

Radical Statistics 8th Annual Conference,  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2008, Edinburgh

	<b>Radstats Programme 2008</b>	
<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>PRESENTER(S)</b>
09.30 - 10.00	Registration	
10.00- 10.10	Welcome	Troika
10.10	Paper 1: Poverty, Wealth and Place in Britain, 1968- 2005	Eldin Fahmy
10.40	Paper 2: Attitudes Toward Bearing the Cost of Care in Later Life: Evidence from a Global Survey	Hafiz T. A. Khan
11.10- 11.30	COFFEE/TEA BREAK	
11.30	Paper 3: Levels and Internal Distribution of National & International Migration to Scotland: An Overview	Nick Wright
12.00	Paper 4: Measuring Child Wellbeing in Scotland	Samantha Coope and Ian Storrie
12.30	Paper 5: Scottish Social Survey Data, Past, Present and Future – Does Scotland Need its Own Data Strategy?	Christopher Playford
13.00	LUNCH (catered sandwiches, etc)	
13.45	Paper 6: National Identities and Politics After Devolution	Michael Rosie and Ross Bond
14.15	Paper 7: What Does the Scottish Public Think of Devolution So far? Findings from the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey	Rachel Ormston and Lisa Given

14:45	COFFEE/TEA BREAK	
15.00	Paper 8: The Oversubsidized Periphery - Who Benefits?	David Byrne
15:30	Discussant	Colin Clark
16.00	Close	
16.00	Radstats Annual General Meeting (all invited to stay)	
17.00	Close	
20.00	Dinner at Mamma Roma's	

**Paper Title: Poverty, Wealth and Place in Britain, 1968-2005**

**Presenter:** Dr Eldin Fahmy (Lecturer in Social Policy, University of Bristol)

**Authors:** Dorling, D., Rigby, J., Wheeler, B., Ballas, D., Thomas, B., Fahmy, E., Gordon, D. & Lupton, R.

### **Abstract**

This paper presents the results of synthetic modelling of long-term trends in the spatial distribution of poverty and wealth in Britain since 1968, the first such analysis of its kind in the UK. To date, long-term analysis of trends in the spatial distribution of poverty in Britain have been frustrated by an absence of consistency in definitions, data sources and measures, as well as by changes over time in census and administrative geography. The research described here draws upon a series of national poverty surveys conducted in 1968, 1983, 1990, and 1999 in order to derive methodologically consistent measures of 'breadline poverty' and 'core poverty'. These results are then be applied to UK Census data using longitudinally consistent boundary data (census tracts) in order to explore the changing geography of poverty in Britain.

In comparison with poverty very little is known about the geography of wealth in Britain, and establishing its distribution is essential for a more thorough understanding of social inequalities. This study represents the first attempt to operationalise such a measure in order to produce longitudinally consistent measures of 'asset wealth' based on housing wealth data, and 'exclusive wealth' based upon analysis of Family Expenditure Survey data.

These analyses suggest that not only is poverty widespread in Britain today, but that both poverty and wealth have become increasingly spatially concentrated over this period. Rich and poor households are increasingly clustering together in different areas, and the 'average' group of households which are neither rich nor poor has gradually diminished in size during this period. As a result, poor, rich and 'average' households became progressively less likely to live next door to one another between 1971 and 2001. However, it is also instructive to examine how these processes have varied in their effects on a national basis in England, Scotland and Wales separately. Specifically, this paper concludes by examining how changes in the prospects of place vary with regard to poverty and wealth by comparing the experience of England, Scotland, and Wales – and their potential implications for devolved governance.

# **Attitudes Toward Bearing the Cost of Care in Later Life: *Evidence from a Global Survey***

**Hafiz T. A. Khan and George W. Leeson**

**Abstract** The ageing of population is now recognised as a global issue. Tackling the increasing demand for elderly health care is a new challenge for many countries and perhaps one of the key concerns among individuals and family members in societies. As the socioeconomic, demographic and cultural context of individuals' vary from one setting to another, the intergenerational support as well as the cost of care responsibility will also vary across the globe. In particular, issues related to elderly health care financing and supports are emerging steadily and perhaps one of the dominant topics in gerontology. The aim of the talk is to tease out perceptions among adult people towards the cost of care in later life. The data for the study come from the HSBC global survey on the Future of Retirement. The paper finally ends with conclusion on policy implications.

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## **Levels and Internal Distribution of National & International Migration to Scotland: An Overview**

Nick Wright, Population & Migration Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland

The General Register Office for Scotland annually collates data on migration levels between Scotland, the rest of the United Kingdom and overseas. Alongside the overall Scotland-level migration figures, GROS also estimate the distribution of migrants between the 14 health board and then the 32 local authority areas of Scotland.

There is no one specific data collection that can be used to estimate migration levels to Scotland, rather levels are estimated from a variety of sources, each of which have their own advantages and disadvantages when used in migration estimates. Some data collections also provide an insight into the nationality of migrants and whether they are from the EU or further afield.

This paper summarises recent trends in the level and internal distribution of migration to Scotland and covers the main data collections used and what they can tell us about migration to Scotland. It also outlines recent research in methodology to allocate migrants to, from and within Scotland.

