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The University of Manchester

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CCSR News

The Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research (CCSR)
An advanced quantitative methods research centre in the School of Social Sciences

Fresh Research Challenges

The start of the 2012-13 academic year marks an expansion of research activity at CCSR. Professor James Nazroo will be leading a project on the 'Dynamics of Ethnic Identity and Inequality in the UK' following a successful award of a four year Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Centre Grant, which will be held jointly with colleagues in the University of Glasgow.

From October 2012 CCSR's data support teams will be joining the new ESRC UK Data Service. The UK Data Service will provide a unified point of access to the extensive range of high quality economic and social data, including valuable census data.

At CCSR we are looking forward to continuing our tradition of providing expert support for secondary analysts.

This issue of the CCSR Newsletter offers a glimpse of the research activity carried out by our staff and students. The application of advanced quantitative methods and the effect of place on people are two themes running through the articles in this issue.

In this issue...

Cross-national differences in ethnic density effects on health and experienced racism for Caribbean people in the UK and the US

Laia Bécares

A recent CCSR study aimed to understand how the impact of ethnic density on experiences of health and racism for Black Caribbean people might depend on the context in which people migrate and the types of areas where they live by comparing health and racism outcomes in England and the US.

Caribbean people in these two countries have contrasting migration experiences. Caribbean migration to the US peaked after 1965, at a time when migrants were able to benefit from the civil rights movement in a way that the pre-existing African American population and the Black Caribbean population in the UK were not. In contrast, most Caribbean migrants to the UK arrived as labour migrants after the Second World War and before the Race Relations Act 1965 was passed, facing considerable hostility from sections of the British population.

In this study, we were interested in understanding how these differences in the context of migration and reception has shaped the racialisation of Black Caribbean groups and their neighbourhoods. We focused on ethnic density effects, which propose that as the proportion of an individual's own ethnic group in a neighbourhood increases, their health complications decrease. Comparing two cross-sectional nationally representative surveys, we explored and contrasted the association between two ethnic density measures (Caribbean ethnic density and Black ethnic density) and health and experienced racism among Caribbean people.

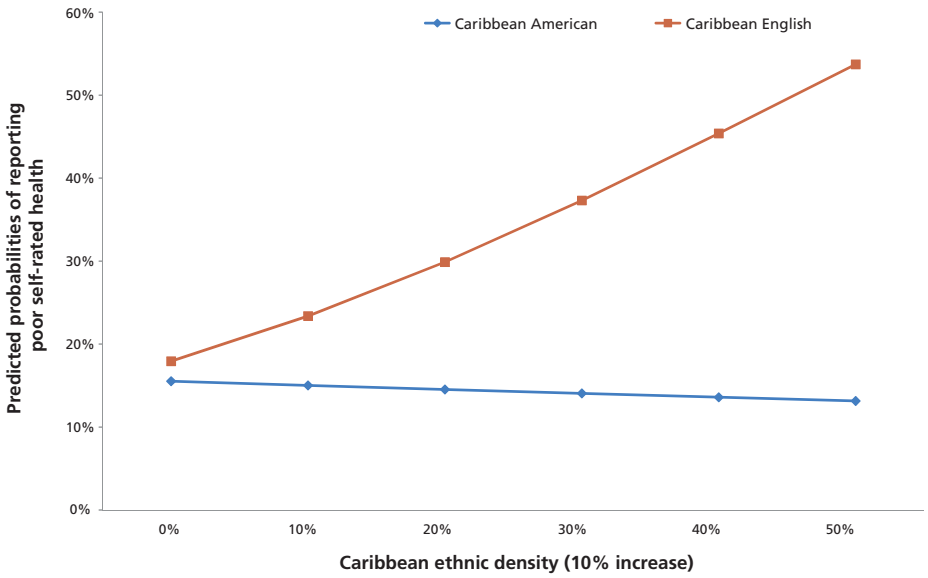
Our results show that similar measures of ethnic density perform differently across health outcomes and measures of experienced racism in the two countries. In the US, increased Caribbean ethnic density was associated with better health and less experienced racism, but the opposite was observed in England (see Figure 1). In contrast, increased Black ethnic density was associated with improved health and decreased experienced racism of Caribbean English, but not of Caribbean American people.

