



**Come and
introduce
yourself to
CeLSIUS staff!**

**Emily Grundy and
Rachel Stuchbury will
be attending the
Annual Conference of
the British Society for
Population Studies at
the University of
St. Andrew's
11th-13th
September 2007.**

**All comments and queries
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support.html](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/ls-support.html)**

CeLSIUS News

Issue 9

May 2007

Welcome to Issue 8 of CeLSIUS News!

2007 has seen lots of new applications for data from the LS and new arrivals! Our Executive Officer, Jo Tomlinson gave birth to a beautiful baby boy on 1 February 2007 weighing in at 5lb 10ozs, since when, we have had Elizabeth Garland join the team at CeLSIUS to provide Jo's maternity leave cover. Congratulations Jo!

This issue includes a report from Emily Grundy on the Launch of the Scottish LS at the University of St. Andrews, an overview of the rapidly progressing Census Programme Portal by David Hall and exciting news of the recent activities of Robert Moore based on his research using the LS.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to this issue of the newsletter. As always, we are keen to spread the word about the ONS LS and the CeLSIUS service, so please help us to do this by passing on the link to CeLSIUS news to your colleagues in the UK academic community.

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NEW Downloadable Tables from the LS

Many of the LS user support staff, both at CeLSIUS and at the ONS, have long wished for a set of specimen analyses which could be freely downloaded from the Web. The LS is an under-exploited research resource and such a facility would, it is hoped, cause it to be better known and the possibilities that it offers better appreciated.

We are delighted to announce that the project has at last been realised, and the first three sets of tables are available for immediate inspection or download at <http://www.celsius.lshtm.ac.uk/download.html>.

The research questions examined are:

Intergenerational social mobility: Do middle-aged adults in 2001 tend to occupy a similar occupation social class to that of their parents in 1971? Does this effect vary between men and women? Are there any social class differences between adults who, as children, lived with one parent and those who lived with two?

Right-to buy: Who exercised the right to buy social housing in the 1980s, and did this change in the 1990s? Were younger or older tenants more likely to buy social housing? What social class did buyers come from?

Teenage mothers: Who becomes a teenage mother, and do teenage mothers experience economic disadvantage?

Each topic, as well as tabulations and a short description of methods used, offers a brief introduction to the topic, a list of key findings from the data and a set of questions (with answers), designed to get prospective users thinking. These may be useful to academics who teach data analysis or quantitative research methods.

Further topics are in preparation; the next two are likely to be:

Household changes in old age: How do living arrangements change in later life? Are these changes different for men and women?

Inter-regional migration: Which regions did people move away from between 1991 and 2001, and where did they move to? Were there differences by age group? Were members of jobless households in 1991 more likely to move to a new region by 2001 than members of households where someone was in work in 1991? What was the occupational social class distribution in 2001 of people who had moved inter-regionally?

You are warmly invited to visit <http://www.celsius.lshtm.ac.uk/download.html>. Any suggestions for future topics would be well received.

Rachel Stuchbury
CeLSIUS, Research Support Officer

Launch of the Scottish Longitudinal Study

University of St Andrew's, 26 March 2007

A very interesting all day meeting was organised to mark the launch of the Scottish Longitudinal Study. Paul Boyle, Director of the SLS, was able to announce that, thanks to the incredible efforts of Lin Hattersley and all the other SLS staff members the data set was ready for analysis. The first main talk of the day was by Peter Elias, who is responsible for the ESRC Data Strategy. He spoke of the benefits of the longitudinal data holdings in the UK and possible further developments. The programme included a talk by John Fox on the origins of the ONS LS and the first data support unit which he set up at City University. David Blane and Mel Bartley spoke about some of their work on inequalities in health based on the LS. Emily Grundy represented CeLSIUS and gave a presentation on academic research using the ONS LS including highlights from the work of some of our users. Later in the day we heard more about the SLS itself and about the third new UK LS – the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study.

Congratulations to all at SLS! Details of the study and access arrangements can be found at: <http://www.lscs.ac.uk>.

Emily Grundy
CeLSIUS, Director

The ERSC Census Programme Portal

From this summer an exciting, newly designed web portal **Census.ac.uk** will give access to the resources of the **ESRC Census Programme** (the existing site is at <http://census.ac.uk/>).

