

CCSRNews

The Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research (CCSR)

New Challenges and
New Opportunities

In a period of reduced public expenditure and the likelihood of substantial funding cuts in higher education and research, CCSR, in partnership with Social Statistics and other Disciplines in the School of Social Sciences at The University of Manchester, will be using new opportunities to build on its considerable strengths. The importance of robust research evidence and analysis to inform policy making is paramount in such an economic climate and in the context of a new government.

Our concerns remain with the conduct of substantive research, particularly around themes of inequality, methodological development and training, and the curation and dissemination of data. We see opportunities in each of these areas, with, for example, the emergence of ESRC funded Doctoral Training Centres allowing us to more effectively provide advanced quantitative methods training and support for secondary data use, and investments in data services and technologies allowing us to creatively plan strategies for data provision to increasingly sophisticated users. Our concern with the investigation of the causes and consequences of inequality fits with the contemporary policy focus,

particularly in the fields of schooling, ageing, ethnicity, gender and health, and we will continue to pursue research in these areas. Our opportunities here are increased by good news on the staffing front. One member of staff, Dr Nissa Finney, has been awarded a prestigious three year Simon Fellowship, another member of staff, Dr Leen Vandecasteele, has been awarded an ESRC post-doctoral fellowship, we have just been joined by Dr Laia Bécares who was awarded a two year joint ESRC-MRC postdoctoral fellowship, Dr Johan Koskinen has joined us as a lecturer from the University of Oxford and Dr Necla Acik-Toprak begins work as the Samples of Anonymised Records development officer having recently completed her PhD at The University of Manchester.

Other staffing news is that Professor Angela Dale retired in September, but fortunately she remains involved in CCSR activities so we will not entirely lose her considerable expertise and enthusiasm (see methods@manchester overleaf).

Angela's retirement celebration, held in June, was a fantastic mix of academic and social activities, nicely reflecting the tremendous contribution that Angela has made to our lives and work.

CCSR New Short Course
Programme in Data
Analysis and Methods
2010-2011.

See Back page.

www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses



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methods@manchester - Research Methods in the Social Sciences

Angela Dale and Tarani Chandola

methods@manchester is a new initiative that aims to:

- highlight the depth and breadth of methodological expertise in the social sciences at The University of Manchester and
- promote and facilitate methodological excellence, innovation and inter-disciplinarity.

We regularly host a wide range of events including: "What is?" lunch-time talks introducing key research methods; talks on research and teaching and learning resources available at The University of Manchester; and informal discussions where PhD students and early-career researchers can get together and share information and experience on specific methods-related topics.

We also organise workshops which bring together colleagues across disciplines to explore methodological issues around a particular topic – for example, using longitudinal transaction data; or that bring together colleagues using related methods, for example social network analysis or multilevel modelling, for very different research applications.

The website – www.methods.manchester.ac.uk – provides short videos of key social science methods such as social network analysis, structural equation modelling and ethnomethodology, and longer audio-recordings of a more extensive range of methods. The University of Manchester hosts a range of important social sciences resources and information on these – with videos and audio-recordings – are freely accessible from the website.

A large number of methods courses at The University of Manchester, many run by CCSR (www.ccsr.ac.uk), are listed, along with an extensive range of seminars, workshops and informal discussion groups which span the breadth of the social sciences. These courses and events are available to those outside The University of Manchester and we welcome the interest and involvement of colleagues across the UK and overseas.

methods@manchester also holds ESRC awards for methods-related seminars:

Promoting methodological innovation and

capacity building in research on ethnicity - an NCRM Innovation network.

The Impact Agenda - an ESRC seminar series award

methods@manchester is directed by Angela Dale and Tarani Chandola. To receive a weekly email with information about events and resources, go to www.methods.manchester.ac.uk and join the mailing list.



Welcome to the web site for research methods in the social sciences at The University of Manchester

People Like Us: The Impact of Ethnic Concentration in Diverse Societies. Report of Key Themes From the Fourth CCSR Conference on Ethnicity

Laia Becares

Research suggests that the concentration of ethnic minority people in an area, or ethnic density, can be associated with social and health benefits for ethnic minority residents, including reduced experiences of racism and protection against the harmful impact of racism on health; improved mental health and some positive physical health outcomes; and evidence of greater respect for ethnic differences.

The Centre for Census and Survey Research at The University of Manchester hosted 'People Like Us' its fourth annual conference on research related to ethnicity and migration, which focused on the origins, implications, and methodological considerations of ethnic density.

