

Editorial*

This issue of *Local Population Studies*

This issue of *Local Population Studies* includes two articles, two research notes, and a commentary from Tom Heritage. The two articles are both based on parish registers but are otherwise very different. Sadie McMullon's article is an analysis of marriage distances in Fletton (now a suburb of Peterborough) between 1891 and 1911. An important contribution of this paper is its use of record linkage to trace the origins and life histories of marriage partners. By doing this, McMullon is able to explain why individuals from apparently distant locations came to marry one another by identifying where their life histories intersected.

The second article is based on the registers of a parish in the town of Zacatecas in Mexico. Readers of *Local Population Studies* may not all be aware that parish register demography is not confined to Europe, still less to England. There are parish registers in several regions of Africa and Latin America. The three authors of this paper describe infant and child mortality in Zacatecas in the mid nineteenth century, focusing on causes of death and on differentials between the mortality of males and females. They also discuss a wide range of research in Mexico on historical populations, demonstrating that historical demography is a thriving sub-discipline in that country.

The two research notes come from Sue Jones and Peter Jolly. Jones's short piece is a response to the article by Paul Schoon on the Bedfordshire demographic crisis of 1727-1731 which was published in the last issue of *Local Population Studies* (see below for more on this article). She shows that this crisis, which has been neglected by population historians, can be observed in several parishes in Surrey. Jolly's contribution is also inspired by a recent article, this time a paper by Ciarán McCabe, 'Charwomen and Dublin's secondary labour force in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries', *Social History* 45 (2020), pp. 193-217 (this paper is reviewed in *Local Population Studies* 107 (2021), p. 117). He describes the demography of the charwomen of Berkshire as revealed by the 1911 Census, and argues that there were similarities between the characteristics of Berkshire's charwomen and those of Dublin. Women, especially older women, became charwomen because of economic necessity.

Finally, this issue of *Local Population Studies* includes a new type of contribution which we have called a 'commentary'. Tom Heritage's recent PhD thesis was on the older age populations of late nineteenth century England and Wales. His commentary looks at some of the ways in which his research challenges

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conventional wisdom on older people's lives in the past and draws out some implications of his findings for attitudes towards older people in the current age. For example, it is clear that, in the Victorian period, not all older people worked until they died or were too infirm to be employed. 'Retirement' was not a twentieth century invention.

Local Population Studies Prize

In 2021, the Local Population Studies Society (LPSS) reintroduced a prize for the best article published in *Local Population Studies* by a student, a young academic or a non-university-based author. The entries were judged by a sub-committee of the LPSS Committee and the judges were unanimous in awarding the prize to Paul Schoon for his paper: 'The Bedfordshire demographic crisis of 1727-1731: some evidence of differentiated socially selective mortality', *Local Population Studies* 107 (2021), pp. 40-67. The judges for the prize commented that 'Schoon tackles a difficult question, but by showing how this crisis varied between different parishes in Bedfordshire he illustrates how local population studies can cast light on national patterns. The article should have wide appeal to a diverse range of historians.'

The prize will be awarded again in 2022. 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, and again for the best article by an eligible author published in *Local Population Studies* 110 and 111. 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.

Open Access and *Local Population Studies*

The future of academic publishing is likely to lie with Open Access. This means that academic papers may be read and downloaded for free by interested readers. Currently there are two forms of Open Access: 'gold', which means that the published version of an article is available for anyone to read and download; and 'green' which means that the published version is only available to those to subscribe to a journal, but that the accepted version (usually in the form of a Word document or a .pdf file) is available from an institutional repository. Increasingly, articles in journals to which academic institutions subscribe, typically as part of a bundle of journals, will be available Open Access which means that, as

time goes on, the rationale for institutions paying high subscription fees will diminish. Individuals who are not members of institutions will also be able to read articles for free. Eventually, it seems likely that the majority of academic articles will be Open Access. Those that are not will have less impact and influence on research, as their readership will be restricted.

For journals, the key consequence of Open Access is how to pay for the production and distribution costs and make money. One way this can happen is through article processing charges (APCs), by which authors pay these costs. This works for authors who have access to research funding, and many funders are now including an allowance for APCs in their grants. Some institutions also make funds available for their staff to pay these charges. In the physical sciences and many areas of the social sciences, where unfunded research is rare, this model works well. In the humanities, however, where a substantial amount of research is unfunded, it creates a difficulty for many authors. Despite this, it seems likely that the physical sciences will drive the agenda, and the arts and humanities will have to find ways of implementing it.

