

Training opportunities – What do I need? And where can I get it?

Vernon Gayle

www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk



[Home](#)[Workshops](#)[People](#)

Useful Links

[Data sources](#)[Datasets](#)[Datasets \(non-British\)](#)[Longitudinal Resources](#)[Research Institutes](#)[Software](#)[UK Research Training](#)[Other Stirling Programmes](#)[WebCT](#)[METHODS FESTIVAL](#)

Longitudinal Data Analysis for Social Science Researchers



Welcome to the website of the 'Longitudinal Data Analysis for Social Science Researchers' project which is funded under the [ESRC Researcher Development Initiative](#).

These pages relate to:

- on-line training materials (currently delivered through a '[WebCT](#)' interface)
- [workshop programme](#) (annual workshops in Stirling and London, 2006-8)

The materials are targeted as an introductory learning resource for social science researchers. They concentrate upon practical illustrations of the data management and data analysis techniques necessary to undertake quantitative longitudinal analysis with large scale secondary survey resources. Most examples concern the analysis of longitudinal micro-social surveys from the UK - in particular, the BHPS. The materials are a direct development from a previous ESRC Research Methods Programme Phase II training project, which ran 2005-6.

Some of this project's training resources may be accessed by following the links to the left. However, the bulk of on-line materials are accessed by logging in to a '[WebCT](#)' environment.

Project abstract

Longitudinal data are important for many social science disciplines as such data facilitates the investigation of empirical research questions relating to social change and social stability. Such investigations are not possible with cross-sectional data. At the current time there is a shortage of social scientists with skills appropriate for longitudinal data analysis. In the UK there is an increasing number of large-scale quantitative longitudinal datasets and currently most remain under-analysed.

This project is delivered through collaboration between the Universities of Stirling, St Andrews and Strathclyde. The project will deliver a one day introductory seminar and a five day workshop / seminar each year (for three years).

Structure of the talk

- Getting started
- Reading
- What should be in your tool kit?
- Suggestions on software
- Where can I get training?
- Our RDI project

Getting Started



[Print-friendly page](#)

[Home](#)
[About](#)
[Contacts](#)
[ESDS Longitudinal](#)
[Home](#)
[About this web site](#)

About ESDS Longitudinal

The work of ESDS Longitudinal is undertaken jointly by the [UK Data Archive \(UKDA\)](#) and the [ESRC United Kingdom Longitudinal Studies Centre \(ULSC\)](#). The service currently provides a web-based download service, specialist user support (that also links up with specialist support provided by the [Centre for Longitudinal Studies \(CLS\)](#)), training and workshops and a range of value-added data enhancements for the following longitudinal data collections:

- British Cohort Study (BCS70)
- British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)
- English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)
- Millennium Cohort Study (MCS)
- National Child Development Survey (NCDS)

It will also encourage linkage with other datasets not directly supported by ESDS, such as the ONS Longitudinal Study and, in conjunction with the ESRC National Strategy Committee, aims to facilitate access to new longitudinal data collections. ESDS Longitudinal has recently undertaken a data audit of two major longitudinal investments by the Medical Research Council: the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC) and the National Study of Health and Development (also known as the 1946 Birth Cohort Study). This is in preparation for improved access for secondary users.

[More about ESDS Longitudinal..](#)

Latest news

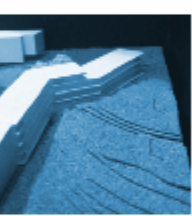
- [NCDS/BCS70 workshop](#)
- [UK Databytes Issue 21](#)
- [Second sweep of MCS](#)

[more news](#)



Links to related services:

About Data Support R & D News



[About the UK Data Archive](#)
[Contacts](#)
[Search UKDA web site](#)
[Associated resources](#)



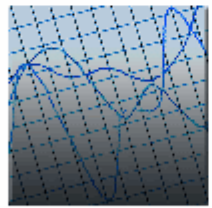
[About data](#)
[Search catalogue](#)
[Major studies](#)
[Accessing data](#)



[News](#)
[Events](#)
[Publications](#)
[Newsletters](#)



[Support for users](#)
[Help desk](#)
[Teaching and learning](#)
[Frequently asked questions](#)



[Research and development](#)
[Current R&D](#)
[Latest award](#)
[Partnerships](#)

.....Latest news.....
[New ESDS web site](#)
[UK Databytes Issue 21](#)
[Race for Life](#)
[more news...](#)



The UK Data Archive (UKDA) is an internationally-renowned centre of expertise in data acquisition, preservation, dissemination and promotion; and is curator of the largest collection of digital data in the social sciences and humanities in the UK. The UKDA provides resource discovery and support for secondary use of quantitative and qualitative data in research, teaching and learning as a lead partner of the [Economic and Social Data Service](#) (ESDS). The UKDA houses [AHDS History](#), provides preservation services for other data organisations and facilitates international data exchange.



