

# Data for dissertations

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Webinar  
21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

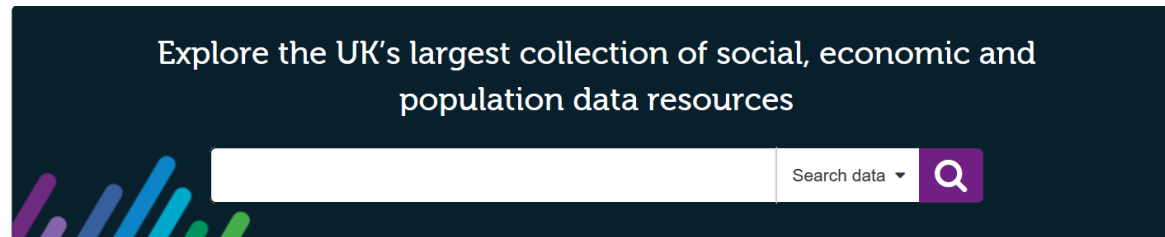


# Overview

- UK Data Service
- Case studies: datasets and dissertation projects
- Finding and accessing data
- Dissertation Award
- Resources for students
- Questions
  - Type into the questions box
  - Answer at the end

# What is the UK Data Service?

- Point of access to a wide range of social science data
- Support, training and guidance
- Funded by the ESRC



## Our catalogue includes...

data from nationally representative surveys of the UK and other countries

Data from major longitudinal studies following individuals through time

UK Census data

data from qualitative studies such as interview transcripts and field notes

International macrodata such as the world bank development indicators

# Wide range of topics



# Why use our data?



## Advantages

- Save resources (time, money, effort)
- Use data you could not collect yourself
  - from the past,
  - other countries
  - large/representative samples
- Use high quality data

## Disadvantages

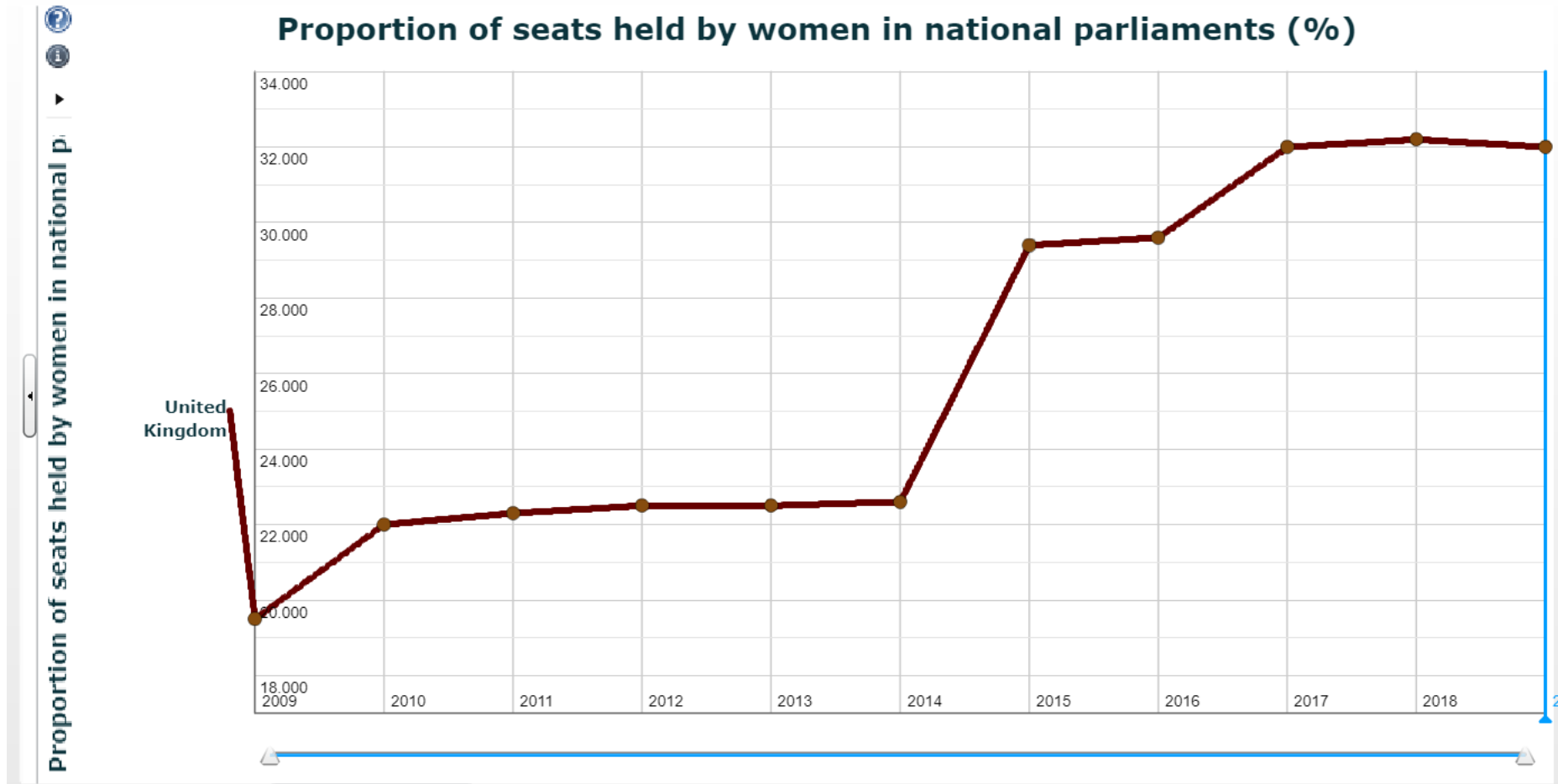
- Data not always available
- Available data might not be perfect
- Data can be harder to understand

