
Editorial

Roger Schofield (1937–2019)

Readers of *Local Population Studies (LPS)* will be saddened to hear of the death of Roger Schofield, one of the founders of the journal. Roger was a member of the Editorial Board from 1968 and remained the chair of the Board for almost 30 years, stepping down after *LPS* 58 was published in 1997. His contribution to the journal during that period was enormous. Roger gained international acclaim for his contribution to the sub-discipline of historical demography, most notably in collaboration with Tony Wrigley and other members of the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure (CAMPOP) on the two volumes based on English parish register data: 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, *English Population History from Family Reconstitution, 1580–1837* (Cambridge, 1997). But he also engaged in other collaborative efforts, for example he was joint editor of an important collection of papers on mortality decline in Europe (R. Schofield, D. Reher and A. Bideau (eds) *The Decline of Mortality in Europe* (Oxford, 1991)), as well as being involved with the EurAsia project, a large international collaboration involving demographers from several countries in Europe and Asia.

The Local Population Studies Society (LPSS) and CAMPOP are planning jointly to organise a conference in memory of Roger and his contribution to the history of population in April 2020. It is hoped that as many students and colleagues of Roger as possible will attend, present papers, and reflect on their association with Roger over the years. It is also hoped that some of the papers from this conference can be published in a special memorial issue of *LPS* in 2020.

Alongside his own research work, Roger was always keen to assist and promote the work of others. He generously donated a sum of money to establish the Roger Schofield Local Population Studies Research Fund, which continues to provide grants to individual researchers whose work furthers the aims of the Local Population Studies Society. A grant from the Roger Schofield Fund has recently been made to Jordan Harris, currently studying for a doctorate at Leicester University. Her research project is an examination of mixed-race people of African and European descent in nineteenth century Britain. Through a series of case studies she will examine mixed race experiences as well as the racial identities and attitudes that surrounded this marginalised group of people together with external factors such as colonialism, slavery and abolitionism that helped shape the mixed race experience of the age. This award will allow Jordan to visit archives and libraries in London and Oxford and we wish her every success with her research.

More recently, Roger's name has been attached by the European Society for Historical Demography (ESHD) to an award for the best paper by a young demographer at the biennial ESHD conference.

This issue

This issue of the journal contains three articles, a research note and several book reviews. The first article is by Chris Galley. It is a summary of trends in infant mortality in England since 1538, together with a discussion of the methods by which infant mortality can be measured, and the sources available. This article forms the introduction to a much longer and more comprehensive study of infant mortality that Galley has written. *Local Population Studies* plans to publish the longer study in three parts, dealing respectively with the parish register era (1538–1837), the Victorian and Edwardian period and the twentieth century but, owing to its length, the longer study will only be available in the electronic version of the journal distributed through IngentaConnect. The first of these parts will be in the electronic version of *LPS* 103. It is proposed, however, eventually to make the entire study (including the article from this issue) available electronically through the LPSS web site.

The second article is by David Postles, who looks at a topic that has been the subject of occasional *LPS* articles in the past, that of the naming of children. Postles' contribution relates to the origins of the practice of giving children more than one forename or Christian name. This practice began in England with the aristocracy but, during the eighteenth century, spread in different ways to other social classes. Postles shows that a detailed local study of the nature and extent of the practice (in his article, a study of Leicestershire) can shine a light on relations between the emergent middle and working classes, and delineate sub-groups within the same occupational stratum.

The third article, by Andrew Hinde, is in part a commentary on the articles published in the 100th issue of *LPS* reflecting on the past and future of local population studies. Hinde considers the consequences for local studies of the increasing number and extent of very large historical data sets. On the one hand, these could pose challenges to local studies, as these data sets remove one of the key justifications for local history—that it was only feasible to collect and process the required data for a small population. Hinde's article shows how the analysis of these very large data sets could provide impetus for a new era of local population studies which are much better directed at places where there are specific questions to answer highlighted by the data: places where the normal associations between social, economic and demographic phenomena do not apply.

Our research note is a study by Dave Maund of the migration of members of his own family between Herefordshire and Birmingham between the late eighteenth and the mid twentieth centuries. Maund's research is related to the class of studies known as 'one name' studies—studies based on persons with the same surname—and it is apposite that we publish it now, as the Local Population Studies Society is hoping to build links with the members of the Guild of One-Name Studies.