KEEPING TRACK

A Guide to Longitudinal Resources



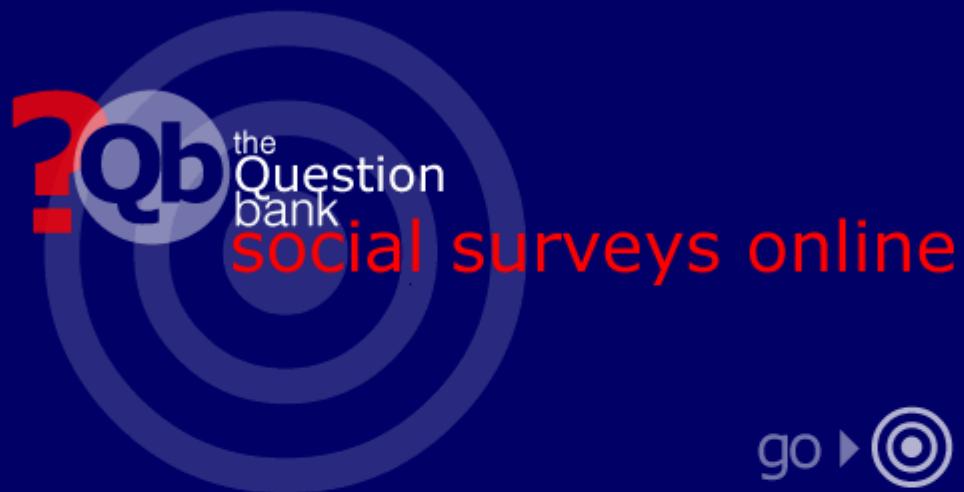
- [Home](#)
- [Find a Study](#)
- [Results](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Help](#)

This site aims to provide an up-to-date guide to major longitudinal sources of data. The central purpose of this site is to allow users to see what kinds of longitudinal data are available and to locate information about studies which may provide data useful to their research interests.

The site covers data sets collected by governmental, academic, private social research, medical and private industrial sources. This site includes household panel surveys, studies following the health of individuals, birth cohort studies, studies following the quality of a product design, and administrative records. Users of this site can find out basic details of the purpose, methodology, timing, coverage, and availability of the longitudinal data sets covered here. The site also offers links to the web pages of individual studies, and provides contact details for people wishing to get more information about any particular study.

This site thus serves as a first reference point and signpost to existing sources. The site designers hope to encourage greater use of longitudinal data.

This site developed from the joint efforts of the [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS) of the United Kingdom and the UK Longitudinal Studies Centre (ULSC). The ULSC is funded by the [Economic and Social Research Council](#) (ESRC), and is a part of the [Institute for Social and Economic Research](#) (ISER) at the University of Essex.



IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A LINK TO THIS SITE
PLEASE BOOKMARK
THIS PAGE:

<http://qb.soc.surrey.ac.uk>

Starting Reading / Starting Thinking

Annotated reading list (pp.7) on our site

www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk

Follow the METHODS FESTIVAL link
on the left side of the page!

Tool Kit

What will help

- A) A knowledge of basic statistics
- B) An awareness of how surveys work

Start to

- A) Learn STATA
- B) Learn to match / merge files
- C) Use good data management practices
- D) Take regular exercise

Software

This will depend on what type of analysis you wish to perform.

Overall, we encourage staff and postgraduates to learn STATA as soon as they can.

Why?

STATA SOFTWARE – GOOD POINTS

- Does all the simple stuff (SPSS)
- Is specifically designed for survey analysis (all the weighting and design related issues are better catered for)
- Fits many more models than standard software
- You can get started easily (menus and help)
- There is a growing user community (lists etc)
- New features emerge almost daily
- There are good labour market opportunities (UK little known; USA well known)

STATA SOFTWARE – BAD POINTS

- Poor data handling (compared with SPSS etc)
- The weighting and design related issues can be complicated (some analysts ignore them)
- There are still some models that can't be fitted (see GLIM4; SABRE; MIWin etc)
- STATA syntax is a pain in the bum
- There is a growing user community, but they are generally GEEKBOYS (like myself!)
- New features emerge almost daily - these are sometimes tricky to get to grips with

