

## Making the most of major Scottish & UK surveys

Professor Vernon Gayle  
University of Stirling & ISER, University of Essex

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## Structure of the Workshop

- Data resources
- Datasets and surveys
- What can Local Authorities & other research organisations do with existing surveys?

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## Data Resources

- *Paradox is that in the UK, and in Scotland, we are very rich in survey data but this is not mirrored in outputs*

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## Data resources

- Overwhelmingly, support on Scottish survey data is provided at the national level
  - ESDS, [www.esds.ac.uk](http://www.esds.ac.uk)
  - UK Data Archive, [www.data-archive.ac.uk](http://www.data-archive.ac.uk)

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# Longitudinal Data Analysis for Social Science Researchers

[www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk](http://www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the website. It features a navigation menu on the left with links like 'Home', 'About Us', 'Contact Us', etc. The main content area has a heading 'Longitudinal Data Analysis for Social Science Researchers' and a sub-heading 'Development Strategy'. Below this, there is a section titled 'These pages relate to:' with bullet points for 'Introduction to the materials' and 'Workshop programme'. A 'Project abstract' section follows, describing the project's goals and funding. Logos for the University of Stirling, University of St Andrews, and Strathclyde University are visible at the bottom left.

# Scottish Social Survey Network

<http://www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk/surveynetwork/>

e-mail [vernon.gayle@stir.ac.uk](mailto:vernon.gayle@stir.ac.uk) to join e-mail list

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Scottish Social Survey Network. It features a navigation menu on the left and a main content area with a heading 'Scottish Social Survey Network'. Below this, there is a section titled 'These pages relate to:' with bullet points for 'Introduction to the materials' and 'Workshop programme'. A 'Project abstract' section follows, describing the project's goals and funding. Logos for the University of Stirling, University of St Andrews, and Strathclyde University are visible at the bottom left.

# Scottish Social Survey Network

<http://www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk/surveynetwork/>

- Master Classes (2008 Stata; Panel Data Analysis; Multilevel Modelling)
- Seminars (5 seminars since May 2007)
- Next seminar Thursday 20th November 2008, Napier University, 3-5pm
- e-mail [vernon.gayle@stir.ac.uk](mailto:vernon.gayle@stir.ac.uk) to join e-mail list

# DAMES NODE

The screenshot shows the homepage of the DAMES NODE website. It features a navigation menu on the left with links like 'Home Page', 'About Us', 'Contact Us', etc. The main content area has a heading 'DAMES NODE' and a sub-heading 'Data Management through e-Social Science'. Below this, there is a section titled 'Overview' with a paragraph describing the node's activities. Logos for the University of Stirling, University of Glasgow, and National e-Science Centre are visible at the bottom.

[www.dames.org.uk](http://www.dames.org.uk)

# PEAS

<http://www2.napier.ac.uk/depts/fhls/peas/index.htm>

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# ESRC NCRM Node

Lancaster-Warwick-Stirling  
 Developing statistical modelling in the social sciences  
<http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/about/organisation/Nodes/LWS/>

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# Datasets



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# Datasets

- Present

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/docs/ScotlandGuide.pdf>  
 Lee Williamson and Reza Afkhami  
 (2005; updated 2007)

Also  
 Hinds, Sproston and Taylor (2001)  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/156505/0042021.pdf>

and Bell, Jack and Wright (2004)

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## Datasets



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## Scottish Datasets

- Scottish Health Survey
- Scottish Crime Survey
- Scottish Social Attitudes Survey
- Scottish School Leavers Survey
- Scottish Household Survey
- Scottish House Conditions Survey
  
- And others...

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### *The Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS)*

- <http://www.lscs.ac.uk/sls/>
- Approximate sample size of 274,000
- Hattersley and Boyle (2007)  
<http://www.lscs.ac.uk/sls/LSCS%20WP%201.0.pdf>
- Demography, housing, family life, marriage, fertility, social inequality and employment

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### *Growing Up in Scotland (GUS)*

- <http://www.cfr.ac.uk/gus/>
- Approximate sample size of 8,000 overall
- These two groups are sometime referred to as the birth cohort and the toddler cohort respectively
- At present, the intention is to launch a new birth cohort (BC2) in 2012

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## *Growing Up in Scotland (GUS)*

- <http://www.cfr.ac.uk/gus/>
- Paul Bradshaw will deliver a paper on

'New Developments in the Growing Up in Scotland (GUS) Study',

Thursday 20th November 2008, Napier University, 3-5pm

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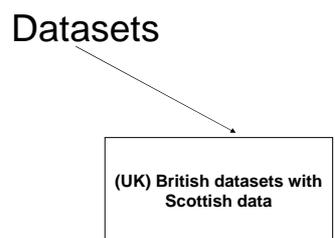
## Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime

<http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/cls/esytc/>

Geographical example...