Parish register project

As we think of both Roger Schofield's work and large data sets, I am reminded that in the Editorial of *Local Population Studies* 101, I mentioned a project to make the data for the 404 parishes which contributed to the data set used in *The Population History of England* available through the Local Population Studies Society web site and to add data for additional parishes (subject to appropriate quality control).

This project will start in the summer of 2019. As a preliminary stage, a new edition of Roger Schofield's pamphlet *Parish Register Aggregate Analysis* (Colchester, 1998) is being prepared, and it is hoped to publish this through the Local Population Studies Society web site later this year. In the meantime, the data for the 404 parishes may be obtained as a set of compressed files by contacting editor@localpopulationstudies.org.uk. The files are large, but experience suggests they travel quite well as e-mail attachments, possibly split and sent over two or three messages.

Local Population Studies Society Conference

The next Local Population Studies Society Conference will be held on 26 October 2019 at the University of Oxford. Its title is 'Paths to marriage: courtship in England and Wales, c.1700–c.1945', and speakers include Rachael Jones, Steven King, Angela Muir, Kevin Schürer, Lynne Pearce, Colin Pooley and Stephanie Ward. Full details will appear in the next issue of the Local Population Studies Society newsletter, or by contacting the LPSS conference organiser, Karen Rothery (conferences@localpopulationstudies.org.uk).

Editorial Board

There have been some changes to the membership of the *Local Population Studies* Editorial Board. Cara Dobbing, who joined the Board in 2016 as a postgraduate student member, has now been awarded her PhD by the University of Leicester, for a thesis entitled 'The circulation of the insane: the pauper lunatic experience of the Garlands Asylum, 1861–1913'. *Local Population Studies* would like to congratulate Cara on this achievement. I am delighted that she has agreed to stay on the Board as an ordinary member.

Our replacement for Cara as postgraduate student member is Stephanie Allen. Stephanie is a postgraduate research student in the Department of History at the University of Hertfordshire. Her research is on fraudulent representations of the body in early modern England, and papers she has presented include 'Fraudulent beggars in early modern England, 1540–1750' and 'Recreated virginity: sexual deviance in early modern England, 1540–1750'. As well as being a postgraduate member, Stephanie will strengthen the Board's expertise in cultural and social history, and we offer her a warm welcome to *Local Population Studies*.

Samantha Shave has been a member of the Editorial Board since 2014. Over the last five years she has played a full part in advising authors and would-be authors on their papers, and helping to prepare articles for publication. She also made a notable contribution as joint

editor of the special issue of the journal published in 2017 entitled *The New Poor Law: Regional and Local Perspectives*. Sadly for us, Samantha's responsibilities in her new post as Lecturer in Social Policy at the University of Lincoln mean that she has decided to step down from the Board. I should like to thank her for her work and the wise counsel she has brought to our meetings, and I am sure we all wish her well for the future, and hope that she will maintain her connection with the journal and the Local Population Studies Society.

Rowena Burgess has been attending meetings of the *LPS* Editorial Board and taking minutes as the Hon. Secretary of LPSS, though hitherto not formally as a member of the Board. It has been decided that Rowena should become a full member of the Editorial Board with effect from June 2019. Rowena is Head of the Interdisciplinary Institute for the Humanities at the University of East Anglia. Her research interests are in English rural history in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. We very much look forward to Rowena extending her already substantial administrative contribution to include the academic content of the journal.

Back issues of *Local Population Studies*

I am pleased to say that digitised back issues (1968–2008) of *Local Population Studies* are now available in the Hathi Trust Digital Library: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/mb?a=listis;c=1140287046>. Our thanks are due to William Farrell for facilitating this. This provides another platform for readers to access *LPS*, in addition to our own website.

My thanks are due to the members of the Editorial Board for their contribution to this issue, especially Chris Galley, who copy-edited several sections and supplied the cover photograph, and William Farrell, who commissioned and organised the book reviews. As ever, Viv Williams at Cambrian Typesetters and Malcolm George at Argent Litho have played their part with their customary goodwill and efficiency.

Andrew Hinde