# International macrodata

- Time series data aggregated to country/region (Annual, Quarterly, Monthly)
- Regularly updated
- International governmental organisations (such as OECD, IEA, World Bank)
- Wide range of socio-economic topics



# International macrodata: access via UKDS.Stat



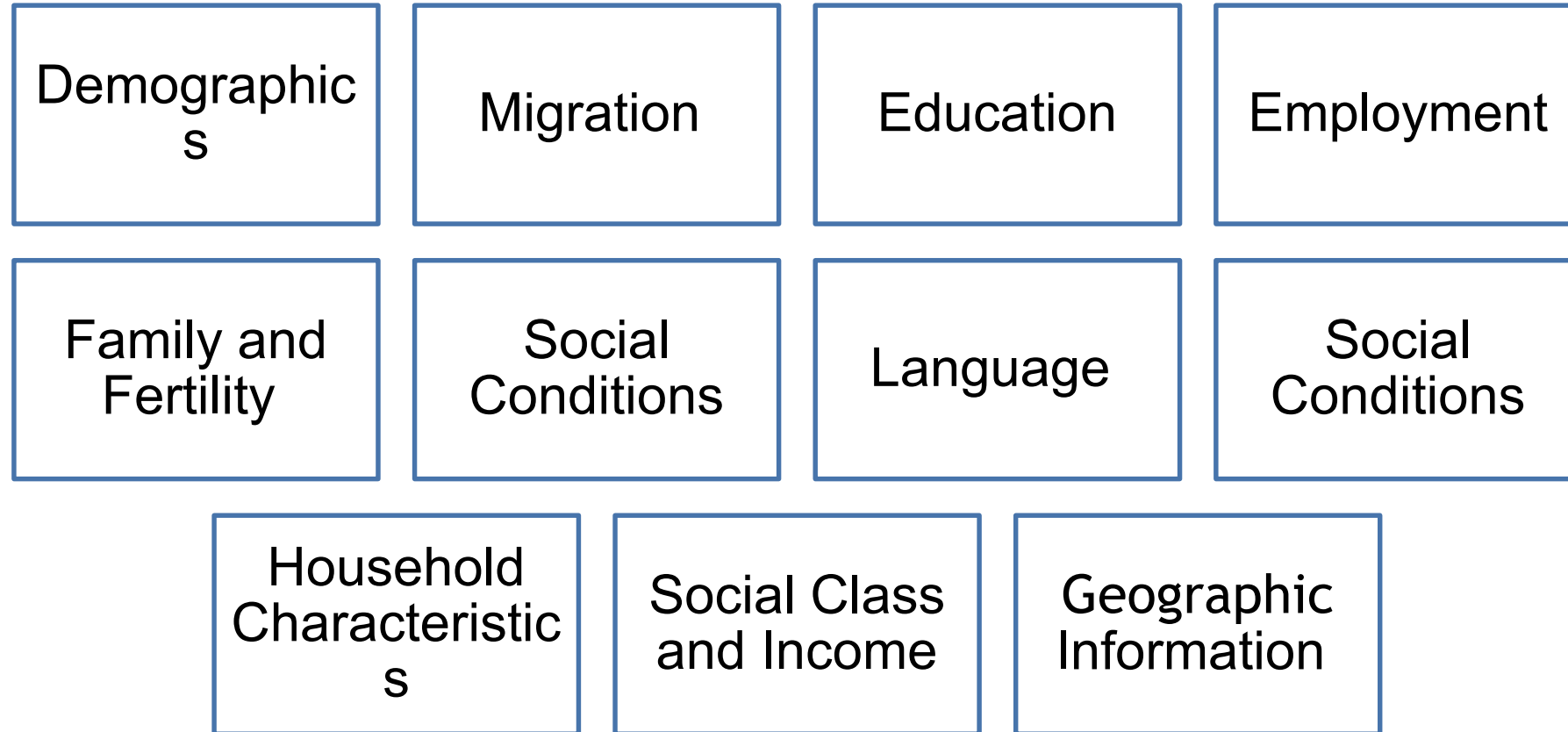


# UK census data

- Access to 1971-2011 UK census data
- Used as baseline for other statistics
- Many topics
- Data for small geographies
- Census outputs
  - aggregate data
  - flow data
  - microdata
  - boundary data