Conference talks showcased multidisciplinary work from researchers exploring different facets of ethnic diversity in the UK, US, and Spain. Topics covered the association between ethnic diversity and trust, employment, civic participation, and health inequalities, as well as

methodological difficulties and the presentation of new data sources and measurement tools.

Presenters and discussants highlighted the political attention that ethnic minority population concentrations receive, and the implications that this has for research. Issues included the importance of careful thought and empirical testing about the mechanisms linking ethnic density to social and health outcomes, clear descriptions of the measures of ethnic density and what they capture, and the need to understand the origins of ethnic density, which include, among other factors: evolving housing and labour markets, and discrimination within them, the attraction of immigrant settlement to specific areas due to pre-existing housing and economic conditions, natural growth of young populations, and changing area boundaries.

The free, one-day conference was well attended by a diverse range of academics, people from central and local government, and from NGOs.

Delegates engaged in broader discussions around ethnic density. Slides and posters presented at the conference can be found at:

www.ccsr.ac.uk/events/peoplelikeus

Comments left by participants using conference post-it notes can be found at:

<http://peoplelikeusconf.wordpress.com>



Moving? Why Are Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Black Young Adults Only Half As Likely To Migrate As Their White British Counterparts?

Nissa Finney

Moving house often takes place when something in life changes, such as beginning a new job or course of study, forming or leaving a partnership, or having children. Can we expect these life events to be related to moving house differently for people of different ethnic backgrounds? Might this explain some of the ethnic differences in patterns of migration (moving house) within Britain?

This research focused on ethnic differences in migration of young adults in Britain using data from the 2001 Census. For example, it aimed to provide an explanation of why Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Black young adults are around half as likely to migrate as their White British counterparts (when differences in other characteristics such as education and tenure are taken into account).

Figure 1 highlights the findings from the study which show that partnership (cohabiting or getting married) is differently associated with migration for White British and South Asian young adults. In particular, whilst White British young adults who are married or cohabiting are more likely to have migrated than those who are single, the opposite is the case for South Asian young adults, particularly in the case of marriage.

So, being in a cohabiting/married partnership brings residential stability for South Asian young adults, but not for White British young adults. It can be speculated that partnership formation is an important home leaving pathway for young South Asians, ie the point of partnership formation, particularly marriage, is also the point of leaving the family home. In contrast, White British young adults may be more likely to leave home prior to forming partnerships, for example for study. For White British and South Asian young adults the findings suggest that females are the 'partnership movers' (females who are married or cohabiting are more likely to migrate than males) though the reasons for this may differ between ethnic groups.

A second finding of this work is that being a student is differently associated with migration for White British and Chinese young adults compared with their South Asian and Black counterparts (see figure 2). Overall, students of minority ethnic groups were found to be less mobile than their White British counterparts. White British and Chinese students were found to be more likely to migrate than White and Chinese young adults who were not students. This effect was particularly strong for Chinese students whose probability of migrating was 21 percent compared to 14 percent for Chinese young adults who were not students (other characteristics held constant). For Pakistani and Black African young adults, however, being a student reduced residential mobility compared with not being a student. For Pakistani young adults, being a female student reduced mobility even further.

These differences suggest different student housing traditions across ethnic groups. The general expectation of university education meaning a move away from home and moves each year into new accommodation appears to be applicable to only White British and Chinese young adults. It can be speculated that Pakistani, particularly female Pakistani, and Black students tend to remain within the family home, which raises questions about access to higher education.

For more information see Finney, N. (2010) Understanding ethnic differences in migration of

young adults within Britain from a lifecourse perspective. CCSR Working Paper 2010-04.

www.ccsr.ac.uk/publications/working/2010-04.pdf

This research used the 2001 Census microdata (Individual Sample of Anonymised Records). This research was sponsored by the Economic and Social Research Council through the Understanding Population Trends and Processes (UPTAP) programme, grant RES-163-27-0011.

