

**Editor: Melanie Channon**

The British Society for Population Studies Newsletter

## Post-Election/Pre-Conference Special

It has been less than a week since the general election and things are as politically uncertain as they were before, if not more so. One certainty, however, is the BSPS conference, which is just under three months away. This year we will be heading to Liverpool, where you can visit the world's largest brick warehouse at Stanley Dock. I'm not sure I can top that, but look out for more top tips in the conference edition of the newsletter. [Make sure you book by July 31st to take advantage of early bird registration \(click to go to booking form and draft programme\).](#)

### Plenary speakers

**Professor Michael Anderson** (University of Edinburgh): 'Scottish migration: who, when, where, and why: from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day?'

**Professor Clara Mulder** (University of Groningen): 'Putting family centre-stage: Family ties and spatial mobility'

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Since, I held off writing this page until after the election results it seems only right that I comment. This election was particularly interesting for me for two reasons (aside from the obvious): (1) it highlighted the great demographic divide in voting preferences, (2) it offered pollsters a chance to test different methods in an attempt to predict the outcome correctly (after a poor run in recent elections).

One of the biggest questions before Thursday was whether the youth vote would actually turn up and vote. This was something that troubled the pollsters as well. While it has always been the case that older people were more likely to vote Conservative, the difference in voting patterns by age has become increasingly stark. In fact [YouGov have estimated](#) that for every 10 years older a person, in this election, is

they would be 9 points more likely to vote Conservative and 9 points less likely to vote Labour. Just 19% of 18-19 year olds voted Conservative last week, while just 19% of 70+ year olds voted Labour. Equally, while there was an increase in young people turning up to vote, it was not sufficient to swing the result. An estimated 57% of 18-19 year olds turned out, but the figure was 84% for those aged over 70.

Another interesting, though less reported, factor in voting is education. Graduates are more likely to vote Labour, even when age is taken into account. Given how many BSPS members have degrees, I wonder what our voting patterns look like!

See page 2 for a round up of links to much more interesting and detailed analysis of the general election than I have room to provide here.

As always do let me know if you have any suggestions for the newsletter. If you have published anything interesting (article, book, blog, interview etc.) then also let me know. It would be great to share more of your wonderful work!

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**Tweet me: [@frostyallyear](https://twitter.com/frostyallyear)**

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# BSPS 2017 AGM and Council vacancies from Sep 2017

The 2017 AGM of the British Society for Population Studies will take place at the University of Liverpool, during the 2017 annual conference, on Thursday 7 September at 6.45pm. Any member not attending the conference is welcome to attend the AGM, but please advise [pic@lse.ac.uk](mailto:pic@lse.ac.uk) if you wish to do so.

This year, there will be five vacancies on Council as Kirsty MacLachlan, Stephen Jivraj, Romola Davenport, Greg Ball and Francesco Billari complete their four-year terms. They are not eligible for immediate re-election. Paul Norman, James Robards, Fran Darlington-Pollack, Hannaliis Jaadla and Ben Corr have been duly nominated to fill the vacancies. Further nominations by the end of June 2017 can be made, but would mean that an election would be necessary.

At the 2017 AGM, Jane Falkingham will also have completed her two-year term as President. As is usual practice, it is expected that the Vice-President Piers Elias will be elected to fill that vacancy. Wendy Sigle has been nominated as Vice-President from September 2017. This will leave a vacancy for BSPS Hon. Secretary, for which nominations are welcomed until the end of June. All nominations need a proposer and a seconder and the person nominated must be willing to be put forward for the post.

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## A Little Light Reading from Around the Web

Here is a roundup of a few interesting blog posts and articles from around the web.

