

Licence for the Latinobarómetro

ESDS is pleased to announce that it has acquired ESRC funding for a three-year licence to provide access to the Latinobarómetro. This follows negotiation, taken forward by Databeuro, with the Latinobarómetro Corporation, a not-for-profit non-governmental organisation based in Santiago, Chile, who produce and publish the data. The licence provides access to the data for the UK higher and further education community and will require registration with the ESDS. Previously, licences were only issued to individual institutions, for internal

use within those institutions, and a UK-wide licence is therefore a major achievement. Users will be able to access the data free of charge.

The data will be a valuable addition to the ESDS International survey data portfolio, increasing the range of data available for researchers to undertake cross-national comparative analysis. The Latinobarómetro follows the format already developed by the Eurobarometer and its design drew upon the experiences of other comparative surveys.

The Latinobarómetro is an annual public opinion survey of approximately 19,000 interviews in 18 countries in Latin America representing more than 400 million inhabitants - data are currently available from 1995 to 2004. It surveys the development of democracies, economies and societies applying attitudinal, opinion and behavioural indicators. More background and profile information can be found on the Latinobarómetro web site.

The following will be available through ESDS International:

- step-by-step guide - information on how to analyse the data online
- online analysis - registered users can conduct frequencies, cross-tabulations, averages and graphs
- download - registered users can download the data in SPSS format for offline analysis

The online analysis tool is powered by ASEP/JDS in Spain who also provide access to the European and World Values Surveys.

www.latinobarometro.org
www.jdsurvey.net



Time Series Dataset

The General Household Survey (GHS) Time Series Dataset (1972-2004) is now available to download. The dataset was created by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to analyse trends in social inequalities over 30 years.

The GHS provides a good data source for analysing changes in society since the 1970s because of the long time that the survey has been running and its large sample size. However, using the GHS to analyse trends over time can be time consuming and complex because GHS data have previously only been available in

individual annual datasets (with the need to take separate extracts for each year of interest). The new time series dataset combines the 1972-2004 GHS data into one dataset, thus exploiting the full potential of the GHS and providing a valuable and accessible research tool for secondary analysts.

There are 827,624 cases and 71 variables in the GHS Time Series Dataset, including those on: household composition; socio-economic status; qualifications and education; economic activity; health consultations; chronic and debilitating



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illness; smoking behaviour; and household and individual demographics.

The GHS Time Series Dataset can also be used for pseudo-cohort analysis (originally the dataset was referred to as the GHS Pseudo-Cohort Dataset). Pseudo-cohort analyses track the average experiences of people who were born in the same time period. As the GHS is a cross-sectional survey, the experiences of respondents in a given survey year are taken to represent the average experiences of their particular birth cohort.

www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/snDescription.asp?sn=5664 ●

Service Manager for ESDS Longitudinal and ESDS International micro data



ESDS welcomes Jack Kneeshaw to the newly created post of Service Manager. Working within the Support Services team, Jack will be responsible for both the strategic vision and day-to-day management of ESDS Longitudinal and ESDS International micro data. The role of Service Manager includes: providing specialist support; identifying and negotiating for new additions to the data portfolio; data and documentation enhancements; creation of samplers and training datasets; outreach; and collaborating with both the UK Longitudinal Studies Centre at the University of Essex and MIMAS at the University of Manchester. ●

New household panel study

The Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) has been awarded an initial grant of £15.5 million to establish the world's largest household panel survey.

The UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS) is a major new panel survey, the largest in the UK to be funded by the ESRC. It will collect data at regular

intervals over time about the same 90,000 individuals, from a sample of 40,000 households. Initial funding supports collection of the first two rounds of interview with each sample member. The study is planned to continue over several decades.

www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ukhls/ ●

UKDA News

The UK Data Archive has recently introduced a newsletter, UKDA News, dedicated to reporting its broader activities. Copies are available on request.

