

CCSRNews

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

CCSR hosts European Workshop
on EU Comparative Datasets

A two-day European workshop to introduce two EU cross-national comparative datasets, the EU-Survey of Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) and the EU-Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) took place on 4-5 August 2011 at the University of Manchester. The workshop was jointly organised by ESDS Government and GESIS at the Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences in Mannheim, Germany. Participants came from a wide range of European countries including Belgium, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and the UK.

The first day of the workshop focussed on the background of the study and possibilities with the data. The second day of the workshop was much more 'hands-on', examining particular methodological issues that users need to be aware of when analysing the data (household structure, sampling errors and survey design, non-response and attrition) and participants got a chance to use the Austrian and UK SILC and LFS data in practical computing sessions. It wasn't all hard work though – in the evening participants attended a fantastic 'Marx and Engels' walking

tour of Manchester, followed by a meal in a local restaurant. The workshop was not only a great opportunity for participants to learn about the data but also a good chance to meet others with similar research interests and/or others using the data.

For more information, you can view and download the slides and practical exercises from the workshop from the ESDS-Government website: www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/events/2011-08-04/programme/index.html

New Short
Courses at CCSR

CCSR is a top-rated research centre which hosts an extensive programme of short course training in research methods, aimed at academics and applied researchers in the public and private sectors. This year 45 courses are on offer including new courses on data mining, multi-level modeling, analysis of longitudinal datasets, how to conduct a survey and statistics for small samples.

Courses run from introductory to advanced and cover all aspects of the research process, including research design, data collection and data analysis. We have continually revised and added to our programme in response to evolving demand and with support from the Economic and Social Research Council. All

courses are developed and delivered by staff who are experts in their fields.

Most courses are one day in duration, although some run over two or three days. Courses are designed to be free-standing, though many build together to provide learning pathways from basic to more advanced levels. The format of our courses typically includes a combination of lectures and/or demonstrations, supported by a substantial practical component, to ensure participants gain hands-on experience in the application of the methods being taught. Course leaders and teaching assistants are on hand to ensure a friendly and supportive learning environment. The Training Suite is one of ten ESRC Regional Training Centres.

See the back page for details of forthcoming short courses. Further information and online booking can be found at: www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses.

Minority Internal
Migration in
Europe

From 5th-7th September CCSR hosted speakers and delegates from across Europe to debate the residential mobility of minority populations (immigrants and ethnic minorities) in European countries. The presentations, representing countries in Northern, Western and Southern Europe, enabled discussion of the differing experiences of minorities in residential mobility, housing and integration more generally in countries with established immigration histories (such as Britain) and countries with recent unprecedented levels of immigration (such as Spain).

The conference was supported by CCSR, the ESRC's UPTAP programme, the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), the RGS-IBG Population Geography Research Group and Population, Space and Place (Wiley). Further information, including the presentations from the conference, are available at www.ccsr.ac.uk/events/mim. The conference papers will form an edited book to be published in 2012 as part of Ashgate's International Population Studies series.

in this issue...

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 02 | Can violent behaviour be predicted from the alcohol consumption patterns of young people? (Carly Lightowlers) | 05 | Ethnic differences in overweight and obese children in England (Vanessa Higgins) |
| 03 | Does the gender wage gap grow through the early career? (Leen Vandecasteele) | 06 | What conditions are associated with fathers' involvement in childcare and housework?: Recently Awarded PhD (Helen Norman) |
| 04 | Modelling how ties between corporate boards change over time (Johan Koskinen) | 07 | Consumption patterns of the middle class in metropolitan China: Recently Awarded PhD (Zhu Di) |

Can violent behaviour be predicted from the alcohol consumption patterns of young people?

Carly Lightowlers

Alcohol-related violence is suffered and committed disproportionately by young people, especially males, and it often occurs in public settings and drinking establishments. Furthermore, ‘binge drinking’ has routinely been associated with interpersonal assault amongst young people. However, there is little research focused on the prediction of violence from prior drinking behavior. This project examined young people’s drinking behaviour and considered how their past and present alcohol consumption patterns relate to the potential for violent behaviour across the period of young adolescence and early adulthood.

The project analysed data for a panel of respondents aged 16 to 29 from the Offending Crime and Justice Survey (a self-report survey of crime and delinquency in England and Wales run over four successive annual sweeps). A cross-sectional logistic regression model was run to examine the extent to which binge drinking predicts the likelihood of committing assault.