Figure 1. Migrating within Britain by marital status

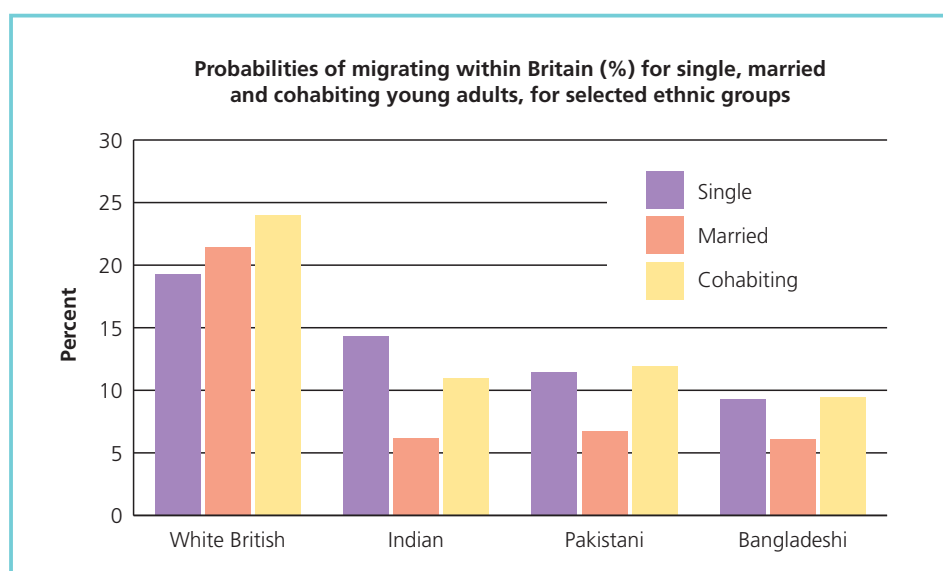
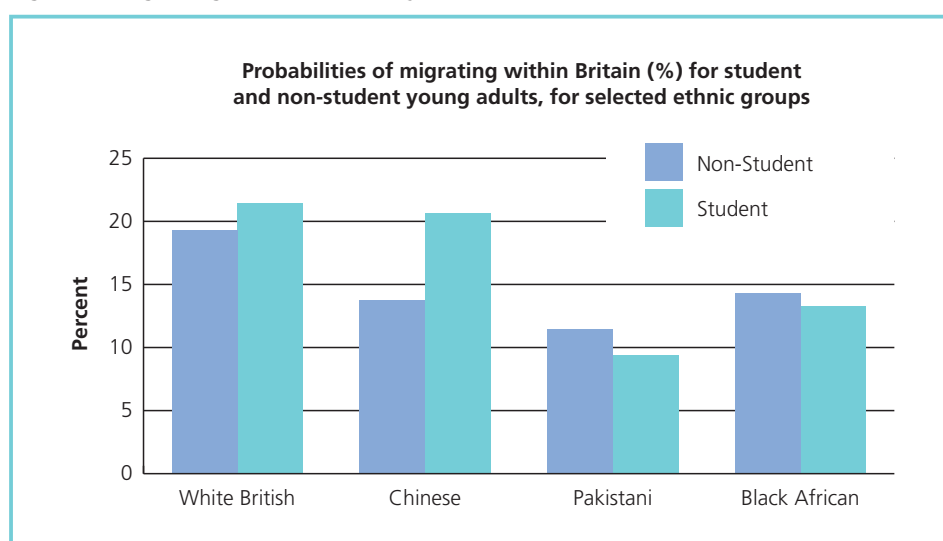


Figure 2. Migrating within Britain by whether a student



Note: Ethnic groups are modelled separately. Adjusted for social class, qualifications, tenure, country of birth, gender, marital status and whether the individual has dependant children. Population: GB aged 16-29. Source: 2001 UK Census Individual Sample of Anonymised Records. Migration is in the period 2000-2001.

Off To Bed? The Quality Of Sleep Rather Than The Duration Matters For Your Health

Tarani Chandola

Problems with sleep affect around 20 percent of the adult population in Western societies. Both short (less than 6 hours) and long (more than 8 hours) sleep hours are associated with hypertension, type-2 diabetes, increased body mass index, alterations in blood lipids and inflammatory markers – all of which increase the risk of cardiovascular disease.

However the duration of sleep may not be a sufficient measure of the quality of recovery and physiological restitution of the body during sleep. Many people experience microarousals during the night which leads to tiredness and exhaustion, although their total sleep time is not affected. Thus, a combination of sleep quality and sleep duration together might be a much better measure of physiological disturbances during sleep than either one on its own. Such a combination may be stronger predictor of heart disease and cardiovascular mortality than its components.