### Election Analysis

- ⇒ How Britain voted at the 2017 general election: <https://yougov.co.uk/news/2017/06/13/how-britain-voted-2017-general-election/>  
Results from the post-election YouGov survey.
- ⇒ UK election: The day after: <https://yougov.co.uk/news/2017/06/09/the-day-after/>  
How the new YouGov model for the 2017 General Election proved to be pretty accurate.
- ⇒ Election 2017: how the UK voted in 7 charts: <https://www.ft.com/content/dac3a3b2-4ad7-11e7-919a-1e14ce4af89b>  
Visual analysis of the general election from the Financial Times.
- ⇒ New boundaries deal fresh blow to Conservatives: <http://www.electoralcalculus.co.uk/boundaries2018.html>  
An analysis of how changes to the boundaries of constituencies would have affected the election results. You can even check the results for your own constituency individually.

### General Demography

- ⇒ Enrolment as an Excuse? On the Causal Effect of Education on Fertility Postponement: <http://www.openpop.org/?p=1395>
- ⇒ Isis violence against Yazidis in Iraq: <https://demotrends.wordpress.com/2017/05/15/isis-violence-against-yazidis-in-iraq/>
- ⇒ Is it possible to delay human ageing? The evolution of anti-ageing treatments: <http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/blog/2017-anti-ageing-zella>

# Postgraduate Student Representative: Alina Pelikh

Spring is traditionally a very busy conference period for social scientists. Recently coming back from the PAA conference in Chicago myself, I was pleased to have met 10 of our student members over there, who were engaged both in oral and poster presentations. Well done everyone!

I'd like to take the opportunity to give a very warm welcome to 14 new student members who have recently joined the Society! If you have not already done so, join the BPS Student Members' Facebook page here:

[www.facebook.com/groups/300124886760445/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/300124886760445/).

10 of our student members are travelling to one of the most exciting student conferences of the year –

PopFest 2017 in Stockholm, supported by travel grants from the Society. Gunnar Andersson (Professor of Demography, Stockholm University) and David Card (Professor of Economics, University of California, Berkeley) have been announced as keynote speakers this year. Wendy Sigle (Honorary Secretary of the Society and Honorary PopFest Workshop leader in addition to being a Professor at LSE) will be leading a workshop about gendered knowledge in demographic research, followed by another excellent workshop on data visualisation from Ben Wilson (one of the grey cardinals behind the Demotrends blog, currently affiliated with SUDA). Amongst other treats, the organisers have also booked a conference reception at Stockholm City Hall. Casual, why not. Don't miss the tweeting stream May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 2nd!

This edition's student spotlight features Natalia Permyakova from the University of Southampton who is studying the influence of family on men's health in Russia. Taking the early stage of her career, Natalia is organising a session on "Multigenerational living arrangements" at BPS conference in Liverpool this year as well as a panel session about careers in UK academia, together with Sam Wilding. Here is the message they are sending to all postgraduate

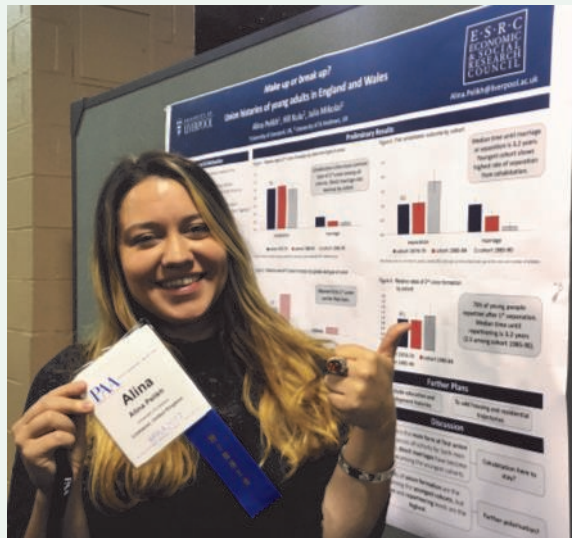
students and early career researchers: *"We will present a series of slides outlining the range of roles available across academia and provide handouts with useful web links on where to find vacancies. A panel of academics (to be confirmed) will then discuss their experiences of building a career in UK academia and answer questions from the audience"*.

Another event to watch out for at this year's BPS conference (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September) is a workshop on "How to review a journal article" with Wendy Sigle and Rebecca Sear (Reader in Population and Health at LSHTM). The workshop will focus on the role of the reviewer and will provide some practical information about how to critically evaluate manuscripts and how to write referee reports.

As one of the Liverpool-based organisers at this year's conference I'd like to invite everyone to join me for a walking tour after the conference on Friday. After being chosen as European Capital of Culture in 2008, the city has changed a lot. Common attractions include: Albert Dock, Liverpool Tate, Walker Art Gallery, Matthew Street (the Beatles quarter), China Town (the oldest one in Europe!), Liverpool Cathedral,

Anfield stadium, Anthony Gormley's "Another place" (Crosby beach) and many more. If there are any dedicated tennis players among the readers, I am happy to provide information on the venue availabilities as well!

Please don't hesitate to contact me at [alina.pelikh@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:alina.pelikh@liverpool.ac.uk) if you have any questions or concerns. As the number of BPS members increase with every edition we are trying to catch up with the most recent research trends and public impact contributions of the Society members. Please do get in touch if you've been in contact with the media, have written for a blog or published an article. Information dissemination plan in action begins now!



# UK variant sub-national population projections and projections by ethnic group

A day meeting on UK variant sub-national population projections and projections by ethnic group was held at Leeds University on 27 March 2017. After a welcome by Phil Norman, on behalf of the university, Piers Elias, BSPS vice president, gave a short introduction which drew attention to the role played by population and household projections and forecasts in setting local targets for housebuilding. He emphasised the need for consistent assumptions about migration flows between local areas. The Local Plans Expert Group's recommendation on the assumptions to be made about migration in local housing needs assessments would cause some double-counting of migration flows across England.

The first presentation by Andrew Nash described the variant national projections for the UK and its constituent countries that are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). ONS also produces sub-national projections for England and in 2016 published a research report on the feasibility of variant projections for local areas within England. At the moment ONS cannot commit itself to developing sub-national variants, but will consult users again.

Eddie Holmes from Luton Council described what is perhaps the first attempt to model the demographic impacts of Brexit on a local area. Ben Corr outlined the wide range of projections produced by the Greater London Authority (GLA). These include variants based on different trend periods for setting migration assumptions. GLA hope to make their projection tool available to cover all local authorities. Dominick Veasey from Nexus Planning provided an insight into how population projections are used for spatial planning in England and the importance and difficulties of assumptions about migration. Unattributable population change (UPC) between 2001 and 2011 continues to be an issue of debate.

Matt Davies from the Welsh Government outlined the variant projections produced for local authority areas in Wales. Users of the projections often confuse variants for confidence intervals, and more guidance is needed on how to interpret variants. Potential developments included more use of data from

the annual Population Survey. Janine Edwards from Conwy Council emphasised the contribution that local authorities can make to better understanding of population change. She also made the case for using projections more intelligently to assist, rather than determine, policy making for the long-term future. There may be a tendency to choose the variant that best fits the user's interest at the time.

William Howes from National Records Scotland outlined the range of projections produced for different geographies within Scotland. Ongoing developments include an improved methodology and experimental projections for small areas. Jenny Boag provided an interesting case study from Falkirk of the perils using projections to shape policies for local development. She made a case for reviewing the accuracy of past projections.

Phil Rees from Leeds University provided a wide ranging discussion of the types of variant projections and their uses. A particular issue is whether or not to control projections for sub-populations to a national projection: should one ring rule them all? In the case of ethnic groups, there are major differences in future birth numbers between a 'bottom-up' or 'top-down' approach.

