Exploring modern fatherhood

A study based on collaboration between NatCen Social Research, the UCL Institute of Education and the University of East Anglia looked in detail at the lives of fathers in 21st-century Britain, exploring their work patterns and family life. Linking data from resources such as Understanding Society, the EU Labour Force Survey and the European Social Survey, the study found that although the number of fathers working long hours has fallen, the proportion of two full-time working parents has increased, and UK fathers report levels of work-family conflict which are consistently the highest among European member states.

The researchers have developed the Modern Fatherhood website (www.modernfatherhood.org) which has become a vital resource for policymakers, NGOs and practitioners working with fathers.

Stopping burglars in their tracks

Burglary rates have been falling internationally for two decades, with improved security claimed as the main cause. Researchers from Nottingham Trent University decided to test this theory using data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and the national census.

They found that the most effective and ‘best value’ security combination includes window and door locks, as well as internal and external lights (WIDE). This led directly to the Nottingham target hardening pilot, which fitted burgled households and their neighbours with WIDE; the ‘Keep Burglars in the Dark’ Nottingham City Transport campaign which promoted WIDE on buses running to burglary prone areas; the University of Nottingham now requiring its privately rented student accommodation to be WIDE-secured; and the Nottingham City Council establishing minimum standards for rented property. The findings have also now been incorporated into the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network’s five-year business plan. The Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership Crime Performance Report shows that burglary has fallen 25.2 per cent in the year to May 2015. The researchers are working closely with policymakers, and a new legal framework will likely be implemented recommending a community-centred approach to helping children vulnerable to bullying. This will include parents, teachers and health practitioners who can work together to prevent bullying before it happens.
Secondary Data Analysis Initiative

The ESRC has invested in a suite of large-scale, world-leading initiatives, from its Understandings and Society and international cross-sectional studies such as the European Social Survey, through to investments made as part of the ESRC Big Data Network. One of our key aims is to ensure that rich resources such as these are exploited to their full potential. A wide variety of activities have been undertaken to take the best use of them. The Secondary Data Analysis Initiative (SDAI) has therefore been developed to ensure that research and development provide a method of using existing data resources.

Three phases of SDAI may now be commissioned, with a total of 79 projects supported through the first phases. Researchers have worked with a variety of organisations, including the University of Southampton, the Human Rights Commission, the World Health Organization and OECD, and others, on data ranging from the British National Health Survey and Labour Force Survey, to using data from the British Social Survey and the National Childbirth Trust. Alongside this activity, researchers have also worked with a variety of organisations, such as the National Childbirth Trust, to inform policy and practice.

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Secondary Data Analysis Initiative

The ESRC has invested in a wide range of world-leading data resources, from our portfolio of longitudinal studies such as Understanding Society and international cross-sectional studies such as the European Social Survey, through to investments made as part of the ESRC Big Data Network.

One of our key aims is to ensure that rich data resources such as these are exploited to their full extent, and that data collection is not repeated where state-of-the-art data can be used to their best use. The Secondary Data Analysis Initiative (SDAI) has therefore been developed specifically to enable secondary analyses and provide a platform to take the best use of existing data resources.

Three phases of SDAI have now been commissioned, with a total of 79 projects supported through the first two phases. Researchers with a variety of disciplinary backgrounds have worked on a diverse range of research questions, from analysing young people’s transport behaviour to exploring how changes in one’s area was linked to lower hostility. The research was extensively cited in the Department for Transport’s 2015/16 report, “Understanding the drivers of road travel change programmes. The Department for Communities and Local Government also commissioned the researchers to produce a report of the House of Lords Committee on ‘Encouraging people to leave their cars at home’. The research was extensively cited in the report of the House of Lords Committee on ‘Road Travel: Towards a More Sustainable Transport Future’. The findings are being used by the Department for Transport in discussions about future free childcare policies. Researchers from the Universities of Cambridge, London and Edinburgh have also acted as advisors to the Home Office’s Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism, and were interviewed for the Home Office’s ‘Borderline’ report of the House of Lords Committee on ‘Integration, Cohesion and ‘Britishness’. The research is being cited in the report of the House of Commons Committee on about housing, refugee dispersion and issues concerning About Race That Are True’.