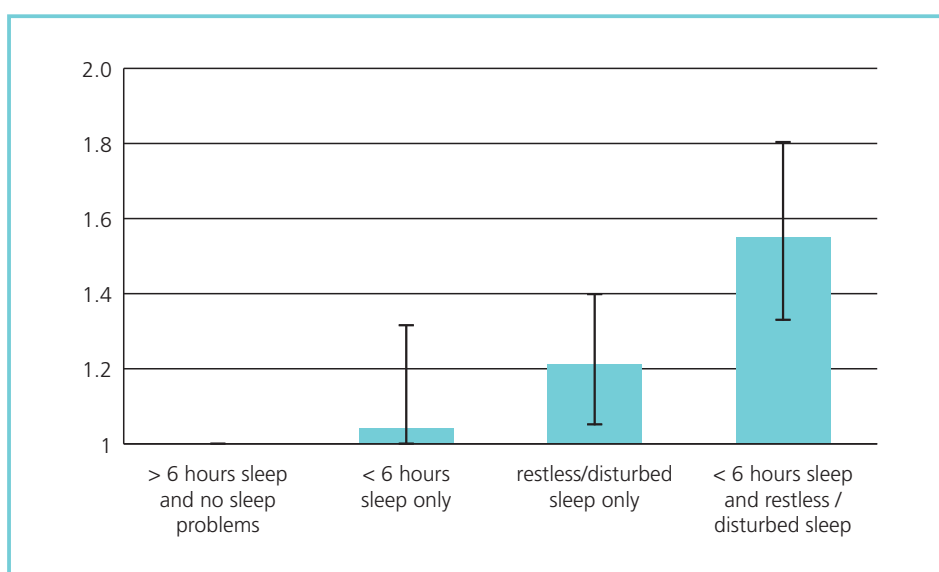
Analysis of the Whitehall II civil servants cohort revealed that those who had a combination of short sleep duration (less than 6 hours) and restless, disturbed nights had the highest risk of heart disease up to 15 years later, as shown in Figure 3. Among respondents who did not report any sleep disturbance, there was little evidence that short sleep hours increased the risk of heart disease.

Sleep hours in most Western societies are getting shorter while complaints about disturbed sleep are increasing. The sources of both these sleep disturbances may be due to increased working hours and active leisure time, as well as an inability to unwind before going to sleep due to stress. However, at least in terms of risk of heart disease, poor sleep quality may be more of a factor than short sleep duration.

For more information see Chandola T., Ferrie J.E., Perski A., Akbaraly T., and Marmot, M.G. (2010) The effect of short sleep duration on coronary heart disease risk is greatest among those with sleep disturbance: a prospective study from the Whitehall II cohort. *Sleep*. Jun 1; 33 (6):739-44.



Figure 3. Likelihood of the onset of heart disease over 15 years amongst people who have short sleep durations and sleep problems compared to those who have more than 6 hours sleep and no sleep problems. (Relative risks with 95% confidence intervals)



From Me To You?

Reciprocal Helping and Civic Society

Kingsley Purdam and Mark Tranmer

Helping other people in terms of, for example, organising a local community event or providing support to a neighbour, is at the core of debates about civic society. In order to develop our understanding of why certain people are more likely to help than others in different circumstances we examine the issue of reciprocity in relation to helping behaviour. We consider specifically whether a person who helps another person expects help in return.

Analysing data from the European Social Survey and the UK Citizenship Survey our research suggests that people who see helping others as important and those who help in practice (in terms of helping organise or attending local events) are less likely to expect help in return when compared to those people who don't see helping others as important and/or who don't help that often in practice. There are considerable differences in rates of reciprocity across different European countries, as shown in Figure 4. Women and older people are less likely to expect help in return. In the UK people on relatively lower incomes are more likely

to expect help in return when compared with those on higher incomes.

Our research suggests reciprocity is a key factor in understanding people's attitudes towards helping other people and civic society more widely. Reciprocity, or the expectation of help in return for helping, is not necessarily negative. It could be a reflection of someone being dependent or having an expectation of need and also a sense of community and mutual support. This may in itself create a culture of help and helping.