A good place to look is at the National Centre for Research Methods website
www.ncrm.ac.uk/

- BEWARE this is only a skeletal list of course providers!
- Only some of the courses provided
- Get in touch with providers for details

Lancaster –
Centre for Applied Statistics

www.cas.lancs.ac.uk/short_courses/

Analysis of durations
Event history analysis

STATA

R

Manchester – Centre for Census and Survey Research

<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/>

Conceptualising longitudinal studies
Introduction to longitudinal data analysis
Longitudinal data analysis
Generalised Latent, Linear & Mixed Models

STATA

Centre for Longitudinal Studies

www.cls.ioe.ac.uk

06/09/06

1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS)
and 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70): a
workshop for potential users

12/09/06

International Conference on Child Cohort Studies

Essex Summer School

www.essex.ac.uk/methods/

Loads of data analysis courses...

Data confrontation (BHPS, NCDS)

Survival analysis

Panel analysis

Structural equation modelling and panel data

STATA

R

Essex - BHPS

www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/bhps/courses/

BHPS (SPSS & STATA)

Southampton

www.s3ri.soton.ac.uk/cass/programme.php

Longitudinal data analysis
Structural equation modelling
(lots of survey analysis courses)

Oxford – Spring School

springschool.politics.ox.ac.uk/

Various suitable advanced courses

Panel data analysis

Hierarchical data (GLLAMM)

STATA

R

Bristol – Learning Environment for Multilevel Methodology and Applications

lemma.ggy.bris.ac.uk/

A node of the ESRC
National Research Methods Centre

Longitudinal Data Analysis for Social Science Researchers

www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk

E·S·R·C
ECONOMIC
& SOCIAL
RESEARCH
COUNCIL



UNIVERSITY OF
STIRLING

University of
St Andrews



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow



The Team

- Vernon Gayle
- Paul Lambert
- David Bell
- John Field
- Jochen Clasen
- Simon Booth
- Robert Wright
- Paul Boyle
- Robin Flowerdew

Motivation

- Large and increasing volume of longitudinal survey resources
- Considerable substantive interest in longitudinal social science questions
- But, low levels of capacity within UK social research community (outside economics)

The Activities

- 1 Day Introductory Seminar
- 5 Day Workshop / Seminar
- On-line Information
- Researcher Support

One Day Seminar

- London based meeting (next year)
- Encourage participants to come to the five day workshop / seminar

One Day Seminar

- A brief and highly accessible introduction to longitudinal data
- Social researchers and post-graduate students with substantive rather than methodological interests
- Completely new to this area
- Point of access to longitudinal data

Five Day Workshop / Seminars

- Based at Stirling University
- During the summer vacation
- Sept 2006 (NOW FULL)

Five Day Workshop / Seminars

- Introductory workshop on longitudinal data analysis using large scale secondary surveys
- The value of longitudinal data and their scope and limitations will be highlighted
- Developing basic skills and competence
- A mixture of presentations and practical computer based lab sessions

Five Day Workshop / Seminars

- Data analysis
- Data handling and management
- BHPS focus www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/bhps/
- Other longitudinal datasets
- Software – SPSS / STATA (and others)

Five Day Workshop / Seminars

Micro-social survey analysis for:

- Repeated cross-sectional data (*e.g. GHS*)
- Panel and cohort data (*e.g. BHPS*)
- Event history data (*e.g. BHPS work life histories*)

On-Line Information

www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk

- The on-line provision will concentrate upon the continued enhancement and support of a depository of learning materials developed under the ESRC Research Methods Programme Phase II

On-Line Information

- PowerPoint slides
- Texts
- Presentations
- Annotated reading lists
- Software and data analysis examples

```
*****  
*****  
*** Exercise 1.1: LONG FORMAT DATA: DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSES .  
*****  
*****
```

```
*****
```

```
*** (i): Describing patterns within cases .
```

```
use $path1\bh1to12_long.dta, clear
```

```
numlabel _all, add  
summarize  
xtdes, i(pid) t(wave)|
```


Research Support

- There will be on-line researcher support (e-mail and discussion groups)
- A small 'Researcher Link Scheme'

Longitudinal Data Analysis for Social Science Researchers

www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk

E·S·R·C
ECONOMIC
& SOCIAL
RESEARCH
COUNCIL



UNIVERSITY OF
STIRLING

University of
St Andrews



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow