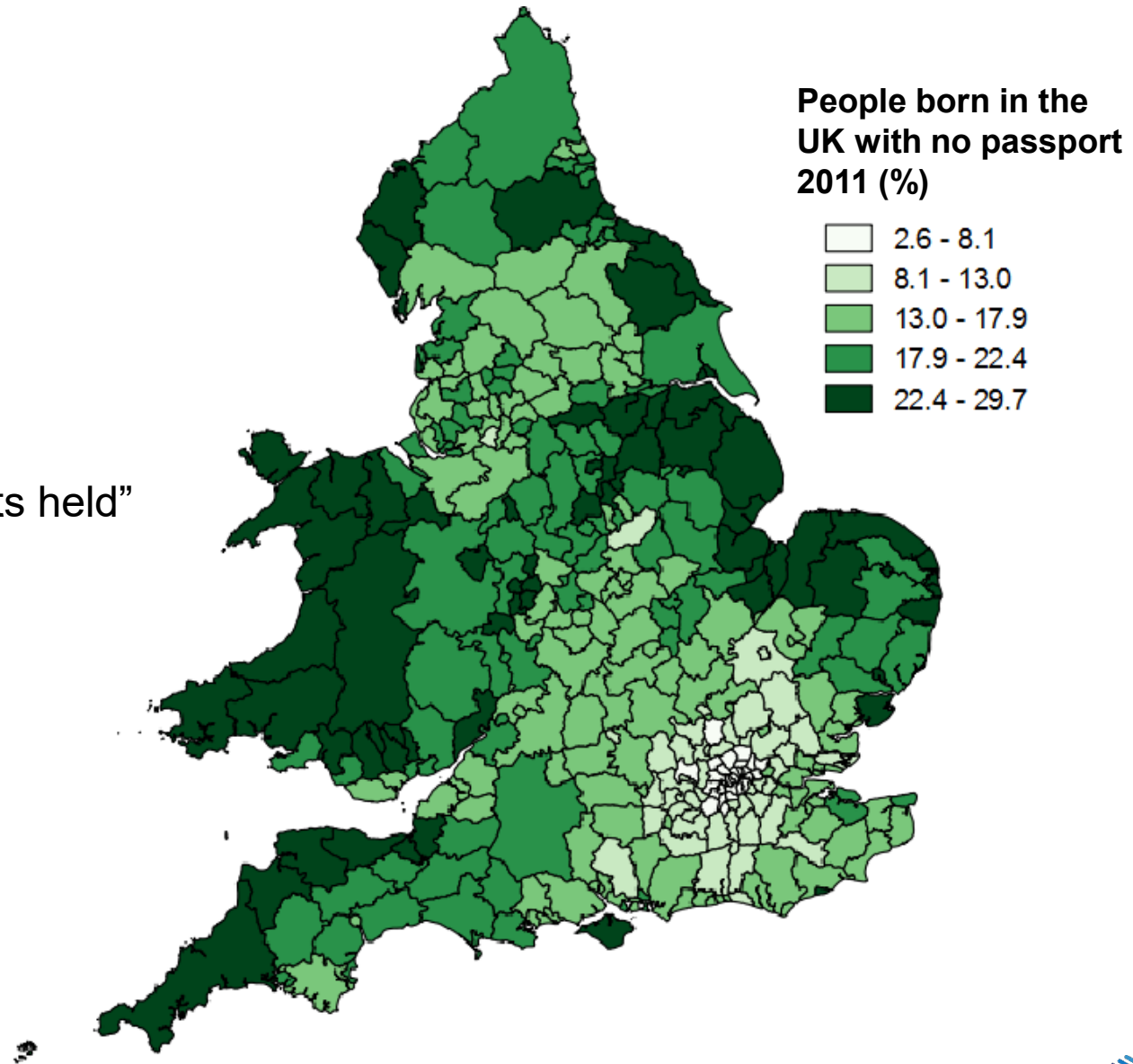


# Census Topics

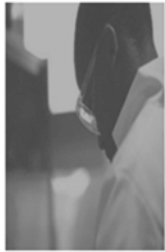


# UK Census data

- Boundary and Aggregate data
- “Country of Birth” and “Passports held”



# UK Surveys: topics



## Employment and work

- Labour Force Survey
- Annual Population Survey
- European Working Conditions Survey



## Health

- Health Survey for England
- Scottish Health Survey
- Diet and Nutrition surveys



## Family Finances

- Family Resources Survey
- Living Costs and Food Survey



## Crime

- Crime Survey for England and Wales
- Scottish Crime and Justice Survey



## Attitudes and opinions

- British Social Attitudes Survey
- NI Life and Times Survey
- Eurobarometer
- European and World Values Surveys



## Housing and the local environment

- English Housing Survey
- Living in Wales

# Example: Understanding Society

- 40,000 households, 100,000 individuals
- Ethnic Minority Boost sample
- Specific questions for 10-15 year olds
  
- Topics/coverage:
  - employment and earnings, benefit payments, political party identification, household finances, environmental behaviours, family life, ethnicity, religion, health, achievements and aspirations
  - Internationally comparable
  - [British Household Panel Survey](#) (25 years)
  
- Can be used as cross-sectional or linked across waves



# Example: British Social Attitudes (BSA)

- Public attitudes
- Patterns of continuity and change
- Most years since 1983
- Sample ~3,000
- Core questions (asked most years)
  - Including background and classificatory questions
- Modules on social, economic, political and moral issues
  - some asked regularly, others less often



# Dissertation Case Studies

Common Ground: A Study of Urban Public Space and Wellbeing across London

- Understanding Society
- Regression modelling

How does class influence individual perceptions of the environmental crisis and the undertaking of pro-environmental behaviours?

- Understanding Society
- Regression modelling



What are the effects of family and school attachments in relation to youth violence?

- Understanding Society
- Bivariate analysis



The Impact of EU Migration on UK Productivity