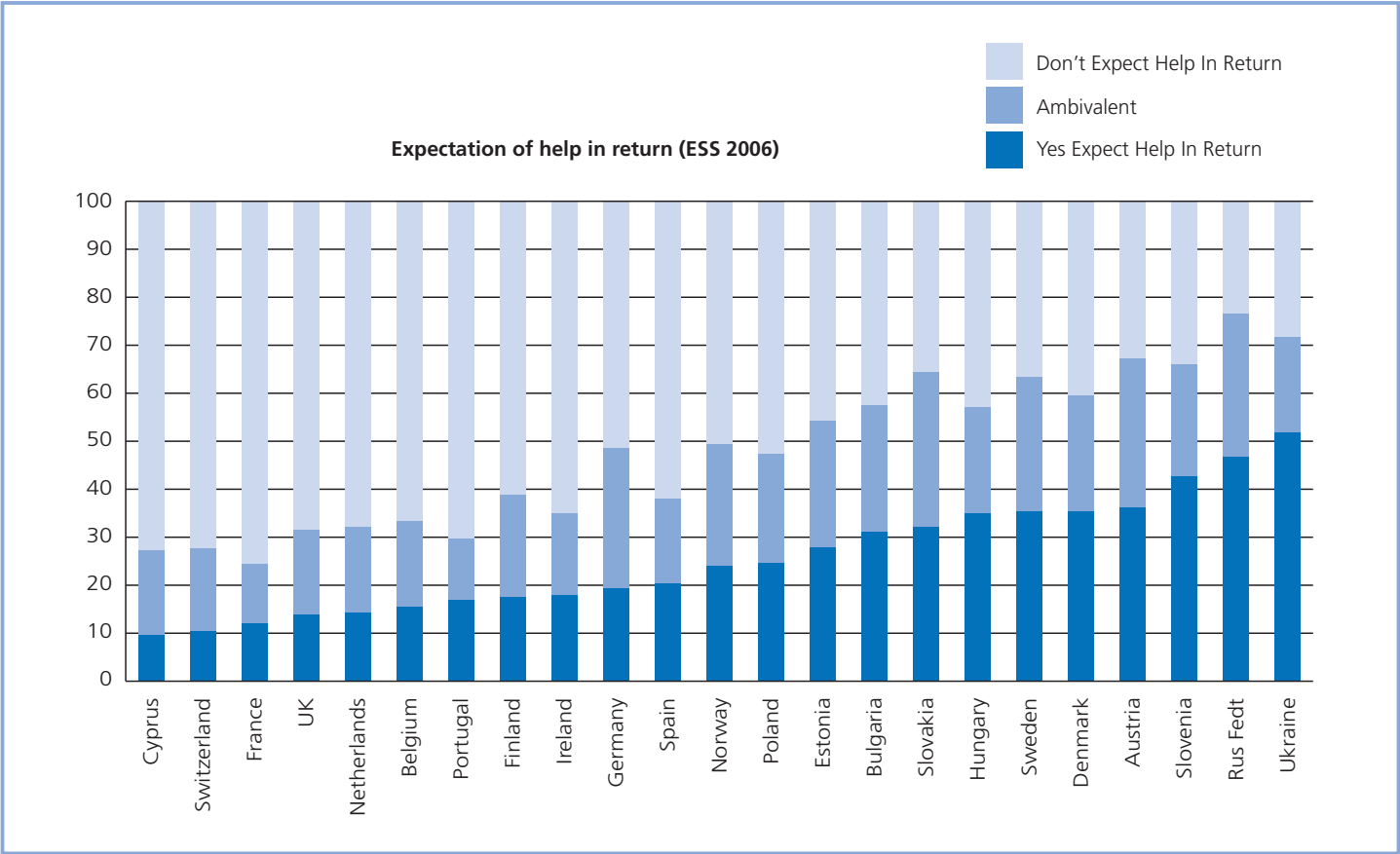
Despite the considerable government initiatives in the UK aimed at increasing the levels of volunteering in recent years, survey evidence suggests the proportion of people involved in voluntary activities has remained fairly constant. A focus on reciprocity and, in particular, on those who feel they have never been helped and those who have helped but did not receive the help they expected in return, could prove to be a valuable tool for policy makers for engendering a more helpful and civic society. If people are going to

help in a reciprocal way then it is important that a social norm of helping is widely shared. The complex dynamics of reciprocity in relation to helping have far reaching implications for the development of civic society.

For more information see Purdam, K. and Tranmer, M. (2010) From me to you? A comparative analysis of reciprocal helping and civic society. CCSR Paper 2010-02. www.ccsr.ac.uk/publications/working/2010-02.pdf



Figure 4. Expectation of help in return for helping someone across Europe (ESS 2006)



Thank You? Volunteering, Reciprocity and Quality Of Life Post-Retirement

James Nazroo

Although post-retirement life has historically been considered a period of physical decline, financial insecurity and dependence, it is clear that this is a period where some people retain their health, are financially well off, and no longer have responsibilities for paid work or children. They have time and resources to engage in social activities, enjoy themselves and self-fulfil, a so-called 'Third Age'. With the ageing of the population there is an interest in the contribution such older people make to society, the degree to which they might engage in civic and social activities, such as grandparenting, caring and volunteering. An interest that fits with contemporary concerns with volunteering, most recently discussed in relation to the notion of a 'Big Society'. While policy might concentrate on how to maximise volunteering among the older healthy and time-rich population, we should also be concerned with the benefits of such activities for those who volunteer.

We examined issues relating to this using data from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing, a panel study of those aged 50 and older. The study covers a very wide range of topics, including measures of volunteering, perceived rewards from volunteering and quality of life, allowing us to examine the extent to which those who are post-retirement age participate in volunteering, how such participation relates to health and wealth, as well as age, and how it relates to quality of life (assessed using a multidimensional measure designed for use in older populations, CASP19).

