-rated health, smoking, maternal employment, adolescence, children

Unemployment, material factors, and self-evaluated health: an event history analysis of the British Household Panel Survey and the Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey
Loretta Platts

Background: While welfare regime theory predicts that the decommodifying effects of welfare states would mediate the impact of market-derived class and income inequalities, European comparisons examining the link between social conditions and health inequalities have found inconsistent welfare state effects.
Methods: This longitudinal study investigates the effects of social factors upon subsequent health decline in two countries with contrasting welfare states: Great Britain and Russia. Event history analysis is performed on 11 waves of the British Household Panel Survey (1993- 2003) and three waves of the Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey (2000-2002). Through Cox proportional hazards modeling, individual level decline in self-assessed health in the two countries is contrasted by initial financial situation, social status, occupational class and activity (active, inactive, unemployed). Results: Financial situation, activity, age and previous state of health impact upon subsequent health in both countries. A person’s baseline assessment of their financial situation predicted their subsequent health in the fully adjusted models in both countries. Compared to people in work, those who were not working were at greater risk of subsequent health decline in Russia, while in Great Britain it was the unemployed who were at particular risk. Material deprivation seems to have particular importance in Russian health inequalities, while in Great Britain social status, whether expressed through education or the Cambridge class scale, has a relationship with health that is independent of material factors. Conclusions: The patterns in likelihood of subsequently declaring poor health differ by activity status between Great Britain and Russia, which may reflect targeting of welfare systems. In Russia a strong relationship existed between a person’s satisfaction with their economic conditions and their subsequent health, but not in the case of less subjective income and class measures. This may be because these latter measures fail to capture social divisions in Russian society.

Datasets BHPS and Other
Areas Inequality, Poverty and Income Distribution and Health and Psychological Well-being
Keywords Self-assessed health, Cox models, Britain, Russia, material deprivation, unemployment

Girls like pink: explaining sex-typed occupational preferences among children
Javier Polavieja Co-author(s) Lucinda Platt
There is a high degree of sex-typing in young children’s occupational aspirations and this has consequences for subsequent occupational segregation. Sociologists typically attribute early sex-differences in occupational preferences to gender socialization. Yet we still know surprisingly little about the mechanisms involved in the intergenerational transmission of sex-typical preferences and there is considerable theoretical controversy regarding the role of individual agency in the process of preference formation. In this study we analyze the determinants of sex-typed occupational aspirations amongst British children aged between 11 and 15, using the British Household Panel Study. Data from the youth panel between 1994 and 2008 give us information on around 300 on the occupational preferences of around 3000 young people, as well as a range of other attitudes and characteristics. We link their responses to those of their parents, who provide data on their own occupations, education and attitudes. Information on sex segregation in children’s aspired and parents’ own occupations comes from the UK Labour Force Survey, matched to occupational codes at the three-digit level. We specify different mechanisms involved in the transmission of sex-typical preferences and propose an innovative definition of individual agency that is anchored in observable psychological traits linked to self-direction. This allows us to perform a simultaneous test of socialization and agency predictors of occupational sex-typing. We find that parental influences on occupational preferences operate mainly through three distinctive channels: 1) the effect that parental socio-economic resources have on the scope of children’s occupational aspirations, 2) children’s direct imitation of parental occupations, and 3) children’s learning of sex-typed roles via the observation of parental behavior. We also find a strong net effect of children’s own psychological predispositions—self-esteem in particular—on the incidence of sex-typical occupational preferences. Yet large differences in the occupational aspirations of girls and boys remain unexplained.

**Datasets** BHPS

**Areas** Social Stratification and Disadvantage

**Keywords** occupational stratification, gender, agency, BHPS

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**Generational stability within an overall decline: the political attitudes of young people since 1991**

Gary Pollock **Co-author(s)** Robert Grimm

Despite recent activity in the Britain where young people have been at the forefront of demonstrations against government policies on Higher Education, the growing disengagement of young people from electoral politics has come to be regarded as both a fact and as an irreversible phenomenon. The argument goes that young people are increasingly turning to alternative forms of expressing their political views, especially through emerging media technologies. The decline in participation of young people is, however, poorly documented and is in need of an analysis which takes into account changes in individual attitudes given that it is accepted that political attitudes are subject to change over the life-course. This paper explores young peoples political attitudes in Britain using the British Household Panel Study. It is less concerned with the party political dimension of their participation and is instead focused upon the intensity of attitudes and to the ways that this intensity has changed over the past two decades. The findings provide evidence to support the theory of political generations but also suggest that while interest in politics is declining for young people, that this is largely related to an overall trend unrelated to age.

