

# Longitudinal Data Analysis in the Social Sciences: Variable Constructions in Longitudinal Research

*A seminar organised under the ESRC Research Methods Programme Phase II project  
'Longitudinal Data Analysis in the Social Sciences', [www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk](http://www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk).*

*This flyer was last updated on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007*

**Date:** Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2007  
**Organisers:** Dr Paul Lambert / Dr Vernon Gayle, University of Stirling  
**Time:** 10am-4.30pm (first talk at 10.15am)  
**Venue:** Royal Statistical Society, 12 Errol Street, London, EC1Y 8LX

This is an introductory workshop suitable for social science researchers with an interest in the opportunities and challenges associated with longitudinal survey data. 'Variable constructions' concern the processes by which survey measures are defined and subsequently interpreted by research analysts. Decisions about variable constructions are amongst the most fundamental of any survey research process, and are particularly pronounced in the context of longitudinal studies. Yet issues of variable constructions are often neglected in introductory methodological accounts.

This workshop will feature a combination of methodological reviews, and expert research presentations, in order to provide an accessible introduction to this important topic in the context of large scale longitudinal social surveys. Attention will focus particularly on issues concerned with the measurement of 'class', 'ethnicity' and 'education' in longitudinal government surveys in the UK, though many materials will have a wider relevance. A key aim of the meeting will be to emphasise the practical constraints and issues which impact upon decisions over the construction of such 'key variables' in longitudinal research projects.

*Cross-references will often be made to the resources available from the project  
'Longitudinal Data Analysis in the Social Sciences' ([www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk](http://www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk)).  
These pages include introductory talks and resources on longitudinal survey data,  
including example command files illustrating data management and data analysis  
tasks in the popular packages SPSS and Stata. Details on that site for this  
workshop are available from [www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk/variables/](http://www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk/variables/).*

This seminar is funded by the ESRC Research Methods Programme  
[www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods](http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods)

## Variable constructions in Longitudinal Research

*Provisional programme (sessions may change)*

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| <b>1000</b><br><b>1015-1100</b>                          | <i>Registration</i><br>Introduction to Variable Constructions in Longitudinal Research, and the example of Occupational Information<br>(Dr. Paul Lambert, University of Stirling)   |
| <b>1100</b><br><b>1120-1140</b><br><b>1140-1220</b>      | <i>Tea / Coffee</i><br>Variable Constructions in Longitudinal Research: Ethnicity<br>(Dr. Paul Lambert, University of Stirling)<br>Expert presentation: Social mobility amongst Britain's minority ethnic population<br>(Dr. Lucinda Platt, University of Essex)                            |
| <b>1220-1330</b><br><b>1330-1400</b><br><b>1400-1445</b> | <i>Lunch</i><br>Variable constructions in Longitudinal Research: Education<br>(Dr. Vernon Gayle, University of Stirling)<br>Expert presentation: Harmonising educational measures from the Youth Cohort Surveys of England, Wales and Scotland<br>(Linda Croxford, University of Edinburgh) |
| <b>1445</b><br><b>1515-1600</b><br><b>1600-1630</b>      | <i>Tea/Coffee</i><br>Expert presentation: Labour market position of minority ethnic groups in Britain, 1972-2005<br>(Dr. Yaojun Li, University of Manchester)<br><i>Discussion / Close</i>  |

Workshop arrangements / booking details:

*The workshop takes place at the presentation rooms of the Royal Statistical Society in London, on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2007. The workshop is free and lunch is provided. To book a place, please use the RMP online form <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/events/> or contact Ruth Durrell on the details given below.*

*Travel information for reaching the RSS: <http://www.rss.org.uk/main.asp?page=1759>*

**Contact:**

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- Bookings: - Book online at <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/events/>, or contact Ruth Durrell, ESRC Research Methods Programme CCSR, 2nd Floor, Crawford House, University of Manchester, Manchester, M13 9PL,  
[r.durrell@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:r.durrell@manchester.ac.uk) ; <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/staff/rd.htm>