- Quarterly Labour Force Survey
- Difference-in-Differences



# Find data: search catalogue



Enter search term

Variable and question bank > QualiBank >

**STUDIES (7709)** SERIES (76)

Date from:  Date to:

Topic:

Data Type:

Access:

Displaying 1 - 10 of 7709 results Page 1 of 771

Results per page:  Sort by:

SN 853630 | [Organisations, staff support and the dynamics and quality of social work practice: a qualitative longitudinal study of child protection work 2017-2018](#)  
Ferguson, H, University of Birmingham

SN 853667 | [Longitudinal panel study data on household welfare, water resource management and governance in Kenya 2013-2016](#)  
Hole, B, University of Oxford | Koehler, J, University of Oxford | Katuva, J, University of Oxford

Use search terms (boolean logic)  
Filter to refine  
Sort results



# Access to data catalogue

The screenshot shows the UK Data Service website interface. At the top, the browser address bar displays <https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/>. The navigation menu includes links for [About us](#), [Get data](#) (highlighted with a blue arrow), [Use data](#), [Manage data](#), [Deposit data](#), and [News and events](#). A secondary menu contains [Site search](#), [Accessibility](#), [FAQ](#), [Help](#), [Contact](#), [New users](#), and [Sitemap](#). The UK Data Service logo is on the left, and social media icons for LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and iTunes are in the center. A [Register / Login](#) button is on the right. The main banner features the text "Explore the UK's largest collection of social, economic and population data resources" and a search bar with the placeholder "Search data" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the banner, there are two sections: "How to cite data correctly" with a video thumbnail titled "Why cite data? #CiteTheData" and "Guides and resources" with a list of links: [Dataset guides](#), [Topic guides](#), [Methods and software guides](#), and [Guides to exploring online](#). A small image of a person working at a laptop is also visible in the "Guides and resources" section.