A wealth of census information - from 1971 through to 2001 - is already presented to the UK academic community through the census programme, but it can be difficult to appreciate the breadth of data which is available.

Improving awareness of the full range of census data accessible through the programme and providing a helpful and straightforward single starting point for the discovery of appropriate data is what this new portal is all about. It will be open to all, but is aimed at UK academic users who want to identify the census resources that suit their needs and want to be able to get to them in as direct a manner as possible.

A package of information sheets will explain the basics about aggregate data, digitised boundaries, microdata, interaction data and census longitudinal studies. There will also be brief guides to related non-census resources.

A new facility, based on metadata drawn from partner organisations within the programme (and other related sources), will give users the chance to carry out detailed searches for data relevant to their interests. The intention is to put the user in a position to see what's available across the whole programme and give

them access as directly as possible to the resources they want. Whilst the ONS Longitudinal Study (CeLSIUS) and the Scottish Longitudinal Study (Longitudinal Studies Centre - Scotland) are included as part of the programme we also hope to have information about the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study which is not.

Colleagues at CeLSIUS have been providing significant input to the project by writing information sheets and preparing table level metadata for the search function. Both will provide useful guidance for researchers and others wanting to know more about longitudinal studies or considering use of these data.

Access to longitudinal data is by direct application from the individual researcher to CeLSIUS or the LSCS and users of the portal will be guided in the appropriate direction. Obtaining the wider range of census data requires registration and a redesigned online process will make signing up for access to this data simple and self-explanatory.

Phase one of the new portal will be in place for the start of the 2007-08 academic year. We are already looking forward to the enhancements that will follow!

David Hall
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Changing and Claiming Ethnic Identities

Professor Robert Moore, The University of Liverpool¹

This project had its origins in a discussion that took place in the House of Commons 24 years ago. Social scientists expressed concerns to the Home Affairs Committee about the muddled formulation of the proposed ethnic question. The muddle arose because the demand for the question arose not from social scientists but from politicians, the public sector and perhaps a few employers who wished to discover the extent of 'racial' discrimination and monitor the effect of the policies devised to combat discrimination. They were not concerned with the subtleties of identity. Furthermore they were trying to avoid direct use of terms like 'race' or 'colour'. Their problem was to count 'the other' in Britain. The latter was treated, by default, as homogenous or 'White'. Additionally I underlined the contingent nature of ethnic identity and suggested that, for example, identity might be mis-attributed to a young person by a parent or older relative. Between 1983 and the 2001 Census national and international events, debates about immigration, asylum and 'British identity' might also have led people to change the way they report themselves in the census. I expected to see significant ethnic identity changes between censuses and age seemed to me to be the most likely correlate of identity change.

The research therefore was 'To establish the extent of changes in ethnic identities between the 1991 and 2001 Censuses; to identify specific patterns of identity-

¹ The research was supported by ESRC Grant RES-000-22-1435. Professor Mary Hickman conducted the other part of the project, researching the characteristics of persons born in Ireland or with an Irish parent or parents who did and did not choose the *Irish* identity in the 2001 Census.

change and to discover the factors most likely to be associated with a change of ethnic identity among visible minority ethnic groups.’

Our sample comprised of 3,285 people who reported themselves as ‘White’, Black Caribbean, Indian and Pakistani in 1991 for analysis². For each 1991 ethnic group a series of demographic, domestic and economic variables were cross-tabulated with the dichotomous variable ‘Changed ethnic group in 2001/Did not change ethnic group in 2001’ and the odds ratios of changing calculated. Sub-samples were selected, mainly on the basis of age, for the analysis of certain variables relating to marriage and the labour market. This analysis enabled us to identify those variables that raise the likelihood of persons changing ethnic identity between the two censuses. Cell sizes were small in nearly all analyses and so recoding of variables beyond basic dichotomies was only attempted in very few instances. Some multiple regressions were undertaken to establish interaction effects, but these added little to the analysis.

A very small percentage of the population changed their identities between the two censuses [Table 1]. This is an important finding.

Table 1: Number of LS members changing ethnic group 1991 – 2001, by 1991 ethnic group.