The implication of our findings is that the negative ways in which Caribbean English people are racialised can be observed in the impact that areas characterised as Black Caribbean have on their experiences of health and racism. By comparing Caribbean and Black ethnic density effects in the US and England, this study was able to examine the social construction of race and ethnicity and the association that different racialised Black identities have on health.

For more information see: Bécares, L. Nazroo, J., Jackson, J., & Heuvelman, H. (in press). Ethnic density effects among Caribbean people in the US and England: a cross-national comparison. *Social Science & Medicine*.

©Barrington Young. Image source via the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre.

Figure 1: The relationship between Caribbean ethnic density and self-rated health.



Note: Model adjusts for black ethnic density, sex, age, marital status, generation, household income, education, employment status, and area deprivation.

How does the impact of retirement on health vary across the United Kingdom?

Alan Marshall

A new study classifies UK districts into three groups according to the impact of retirement on levels of self-assessed limiting long-term illness at later ages.

In the '*no post-retirement health improvement*' district category, the proportion of people who have an illness rises smoothly with age (e.g. South Buckinghamshire – see Figure 1). In the '*modest post-retirement health improvement*' category, the increase in illness rates with age slows after retirement (e.g. Bury – see Figure 1). Finally, in districts classed as having a '*large post-retirement health improvement*', rates of illness level off or decline after retirement (e.g. Merthyr Tydfil – see Figure 1).

Map 1 shows that retirement has little impact on the rise in rates of illness in the affluent south of England, surrounding London whilst the post-retirement decline in levels of illness is greatest in the former industrial and mining districts in the north of England and in Wales, and Northern Ireland.

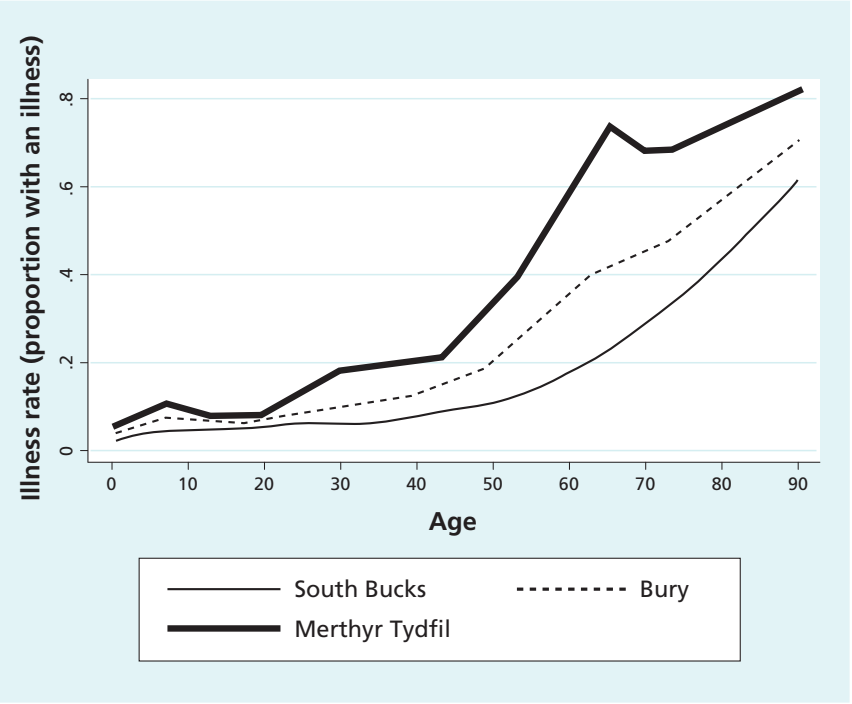
Three theories might explain the observed spatial patterns in the effects of retirement on health. First, the post-retirement dip in illness rates may reflect the impact of 'hidden unemployment' on self-reporting of illness on either side of retirement age. In areas with high and persistent unemployment those with little hope of obtaining local work might view illnesses as work-limiting in order to claim sickness benefits which are more generous than unemployment benefits. This could inflate levels of self-reported illness at the older working ages compared to a situation of full employment. After retirement claimants receive pensions, which mean that they no longer need to consider themselves as having a work-limiting disability to obtain sickness benefit thereby producing the dip in the illness rates.