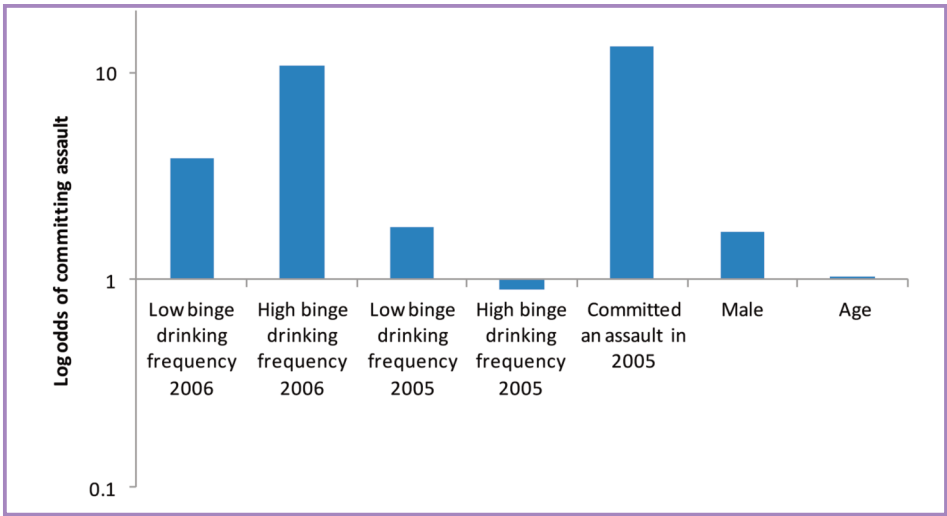
Figures 1 displays the likelihood of committing assault based on drinking behaviour, in the form of both current and prior binge drinking (binge drinking in the same year and previous year respectively). The results highlight that frequency of binge drinking in the same year 2006 is significantly associated with violent offending. However, there is no evidence that binge drinking in earlier years adds to our ability to predict the likelihood of violent offending.

The evidence of a contemporaneous association between binge drinking and violence in the same year supports existing research. However, an interaction term between binge drinking and gender was not found to be significant in the model. This suggests that gender does not moderate the effects of binge drinking on assault outcomes in this instance and it is therefore important to not over-emphasise the role of gender in the association between binge drinking and violent behaviour.

Further development of this work can be found in Lightowlers C. (2011). Exploring the temporal association between young people’s alcohol consumption patterns and violent behaviour. Contemporary Drug Problems 38(2): 191-212.



Figure 1: Likelihood of committing assault in 2006 predicted with binge drinking frequency in the same year as well as binge drinking in previous year



*p ≤ .05; **p ≤ .01. An odds ratio of 1 implies that the event is equally likely in both groups. Nagelkerke = 0.315, Chi-square = 122.777, -2 Log likelihood = 365.09, N = 1118. Base category for binge drinking variables in 2005 and 2006 was never binge drank.

Does the gender wage gap grow through the early career?

Leen Vandecasteele

This project examined how patterns of gender inequality change with new cohorts entering the labour market. It is well established that the gender wage gap in Britain has narrowed considerably since the 1970s. One of the explanations refers to the fact that women enjoy wider participation in education and start their careers at higher levels of occupational attainment. In this project, Dr. Vandecasteele investigated how this equalisation in terms of educational chances works out over the career.

This project uses a lifecourse perspective on barriers to gender equality in the labour market. It examines the evolution of the gender wage gap in different cohorts of British labour market entrants. The main question concerns why the gender wage gap grows over the professional lifetime. Moreover, by comparing different cohorts of labour market entrants we also assess whether the gender wage evolution has become more equal for more recent cohorts.