It is already the case that United Kingdom Research and Innovation, which is the main body providing grants to academics (it is the umbrella organisation for the Research Councils) requires research that is supported by its grants to be published Open Access. In the end, the expectation is that such research will be published only in those journals that are entirely Open Access. At present, journals are required only to be ‘transitioning’ to Open Access.

Within the humanities, we can distinguish between two types of journals: (1) those which are free-standing (such as the *Historical Journal*); and (2) those which come with membership of an academic society (such as the *Economic History Review*). At present, Open Access articles still form a minority of articles published by journals of both types.

Type (1) journals are likely to find Open Access challenging. Publishers are aware of these challenges and have put in place various schemes to meet them. One such scheme is the Read and Publish scheme, through which academics working in institutions that subscribe to a journal can publish Open Access in that journal. In effect, this rolls up the APCs for members of an institution into the subscription charge.

With type (2) journals, subscribers potentially receive additional benefits from being members of the academic society. These journals have two potential strategies: (i) maintain their current position to try to encourage interested individuals to join their parent academic societies; (ii) transfer to Open Access, rely on enough people wanting to join the academic society for the other benefits this brings, and use some of this income to support the production and distribution costs of the journal. Which of these strategies is best will depend on the specific

circumstances of the journal. Local and regional journals (such as the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*) may find that their parent societies have a sufficiently large and coherent body of members to continue to restrict access to their journals to those who have joined the society. Other societies, such as the Economic History Society, have low membership fees which do not cover the costs of their journals, so transferring to Open Access is likely to be attractive.

An important consideration is the cost of producing and distributing hard copies. No one is proposing that Open Access means that people are entitled to receive hard copies free of charge! Journals that produce hard copies (and not all journals do) almost always charge subscribers who wish to receive hard copies a higher fee than those who are happy with electronic copies. For some journals (for example many local and regional journals), the majority of subscribers receive hard copies and are happy to pay for them. These journals are likely to be able to fund the production and distribution costs using subscription income and, for them, whether or not to allow Open Access may not be a major issue—especially as the benefits of greater visibility of their content may not be significant.

Where does all this leave *Local Population Studies*? The Local Population Studies Society (LPSS) Committee has considered the matter and decided that, from 2023 onwards, the electronic version of *Local Population Studies* will move from its current host, IngentaConnect, to the LPSS web site together with the archive of all back issues. The precise nature of the access to the electronic copies of the journal has yet to be determined, though it will be administratively simpler for the electronic version of the journal to become Open Access immediately after the transfer from IngentaConnect to the LPSS web site than for recent issues to be placed behind a paywall on the web site. We shall continue to print hard copies of the journal for those who would like them. The current membership fee should cover the costs of printing.

Tony Wrigley

Readers will be sad to learn of the death of Tony Wrigley on 24 February 2022. Together with Peter Laslett, Tony was the founder of the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure where *Local Population Studies* and the Local Population Studies Society (LPSS) were born. Although population historians will remember him chiefly for the two pathbreaking books he wrote with colleagues from Cambridge based on parish registers: E.A. Wrigley and R.S. Schofield, *The Population History of England, 1541-1871: a Reconstruction* (London, 1981) and E.A. Wrigley, R.S. Davies, J.E. Oeppen and R.S. Schofield, *England's Population History from Family Reconstitution 1570-1830* (Cambridge, 1997), he was the author of many other books in population history and economic history and made

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major contributions to our understanding of the industrial revolution and economic development in general.

Tony was always a great supporter of LPSS and spoke at several LPSS Conferences over the years. It is fair to say that, were it not for his imagination of what the analysis of historical documents could achieve, English historical demography and historical demography around the world would be immensely poorer than it is, and the LPSS would not exist. He will be greatly missed, and a fuller appreciation of his life and work will appear in *Local Population Studies* 109.

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 contributions to this issue. The copy-editing and proof-reading were very much a team effort this time.

After many years typesetting *Local Population Studies*, Viv Williams has decided to retire. This issue has therefore been typeset 'in house' by members of the Editorial Board. We should like to thank Viv for his many years of excellent service and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

Malcolm George at Argent Litho has played his part in printing this issue of the journal with his customary goodwill and efficiency.

Andrew Hinde