Second, the retirement health effect may be partly attributable to patterns of health-related selective migration in which healthy working-age people move away from the less healthy districts and towards healthier areas. These long-standing migration patterns have the potential to drive faster increases in illness rates up to retirement age than might result from the ageing process alone.

Third, the spatial patterns of retirement kinks are likely to reflect spatial distributions of poor health and of particular occupations that are harmful to health at the older ages. Other research reveals strong retirement-related improvements in health for those in poor health prior to retirement and for those involved in the least favourable occupational conditions. Under this explanation the characteristics of people in certain areas mean that they have more to gain in terms of health benefits when they retire.

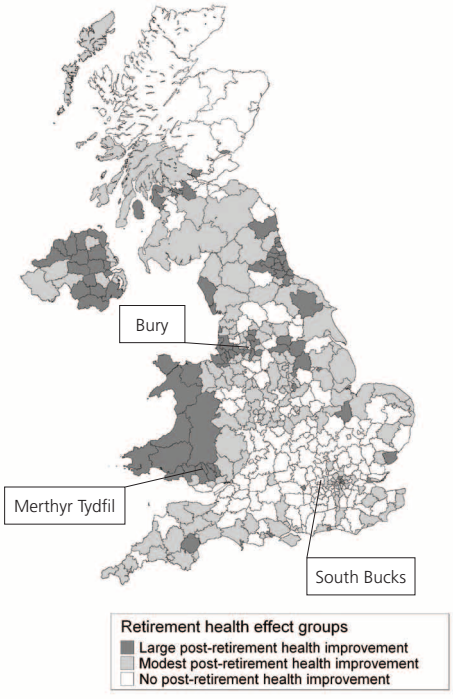
For more information see: Marshall, A. & Norman, P. (under review) Geographies of the impact of retirement on health in the United Kingdom. *Health and Place*.

Figure 1: Age specific rates of limiting long term illness (males) in a selection of districts.



Source: Authors' own calculations based on data from the 2001 census.

Map 1: Spatial patterns of the limiting long term illness retirement kink (Males-2001)



Source: 2001 Census and authors' own calculations

Still Disadvantaged? The Incidence of Worklessness among New Immigrants in England