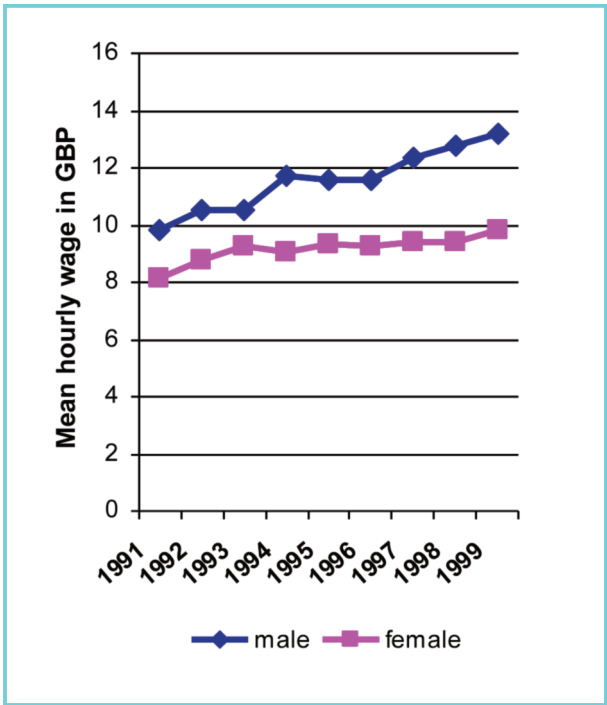
The results are based on analysis of the British Household Panel Survey and show that the wages of men and women on entry into employment have indeed become more equal over time. This is illustrated in Figure 2: the gaps between men and womens’ mean hourly wage is less for those aged 25-30 in 2000 than it was for those aged 25-30 in 1991. However, a substantial gender wage gap arises within the first 10 years in the labour market, due to the tendency of women to interrupt their career for childcare and the smaller promotion chances of women. There are some signs that this trend is slightly declining for the more recent birth cohorts as women of the current generation engage less in part-time work.

A CCSR working paper on this topic will soon be available at: www.ccsr.ac.uk/publications/working.

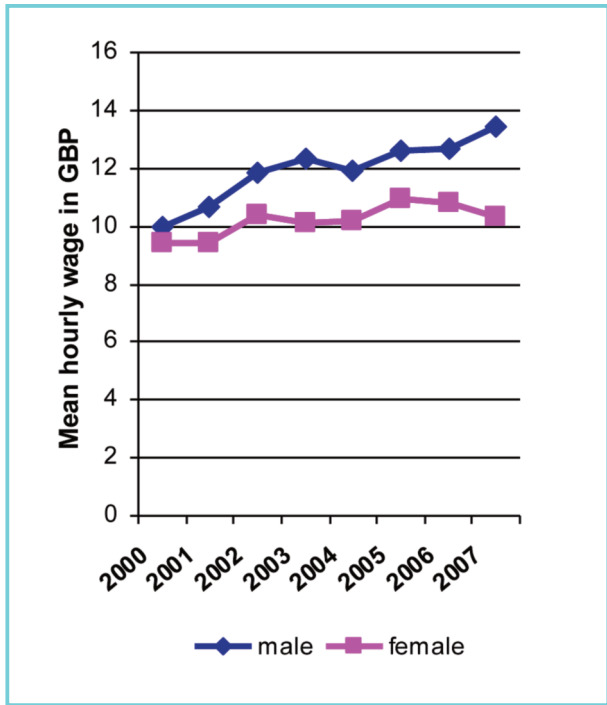


Figure 2: The gender wage gap and its evolution for two cohorts as they make the transition into their 30s.

a) Cohort aged 25-30 in 1991 (born 1961-1966)



b) Cohort aged 25-30 in 2000 (born 1970-1975)



Modelling how ties between corporate boards change over time

Johan Koskinen

Who manages the wealth in society and where do they come from? Who sanctions the repeated expressions of greed that we have seen in the corporate world in the last few years? In a recent study of corporate boards we see how preferential treatment operates through a strategy of “I scratch your back, you scratch mine”.

Corporate boards and how these are tied to each other through director interlocks – two boards sharing at least one director – has long been of interest to researchers in organisation theory, sociology and finance and has been used to investigate theories of, for example, how elites are structured. While it could be argued that representation on corporate boards is a meritocratic cross-section of society, selected in the best interests of share holders, many researchers have on the contrary seen the compositions of corporate board memberships as an expression of old boys networks and invisible colleges.