	Number changing	percentage of total of t1991
White	1809	0.5
Black Caribbean	630	20.4
Indian	599	7.7
Pakistani	250	6.4
Total	3288	0.9

The White category is the most stable and the data suggest that much of the variation in the minority ethnic identities may be attributed to the availability of more labels in 2001 than 1991, notably ‘Mixed’. Unexpectedly we discovered that gender made no difference to the likelihood of changing ethnic identity between the censuses.

It is mainly domestic factors that are associated with the change of ethnic identity. Whilst age is an important factor in identity change it is overshadowed by household variables – living in a multi-ethnic household, marrying someone from a different ethnic group, having a head of household of a different ethnic group from one’s own, are all factors in raising the odds that a member of the Longitudinal Study will change ethnic group. This reminds us that ethnic identity is not the property of an individual alone; identity and ethnicity are embedded in households, families, networks of kin, and communities. This highlights the inadequacy of the

² The permission of the Office for National Statistics to use the Longitudinal Study is gratefully acknowledged, as is the help provided by the staff of CeLSIUS.

census to measure the transformation of identities either within or across generations – something it was not designed to do.

Changes in domestic arrangements may be the occasion for one to redefine one's identity (leaving home and forming a single person household, for example) or the cause of identity change (for example, acquiring a new network of kinspeople through marriage). But gaining any educational qualifications also raises the odds of changing ethnic identity. The main results of our analysis are summarised by Table 2.

Table 2: Odds of changing ethnic identity 1991 – 2001

Variable	White	Black Caribbean	Indian	Pakistani
Living in a multi ethnic household	66.6	3.6	8.4	10.2
Marrying person from different ethnic group	51.0	22.0		
Head of house different ethnic group	22.0	5.4	4.1	3.3
Born overseas	7.3	1.4	1.3	1.4
Single person household	5.4	4.0	4.8	3.8
Student in 1991	2.6	1.9		
Student 2001	2.5			
Age	2.5	2.5		
Not an owner-occupier in 1991	2.0		1.7	
Not an owner-occupier in 2001	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.9
Not head of household in 1991	1.6	1.8	1.8	
Educational qualifications	1.6		1.6	1.5
Head of household changes 1991 – 2001	1.4	1.6	1.8	
Upward occupationally mobility	1.4			2.2
Marital status change	1.3		1.5	
Economically inactive in 1991		1.6		
Not Managerial or professional occup. 2001				1.8

What the census question was 'getting at' in 1991 may have been a bit of a mystery to some, but the situation changed between censuses. People active in the labour market, and especially those in the public sector, will be aware of the ethnic monitoring 'game'. They may have received training which emphasised the need to tick a box derived from census categories so that their employer may implement policies that are compliant with the equality legislation. In other words, people have become used to the census categories and as a result their personal responses may be shaped by public categories. By contrast few households will have noticed or engaged in anxious debate about the shift from 'descent' to 'cultural background' in the wording of the 'ethnic' question between the two censuses. The categories are broad-brush and derive from administrative concerns. This probably means that in

future the same or similar questions to those used in 1991 and 2001 may be adequate for the administrative purposes for which they were devised. The census will continue to measure what the MPs wanted in 1983 while remaining unsatisfactory for social scientists interested in questions of identity. The inclusion of the 'ethnic' question in the census nevertheless changes the circumstances in which social scientists ask their questions in surveys or interviews.

The findings of this project have stimulated considerable interest (and some animated debates!) in the UK and abroad – most recently at the 2007 conference of the British Sociological Association. Some feel that an identity genie is out of the census bottle and the wording of the census question will increasingly become a matter for public debate. Those interested in identity change find the results so interesting that they perhaps have a tendency to overlook the stability of the answers to the questions. In May Professor Hickman and I will discuss the findings with MPs and peers at the House of Lords. In 1983 I thought I would be able to say 'I told you so!' but I will need to say it quietly. The issues that we debated in 1983 in perhaps one of the most systematic engagements ever between social scientists and politicians are still live and unresolved issues. But the census question has not been wildly unstable in measuring what we might call 'administrative ethnicity'. Thus members of the Home Affairs Committee might say 'We told you so!' However we have only been able to locate one member of the original committee still active in either the Commons or Lords. I hope the findings of our research will sharpen the understanding of politicians and social scientists of the considerable strengths of the 'ethnic' question, but also to the limitations of the answers.