Greg Ball, former demographer for Birmingham Council, finished the day with a reminder that the difficulties in modelling migration and in interpreting and using variant projections are not new. There is a need for better understanding and modelling of relationships between migration and local housing markets. Policy makers should address the issue of future uncertainty when interpreting projections.

Thanks are due to Nik Lomax and Paul Norman from Leeds University for organising the venue and refreshments. Funding was provided by the University of Leeds through the Leeds Social Sciences Institute Impact Acceleration Account Brexit / Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund award. The presentations are on the website: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/socialPolicy/Researchcentresandgroups/BSPS/dayMeetings/-UK-Variant-Sub-national-population-projections-&-Population-Projections-by-Ethnic-Group.aspx>



# Spotlight on Research: Natalia Permyakova,

Department of Social Statistics and Demography, University of Southampton

I am in my third year of a PhD in Demography at the University of Southampton, funded by the ESRC. My thesis is about men's health and families in Russia, supervised by Brienna Perelli-Harris and Jennifer Holland. My passion for quantitative analysis comes from my BSc in Statistics from the Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics. During my MSc in Social Statistics in Southampton, I got particularly interested in research on the poor health of Russian men, who have one of the lowest life expectancies in Europe (65 years in 2016) and a negative media portrayal as 'failed' alcoholic family providers. Many studies indeed show the contribution of heavy drinking to cardiovascular diseases and premature male mortality in Russia, but the potential family effect behind this story is still largely ignored.

Russia is a unique case in comparison to the West, with high divorce rates and a high proportion of intergenerational households (1/3), but a steadily increasing share of adults living alone. Intergenerational living arrangements (ILA) in Russia are particularly characterised by overcrowding in small living spaces, driven by high unemployment rates and expensive housing with high interest rates since the regime collapse. Potential links between living arrangements (LA) and men's health across different family forms (partnership status, co-residence with an older or younger generation) are understudied.

My thesis is based on the Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey (RLMS-HSE), which includes health and socio-economic data of each followed-up individual within households. My exploration starts from distinguishing the basic relationships between LA and health. I analysed self-rated health of men in three forms of LA: whether living with a

partner or not, living alone or in ILA by partnership status. The results suggest that compositional differences explain why unpartnered men, particularly those living alone, are the most disadvantaged groups in terms of health. However, the models reveal that men are relatively healthy when they live with a partner in ILA.

Next, I looked at the effect of changes in ILA on transitions in men's health status, focusing on co-residence with an older generation. I am working on this paper together with Sunnee Billingsley

(SUDA, Stockholm University) since my research visit to SUDA in autumn 2016 (ESRC-funded). Fixed-effect models reveal that ILA have an effect on health and show that the influence of transitions into and out of ILA on changes in men's health depends on the health status of a co-residing older generation. Finally, I explore the importance of co-residing younger generations for health of fathers left behind, focusing on nest leaving. Preliminary results reveal no health effect of nest leaving,

but underline the detrimental effect of continuing co-residence with unhealthy adult children.

To conclude, my research argues that social relationships play an important role in men's lives. Intergenerational linkages can benefit or deteriorate men's health through the mechanisms of social support or informal care giving. As ILA are shown to be related to men's health in Russia, then family-oriented interventions may help the Russian government to improve male life expectancy to the level of the Western societies.

*At BSPS 2017, Natalia organises the session on "Multigenerational living arrangements", as well as a panel session about careers in UK academia, together with Sam Wilding and Alina Pelikh. Contact Natalia by e-mail: [nvp1q13@soton.ac.uk](mailto:nvp1q13@soton.ac.uk).*



# International Research and Policy Symposium on Family Changes and Housing Transitions in the Life Course

St Andrews, UK, 18-19 May 2017

The International Research and Policy Symposium on Family Changes and Housing Transitions in the Life Course took place in St Andrews, 18-19 May 2017. The organisation was a joint initiative of Hill Kulu and Julia Mikolai from the University of St Andrews (as a part of their ongoing PartnerLife project) together with Rory Coulter and Sait Bayrakdar from the University of Cambridge (as a part of their project “Families and housing tenure in young adulthood”). The event was aimed at bringing academics and non-academics one step closer to each other.