Kitty Lymperopoulou

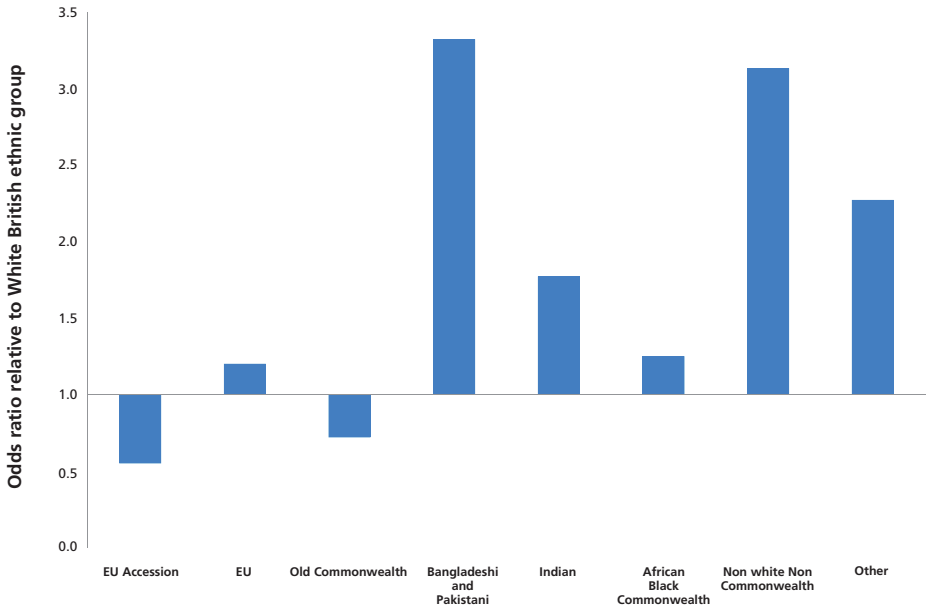
Immigration to the UK has changed dramatically in recent years with an increasing number of migrants arriving from countries outside the former British colonies. Previous research suggests that immigrants from established ethnic minority immigrant groups are disadvantaged in the labour market, facing a higher risk of unemployment than the white British born population.

The disadvantaged position of immigrants is evident even after controlling for observable characteristics that influence employment prospects, for instance age and educational attainment. This has prompted researchers to argue that non-white immigrants incur an 'ethnic penalty' because they are more likely to face other sources of disadvantage, including employer discrimination. In the majority of these studies, the role of neighbourhood contextual factors is largely ignored, although evidence suggests that living in areas with concentrations of ethnic minorities or deprived areas may influence individual labour market prospects, for instance by enabling or hindering the transmission of information about employment opportunities.

This research study set out to examine whether recent immigrants from 'established' and 'new' groups are disadvantaged in the labour market by facing a higher risk of worklessness (unemployment or economic inactivity) relative to white British people. Using data from the Labour Force Survey it was possible to examine the role of individual and contextual factors in explaining the incidence of worklessness. As shown in Figure 1, the results suggest that non-white immigrants continue to be more disadvantaged in the labour market than white immigrants and white Britons. The Bangladeshi and Pakistani immigrant groups are found to be the most disadvantaged. Non-white immigrants originating in countries outside the Commonwealth also face a higher risk of worklessness and are nearly as disadvantaged in the labour market as Bangladeshi and Pakistani immigrant groups. White immigrants, particularly those from the EU Accession countries are the least disadvantaged, being less likely to be workless than all other recent immigrant groups, including the white British. The results also show that living in ethnically dense or deprived neighbourhoods is associated with a higher risk of worklessness, although the relationship between area deprivation and worklessness is shown to depend on ethnicity.

For more information see: Lymperopoulou, K. (2012) 'The Incidence of worklessness among new immigrants in England' Paper presented at the 2012 Population Association of America annual meeting in San Francisco, CA, May 3-5 2012.

Figure 1: Odds ratio of a member of an immigrant group being workless relative to a member of the White British group.



Note: Multilevel logistic regression model controlling for age, sex, marital status, qualifications, length of stay in the UK, children in the household, immigrant group, area deprivation and ethnic density.

The social context of voting in the Flemish region of Belgium

Bram Vanhoutte

A study of party preferences shows that voting does not solely depend on individual attitudes, but also on social background, social networks and the community where you live.

A survey conducted in 2009 questioned 1,800 adults in the Flemish region of Belgium, where voting is compulsory and the electorate has a wide variety of parties to choose from. The results show that social background, including religious affiliation and education level, predict political preferences in the multicoloured party landscape of Flanders.

For voters of the traditional left-wing party, having a non-Christian or no religious affiliation seems to have become more important than one's educational level. The strongest effect of education is found among the Green party and anti-immigrant extreme right electorate. Green Party voters are 50% more likely to have a university degree and anti-immigrant extreme right voters are three times less likely to have a university degree.