**New  
website  
coming  
soon**



# Find data: key data



- About our data
- Key data
- Data by theme
- Data by geography
- Open data
- How to access
- Other providers
- Explore online
- Data access policy
- Thesauri

## Key data

Browse our most popular datasets, by data type.

<b>UK surveys</b>	Cross-national surveys	Longitudinal studies	International macrodata
Census data	Business microdata	Qualitative / mixed methods	Administrative data

SHARE

These UK surveys can be used to produce national estimates.

They can all be used to describe a population at one point of time and most can be used to compare populations at more than one time point. Many are large surveys that are used to inform policy.

- [Data Catalogue](#) of UK surveys
- [Case studies](#) relating to UK surveys

### Annual Population Survey

The Annual Population Survey (APS) combines data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and national boosts. Datasets contain 12 months of data and responses from 155,000 households and 360,000 people. It thus improves intercensal monitoring of key variables for a range of policy purposes.

### British Social Attitudes

This National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) survey tracks people's changing



LOGIN / REGISTER

DATA CATALOGUE

GO



OECD DATASETS NOW OPEN TO EVERYONE

We are delighted to announce that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) datasets are now available to users without the need for registration or authentication.



QUICK ACCESS TO

Variable and question bank

Dataset guides

RELATED LINKS

# Find data: theme pages



## Data by theme

About our data

Key data

• Data by theme

Ageing

Crime

Economics

Education

Environment and energy

Ethnicity

Food

Health

Housing

Information and communication

Labour

Politics

Poverty

Data by geography

Open data

How to access

Other providers

Explore online

SHARE

The UK Data Service has web pages to aid researchers looking specifically for data on particular themes:



### Ageing

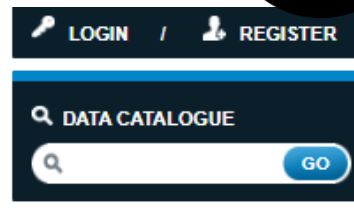
Ageing is the accumulation of a wide range of changes experienced by a person over time, including physical, psychological, and social factors. In particular, given the rise in life expectancy, there has been increasing focus on the social factors of ageing e.g. longer working hours, pensions, issues related to health and quality of life. Equally, social inequalities caused by increasing longevity also raise a complex set of challenges for policy makers. The UK Data Service holds a variety of data collections related to ageing, from key government and longitudinal surveys to international indicators and qualitative historical interviews.



### Crime

'Crime' encompasses a wide range of issues that lie within the remit of several academic disciplines, including sociology, psychology, law and economics. As a theme, crime may cover various topics, ranging from contemporary concerns over youth gangs and anti-social behaviour, through 'white collar' and corporate crime, including crimes against the environment, to serious violence. Crime-related data held by the UK Data Service include not only national crime surveys (which themselves cover diverse issues such as identity theft and alcohol-related disorder in the night-time economy) but also illegal drug use, workers in the criminal justice system, football hooliganism and community policing in Africa.

### Economics



UK DATA SERVICE NEWSLETTER



Subscribe for consolidated quarterly updates from the UK Data Service

email address

SUBSCRIBE

# Students can access the majority of our data collections



## Open data

- datasets available without registration or authentication using open data licences
- download and use



## Safeguarded data with the End User License (EUL)

- student registers with UK Data Service
- UK students use login from their institution: otherwise apply for username and password.
- to download a dataset: Set up a project , assign data to project



## Special license

- may or may not prevent student access
- can take time (e.g. if data owner's permission is needed, contact