ESDS Qualidata study on education and the working class

ESDS Qualidata have released Brian Jackson and Dennis Marsden's *Education and the Working Class: Some General Themes Raised by a Study of 88 Working-Class Children in a Northern Industrial City, 1946-1960* (SN 5457).



This enhanced dataset is the basis for Jackson and Marsden's book *Education and the Working Class*. Published in 1962, its critical reception was just as, if not more,

significant and lasting than the many copies it sold. Now, 45 years later, Jackson and Marsden's original interview notes, along with a user guide and data listing, are available online.

Inspired by their own biographies, Jackson and Marsden attempted to discover the gains and losses working-class grammar school children experience. In their home town of Huddersfield (under the pseudonym of Marburton), Jackson and Marsden identified grammar school attendees between 1946 and 1954 whose fathers were working-class. This produced a sample of 88 who were interviewed, with their parents interviewed separately. An additional ten middle-class children and their parents were also interviewed.

The study considered why many working-class children failed to complete their full grammar school education, asking if the price of access into middle-class life required moving away from working-class origins. An additional motivation was to contribute to the debate on opening up grammar school and university education to working-class children.

The collection has been enhanced by converting all 265 interviews from paper to PDF files. Additional relevant documents in the user guide include researcher correspondence, sample information, and reviews and correspondence. The user guide also contains contemporary recollections and reflections by Marsden on education and the working class.

www.esds.ac.uk/findingdata/snDescription.asp?sn=5457 ●



New statistics legislation

The Statistics and Registration Service Bill, which was introduced into the House of Commons in November 2006, concluded its passage through Parliament on 19 July 2007 and received Royal Assent on 26 July 2007.

One of the primary aims of the new legislation is to enhance confidence in government statistics through the creation of the new independent statistics board, as a non-ministerial department, with a statutory responsibility to promote and safeguard the quality and comprehensiveness of UK official statistics. This board will oversee the

production of official statistics, having regard to quality, comprehensiveness, good practice and impartiality for the whole of the UK's statistical system, which will hopefully also improve the production of more comparable data between the various devolved administrations. The creation of the board also makes a clear divide between the operational responsibilities of ONS and the monitoring of official statistics for the UK. Sir Michael Scholar, currently President of St John's College, Oxford, has recently been appointed as the first Chair of the Statistics Board.

One specific aspect of the new legislation which may have a direct impact on ESDS

users will be the creation of a new 'designated researcher' status. Adhering to strict measures to ensure data security and the maintenance of respondent confidentiality, this new formulation could potentially allow bona fide researchers controlled access to detailed level micro data. ESDS staff are currently working with ONS to explore how this new status will operate.

The new statistics bill is expected to come into force from April 2008.

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pabills/200607/statistics_and_registration_service.htm ●



NCDS age 11 essays

Following a small award from the Nuffield Foundation, the Centre for Longitudinal Studies has transcribed and coded a sample of around 500 essays written by National Child Development Study (NCDS) cohort members when they were aged 11. As part of the ongoing life course study, cohort members were asked in 1969 to 'Imagine that you are now 25 years old. Write about the life you are leading, your interests, your home life and your work at the age of 25. (You have 30 minutes to do this).'

The essays, due to be deposited with the ESDS in September as anonymised typed manuscripts (with original spelling, grammar etc. intact), represent a rich and unique source of material for both qualitative and mixed methods researchers. Taken on their own, the texts provide a valuable historical resource for researchers interested in children's perspectives on adult life. The essays will also be accompanied by a subset of

quantitative NCDS data, including the cohort member's existing study serial number, allowing secondary analysts to add qualitative material from cohort members' childhoods to the survey data already held by the ESDS.

www.esds.ac.uk/longitudinal/access/ncds/ ●



New financial data

The ESDS, in conjunction with the ESRC, have recently negotiated for and acquired an important set of financial data from Thomson Financial, the *Datastream Historical Company Accounts, 1965-2005*. This is a large subset from Thomson Datastream, a respected historical financial numerical database.