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## Measuring Child Wellbeing in Scotland

Samantha Coope and Ian Storrie  
Senior Researcher and Economist, Scottish Government

2007 has seen the publication of two separate pieces of work on child wellbeing. The UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre report highlighted that the UK's performance, in comparison with other OECD nations, is poor in a number of areas, and a subsequent Barnardos publication examined indicators specific to Scotland's relative performance in more detail (with similarly downbeat conclusions). Scottish Ministers subsequently requested that Scottish Government officials consider the issue of measuring child wellbeing in Scotland more closely, and provide advice on what steps the Government and partners should be taking in order to understand this issue better in future.

This session will outline the work that analysts in the Scottish Government have undertaken to date in advising Ministers, considering some of the following issues:

- **What?** What is child wellbeing, and how does it differ from adult wellbeing?
- **How?** What are the different approaches to measuring child wellbeing, and are all of these feasible in a Scottish context?
- **Why?** What are we measuring child wellbeing for? Measures can be used for a variety of purposes, such as geographical comparisons - internationally, or between local areas in Scotland - and for providing time series data to measure Scotland's progress temporally. While these purposes are not mutually exclusive, it is critical for us to understand and make the right decisions on where the emphasis ought to lie. We also need to consider the extent to which this exercise may/should be used to assess the impacts of policy on child wellbeing.

This paper will aim to provoke and stimulate discussion on these broad themes, rather than be an expert view on the methods employed to measure wellbeing.

## **Scottish Social Survey Data, Past, Present and Future – Does Scotland need its own data strategy?**

Vernon Gayle, Paul Lambert & Christopher Playford

Stirling University

The UK now has a National Data Strategy. In this paper we explore whether or not in addition Scotland needs its own specific data strategy. This paper is intended to be a ‘think piece’ or critical essay, the motivation being to encourage debate about Scottish social survey data.

Post-devolution, with the emergence of new forms of governance and new institutional arrangements, the political desire to research Scotland in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century has been brought into sharper resolution. Social and economic life in Scotland shares both similarities and differences with life south of the border. It is important that these characteristics are correctly identified with empirical data rather than simply being assumed.

Scotland is a small territory with a good social science tradition and a healthy research sector. There is an increasing amount of survey data collecting measures relating to social and economic life in Scotland. These include both United Kingdom or Great Britain based surveys with a Scottish component, and Scotland focussed surveys.

In this paper we outline a number of key issues relating to Scottish social science data resources. We provide a number of critical recommendations for social science data collection in Scotland. Finally, we examine the potential benefits of a comprehensive data strategy.

## **National Identities and Politics After Devolution**

*Michael Rosie & Ross Bond, University of Edinburgh*

This paper will outline some of the questions which are typically employed to 'measure' national identities in major social and political surveys in the UK. It will offer a critical consideration of the statistical consistencies and variations produced by such measures, with a particular focus on whether national identities appear to have shifted during the period of devolved government. Recent political events – with parties which challenge the political integrity of the UK now solely or jointly in power in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – suggest that devolution has not proved an end-point of the various 'national' questions in the UK. In the final part of the paper, we examine whether national identities are likely to be the basis for demand for further constitutional change. The presentation will draw primarily on statistics from the British and Scottish Social Attitudes surveys as well as making occasional reference to parallel surveys conducted in Wales and Northern Ireland.



## **What Does the Scottish Public Think of Devolution So far? Findings from the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey**

Our paper will use data from the Scottish Social Attitudes survey, which ScotCen has run annually since 1999 (the year of the first elections to the Scottish Parliament), to assess how successful devolution has been in delivering ‘Scottish policies for Scottish priorities’. We will explore levels of support for some of the ‘flagship’ policies of devolution – including free personal care, tuition fees and the smoking ban - as well as more recent policy proposals not yet on the Scottish statute books (e.g. the move to replace council tax with a local income tax). Using comparative data from SSA’s sister survey, British Social Attitudes, we will examine whether these policies address distinctively ‘Scottish’ aspirations, or whether in fact the Scottish Parliament is delivering policies which would be equally popular in the rest of the UK. It will explore variations in support for these ‘flagship’ policies across different groups in Scotland to establish how effective devolution has been in meeting the priorities of all groups. Finally, if time permits, we will assess the extent to which support for devolution in principle and practice is associated with support for these flagship policies – are those who are happier about devolution more likely to be happy about post-devolution policy-making than those who would prefer we were still ruled from Westminster?

Rachel Ormston and Lisa Given  
Scottish Centre for Social Research

## **The Oversubsidized Periphery - Who Benefits?**

Under the Barnett formula the UK's peripheral subnations receive considerably more in public expenditure per head than is the case in England. Whilst relative need indices provide some justification for this in the case of Northern Ireland and to a lesser extent Wales, Scotland as a whole benefits very substantially in comparison with the three regions of the North of England - North East, North West, and Yorks and Humberside which together have more than three times Scotland's population and are substantially more deprived in total on need indicators.

However, who benefits from this comparative largesse towards Scotland? There is clear evidence that the primary beneficiaries in Scotland are middle and higher income households who have access to better health care, free social care, and free higher education. This presentation will review the relationship between need indices and resource allocation across English regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and then examine available spatial and social structural data on public expenditure to explore just who in Scotland actually benefits from the resource allocation imbalance.

David Byrne  
University of Durham