**Datasets** BHPS

**Areas** Beliefs and Values

**Keywords** Young people, politics

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**Grandparenting and childbearing in the extended family**

Arnstein Aassve, Elena Meroni **Presenter:** Chiara Pronzato

The paper analyses the impact of grandparenting on individuals’ fertility behaviour using longitudinal data from eleven European countries. In particular, we focus on how siblings may share and compete for grandparents’ time in terms of childcare. By considering different family scenarios, we show that availability of grandparenting play an important role in individuals’ decision making for having children. Grandparenting is particularly important in the South of Europe where public childcare is limited and here we see a large impact of grandparenting on fertility.

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**An experimental analysis of the impact of survey design on measures and models of subjective wellbeing**

Steve Pudney

We analyse the results of experiments on aspects of the design of questionnaire and interview mode in the 2009 wave of the new UK Understanding Society panel survey. The randomised experiments relate to job- and life-satisfaction questions and vary the labeling of response scales, the mode of interviewing and the location of questions within the interview. We find a highly significant impact of these design features on the distributions of reported satisfaction in various life domains and some important impacts on the findings from conventional cross-section models of satisfaction.
Low skilled Immigrants, household services, labor supply and fertility of natives. Evidence from the UK
Agnese Romiti

As in many other OECD countries also in the UK both the labor force participation and the fertility have risen for women over the last 15 years. At the same time the inflow of immigrants has been steadily increasing. If low skilled immigrants are substitutes for activities undertaken mostly by women in the household production, their increasing inflow may have contributed to affect (increase) the fertility and the labor supply decisions. This study aims at investigating whether low-skilled immigrants have contributed to the increasing pattern of labor supply and fertility by increasing the size of the household service sector, thus making more available services such as housekeeping or child care. Our empirical analysis focuses on the period 1995-2007, we first use the QLFS in order to detect whether low-skilled female immigrants has brought about a positive impact on the size of the household service sector. According to our results a 5 percentage points rise in the ratio of low-skilled immigrants out of the labor force at the regional level increases the rate of employment in the household services by 2 percent. We then exploit the BHPS in order to detect whether the low-skilled immigration rate as computed from the QLFS exerts any impact on the labor supply and fertility decisions of British women through the immigrants induced increase in the availability of household services. Our results, controlling for individual unobserved heterogeneity, are in favor of a positive impact of immigration on the supply of highly educated British women. Low skilled immigration also increases the fertility for high skilled women. Our results are robust to the endogeneity of immigrants’ location which we control by adopting an IV strategy based on the past distribution of immigrants as taken by the 1991 Census data.

Moving on and moving up: Exploring the potential implications of socio-spatial mobility for partnership and fertility
Marina Shapira, Co-author(s) Vernon Gayle, Elspeth Graham

The term ‘family migration’ has historically been deployed to describe the process of couples moving long distances. In contrast the term ‘residential move’ was used to describe short-distance household moves. The underlying assumption being that family migration was employment related, whereas short-distance moves were housing related. Contemporary labour markets are characterised by high levels of female participation and dual-earner couples. Historically employment related changes that drive long distance migration have been assumed to be associated with the male partner’s work. The term ‘tied migrant’ or ‘trailing spouse’ has been used to describe the dependent relationship between the male initiator of the move and the female partner. But changes in employment patterns question this more traditional set of arrangements. We suggest that with the rise of the dual income household, long distance moves for one partner’s job are likely to be increasingly consequential for the other partner. The focus of this paper is couples mobility and we begin to explore the dynamics of migration and changes in employment. We will explore the effects and consequences of long-distance migration on both partners. The overall goal is to better understand contemporary family life and labour market participation through a detailed analysis of long-distance migration. The paper analyses data from waves 1-18 of the BHPS, and draws specifically on the fertility and partnership information and employment histories, and information on couple’s migration. The design of the BHPS facilitates the linking of individual level information for both partners and household level information, which is highly appropriate for this study.