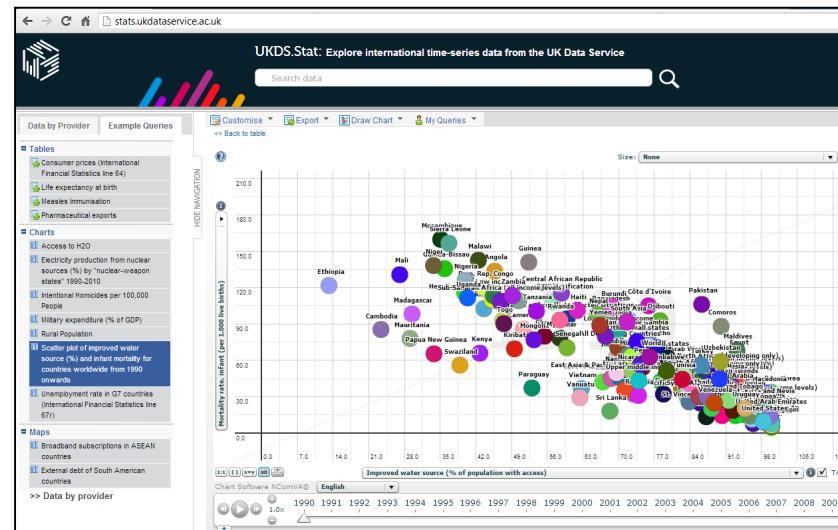
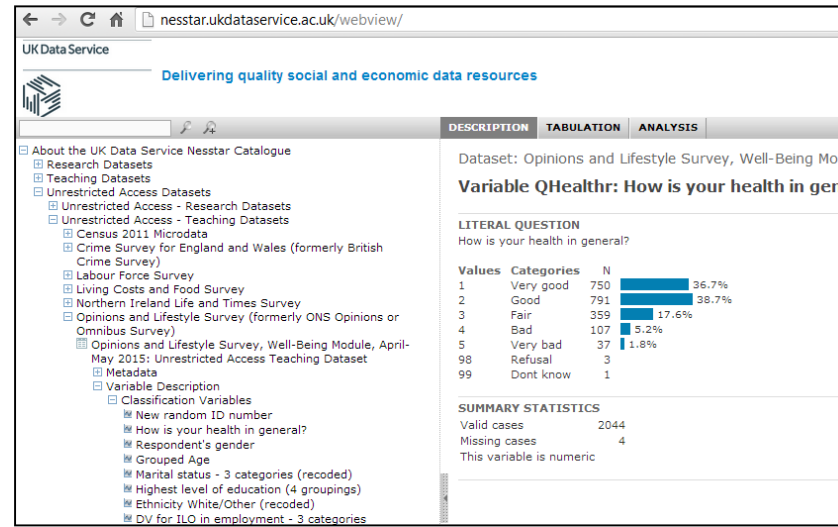


## Controlled (secure) data

- no access for undergraduate research projects

# Online data exploration

- NESSTAR: survey data
- UKDS.Stat: international databases
- Allow you to
- Explore data
- Create and download tables/graphs
- Help students include statistics and data visualisations in any dissertation.
- We have guides to using online tools (including short video demonstrations)



# Dissertation Award 2020-21

## What?

- recognises outstanding undergraduate dissertations on social science topics that include excellent reuse of data.
- awards for the three best dissertations from this academic year
- £300 award and publicity via our website, blog and Newsletter

## Who?

- undergraduate students at UK universities
- on a social topics
- must have used data available via the UK Data Service

## How?

- Complete an entry form
- Send using institutional email
- The deadline for submissions is 12.00pm (lunchtime) on **1 July 2021**.
- If shortlisted, you'll be asked to submit dissertation

# Entry form

- Title of dissertation
- Which data you used
- Your research aims and question(s) - What did you want to find out and why? [max 200 words]
- The data and methods used and how these suited the research aims? [max 200 words]
- Your main findings and their implications? With one example of data as evidence such as an important graph or excerpt of an interview transcript [max 300 words]

# Previous entries

Mix of topics and datasets, read more on our website (link from the Dissertation Award page)

- British Social Attitudes survey

public opinion on immigration

- 1970 British Cohort Study

wage differentials by degree classification

- Wealth and Assets Survey

models of consumption

- Crime Survey for England Wales

victim reporting of partner abuse

- Labour Force Survey

relationship between higher education and fertility in the UK

- British Election Study

political partisanship and voting: the role of politically partisan parents

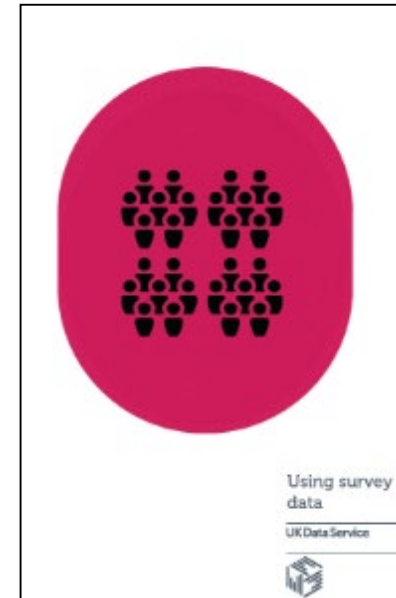
- GP data with data from the 2011 Census

spatial determinants of obesity levels in Scotland



# Using Survey Data Guide

- For project work/dissertations
- Covers:
  - research questions & designs
  - finding & accessing relevant data
  - getting started with data analysis
  - reporting of results
- Includes worksheets
- <https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/media/455510/using-survey-data.pdf>



## Worksheet: Thinking before doing

This worksheet can help you get started with your research project. Following the worksheet, you will think about:

- your research questions
- the population and units of analysis
- the key concepts in your research

### Task – Define your research project

Complete the following three sections to think about your research question, who your research concerns and the key concepts in your research.