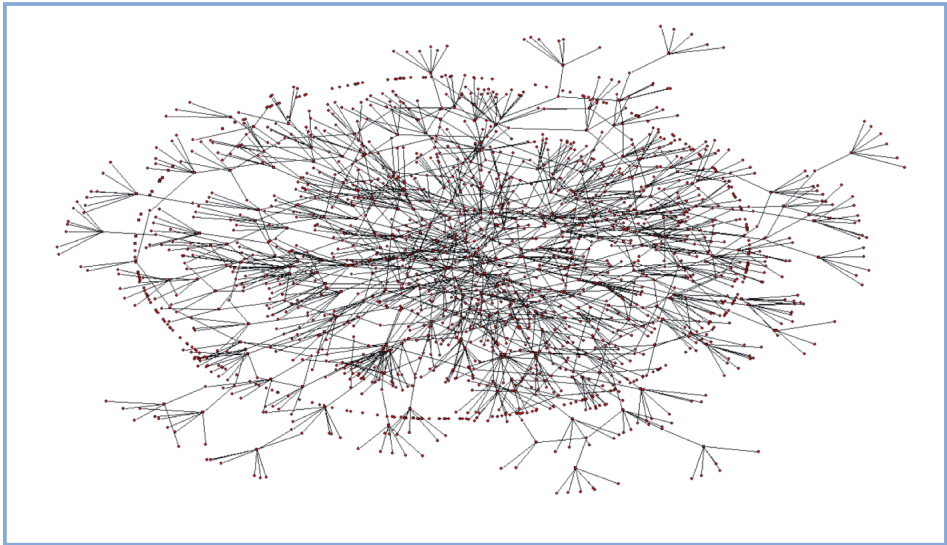
In this project we propose a new procedure for studying networks that offers a generative statistical model for data that is derived from theory. This allows us to test for the existence of mechanisms for board recruitment using panel data on director interlocks. The model used is an extension of the stochastic actor oriented models for network evolution, where the network is assumed to evolve according to a continuous-time Markov chain, allowing for complex dependencies between board interlocks, and more generally, relational ties between social actors. Estimation is done building on the Bayesian inference scheme previously developed by Koskinen and Snijders.

An analysis of membership of corporate boards in Sweden over a 10 year period provided strong evidence for directors being recruited through peer-referral. Peer referral is a process whereby a current director proposes the recruitment of someone he or she jointly sits on another board with. Peer referral may act as a mechanism that is consistent with norms of the powerful preserving the current patterns of distribution of power. This process makes explicit the link between the notion of old boys’ networks and corporate interlocks, the way in which elites operate. In particular, we hypothesise that women are not recruited by a process of peer referral, that differential peer referral is a mechanism of homosocial reproduction (social processes of men reinforcing norms of male dominance). We find some evidence that this is the case but conclude that this effect is partly obscured by the fact that women are under represented in the corporate world.

For the full article see Koskinen, J. & Edling, C. (in press). The evolution of a bi-partite network – Peer referral in interlocking directorates. Social Networks. DOI: 10.1016/j.socnet.2010.03.00.



Figure 3: How boards and directors are connected: The “bi-partite”, board-to-director network in Sweden in 2005



Note: This network consists of two types of nodes: boards (squares) and directors (circles). There is a line (or a tie) from a director to a board if the director is a member of that board. Most directors sit on only one board but some are members of two or more boards – these individuals constitute the interlocking directorates, linking companies with each other.

Ethnic differences in overweight and obese children in England

Vanessa Higgins

Previous research in England has highlighted Black African, Black Caribbean and Pakistani girls as having an increased risk of being obese or overweight compared with children in the general population. However, some of these studies are not based on representative samples and those that are do not control for the effects of a full range of socio-economic measures, or for parental obesity.

Using the 1999 and 2004 Health Survey for England (nationally representative data with ethnic boost samples) this research examines ethnic differences in overweight and obese children after controlling for a wide range of explanatory factors. The International Obesity Task Force age-specific Body Mass Index (BMI) thresholds for children are used to define ‘obese’ and ‘overweight’. In order to increase sample sizes the research uses a combined definition of ‘obese/overweight’. The ethnic groups included in the analyses are Black Caribbean, Black African, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Irish and White.