The Symposium kicked off with Bill Clark’s (University of California, Los Angeles) opening keynote dedicated to the changes in the transition to home ownership among young adults in the US during the last few decades. According to Bill’s findings, the decrease in homeownership varies widely by region and ethnicity. Additionally, Bill discussed which implication that has for the housing market, social inequalities and policy. The following excellent discussion by Ann Berrington summarised current housing trajectories of Millennials around various European countries and compared them to the trends in the UK and US. In particular, Ann looked at inequalities from the perspective of “diverging destinies” and housing affordability. A short interview with Bill summarising the main points of his opening keynote talk can be found at <https://vimeo.com/218791042>.

The Symposium continued with the session on “Separation and residential mobility in Europe”, bringing cross-national perspective to the discussion, more specifically, illustrating the cases of Italy, Hungary, Finland and France. Session 2 on “Partnership dynamics, housing, and residential mobility” summarised papers from the PartnerLife project. Session 3 focused on intergenerational dimensions of housing trajectories, in particular, on housing struggles, debt and social inequalities among young adults in the UK, Israel and the Netherlands. Session 4 moved the focus to fertility decisions and the role of housing and wealth constraints.



The second keynote was given by Gerda Neyer from Stockholm University. The talk focused on the complex connection between family policies and fertility, specifically looking at the interaction between economic, social

and policy factors in various contexts.

The two-day Symposium finished with a panel discussion regarding the puzzling nexus between research and policy led by Clara H. Mulder. Four different opinions were presented by our own Vice-President Piers Elias, Brian Robson from the Joseph Rowntree foundation, Andres Vikat representing the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and a policy keynote speaker Gerda Neyer. The panelists discussed whether or not research should be policy-driven and how (or whether?) researchers can make a difference with their findings.

Besides the enthusiastic discussions, the participants had a chance to enjoy a short walk



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around the St Andrews scenic harbour, breathing in centuries of knowledge produced at the oldest University in Scotland. The attendees were also lucky (and puzzled) to observe one of the old student traditions of being showered with cold water straight after leaving the location of their exam.

*Alina Pelikh, University of Liverpool*

...and from the other side of the table.....

St Andrew's University kindly invited me up to their day and half International Symposium on Families and Housing which covered a range of talks from researchers in the UK, Europe and the US covering families and housing formation, the issues of affordability and choices for separating couples. The presentations were short and to the point and meant that several viewpoints on the same subject were covered with many international comparisons.

The most striking features of the talks is the extent of separation and the complications involved with it. Current affordability issues in the UK make the practicalities of separation more difficult but other European countries fare better due to different structures within their housing markets and different policies. Andres Vikat from the UN suggested that research needs a clear policy focus at the outset and deciding what those policy goals should be based on consensus-reached decisions... but also to challenge existing policies for example, what is the reason behind the particular policy goal such as increased fertility (29/39 EU countries)? We should ask the question.

Improving the dialogue and understanding between policy makers and researchers, and then with the data producers and users is key to ensuring that research has an impact. It was reassuring to see NRS

represented and interesting to hear about the challenges of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in tackling poverty which helped to put things into perspective.

Thank you to St. Andrews for their hospitality and for the excellent symposium.

*Piers Elias, BSPS Vice-president*



## About PartnerLife

PartnerLife is a collaborative project between the University of Groningen (the Netherlands), the University of Cologne (Germany), and the University of St Andrews (United Kingdom). The PartnerLife project addresses the question of how partner trajectories and residential trajectories develop in relation to each other in people's life courses, and how are these trajectories and the interactions between them related to the contextual backgrounds of Germany, the UK and the Netherlands (More details can be found at <https://partnerlifeproject.org/>).