Findings showed that around 12 percent of men and 15 percent of women in this age group volunteer, and that for both men and women there is a decline in volunteering at older ages, volunteering rates increase with increasing wealth, and those with a longstanding illness are less likely to volunteer (see Figure 5). Figure 6 shows findings from linear regression models predicting quality of life score (range 6-57). The first two blocks in the figure show that volunteering is associated with a substantially and significantly increased quality of life score for both men and women, even after adjusting for correlations with age, wealth and health. However, the final block (which includes men and women), shows that the positive association between volunteering and quality of life is only present for those who say that they feel appreciated for their volunteering activities.

This evidence indicates that participation in volunteering is beneficial for older people, but only if volunteers feel appreciated, suggesting a need to consider the quality of volunteering opportunities, as well as the take up of such opportunities.

For more information see McMunn A., Nazroo J., Wahrendorf M., Breeze E. and Zaninotto P. (2009) Participation in socially productive activities, reciprocity and wellbeing in later life: baseline results in England. *Ageing and Society*, 29, 765-782.

The authors are grateful to the Economic and Social Research Council, whose funding of the project 'Inequalities in health in an ageing population: patterns, causes and consequences' (RES-000-23-0590) supported the work on this paper.

Figure 5. Correlates of volunteering among people post-retirement age in England

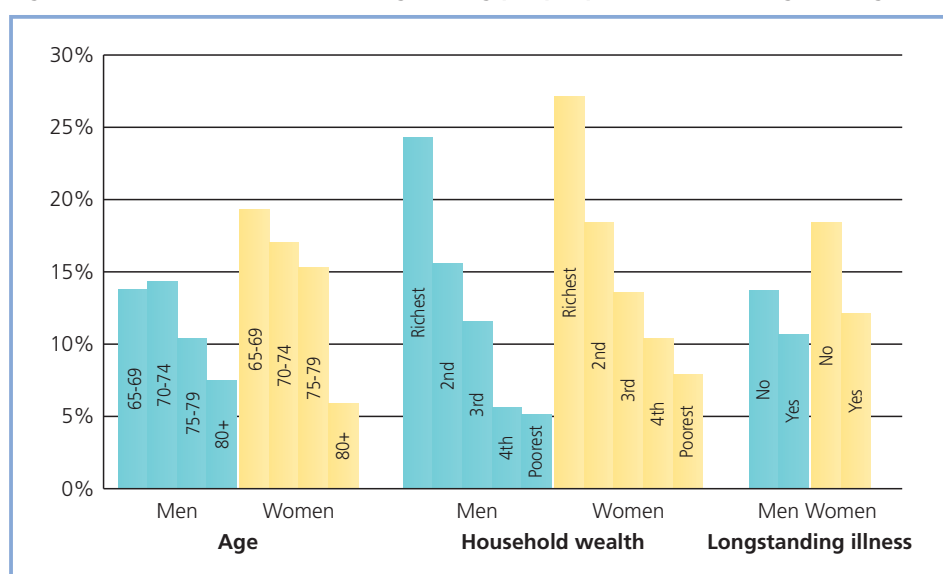
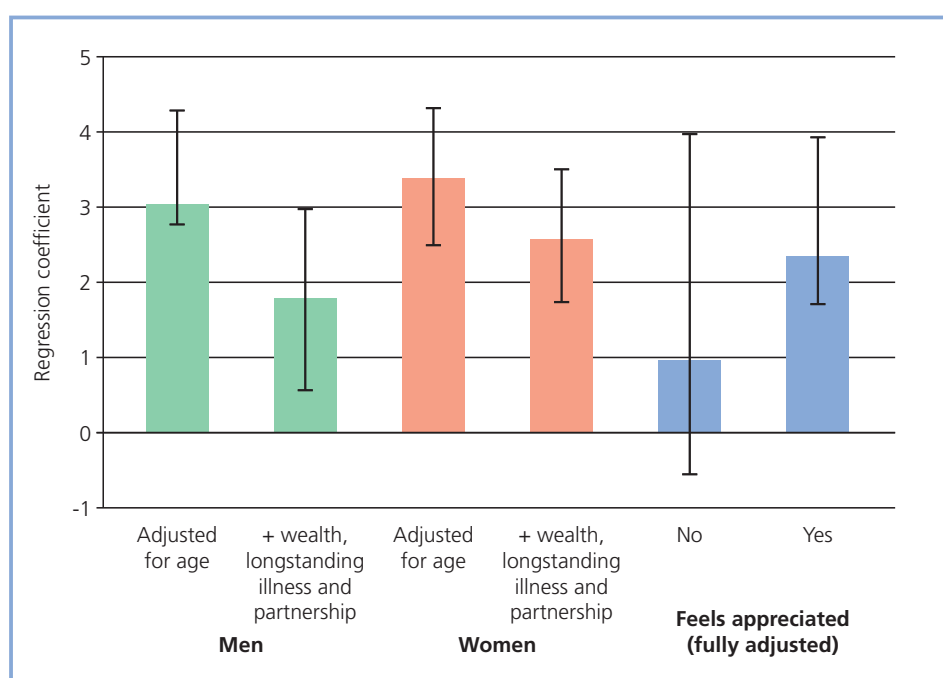