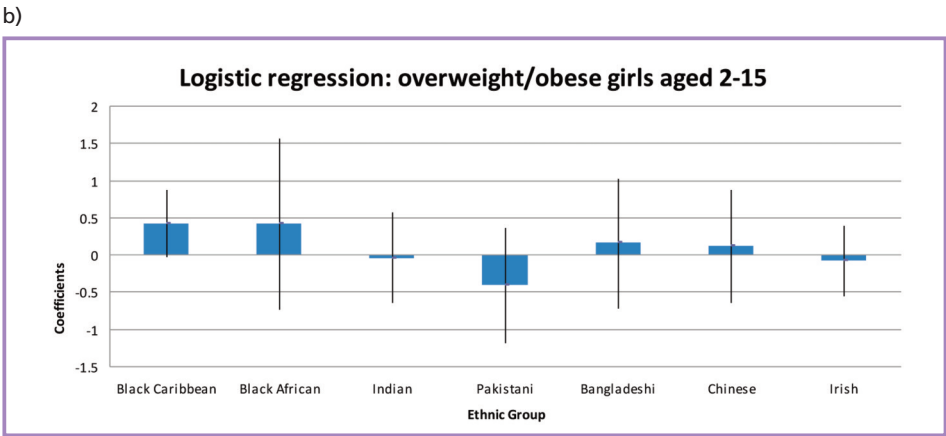
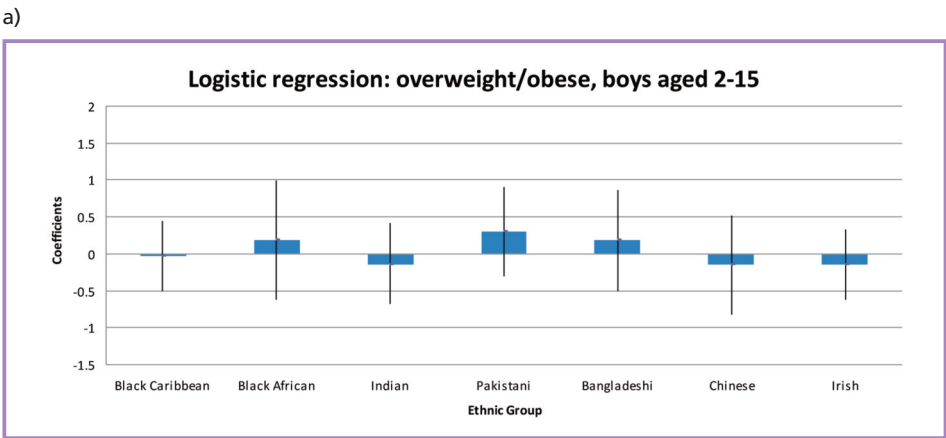
Logistic regression modelling is used to establish the relative importance of a range of possible explanatory variables (as suggested by previous studies) on childhood obesity/overweight. The explanatory variables included in the models are maternal qualifications, maternal employment status and hours of work, maternal social class, maternal (im)migration status, maternal smoking status, equivalised household income, lone-parent status and mother’s and father’s Body Mass Index.

As seen in Figure 4 below our results show that there are no statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) ethnic differences in childhood obesity/overweight after controlling for other explanatory factors (the null result was confirmed by a post-hoc power analyses which revealed that the sample size in the study was large enough to detect differences at the 5% level of significance). Boys and girls with obese or overweight mothers are more likely to be obese/overweight than those whose mothers are not obese or overweight. By contrast with other studies our results show no association between maternal employment status or maternal hours of employment and the likelihood of a child being obese or overweight.

For more information see Higgins V. and Dale, A. Ethnic Differences in overweight and obese children in England CCSR Working Paper 2010-07. This research was sponsored by the Economic and Social Research Council.



Figure 4: Ethnic differences in child obesity a) boys b) girls



Note: Logistic regression models controlling for ethnic group of child, age of child, survey year, mother’s BMI, father’s BMI, mother’s employment status, mother’s social class, mother’s highest educational qualification, mother’s immigration status, mother’s current smoking status, lone-parent family indicator and equivalised household income. Total number of children included in analyses = 7047.

What conditions are associated with fathers' involvement in childcare and housework?: Recently Awarded PhD

Helen Norman

Most industrialised countries have experienced a shift in the 'male breadwinner' model of family life as new generations of mothers increasingly combine employment with parenting responsibilities. This has had implications for the role of fathers and their contributions to childcare and domestic work have increased as a result. However, the change in fathers' contributions has not kept pace with the change in women's economic activity, suggesting there are social, political, economic and cultural barriers in place.