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The Phase 1 SDAI projects have now been completed and have produced an impressive range of impacts on policy and practice. This leaflet presents a sample of those, demonstrating the use of existing data resources.

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The Secondary Data Analysis Initiative (SDAI) has therefore been developed from making efficient use of existing data, rather than new primary data collection. SDAI was determined more by the distance they had

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) have also been involved in several studies. The use of existing data resources can be used by the private sector seeking information that can be used to address interdisciplinary challenges at the boundaries with other scientific communities. LSHTM has supported studies and birth cohorts to the Census and Labour Force Survey. Alongside addressing demand for malaria treatments in countries with large numbers of malaria sufferers. The treatment sources themselves - is a method used in the research - the first to introduce new way of measuring access to healthcare, and combine household surveys with data from interventions to subsidise malaria treatment

Analysing the database of firms and local units produced a new set of enterprise performance ‘snapshots’ taken of millions of firms and their local Structure Database - a series of annual data surveys and the Parent’s Demand for Childcare Survey. They found that the introduction of free childcare in the early 2000s had only a small effect on helping mothers go back to work, and that placing the child in a free nursery had no future long-term educational benefits.

A number of the EU-wide Regional Policy Monitoring (REPM) project, which aimed to design an intervention project aimed at changing people’s travel behaviour after significant life events, such as getting a new job or moving home. The research on camera smartphones has been used to underpin an evidence brief which is being used to support the Sustainable Transport Fund programme for the West of England and the West of England local authorities

Encouraging people to leave their cars at home and use public transport is a daunting challenge facing many local authorities. The attitudes of the white British majority towards ethnic change were explored by researchers from Birkbeck College, University of London who interviewed the Home Office Citizenship Survey. Researchers from the University of the West of England used data from Understanding Society to show that parental background, gender and ethnicity also play a part. The use of existing data resources.

Researchers from the Enterprise Research Centre used data from the ONS Business Structure Database - a series of annual data surveys and the Parent’s Demand for Childcare Survey. They found that the introduction of free childcare in the early 2000s had only a small effect on helping mothers go back to work, and that placing the child in a free nursery had no future long-term educational benefits.

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One of the key things that motivated change in a respondent’s local area is linked to lower hostility. The researchers have also acted as advisors to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, which advises the government on housing, refugee dispersion and issues concerning terrorism, and were interviewed for the Channel 4 documentary ‘Things We Don’t Say About Race That Are True’. Researchers from the Enterprise Research Centre used data from the ONS Business Structure Database - a series of annual data surveys and the Parent’s Demand for Childcare Survey. They found that the introduction of free childcare in the early 2000s had only a small effect on helping mothers go back to work, and that placing the child in a free nursery had no future long-term educational benefits.

The research was extremely critical of the impact of the Home Office on Affordable Housing, and the research community are demanding new approaches used in transport behavioural research - the first to introduce the report of the House of Lords Committee on Race That Are True’. Researchers from the Enterprise Research Centre used data from the ONS Business Structure Database - a series of annual data surveys and the Parent’s Demand for Childcare Survey. They found that the introduction of free childcare in the early 2000s had only a small effect on helping mothers go back to work, and that placing the child in a free nursery had no future long-term educational benefits.

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Preventing bullying

Data from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children, Understanding Society and the Great Smoky Mountain Study (USA) was used by University of Warwick researchers to show that being bullied in childhood has long-term negative consequences for health and life prospects. They also found that negative family environments make school bullying more likely, whilst nurturing family environments make bullying less likely.

The researchers are working closely with policymakers, and a new legal framework will likely be implemented recommending a community-centred approach to helping children vulnerable to bullying. This will include parents, teachers and health practitioners who can work together to prevent bullying before it happens.
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