Caution, sociological imagination at work: a journey into friendship with Ray Pahl
Liz Spencer

As a sociologist, Ray Pahl has always loved a challenge. Not afraid to question the orthodoxies of his discipline or to look beyond it for inspiration and insight, Ray also loves to point out flaws in an argument or put forward an alternative interpretation of evidence. Taking the example of our research on friendship, this paper illustrates Ray’s eclectic approach and finely tuned sociological imagination. It also tells a story of
the journey of discovery he and I have made as friends which has enabled us to meld our professional and personal concerns.

Non-employment, age, and the business cycle
Mark Taylor, Co-author(s) Stephen Jenkins

The impact of the recent recession on employment differed across British society. For example, employment fell more among men than women, among younger people than mid-aged or older people, and among those with low education than among the more highly educated. We examine how non-employment varies by age in Britain and how this relationship has been changing with the economic cycle, with a particular focus on the relative impacts of the recessions of the early 1990s and of 2009-2010. Using data from the British Household Panel Survey for survey years 1991–2008 and Understanding Society: The UK Household Longitudinal Survey for 2009, we show that the employment prospects of young people were hit particularly hard by the recent recession, and more so than in the previous recession. Young people with no qualifications were especially affected. In contrast, non-employment among women approaching and past the state pension age fell in the recent recession, suggesting an enforced return to work among this group.

Datasets Understanding Society and BHPS
Areas Labour Markets and Inequality
Keywords Recession; non-employment; BHPS; Understanding Society

Well-being in cohabiting and married couples
Elizabeth Webb, Co-author(s) G Netuveli, D Blane, J Abell

Previous research has shown that being married has a positive impact on well-being (Stack, et al., 1998), as does cohabitation to a lesser degree (Soons, et al., 2009). However, this association has tended to be explored in terms of the level of well-being of individuals and has not taken into account concordance in well-being between partners. Our research aims to answer the following questions: 1. Are there differences in well-being between married and cohabiting couples? 2. Does couple concordance in wellbeing differ between married and cohabiting couples? 3. Do individual, partner and couple characteristics differ in their influence on concordance and well-being between married and cohabiting couples? Understanding Society is a household panel study which collects individual responses from each member of a cohabiting partnership, therefore enabling the use of dyadic analysis to investigate how partners influence one another’s well-being. We will analyse data on over 5600 cohabiting couples in the interim data release of Understanding Society. Age, quality of the relationship and labour market status are individual and partner characteristics of interest, and couple level characteristics are length of the relationship, marital status (married or cohabiting), children and socioeconomic circumstances. Dyadic analysis methods will be used to test concordance in well-being and actor-partner interdependence models (APIM) (Cook, et al., 2005) will be fitted to estimate individual and partner effects on well-being amongst couples. Full analyses have not been performed, so results are not yet available.

Datasets Understanding Society
Areas Family and Demography and Health and Psychological Well-being
Keywords Well-being, couples, dyadic analysis

Mothers’ work: conflicting identities and maternal well-being
Jenny Willson, Co-author(s) Andy Dickerson