Two sweeps of the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) were used to explore some of the conditions under which fathers become more actively involved in childcare and housework when children are aged nine months and three years old. This question was examined both cross-sectionally and longitudinally within the context of a two-parent, heterosexual household in Britain.

Results showed that patterns of maternal and paternal employment had the strongest association with paternal involvement at both time points. Fathers were less likely to be involved if they worked long hours, as shown in Figure 5. However, in some cases, the hours a mother worked when children were aged nine months had a stronger association with paternal involvement than the fathers' own work hours.

There were also considerable variations by ethnicity in paternal involvement when the child was aged nine months: involvement is lower for fathers with an Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi background.

Various other demographic factors also have a small association with involved fathering at age three. For example, fathers are more likely to be involved if their child is a boy and when there are no other children in the household.

The thesis exposes some of the employment and demographic conditions associated with greater paternal involvement with young children and in doing so, it brings to light some of the barriers to greater gender equity in the division of childcare and housework (so-called domestic labour).

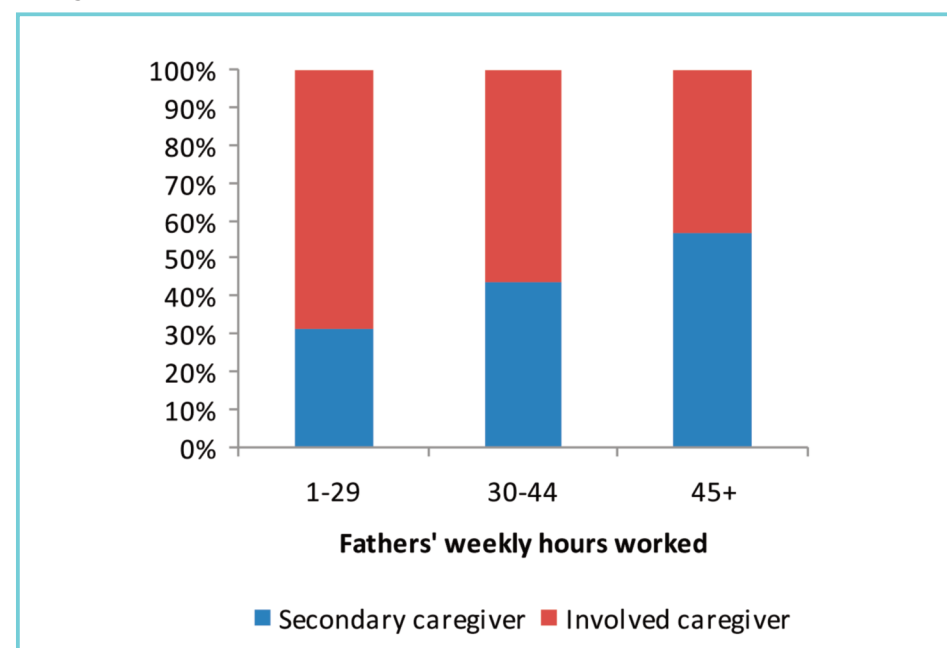
For a discussion of the impact of social policy and fathers' contributions to childcare and housework see: Fagan, C. and H. Norman 'Men's role in gender equality' in F. Bettio, J. Plantenga and M. Smith (Eds) Equality within Reach? Updating women's labour market position in the EU, Routledge, under contract for 2012.

For a fuller discussion of fatherhood see: Norman, H. (2010) doctoral thesis: What makes fathers involved? A longitudinal analysis of the conditions that influence fathers to get involved in childcare and housework, University of Manchester.

Helen now works in the Department of Sociology at The University of Manchester.



Figure5: The proportion of fathers who are (1) 'involved' caregivers and (2) secondary caregivers in relation to their weekly employment hours when children are aged nine months



Source: MCS, sweep one (n=10,113), weighted with sample weights. Note: 'secondary caregiver' is a father who does the less childcare than his partner; 'involved caregiver' is a father who does most childcare or shares roughly equally with his partner. 4.3 percent of fathers work 1-29 hours per week, 43.6 percent work 30-44 hours and 52.2 percent work 45 hours or more.