Remember

- this process may take time
- you might not know all the answers at first
- you can change your mind on further reflection
- the clearer you are here, the easier it will be later

#### 1. What do you want to do?

What is your research topic/area (this may be broad to start with and refined over time)  
e.g. fear of crime and the role of the media

# Dissertations and their data: promoting research integrity

- A resource pack to support data management and research integrity in undergraduate dissertations
- examples of good practice
- practical templates for consent, transcription, anonymisation and documentation
- link to slides for teaching
- Download the [resource pack](#)



# Data Skills Modules

## SURVEY DATA MODULE (approximately 2 hours)

Unit 1: [What are survey data?](#)

Unit 2: [Use cases](#)

Unit 3: [Exploring data](#)

Unit 4: [Looking at characteristics with graphs and charts](#)

Unit 5: [Looking at two variables to understand patterns](#)

Unit 6: [Considering the impact of sampling on your results](#)

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## LONGITUDINAL DATA MODULE (approximately 2 hours)

Unit 1: [What are longitudinal data?](#)

Unit 2: [Use cases](#)

Unit 3: [Downloading data & getting started](#)

Unit 4: [Preparing to work with the data](#)

Unit 5: [Analysing the data](#)

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## AGGREGATE DATA MODULE (approximately 1.5 hours)

Unit 1: [What are aggregate data?](#)

Unit 2: [Use cases](#)

Unit 3: [Summary statistics](#)

Unit 4: [Mapping census data](#)

[Surveys unit 6: Considering the impact of sampling on your results](#)  
[View all modules](#)



### Calculating confidence intervals: example

Consider this example. If we had a simple random sample of 400 people, of which dogs, 60% of the sample would report a preference for cats. We could estimate the proportion from which the sample is drawn would also prefer cats to dogs.

In this example,  $n=400$ ;  $pct=60$ , which gives us:

$$CI = 60 \pm 1.96 \times \sqrt{\frac{60 \times (100-60)}{400}}$$
$$= 60 \pm 4.8$$
$$= 55.2\% - 64.8\%$$

So, given a sample percentage of 60%, based on a sample size of 400, we can be confident the true value is somewhere between 55.2% and 64.8%.



Note that this range will be different if the sampling is more complex:

- Clustering: If the sample has been split into groups (e.g. areas, houses) and only some groups have been sampled the estimates produced will be less precise
- Stratification: if the sample has been split into groups and all of those groups are represented in the sample a good representation of each group the estimates will be more precise

For more information on complex sampling, read '[What is complex sample design](#)'

# Useful guides

- What is Stata?
- What is SPSS 20 for Windows?
- Using R to analyse key UK surveys
  
- What is weighting?
- What is complex sample design?
  
- Analysing change over time
  
- Mapping Census data in QGIS
- Mapping 2011 Census Microdata using

# Webinars

- Introductory webinars
  - Introduction to the UK Data Service, 12 Nov
  - Finding and accessing data in the UK Data Service, 19 Nov
  - Getting Started with Secondary Analysis, 26<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Data in the spotlight series
  - Census and population studies, 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct
  - Qualitative and mixed methods data, 26<sup>th</sup> Oct
  - International Time Series Databanks, 5<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Also coming soon....
  - Geographical Data Visualisation of UK Census Data, 18 Nov
  - Online tools for accessing and analysing census data from the UK Data Service: Census Aggregate data, Flow data and Microdata, 01 – 16 December



[youtube.com/user/UKDATASERVICE](https://youtube.com/user/UKDATASERVICE)

Recordings of past webinars including


- Key data webinars
- Themed webinars

# Computational Social Science

- Web-scraping
- Text-mining

Hello! My Name is... New Forms of Data!

March 19, 2020 Neil Dymond-Green 1 Comment



**Julia Kasmire has recently joined the UK Data Service to develop a training programme on New Forms of Data. But what exactly does that entail?**

As a new addition to the UK Data Service, I would like to start by introducing myself. My name is actually Julia Kasmire and I am the Research Fellow leading UK Data Service's new training programme on New Forms of Data.

"But what is 'New Forms of Data'?!?" I hear you cry.

You are right to do so.

New Forms of Data is the cool new way to talk about Big Data. There is every reason to hope that New Forms of Data will be a more inclusive concept (size is not everything, man!) but only time will tell.

## Event

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SHARE ↗

### Webinar: Being a Computational Social Scientist

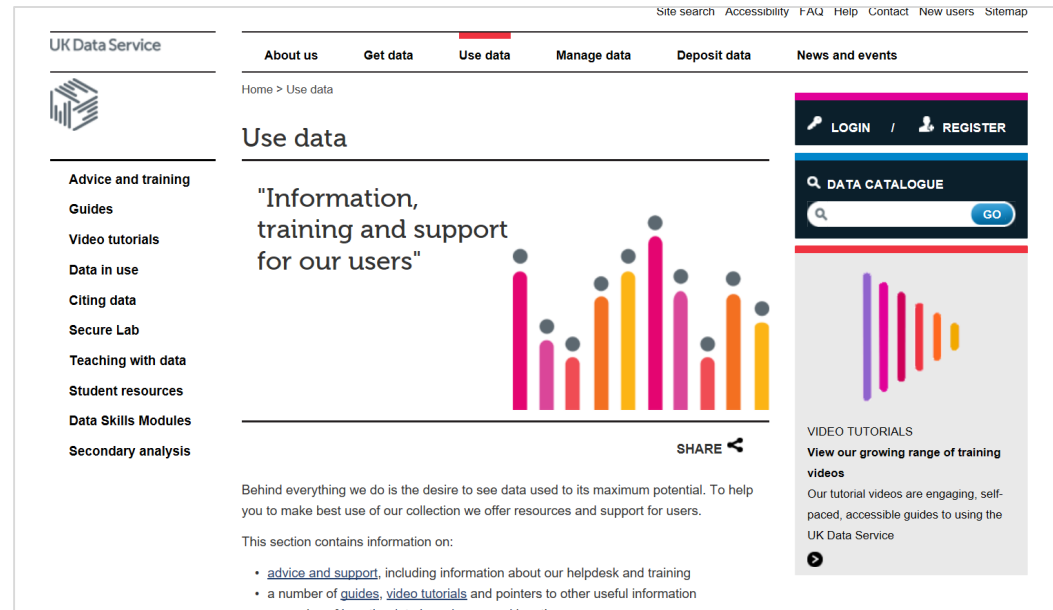
12 May 2020

Online, 13.00 - 14.00

Scientific research and teaching is increasingly influenced by computational tools, methods and paradigms. The social sciences are no different, with many new forms of social data only available through computational means (Kitchen, 2014). While to some degree social science research has always been marked by technological approaches, the field of computational social science involves the use of tools, data and methods that require a different skill set and mindset.

# Resources – Where to find them

- Use Data
  - Guides
  - Videos
  - Data Skills Modules
  - Student pages
- New website coming soon
- Training and events section
  - New user – information for students
  - Data and Methods
  - Events – webinars



The screenshot displays the UK Data Service website's 'Use data' page. The page features a navigation menu at the top with options: 'About us', 'Get data', 'Use data' (highlighted), 'Manage data', 'Deposit data', and 'News and events'. Below the navigation, there is a breadcrumb trail 'Home > Use data' and a 'Use data' heading. The main content area includes a quote: "Information, training and support for our users" accompanied by a colorful bar chart. A 'SHARE' button is visible below the chart. The page also contains a sidebar with a list of resources: 'Advice and training', 'Guides', 'Video tutorials', 'Data in use', 'Citing data', 'Secure Lab', 'Teaching with data', 'Student resources', 'Data Skills Modules', and 'Secondary analysis'. On the right side, there is a 'DATA CATALOGUE' search bar with a 'GO' button and a 'VIDEO TUTORIALS' section with the text: 'View our growing range of training videos' and 'Our tutorial videos are engaging, self-paced, accessible guides to using the UK Data Service'.

# Top Tips

- Start exploring datasets **early**
- Remember it is okay to spend a lot of time on finding a topic
- Take the time to explore the **source** of your data, understand **how the survey was collected** and what the **implications** of this are when it comes to **interpreting your results**
- Use the **documentation** to check that the dataset you select contains the variables you need
- Take advantage of all the **resources** available e.g. Nesstar



## To conclude: summary, tips and questions

- Students can use most data available from the UK Data Service
- Guides and resources can help you find, access and use data
- Helpdesk for data related queries
- Enter the UK Data Service Dissertation Award!