The identities hypothesis asserts that the behavioural norms of the group an individual identifies with will influence the individual’s behavioural decisions (Akerlof and Kranton, 2000, 2005, inter alios). Group membership is based on the individual’s characteristics. It is possible that individuals may hold multiple identities, and face pressures of conflicting behavioural norms. This paper investigates whether the identities hypothesis can explain the relationship between mothers’ well-being and their employment. A mother’s identity is classified by their pre-childbirth employment history and by their status as mothers of young children. This allows for the possibility of mothers holding multiple identities and experiencing conflicting behavioural norms. We utilise a sample of mothers from the BHPS who are observed having a child. We analyse the impact of maternal employment (full-time, part-time or not in employment) on mothers’ well-being for various sub-groups of mothers as determined by the two identity strands. Pooled ordered logit and fixed-effects ordered logit models are used to analyse the impact of employment on mothers’ self-assessed life satisfaction (as first recorded in wave 6), with pre-childbirth waves additionally used to determine identity. The analysis also contributes to the methodological literature by applying a new estimator for the fixed-effects ordered logit specification (Baetschmann et al. 2011, IZA DP No. 5443), and contrasts this with alternative estimators such as those proposed by Das and van Soest (1999), and Ferreri- Carbonell and
Frijters (2004). The results indicate the relative impact of time spent at home or in employment on well-being for groups of mothers identified by their career and motherhood identities. The results have implications for maternity leave policy which allows mothers to maintain continuous labour market attachment over childbirth, as well as for policies which facilitate flexible working opportunities, or provide access to childcare, which can relax the constraints on mothers’ work-life balance decisions.

Datasets BHPS
Areas Family and Demography, Labour Markets and Health and Psychological Well-being
Keywords Maternal employment, well-being, identities hypothesis

Family factors and bullying victimisation at school
Author Dieter Wolke, Co-author(s) & Presenter Alexandra Skew

Occasional conflict between peers of the same social stature is adaptive; it helps children to resolve disagreement and to acquire skills of negotiation. In contrast, bullying victimization refers to children being exposed repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other students who are or perceived to be stronger. It is systematic abuse of power with three crucial elements: repetition, intention to harm, and unequal power. Bullying can be direct including verbal abuse, hitting, kicking, beating, destroying others belongings or blackmail. In contrast, relational bullying refers to deliberate social exclusion of children such as ignoring, excluding them from games or parties, spreading gossip or framing them to be humiliated. Direct bullying is more frequent at young age and reduces while relational and cyber bullying increases in adolescence. However, bullies usually employ multiple methods of bullying with girls favouring relational to direct bullying strategies more often than boys. Any child can become a victim (12-30%) but those who remain victims are often more anxious, submissive, withdrawn or physically weak, show easily a reaction (e.g. run away, start crying, scream for help), have poor social understanding and coping skills and have no or only few friends who can stand up for them. In contrast to our knowledge of individual differences of children, studies of family factors related to victimisation are few and mostly based on small or selected samples. This study investigates a range of family factors and their relationship to bullying victimisation of 2146 adolescents 11-15 year old within the Understanding Society sample. Approximately 11% were victims of bullying overall, 4.8% of direct and 10% of relational bullying in school. Those who were victimized were more likely to have SDQ behaviour problem scores in the clinical range. Children who were victimized at school were less happy and had fewer friends. The family factors that will be investigated in relation to peer victimisation are family type, family income and wealth, partner relationship of parents, parenting behaviour, maternal mental health and wellbeing and experience of sibling bullying. The findings are discussed in relation to the limited literature on victimisation and family factors and sibling relationships.

Datasets Understanding Society
Areas Family and Demography, Social Behaviour and Health and Psychological Well-being

Re-engaging with survey non-respondents: evidence from the BHPS, SOEP and HILDA Survey
Mark Wooden, Co-author(s) Nicole Watson

Previous research into the correlates and determinants of non-response in longitudinal surveys has focused exclusively on why it is that respondents at one survey wave choose not to participate at future waves. This is very understandable if non-response is always an absorbing state, but in many longitudinal surveys, and certainly most household panels, this is not the case. Indeed, in these surveys it is normal practice to attempt to make contact with many non-respondents at the next wave. This study differs from previous research by examining the process of re-engagement with previous wave non-respondents. Drawing on data from three national household panels (the British Household Panel Survey, the German Socio-Economic Panel and the HILDA Survey) it is found that the re-engagement decision is indeed distinctly different from the decision about continued participation. Further, these differences have clear implications for the way panel surveys should be administered given the desire to enhance overall response rates.

Datasets BHPS, GSOEP and Other
Areas Survey Methods and Analysis
Keywords Response, attrition, re-engagement