Consumption patterns of the middle class in metropolitan China: Recently Awarded PhD

Zhu Di

This thesis examined consumption patterns in terms of everyday consumption (daily expenditure, family commitment, gift-giving and financial strategies), taste (preferences in consumption) and material culture (use of material goods and material aspirations). The analyses focused on the contemporary middle class, including professionals, managers, business-owners and civil servants, and on metropolitan cities. Data come from the China General Social Survey (CGSS) of 2003 and 30 interviews with middle class people in Beijing conducted in 2008. Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA) is used to analyse the survey data. MCA is a data reduction method, with input of multiple categorical variables and output of factors. The strength of this method is that it can visually display the association between multiple categorical variables. Six variables on purchasing and using material goods and using services were analysed using MCA.

The patterns of engagement in consumption practices among the urban population were revealed, which are in essence a reflection of social disparity (see Figure 6). Six types of consumption practices that bring pleasure and comfort are classified in coloured spots in the bottom box. The value labels of 1 to 4 represent frequency of participation in the consumption practices. Each modality of consumption pattern is demonstrated in the space by both a value label (frequency) and a corresponding coloured spot (consumption practice). The two arrows show the trend of how the frequency of participation in these consumption practices increases (from right to left, bottom to top). It can be seen that various modes of 'frequent' participation are clustered and closer to various modes of 'sometimes' and 'occasionally' but are distant from the categories of 'never' doing any of the consumption practices. Axis 1, explaining 84% of variance, is the most important dimension. It represents that the consumption patterns are mainly differentiated by age and social class (the findings are shown by further analyses that include demographic variables). Younger people and those positioned in a higher social class tend to participate more frequently in the consumption practices. Axis 2, the less important dimension, represents how the consumption patterns are differentiated by income – people with a higher income participate more frequently in the consumption practices.

This research suggests that orientation to personal pleasure and comfort is significant among the metropolitan middle class, especially in the younger generation. This generational effect reflects the dramatic social changes in contemporary Chinese society. Income plays a less important role in differentiating consumption patterns than age and social class, which indicates that consumption is not merely an economic practice, but is shaped by social conventions and social context.

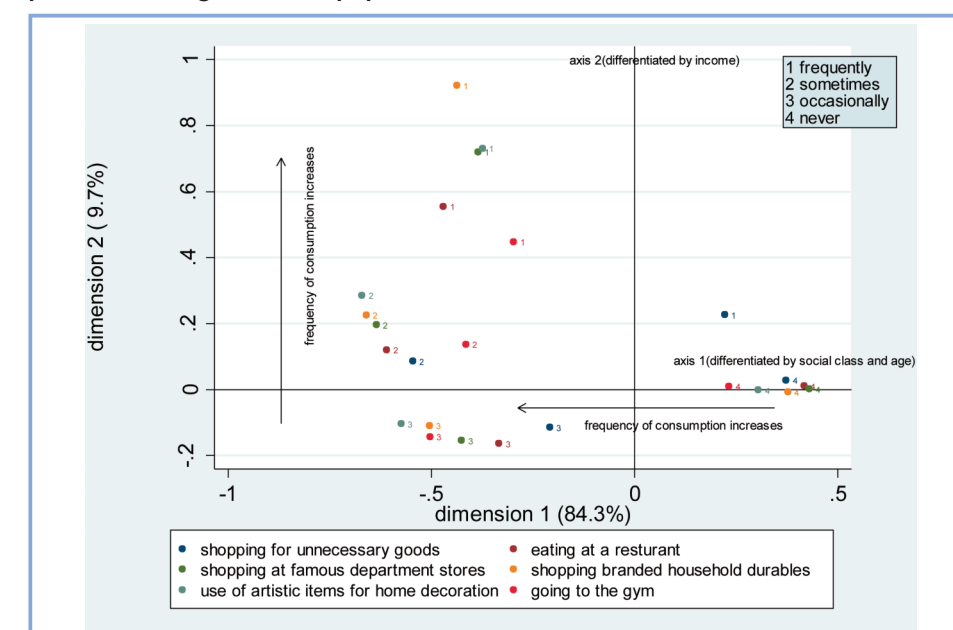
The qualitative analysis, drawing on in-depth personal accounts, further shows that pursuit of pleasure, tempered with the pursuit of comfort, is a significant form of aesthetic justification; and

living within one's means, i.e. keeping a balance between expenditure and income, is the main moral justification. The project concluded that the orientation to personal pleasure and comfort is evident in China as a new value. However, it is incorporated into more traditional understandings, including family commitment and frugality. The findings challenge the stereotype of the Chinese 'new rich' and the one-dimensional pictures of tendencies towards either conspicuous display, or frugality.

