

Editorial*

This issue of *Local Population Studies*

This issue of *Local Population Studies* includes two articles, a report on the Autumn 2022 Local Population Studies Society Conference, an appreciation of the contribution to local population studies of E.A. (Tony) Wrigley, who passed away in February 2022, and a review of the periodical literature published in 2021.

The first article is by Chris Briggs, who asks the question: what percentage of an English village population typically acted in credit networks within any given year in the late fourteenth century? Briggs describes the often complex method required to estimate the relevant percentages from manorial court records and data from the 1377 Poll Tax. He concludes that up to two thirds of households may have been engaged in some kind of credit transaction, although proportions varied from place to place.

The second article is by Samantha Williams, and returns to a theme quite familiar to readers of the journal: the populations of Victorian workhouses. Williams's concern is the people in workhouses who were of working age. This is a comparatively neglected group: much has been written about the older-age poor, and specific groups like single mothers and their children, but the working-age poor have largely escaped attention. Williams is able to use the Integrated Census Microdata for the censuses from 1851 to 1911 to examine the proportion of workhouse populations that consisted of the 'working-age' poor, and how the composition of the working-age poor in workhouses changed over time, and varied over space.

Access to *Local Population Studies*

In my last Editorial, I said that the Local Population Studies Society (LPSS) Committee has 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. I am delighted to report that this transition has now happened (after a couple of months' hiatus) and access to all issues of the journal may be gained through the web site <http://www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk/>. Having navigated to this web site, readers can then select 'The Journal' to gain access to all current and past issues. For the time being, access to issues 106 and 107 (covering the year 2021) and 108

* <https://doi.org/10.35488/lps109.2022.1>.

and 109 (covering the year 2022) is only available to members of the Local Population Studies Society.¹ Access to issues 105 and earlier is free to anyone.

The movement to the LPSS web site will also allow a change in the way we publish the journal. From 2023 we shall be making available contributions to *Local Population Studies* in electronic format on the LPSS web site to members of LPSS as soon as each contribution is ready. Once sufficient material is available, we shall collate this into an issue of the journal. Each issue will be printed and subscribers who have paid for hard copy versions of each issue of the journal will receive these in the usual way.

Local Population Studies Prize

Readers are reminded that the Local Population Studies Prize will be awarded again in 2023. 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 the Local Population Studies Society (LPSS), to include the registration fees for all conferences organised by LPSS during those three years. The prize will be offered for the best article by an eligible author published in *Local Population Studies* issues 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.

Publishing in *Local Population Studies*

Local Population Studies has traditionally been a forum in which both professional and non-professional historians can publish the results of their research. The journal is keen to attract more submissions from non-professionals, and to publish a greater proportion of shorter research notes, of 2,000-3,000 words, while still welcoming 'full' articles of 5,000-7,000 words. If any reader has come across an interesting event or trend in a specific locality and would like to write a short piece about it, we should be happy to receive it.

1 Exceptions are the final two parts of Chris Galley's monograph on infant mortality: C. Galley, 'Infant mortality in England 1588-2000: stability and the beginnings of change, 1837-1910', *Local Population Studies* 106 (2021), pp. 98-209, <http://www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/LPS-106-2021-GALLEY-pp.-98-209.pdf>; and C. Galley, 'Infant mortality in England 1588-2000: decline in the twentieth century', *Local Population Studies* 107 (2021), pp. 122-96, <http://www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/LPS-107-2021-GALLEY-pp.-122-196.pdf>, which are available to anyone.

Peter Razzell's publications

Many readers of *Local Population Studies* will be aware of the work of Peter Razzell, whose publications include a challenge to the McEwan thesis that mortality decline was principally due to improvements in the standard of living, and a major book on the conquest of smallpox.² Peter has placed all his publications in historical demography on the Academic web site, and they are now freely available. They can be located by entering 'Razzell Academia' on Google, or visiting the web site <https://independent.academia.edu/PRazzell> [accessed 12 March 2023]. These publications include Razzell's recent essay, 'Malthus, mortality or marriage: English population growth in the eighteenth century', which describes his latest thinking with new evidence on eighteenth-century population growth.

Roger Schofield Local Population Studies Research Fund

Readers are reminded that small research grants are available to researchers in the field of local population history from the Roger Schofield Local Population Studies Research Fund. Subject to annual financial constraints, the Fund Committee will consider applications of between £75 and £1,000. Applicants should be aware, however, that grants exceeding £500 will only be awarded in exceptional cases.

The kinds of activities that the Fund is interested in supporting are travel to archives or libraries, overnight accommodation, the cost of photocopying or other reproduction of documents, data entry and programming, or the costs of putting data online to allow other historians to access them. The grants could also contribute to personal scholarships to enable research projects or dissertations to be completed. For further details and eligibility criteria see the Local Population Studies Society web site at <http://www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk/the-society/funding-for-research/> or contact Dr Chris Galley at chrisgalley77@gmail.com.

Editorial Board

After several years of serving as a member of the Editorial Board, Cara Dobbing has decided to step down, as she has moved to a more administrative role within academia. I should like to thank Cara for all her work as a member of the Board

2 P.E. Razzell, '“An interpretation of the modern rise of population in Europe”: a critique', *Population Studies* 28 (1974), pp. 5-17, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00324728.1974.10404576>; P. Razzell, *The Conquest of Smallpox* (London, 2003).

Editorial

over the last few years. Cara's departure leaves a vacancy on the Editorial Board, and we also have room to expand the membership by one or two people. If anyone is interested in joining the Board, please feel free to contact the Editor (PRAHinde@aol.com OR editor@localpopulationstudies.org.uk) and I can provide more information about the duties and the time commitment involved.

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.

Andrew Hinde