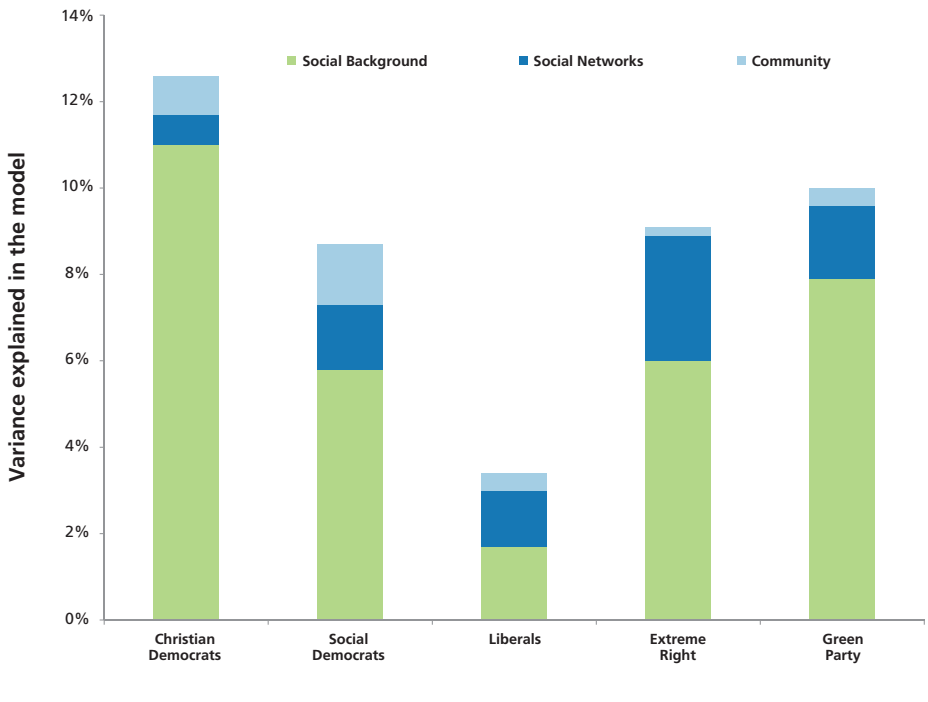
Social networks had limited effects on party preference compared to social background. An interesting exception is that voters of the extreme right were significantly more socially isolated than others. Also, while partisans of the traditional left are less connected to people from higher classes, Liberals are better connected to people from higher classes. Christian democrats know more middle class people while supporters of the Green party have a more diverse social network in terms of sexual identity.

Although the community where one lives matters the influence is small. Both the composition and context of a community, including the concentration of immigrants, play a significant role, except for extreme right voters. This is interesting because it is often supposed people vote extreme right because they live in an environment subject to greater levels of immigration.

In summary, Figure 1 shows that although the degree to which social background, social networks and community context varies according to party affiliation, it is clear that, except for the liberal party, they each have an influence on how you vote.

For more information see: Vanhoutte, B. & Hooghe, M. (forthcoming) The influence of social structure, networks and community on party choice in the Flemish Region of Belgium. A multilevel analysis. *Acta Politica*.

Figure 1: Percentage of explained variance in party preferences in the Flemish region of Belgium by each level of social context



Measurement error in work histories captured by retrospective questions

Jose Maria Pina Sanchez

Retrospective survey questions are notorious for being plagued with measurement error. On top of sharing the imperfections affecting all surveys, data from retrospective questions are subject to errors linked to bias in recall.

In this study, we use survey data from the Longitudinal Study of the Unemployed, a research project designed by the Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI) at Stockholm University. Answers to retrospective questions about work histories have been linked with individual level administrative data from the Swedish register of unemployment. By comparing the two datasets, and assuming the administration data are valid, we are able to determine the prevalence of measurement error in the survey.