Data are provided for both 'live' companies (i.e. those still active) and 'dead' companies (those no longer trading). A team of skilled and experienced analysts at Thomson Financial, working to strict and extensive quality standards, have provided a complex and detailed analysis of company accounts.

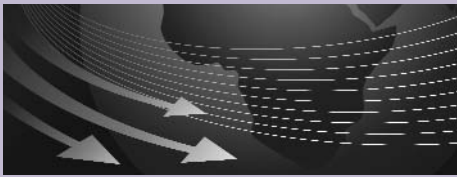
The dataset has been released in comma-separated value (CSV) format. In order to facilitate greater use, ESDS staff have been working in collaboration with academic economists to provide the data in other formats.

www.esds.ac.uk/findingdata/snDescription.asp?sn=5634 ●

Migration guide now available

ESDS International has produced a thematic guide on migration with advice on finding both macro and micro international sources of data and information about the cross-country comparability of this data. This guide complements the existing thematic guides on CO2 emissions, Financial Monetary Statistics and educational outcomes.

www.esds.ac.uk/International/support/other_guides.asp ●



e-Learning materials

The Linking International Macro and Micro Data (LIMMD) e-learning materials were launched on 28 August 2007.

This comprehensive set of e-learning materials is split into five units written by subject specialists. Each unit covers a key area such as an introduction to international data, making cross national comparisons, combining macro and micro data and multilevel modelling.

The materials are open to all, although the ESDS International macro data can only be accessed by users from UK higher and further education institutions.

www.esds.ac.uk/international/support/learning.asp ●

Forthcoming Events

3 October 2007: Training workshop: Introducing the Scottish Longitudinal Study, City University, London

7-9 October 2007: Third International Conference on e-Social Science, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

11-12 October 2007: Digital Preservation: Sustainable Programs and Best Practices, Beijing, China

16 October 2007: NCDS and BCS70: a workshop for data users planning studies on psychological health, subjective well-being and life satisfaction, Institute of Education, London

24 October 2007: GIS in Historical Research: one day workshop, King's College London

24 October 2007: Software Planning Seminar: comparative introductions to several CAQDAS packages, University of Surrey

24-26 October 2007: Using DDI 3.0 to Support Preservation, Management, Access, and Dissemination Systems for Social Science Data, Germany

30 October 2007: Working with survey files: linking, matching and using hierarchy, University of Manchester

1 November 2007: ESDS Government Research Conference 2007, British Academy

7 November 2007: Introduction to government micro data: focus on consumption, Queen's University Belfast

8 November 2007: Introduction to ESDS International, University of Manchester

13 November 2007: Methodology Seminar: narrative analysis, using CAQDAS to manage the data, University of Surrey

15 November 2007: SUF Annual Conference 2007: Statistics on income, earnings and wealth, The Royal Society, London

3 December 2007: ESDS International Annual Conference 2007, Institute of Materials, London

4 December 2007: SRA Annual Conference - Learning From Others: Innovations in Social Research, University of London ●

Data without borders

ESDS International will be holding their third annual conference, ESDS International Conference 2007: Data Without Borders, on 3 December 2007 at the Institute of Materials in London.

The event will have a strong focus on Inter-Governmental Organisation data providers with speakers from the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the International Labour Organisation. The programme also includes presentations by academics using international data in their research on topics such as 'how external debt affects GDP per capita growth', 'cross-country convergence in manufacturing sectors' and 'the

relationship between fiscal deficit, inflation and seigniorage in Pakistan'.

This one-day conference will provide an opportunity for researchers and data providers to meet and share ideas on issues relating to international data research. All are welcome, but the event is intended to appeal to members of the academic community using the international databanks in their research and teaching, data librarians and producers of international data resources. The event is free but capacity is limited, so booking is essential.

www.esds.ac.uk/international/news/conf2007.asp ●



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ISSN 1474-9149 (print) ISSN 1755-8239 (online)

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