Figure 6. Relationship between volunteering and quality of life (CASP19 score): findings from a linear regression model



New Citizens? Political Consumerism and Active Citizenship

Necla Acik-Toprak

Like many other Western European democracies, in general, fewer people in Britain are choosing to become members of traditional civic organisations like political parties, churches and trade unions. At the same time, there has been a rise in activities that require less networking and place fewer demands on the individual such as political consumerism. Examples of these include signing petitions, boycotting products and buying products for political/ethical/environmental reasons (buycotting).

In 2003 the European Social Survey showed that 40 percent of British respondents had signed a



petition in the last 12 months. The number of people who had bought products for political, ethical or environmental reasons was 32 percent and those who boycotted certain products within the last 12 months was 26 percent. In comparison only just 3 percent were active in political action groups or political parties.

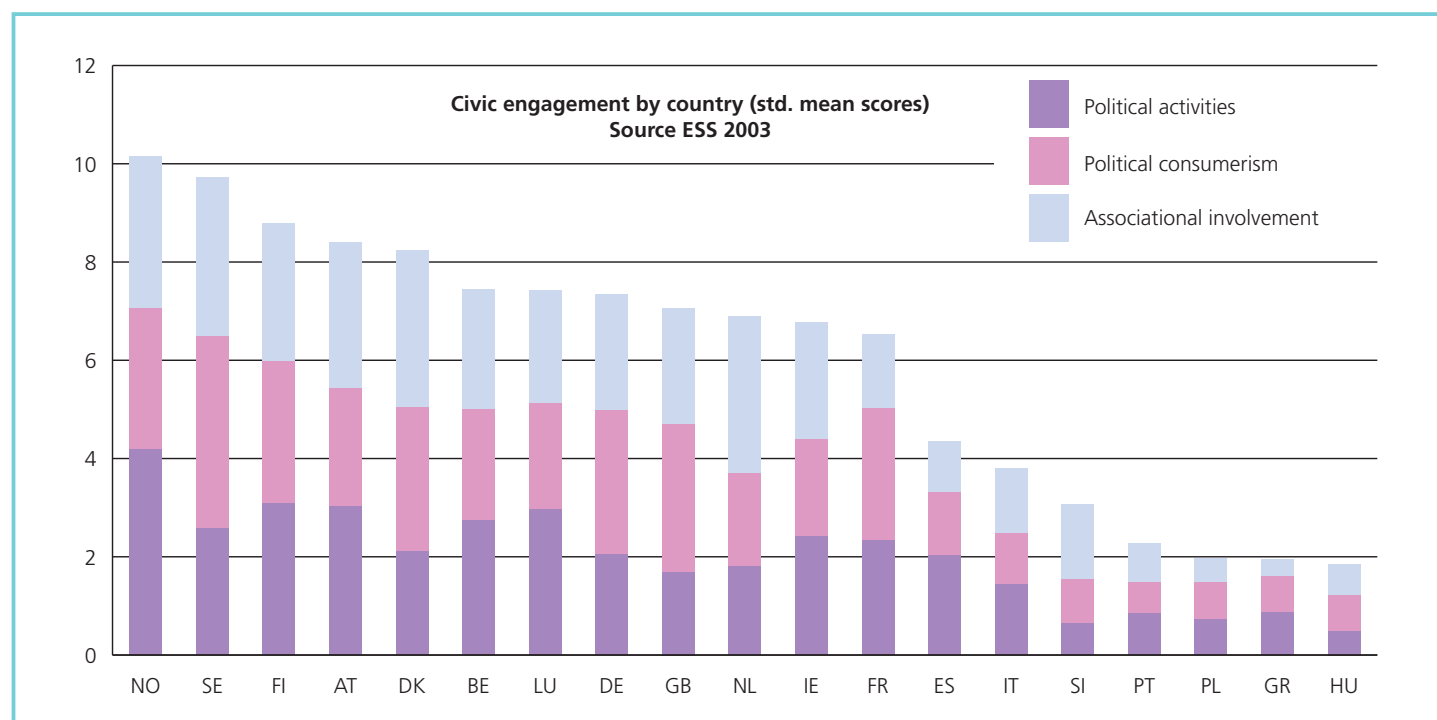
Do these numbers indicate a rise in citizens' engagement? The political scientist Dahl famously distinguished between the homo politicus and the homo civicus, who are driven by either the motivation to influence politics or by the motivation to fulfil civic duties. Political consumerism doesn't fit neatly into either of these categories; rather it emerges as a further prototype of civic engagement beside political activities and associational involvement. This trend is observable not only in Britain, but also across Western Europe. As figure 7 below highlights, there are considerable differences in the levels of civic engagement across Europe. The figure shows the average standardised scores of civic engagement broken down into three dimensions. Citizens in Western Europe are in general more active than citizens from Southern and Eastern Europe. Among the Western countries, the Nordic countries and Austria have the highest levels of civic engagement, whereas Hungary, Greece, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia display the lowest levels of civic engagement. Britain is marked

