



## **Workshop Title:**

### **Longitudinal data across the life course: an introduction to using the UK Birth Cohort Studies**

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Prof. George Ploubidis Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Social Research Institute, University College London ([g.ploubidis@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:g.ploubidis@ucl.ac.uk))

#### *Description of workshop objectives, goals, and expected outcomes.*

The workshop will be run by staff from CLS, which is based at the Social Research Institute, [UCL Institute of Education](#).

This workshop will give both first-time and more experienced data users an insight into four of the UK's internationally renowned cohort studies run by the [Centre for Longitudinal Studies](#) (CLS):

- [1958 National Child Development Study](#);
- [1970 British Cohort Study](#);
- [Millennium Cohort Study](#);
- [Next Steps](#) (previously known as the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England).

The workshop objectives include:

- Communicate the aims and purpose of the UK British Cohort Studies
- Discuss the sample and study designs
- Highlight the types of data available
- Summarise the data enhancements including genetics, dietary diaries, accelerometry data, offspring survey and linked administrative data (opportunities)
- Showcase examples of single study and cross-cohort research using the British Cohort Studies
- Demonstrate how to access the data

#### *Statement on how the workshop can benefit PAA 2023 attendees.*

Longitudinal data from the British Cohort Studies are a powerful – yet, outside of the UK or Europe, not well known and underutilized - resource for addressing a wide range of scientific questions in demographic, sociological, family, health and geographical sciences. For example, the data can be used to answer important demographic questions such as: what determines health and well-being across the life course? How have family processes changed across cohorts?

The workshop will showcase examples of work using the British Cohort Studies to illustrate the potential of the data to address important demographic questions. For example (see links below), we will discuss work exploring whether and to what extent the association between giving birth at an advanced maternal age and child outcomes has changed over time and work which has investigated the link between fertility histories/partnership status and objective measures of health in mid-life.

- [Secular changes in the association between advanced maternal age and the risk of low birth weight: A cross-cohort comparison in the UK](#)
- [Fertility History and Biomarkers Using Prospective Data: Evidence From the 1958 National Child Development Study | Demography | Duke University Press \(dukeupress.edu\)](#)
- [The reversing association between advanced maternal age and child cognitive ability: evidence from three UK birth cohorts](#)
- [Life-Course Partnership Status and Biomarkers in Midlife: Evidence From the 1958 British Birth Cohort | AJPH | Vol. 105 Issue 8 \(aphapublications.org\)](#)

PAA delegates will therefore benefit from becoming familiar with these data sources as well as how to access them.

*Description of target audience and estimated number of participants (minimum and maximum).*

A mix of early and more advanced researchers. Minimum: 10 Maximum: 50

*Preferred workshop day(s) to be held: Tuesday, April 11, Wednesday, April 12, or Saturday, April 15.*

Wednesday 12th of April

*Proposed workshop duration (1/2 day, 1 day, 1.5 day, 2 day), format, activities, and schedule.*

1/2 day

*Whether or not you'd be willing to convert to an online workshop if necessary.*

YES

*A/V needs beyond what is provided (see below).*

No

*Short biographical sketches of presenters. Please include a link to a current CV.*

George Ploubidis

George is Professor of Population Health and Statistics at the UCL Social Research Institute and Director of Research at the UCL Centre for Longitudinal Studies. Prior to joining UCL he held posts at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the University of Cambridge. He is Associate Editor of the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society – Series A and a member of the ONS Longitudinal Scientific Advisory Panel. George is a multidisciplinary quantitative social scientist and a longitudinal surveys methodologist. His research interests lie in the intersection between Demography and Social Epidemiology and relate to socioeconomic and demographic determinants of health over the life course and the mechanisms that underlie generational differences in health and mortality. His methodological work in longitudinal surveys focusses on applications for handling missing data, causal inference and measurement error.

Alice Goisis

Alice Goisis is Associate Professor in Demography and Deputy Research Director in the Centre of Longitudinal Studies at UCL Social Research Institute. Alice's research interests span a number of substantive areas in social demography and epidemiology. Her research has broadly focused on investigating whether, and if so how, family processes are associated with children and adults' well-being. For example, in her work she has examined the association between advanced maternal age and child well-being, with a particular focus on whether and how it varies across different groups of the population and time periods. Alice is also interested in understanding the determinants of child obesity and other markers of health, including if they vary by ethnicity. Since February 2019, Alice has been the PI of a European Research Council Starting grant investigating the effects of Medically Assisted Reproduction (such as IVF) on children and adults.