Undergraduate LS Users

Until very recently few undergraduates had ever made use of the LS for a dissertation. The most probable reason being that they didn't know of the existence of the LS, although the complexity of the LS, the procedures necessary to access the LS and the restrictions on the output that could be received may also have been a factor.

However, in the last year, 5 undergraduates have undertaken projects utilising data from the LS: two from Bristol, and one each from Warwick, Exeter and the London School of Economics

Simple crosstabulations and regression analysis have predominated in these projects and the students have generally been pleased with the output from the LS and the support received from CeLSIUS staff. These projects have proved that the LS can be a useful data source for even young and inexperienced researchers. However, except for the simplest of projects leaving an application to use the LS until the last minute is not a good idea.

As access to LS data has to go through an application and approval mechanism it is essential that those with limited time should apply early, and for undergraduates this means at the beginning of the Autumn term, or preferably, towards the end of the previous Summer term, so that the application can be fine tuned to ensure its acceptance by ONS and leave sufficient time for the analyses to be performed.

Projects undertaken have included 'Exploration of the relationship between Gentrification and Resident Health', 'In-migration and Cornish Nationalism since 1960', and 'Is there a geography to female breast cancer mortality and morbidity rates in England and Wales, once socio-economic factors are taken into account?'

It is hoped that participation in these projects will give the students concerned a taste for the LS and that they will come back with a project for a PhD, or later with a grant supported project. It is also hoped that these projects raise the profile of the LS within the University Departments involved such that their own researchers may come forward with proposals to use the LS.

Chris Marshall
CeLSIUS, Research & Computing Support Officer

News from the ONS

Claimant Count Cohort (CCC) Data

The release of the Claimant Count Cohort (CCC) data announced in the last CeLSIUS newsletter has been put on hold at the request of DWP. We will update users as soon as a release date has been agreed.

Future Developments

Several developments have been agreed which should significantly enhance the value of the LS for its users:

2007 Events Data Refresh

The first tranche of new events data has started testing, with the next database update on schedule for completion by the end of July 2007. All necessary metadata will again be included in the data dictionary to accompany the new events data.

New Data Linkage

In the last newsletter we announced approval for use of an extract from the National Health Service Central Register database in substantive research. Alpha testing has confirmed that the data should give valuable insights into migration between health authorities, although a condition of access would have to be that they are held as restricted fields. The beta test projects in progress so far are:

- A Review of Life Expectancy Model on the LS - Brian Johnson is examining the use of cancelled Health Authority registrations as a proxy for embarkation for adjusted estimates of person years at risk.
- Migration at older ages in England and Wales, 1966-2003 - Steve Smallwood and Zoe Uren are analysing patterns of migration of older people, in different time periods and across time, and exploring the long-term circumstances of those who had moved in terms of their health, housing and any subsequent moves in with their families.

Additional test projects are being investigated, but subject to favourable feedback from the existing testers the extract is on schedule for release to approved projects later this year.

LS Access Outside London

Planning to ensure wider access to LS data outside London has continued. This will be via the ONS Virtual Microdata Laboratory (VML). This is currently undergoing a last phase of volume testing to confirm that it can handle the expected load from LS users. In addition a safe setting has been established at ONS' Titchfield site near Southampton. Approval has been given to allow ONS staff to access the LS via the VML here and the intention is to extend this to academic users later. VML access at ONS' Newport site has been in operation from mid December 2005, with beta testing taking the form of substantive research projects.

2011 Census

Planning for the 2011 Census Link has continued. The LS will participate in the analysis of the 2007 Census Test and intends to boost its involvement in the Census planning and quality initiatives.

NPfIT

LS staff in London, Titchfield and Southport have submitted their detailed requirements for tracing and matching functionality from the Personal Demographic Spine and the Secondary Users Service being developed under the new NHS National Programme for IT (NPfIT).

Publications

A searchable database of publications using LS data is available from the CeLSIUS web site at <http://www.celsius.lshtm.ac.uk/publications.html>. To submit a publication based on research conducted with the LS, please email celsius@lshtm.ac.uk.

The CeLSIUS Team

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