by relatively lower levels of political activities; however it is among the active countries in terms of involvement in voluntary organisations and political consumerism.

Acts of political consumerism are oriented towards the market, are less organised, less structured, and more transient than conventional political participation. Political consumerism it appears appeals to women more than to men. This maybe because of its low-cost participative nature and its integration into every-day life-style activity. Moreover such engagement is also common among young people, the unemployed and people who are economically inactive. So the participation gap between different social groups observed in traditional political and civic activities is less evident in activities categorised as political consumerism. It will therefore be important to carry out more research into the nature and determinants of political consumerism in order to understand its significance for active citizenship and its contribution to the quality of democracy.

For more information see Acik-Toprak, N. (2009) Civic engagement in Europe: a multilevel study of the effect of individual and national determinants on political participation, political consumerism and associational involvement. PhD Thesis, The University of Manchester.

Figure 7. Mean aggregate scores of civic engagement by country



Events

Methods@manchester

Methods Fair - 29 September 2010

An essential event for researchers, PhD students and supervisors.
Methods-related presentations throughout the day.
Information about training opportunities, online resources, short courses.
A display of posters by PhD students and researchers.
An opportunity to ask the experts about particular research methods.
To view the programme go to
www.methods.manchester.ac.uk/events/2010-09-29



Short Courses in Data Analysis and Research Methods 2010-2011

CCSR hosts an extensive programme of short course training in research methods, aimed at academics and applied researchers in the public and private sectors. Courses run from introductory to advanced and cover all aspects of the research process, including research design, data collection and data analysis. All courses are developed and delivered by staff who are experts in their fields. For further details and booking, please visit www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses or contact Katey.matthews@manchester.ac.uk.

Starting SPSS

15 September 2010

Introduction to Data Analysis Part 1

16 September 2010

Introduction to Data Analysis Part 2

17 September 2010

Introduction to STATA

20 September 2010

Questionnaire Design

22 September 2010

Cognitive Interviewing for Testing Survey Questions

23 September 2010

Standardised Multi-Item scale Development for Surveys

24 September 2010

Understanding Synthetic Data

13 October 2010

Latent Factor Analysis

15 November 2010

Skills for Commissioning Research

1 December 2010

Handling Missing Data in Longitudinal Surveys

14-16 December 2010

Introduction to STATA

13 January 2011

Introduction to Structural Equation Modelling using Mplus

14-16 March 2011

Web Access Panels

23 March 2011

Mixed Mode Methods in Surveys

24 March 2011

Starting SPSS

28 March 2011

Introduction to Data Analysis Part 1

29 March 2011

Introduction to Data Analysis Part 2

30 March 2011

Understanding Statistics

4 April 2011

Multiple Linear Regression

26 April 2011

Logistic Regression

27 April 2011

Event History Analysis

11 May 2011

Multilevel Modelling

13 May 2011

Demographic Concepts and Methods

16-17 May 2011

Population Estimating and Forecasting

18 May 2011

Demographic Forecasting with POPGROUP

19-20 May 2011

Longitudinal Data Analysis

1-3 June 2011

Causal Analysis in STATA

6 June 2011

Fuzzy Set Analysis

7 June 2011

Introduction to R

20 June 2011



CCSR/ISC Social Statistics Seminars Autumn 2010

Seminars cover quantitative methods and social statistics, social inequality and individual and social change. Seminars are on Tuesdays at 4pm and are open to all.

See www.ccsr.ac.uk/seminars for up to date details.

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