



MiSoC MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN...

Informing decision making with world-leading research experts

MiSoC has built its reputation as a centre renowned for its rigorous analytical skills and expertise, and this reputation draws in some of the finest research experts from across the globe

Over the past 30 years MiSoC has been home to over 60 researchers. We have an extensive network of research associates, who are international experts in their field. They regularly engage in joint research projects and bring an international dimension to our work.

Our network extends the reach of our research and facilitates knowledge exchange, through opening

opportunities for invitations to seminars, hosting international scholars, organising conferences and workshops, participating in government consultations, facilitating new research projects and informal knowledge exchange. The networks each individual researcher brings to MiSoC are vital for communicating our work beyond academia at the highest levels. Here, we shine a spotlight on three of our experts.



Professor Meena Kumari

Meena is Professor of Biological and Social Epidemiology at the University of Essex and Deputy Director for the Institute for Social and Economic Research. She is also an Honorary Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, at UCL. Meena was in the top two percent of the world's most cited academics for 2019.

Meena is a leading expert in biomarkers and genetics and how to measure biomarkers and social determinants of health. Meena works to apply insights from these areas to better understand ageing, cardiovascular disease, and health disparities.

Meena has developed a ground-breaking new method to measure stress levels in social survey participants, drawing on new developments in biomarker data collection. When measured correctly, it is possible to assess how stress is linked to cardiovascular failure. This had not been done before in large studies. Meena's research is now being actively used by others in the field to develop the method further.

Meena also leads research on the social-biological interface and genetic epidemiology in *Understanding Society*.

In Meena's own words: 'the joy is in having really good social science with really good biology.'

Professor Sonia Bhalotra

Sonia is the leader for MiSoC's research area on families and wellbeing and Professor of Economics at the University of Warwick. She is a world-renowned economist and one of the top one percent of female economists worldwide by publication worldwide.

Sonia's research covers skill creation, early childhood development and health; she seeks to understand the family and the legal and political environment, with an emphasis on gender. Her research is far-reaching and recognised through her extensive publication record, research grants, distinguished appointments and network of collaborations.

In 2021 Sonia was awarded a prestigious International Economics Association (IEA) Fellowship. She has worked with organisations across the globe, with current research in Brazil and Chile – she is currently on the International Advisory Board, The

Millennium Nucleus for the Study of the Life Course and Vulnerability IN Santiago Chile (2018-) – to groundbreaking research in Pakistan, Sweden and the UK.

Sonia has held more than 10 fellowship appointments and been on the board of more than 20 scientific committees ranging from Women in Economics Committee of the European Economic Association (2022-) to the UNICEF Humanitarian Crises and Adolescents Network Steering Group(2017-). In 2019 she became a Research Fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR). She supervises PhD and Masters students, writes for broader audiences, advocates for policy change and in 2019 won the University of Essex impact award for the most read article in The Conversation. She regularly gives keynote speeches and presentations.

Read more about Sonia here and here, and find some of her current research here.



Professor Emily Grundy

Emily is Professor of Population Science at the University of Essex and a research associate at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health Centre for Excellence on Fertility and Health. Her academic distinction is recognised in her fellowships of the British Academy and the Academy of Social Sciences. Emily was in the top two percent of the world's most cited academics for 2019.

Emily's main research focus is on individual or population ageing. Her other research examines families, households and kin and social networks in later life, especially in relationship to health, associations between family life courses and health and wellbeing at older ages, and trends and differentials in later life health, disability and mortality. She talks about her current research interests here.

Alongside her extensive and influential publications, she is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journals of Gerontology (Social Sciences) and Population, Space and Place and held appointments as the past Chair of the Population Investigation Committee and past President of the British Society for Population Studies. Emily is a leader in high-quality research, having been awarded numerous UK and international grants including a European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant (2013-2018) and MindMap, a European-funded collaborative project addressing mental wellbeing, health and ageing in cities.

Emily's research in MiSoC covers a number of areas including multimorbidity – investigating trends in reporting multiple causes of death among decedents aged 65 and the slowdown in mortality in the past decade.