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## Editorial\*

### **This issue of *Local Population Studies***

There is a sense in which this issue of *Local Population Studies* marks a return to the journal's roots, as we have two articles based on English parish registers. Sue Jones analyses mortality in Surrey using burial registers for the first two centuries of the parish register period. Although her analysis is wide-ranging, covering the whole of the county other than those parishes within the London area, she focuses on the mortality crises of the 1590s and 1603 (one mainly a subsistence crisis, the other an epidemic of plague) and highlights the evolution of these crises and their differences as manifest by the series of burials. In the second article, Paul Schoon examines the under-researched crisis of 1727–1731 using a set of registers from Bedfordshire. Most of these are drawn from the sample of parishes in the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure's aggregate data base of 404 parishes used by E.A. Wrigley and R.S. Schofield, *The Population History of England 1541–1871: a Reconstruction* (Cambridge, 1989), but Schoon supplements these with data from a set of transcripts available in the Bedfordshire Archives. The results reveal a complex crisis which probably had multiple causes, but which was of significant magnitude, although the excess mortality was not evenly distributed across the population. Both these papers reveal that there is a lot of scope left in parish register demography, especially now that it is practical to study large numbers of contiguous or at least nearby parishes.

The third article covers a quite different theme. Based on a paper presented at the Local Population Studies Society Spring Conference in 2021, Lisard Palau examines the employment of women in the textile colonies of Catalonia in the early twentieth century. These colonies were industrial villages often established far from existing centres of population, centred on a factory and in which employees lived permanently in housing provided by the company running the factory. The Local Population Studies Society has long had an interest in women's work, exemplified by the publication of N. Goose (ed.) *Women's Work in Industrial England: Regional and Local Perspectives* (Hatfield, 2007), and Palau's paper will be of interest to readers as it provides an example from continental Europe to compare with the British experience. Particularly enlightening is Palau's demonstration of how work outside the home was integrated into the stem family structure.

The issue includes reports of two conferences, the aforementioned Spring Conference and the Autumn Conference 2021 on 'The British Disapora'. Given the latter, it is fitting that we publish a research note on another diaspora population, that of Ukrainians in Cagliari in Sardinia. Andrea Corsale shows how this diaspora population reflected political and cultural divides in the homeland. Our second research note is by Prisca Greenhow and

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\* <https://doi.org/10.35488/lps107.2021.1>.

is about the employment of poor women and children as sparrow catchers in the Norfolk parish of Mattishall. Greenhow argues that the extent to which the parish overseers used such work as a way of occupying the poor tells us something about their attitudes towards pauperism and idleness.

For readers of the electronic version, the final instalment of Chris Galley's monograph on infant mortality in England since the dawn of the parish register era is published as a supplement to this issue. It can be read only on the IngentaConnect web site, where it has been designated as Open Access, meaning that anyone can read and download it, whether or not they are members of the Local Population Studies Society or have paid for access to the journal. This final instalment deals with infant mortality in the twentieth century and is both a synthesis of what is known about infant mortality during this period and a summary of work that remains to be done.

### **Local Population Studies Prize**

The Local Population Studies Society (LPSS) has reintroduced a prize for the best article published in *Local Population Studies* by a student, a young academic or a non-University-based author. There was, in the past, a similar prize (referred to as the Local Population Studies Essay Prize) but it fell into abeyance. If you are either a student (at any stage), a young academic (within five years of completing a PhD) or not based in a university, you stand a chance of winning three years' membership of LPSS, to include the registration fees for all conferences organised by LPSS during those three years. The reintroduced prize will be offered for the best article by an eligible author published in *Local Population Studies* issues 108 or 109. Papers written by more than one author are eligible, but all authors must meet the criteria, and only one prize will be offered for each paper.

### **Editorial Board**

Can we remind all readers that the members of the Editorial Board are always happy to offer advice and support in the editorial process to those who have limited experience of publishing their work? Please do send us anything you think might be worth publishing, even if it is in a very preliminary form, and we can suggest ways to improve it, or new avenues to investigate.

### **Thanks and acknowledgements**

My thanks are due to the members of the Editorial Board for their contribution to this issue. The copy-editing and proof-reading were very much a team effort this time. Viv Williams at Cambrian Typesetters and Malcolm George at Argent Litho have played their part with their customary goodwill and efficiency.

Andrew Hinde