



DEFINING THE HOUSEHOLD: IMPLICATIONS OF HOUSEHOLD DEFINITIONS IN SURVEYS AND CENSUSES

A BSPS DAY MEETING

Thursday, 15th May 2008
Darryl Forde Seminar Room
Department of Anthropology, University College London
14 Taviston St, London WC1H 0BW

The practicalities of data collection and the need for meaningful data analysis and policy formulation require a social unit to be defined. In practical terms, this basic social unit is generally referred to as a household. The 'household' is almost universally used as a unit of enumeration, although evidence from diverse disciplines have noted that the household as defined by survey practitioners frequently bears little resemblance to the social units that people live in. This British Society for Population Studies' day meeting draws upon the experiences of a range of researchers to examine how households are defined and used in research. The aim is to create an agenda for questions and discussions involving all the participants and the audience.

Programme

10.30 Registration tea and coffee

11.00 Welcome and Introduction

11.10-13.00 Session one - Chair Sara Randall

- Ernestina Coast (LSE) 'The commodity chain of the household: from policy to practice'
- Tanja Houweling (Erasmus MC University) 'Household' in the Demographic and Health Surveys – experiences from research on health inequity'
- Marc Pilon (IRD Paris) 'Reflections on household concepts from a demographic point of view'

13.00-14.00 Sandwich lunch provided

14-15.30 Session 2 – Chair Tiziana Leone

- Richard Wall (University of Essex) 'Limitations on the role of households as economic units in Britain 1600-1960'
- Ian Timaeus (LSHTM) 'Is home where your heart or hearth is? A Southern African perspective'

15.30-15.45 tea break

15.45-17.15 Session 3- Chair Ernestina Coast

- Liz Oughton (Newcastle University) 'Conceptualising the household in consumption studies: Fieldwork lessons from India, Jordan and the UK'
- Janet Seeley (University of East Anglia) 'Lessons on defining the household from a study of socio-economic status and HIV and AIDS in rural Uganda'

17.15-17.30 Concluding discussion

Free Registration: This day meeting is open to all, and there is no charge. However, pre-registration is required – please email pic@lse.ac.uk or phone 020 7955 7666 to pre-register. Due to the popularity of BSPS day meetings early registration is recommended.

Student Travel Bursaries: Bursaries up to £50 are available for a limited number of students who are BSPS members that wish to travel to the event. Bursaries will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Please send an email to pic@lse.ac.uk by the **28th of April** to apply for a bursary.