Zhu Di now works at Institute of Sociology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.
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Figure 6: Multiple Correspondence Analysis of participation in consumption practices among the urban population, China 2003 (axes 1 and 2)



News and Events

New publication: "Data Collection: Key debates and methods in social research"

by Wendy Olsen

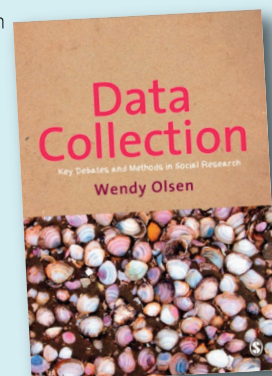
This innovative book for students and researchers gives an introduction to key issues and practical methods needed for data collection. The book integrates the traditions of quantitative social science and qualitative methodology and will be an important resource for students and research professionals at the beginning, intermediate and even final stages of data collection and analysis. It offers clear definitions, relevant examples from around the world and up-to-date suggestions for further reading to demonstrate how to gather and use qualitative, quantitative, and mixed data sets. The disciplines from which examples are taken include social policy, sociology, economics, international development studies, business and psychology. Methods such as, questionnaire design, sampling, setting up coding schemes, aspects of measurement using survey questions, and the interpretation of qualitative data are handled in detail. Examples are given from the survey method, extraction of data from free online data sources, interviews and several other primary data collection methods.

The book is divided into seven distinct parts, encouraging researchers to combine methods of data collection:

- Data Collection: An Introduction to Research Practices
- Collecting Qualitative Data
- Observation and Involved Methods
- Experimental and Systematic Data Collection
- Survey Methods for Data Collection
- The Case Study Method of Data Collection
- Concluding Suggestions About Data-Collection Concepts

The book is a stimulating, practical guide. It can be read either by focusing on individual concepts from the methods toolkit, or as a whole.

Wendy Olsen is Senior Lecturer at Manchester University, Discipline of Social Statistics and Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research.



Forthcoming Short Courses at CCSR

For further details and online booking see: www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses

Course name	Date
Latent Factor Analysis	16th November 2011
How To Conduct A Survey (NEW COURSE!)	18th November 2011
Questionnaire Design	22nd November 2011
Multi Item Scales	23rd November 2011
Cognitive Interviewing	24th November 2011
Handling Missing Data in Longitudinal Surveys	13-15th December 2011
MCMC Methods	12-13th January 2012
Introduction to STATA	25th January 2012
GLM Regression (NEW COURSE!)	26-27th January 2012
Introduction to R	1st Feb 2012
Introduction to Bayesian Analysis	9-10 February 2012
Understanding Statistics	6th March 2012
Introduction to Sampling	7th March 2012
Introduction to Structural Equation Modelling	14-16th March 2012
Linking Data – An Introduction	21st March 2012
Linking Data – Advanced Methods	22nd-23rd March
Foundation Skills for Data Analysts (replaces SPSS)	28th March 2012
Introduction Data Analysis 1	29th March 2012
Introduction Data Analysis 2	30th March 2012
Social Network Analysis 1	26-28 March 2012
Social Network Analysis 2	28-30 March 2012
Social Network Analysis 3	28-30th April 2012
Statistics For Small Samples (NEW COURSE!)	4th April 2012
Planning and Managing Social Research	18th April 2012
Multiple Linear Regression	25th April 2012
Logistic Regression	26th April 2012

Interested in further Study? MSc in Social Research Methods and Statistics (SRMS)

The SRMS MSc course at the University of Manchester provides a thorough grounding in advanced quantitative methods, taught within an applied social science framework. The course is available full-time over one year or part-time over two-years. See www.ccsr.ac.uk/masters

There is an increasing need for well-trained social scientists who are able to apply advanced methods of analysis to complex data. Graduates of our programme in Social Research Methods and Statistics are in a good position to obtain jobs in central government, the academic sector, local government and within the commercial research sector. See www.ccsr.ac.uk/masters/grad_dest.htm

For further details about the SRMS MSc course, contact:
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