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## Datasets



(UK) British datasets with Scottish data

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## CENSUS

- <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census/>
- <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/sars/>

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### *Integrated Household Survey (IHS)*

*Formerly  
The Continuous Population Survey (CPS)*

- The new ONS Integrated Household Survey (IHS) began in January 2008

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### *The Labour Force Survey (LFS)*

- <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/lfs/>
- The main comprehensive source of information on the labour market
- Cross-sectional analysis (e.g. for calculating an unemployment rate)
- Analysing trends by comparing points in time with cross-sectional data (e.g. unemployment in Sept 2000, Sept 2001 and Sept 2002)
- The panel element of the LFS can also be exploited for longitudinal data analysis

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### *The Labour Force Survey (LFS)*

- Scottish LFS enhancement 23,000 households with 50,000 individuals (40,000 aged over 16)
- Quarterly LFS (January to March 2006) there were 10,738 people usually resident in Scotland in the sample

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### *The Millennium Cohort Study (MCS)*

- [www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/mcs](http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/mcs)
- First national birth cohort study to be undertaken for 30 years
- Babies born at the millennium
- Information from the parents of 18,819 babies born in the UK (2,370 in Scotland)

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## The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)

<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/bhps/>

- 1991 – present; annual interviews
- 5,000 households (10,000 adults)
- LIVING IN SCOTLAND
- 1999 – present (1,457 households in 1999)
- 2,405 adults gave full interview 1999
- 1,220 households in 2004
- 2,030 adults gave full interview 2004

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## The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)

### LIVING IN SCOTLAND

- Laurie, H. and Wright, R.E. (2000) 'The Scottish Household Panel Survey', *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, 47, pp.337-339.
- Ermish, J. and Wright, R.E. (eds) (2005) *Changing Scotland – Evidence for the British Household Panel Survey*, Bristol, Policy



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Understanding Society: the UK Household Longitudinal Study



<http://www.understandingsociety.org.uk/>

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## UK HLS Background

- *Understanding Society* is a longitudinal study based on a household panel design
- Basic design similar to BHPS
- Target sample size of 40,000 households – largest Household Panel Survey
- Main fieldwork due to start in January 2009

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## Importance of the Household focus

- Strength of the HPS model shown by range of studies internationally (e.g. PSID, SOEP, HILDA)
- Important for research on households and individuals
  - consumption and income, where within-household sharing of resources is important,
  - demographic change, where the household itself is often the object of study.

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## Importance of the Household focus

- The household itself is often the object of study
  - demographic change
  - consumption
  - income
  - within-household sharing of resources

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## Importance of the Household focus

- Can investigate family factors in decision making
- Observing multiple generations allows examination of long-term transmission processes
- Comparative analysis of sibling outcomes
- Opportunities to explore linkages outside the household

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## Some key features of Understanding Society

- Very large sample size proposed (4,000 Scottish households)
- Representative sample of whole population (all ages)
- Multi-purpose multi-topic design to meet a wide range of disciplinary and inter-disciplinary research needs

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## Some key features of Understanding Society

- Ethnic minority research
- Research linking social and biomedical sciences
- Innovation in data collection methods

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## *Understanding Society Sample*

- Approx. 27,000 households - The fieldwork for this sample will commence in January 2009
- A boost ethnic minority sample, focussed on five main ethnic minority groups, comprising 4,000 households
- Incorporating the BHPS sample of approximately 8,400 households
- An Innovation Panel of 1500 households to enable methodological research (panel began in January 2008)

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## *Understanding Society Sample*

- 40K households gives an opportunity to explore issues where other longitudinal surveys are too small
- Small subgroups, such as teenage parents or disabled people

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## *Understanding Society Sample*

- Analysis at regional and sub-regional levels, allowing examination of the effects of geographical variation
- Large sample size allows high-resolution analysis of events in time, for example focussing on single-year age cohorts

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## UK HLS Opportunities

- Starting again, compared with BHPS, an opportunity to review activities and see which are worthwhile to continue, which not
- Focus on new research issues
- Opportunities for mixed methods:
  - Data linkage admin, organisation, spatial
  - Bio-markers and health indicators
  - Qualitative data
  - Other non-standard data: diaries, visual, audio

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## UK HLS Opportunities

- Use of different modes
  - e.g. web to collect data with higher frequency
  - Experiment with new technology as it is introduced
- Overall aim - to build a robust survey structure within which can experiment and innovate while minimising risk

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*Understanding Society: the UK Household Longitudinal Study*



<http://www.understandingsociety.org.uk/>

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## What can Local Authorities & other research organisations do with existing surveys?

- Research can do a lot
  - very wide range of topics, issues & social problems
  - researchers will tend to get further
  - large representative samples
  - wide coverage
  - temporal dimension (e.g. panel)

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What can Local Authorities & other  
research organisations do with  
existing surveys?

- Researchers should
  - use existing training resources (often free)
  - seek out suitable training (comparatively cheap)
  - join networks (e.g. SSSN)
  - collaborate with university researchers

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