We assess two questions in the survey, one where the interviewees were asked to date spells of unemployment in the last 12 months and another where the recall period was 12 years. We found that the magnitude of measurement error is always greater in the latter, regardless of whether measurement error is defined as: a) miscounted number of spells; b) misdated start or length of unemployment spell; or c) misclassified employment status, for example, reporting being out of the labour force when unemployed.

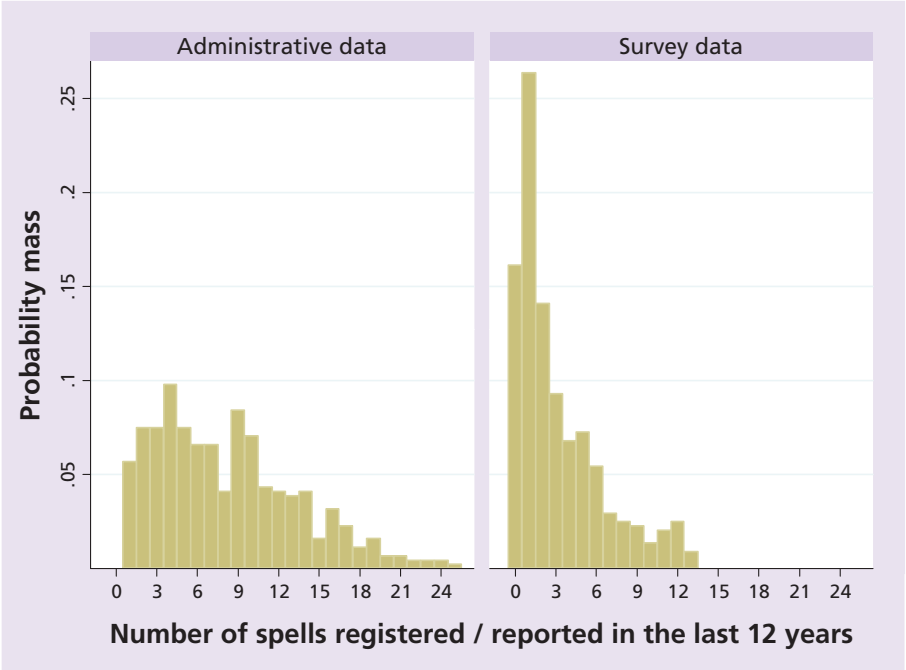
In particular, we find that 19% of unemployment spells were omitted when the 12 month time-frame was used, increasing to 61% with a 12 year time-frame. Figure 1 illustrates this simplification in reported work histories by comparing the number of registered spells of unemployment with survey reports for the 12 year period.

In addition to recall time, we find features of individuals' work histories, such as the number of days spent in unemployment or the number of spells of unemployment, to be strong predictors of measurement error. This suggests that the more salient the event, in this case the longer and less frequent the period of unemployment, the easier it is to report it correctly.

Individual characteristics including age and gender were generally not found to be associated with the level of measurement error. One exception is self-reported degree of labour market experience respondents have in their careers, which is associated with lower levels of measurement error, and suggests individuals who are more embedded in the labour market offer more reliable work histories.

For more information see: Pina-Sánchez, J., Koskinen, J. & Plewis, I. (2012) Measurement Error in Retrospective Reports of Unemployment, CCSR Working Paper 2012-2.

Figure 1: Number of spells of unemployment listed in the register vrs the ones reported in the survey for a 12 year recall period



Source: Survey data from the Longitudinal Study of the Unemployed, administrative data from the Swedish Register of Unemployment.

Does migration within England make poor neighbourhoods poorer? Recently awarded PhD

Stephen Jivraj

There have been claims made about the internal migration of people within developed nations nurturing social segregation. Nonetheless, the impact of internal migration on changes in the socioeconomic profile of neighbourhoods is a largely untested area of research.

This PhD thesis set out to determine the extent to which migration within England effects the socioeconomic composition of school pupils in neighbourhoods and how it compares with the effects of other components of area change. The focus of the analysis at the neighbourhood scale will interest policy makers who have sought to reverse the spiral of socioeconomic decline in deprived areas through area-based regeneration initiatives. These initiatives have, in part, tried to stem to flow of residents away from deprived neighbourhoods.

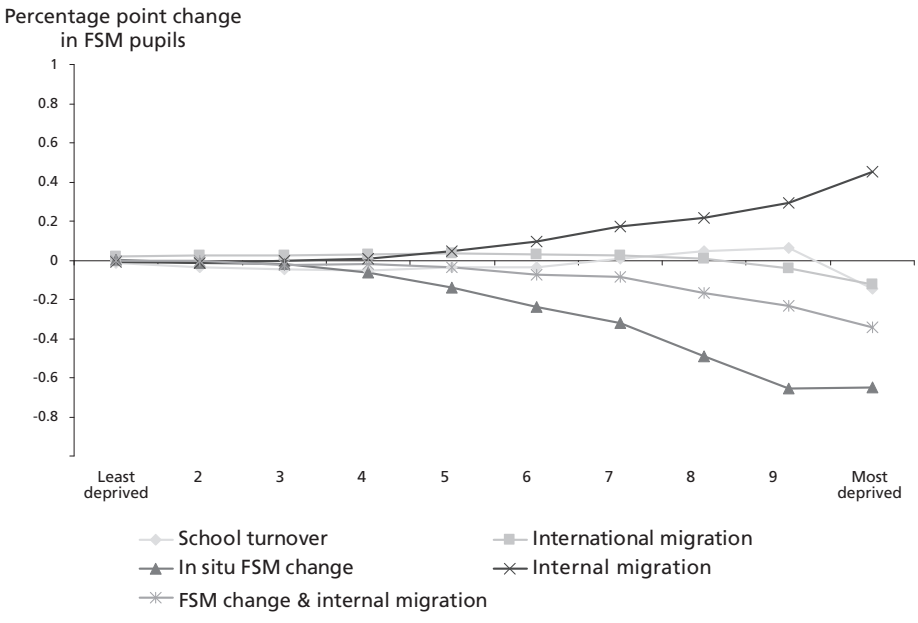
During the period 2002-07, internal migration was shown to contribute to increased concentration of poor pupils in the most deprived neighbourhoods. However, the effect is small, at least in the short-term.

Figure 1 shows the average annual change in the concentration of poor pupils, as indexed by receipt of free school meals (FSM), by component of change. The pattern of internal migration led to an increase in the number of poor pupils in more deprived areas (see the crossed line), with the greatest increase in the most deprived areas. However, this effect was counterbalanced by changes in poverty status of those pupils who did not move (*in-situ change*). The size of this change also increases as neighbourhood deprivation increases.

A reduction in the proportion of poor pupils in the most deprived neighbourhoods as a result of in-situ change may reflect the resources targeted at deprived neighbourhoods by a range of public service providers during the previous Labour government. Other drivers of change in the proportion of poor pupils (international migration, internal migration and simultaneously changing poverty status, and school turnover) all had negligible effects. An important area of further research is to test whether these effects have remained constant during the recent period of economic recession.

For more information see: Jivraj, S. (2011) The effect of internal migration on the socioeconomic composition of neighbourhoods in England. PhD Thesis, University of Manchester.

Figure 1: Average annual percentage point change in pupils receiving free school meals (FSM) by component of neighbourhood socioeconomic change, 2002 to 2007



ESRC Funded PhD studentships

The Universities of Manchester, Liverpool and Lancaster, are guaranteed an annual quota of the Economic and Social Research Council postgraduate studentships (including fees, an annual stipend, and an allowance for research expenses), as a result of our regional Doctoral Training Centre status.

We welcome applications for PhD study at CCSR in the research areas: Social Network Analysis, Longitudinal Data Analysis, Survey Methodology, Multilevel Modelling, Health Inequalities, Ethnicity, Ageing, Civic Engagement, Work & Employment, Confidentiality & Privacy, Cross-national Comparative Research, and Census Data Analysis. See our website for further details and suggested research projects.

How to apply for PhD study at CCSR

Potential PhD candidates should have a first or upper second class degree in a social science subject or in statistics. Exceptional candidates from other backgrounds will also be considered. If you are interested in doing a PhD at CCSR, please contact **mark.tranmer@manchester.ac.uk**, director of postgraduate research studies, or you can directly contact a member of staff you would like to work with. For information on how to apply, contact Vicky Barnes: **vicky.barnes@manchester.ac.uk**.

To apply online, visit: **www.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/howtoapply**

For more information see: **www.ccsr.ac.uk/phd**

CCSR Seminars Autumn 2012

Every Tuesday at 5pm in Room 1.69 in Humanities Bridgeford Street.

25th Sept
Running multilevel models in MLwiN from within Stata: runmlwin. Dr George Leckie, University of Bristol.

2nd Oct
The Politics of Place: How the Perception and Reality of Locations Affect Attitudes and Behaviour. Dr Daniel Rubenson, Ryerson University.

9th October
Why doesn't it happen in Germany, too? - Police legitimacy, stop & search practices and the role of neighbourhood disadvantage [in a new youth survey]. Dr Dietrich Oberwittler, Max Planck Institute.

16th October
Open but not integrated. David Goodhart, Demos.

23rd October
Changing public attitudes to climate change: Is scepticism really rising, and if so why? Dr Lorraine Whitmarsh, Cardiff University.

30th October
The Complexity of Turnout: An Agent-Based Simulation of Electoral Participation. Professor Ed Fieldhouse, Unviersity of Manchester.

6th November
Explaining inequality in mortality and health across the UK. Dr Pia Wohland, Newcastle University.

13th November
The Vanishing Liberal: Why Americans despise the symbols of the left and embrace its policies. Professor Jim Stimson.

20th November
2011: the last and the best of censuses? Professor David Martin, University of Southampton.

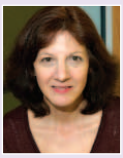
27th November
Social Capital and the Social Determinants of Health: Researchers Behaving Even More Badly. Professor Ben Fine.

4th December
The long shadow of childhood? Key findings from the Determinants of young Adult Social well-being and Health (DASH) Study. Seeromanie Harding, MRC Social & Public Health Unit, Glasgow.

For up to date details visit:
www.ccsr.ac.uk/seminars

News in brief

We would like to welcome to CCSR, Professor Natalie Shlomo (pictured) to her appointment as a chair in Social Statistics, Stephanie Thomson (pictured) to her appointment as a Research Associate on an ESRC project to embed quantitative methods in undergraduate teaching, and Jen Whillans (pictured) to her appointment as a Research Associate on a project to investigate visual impairment among the older population. CCSR PhD students Jen Buckley and Lee Bentley have been appointed as Research Associates to support the UK Data Service. UK Data Service team member, Pierre Walthery has been appointed as a Research Fellow on an evaluation of health outcomes in the New Deal for Communities programme. Finally, CCSR has been awarded five PhD studentships from the North West Doctoral Training Centre allocation for the 2012-13 academic year.



Professor Natalie Shlomo

Stephanie Thomson

Jennifer Whillans

Upcoming short courses Nov - Dec 2012

Course name	Date
Constructing Measures Using the Rasch Model	14-15th November 2012
How to Conduct a Survey	16th November 2012
Questionnaire Design	20th November 2012
Multi Item Scales	21st November 2012
Cognitive Interviewing	22nd November 2012
Linking Data – An Introduction	28th November 2012
Linking Data –Advanced	29-30th November 2012
An Introduction to Statistical Testing in Research	5th December 2012
Social Media Data Analysis	11th December 2012
Statistical Analysis with Missing Data using Multiple Imputation	12-13th December 2012

To book a place visit: **www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses**

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