

**UNDERSTANDING POPULATION TRENDS AND
PROCESSES: A SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS
INITIATIVE:
CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR UPTAP USER FELLOWSHIPS**

Executive Summary

1. This call for proposals is an extension to the ESRC's invitation for applications to an initiative on '**Understanding Population Trends and Processes' (UPTAP)** in 2005, whose primary aim is to build capacity in secondary analysis and promote the use of the large-scale social science data sets, both qualitative and quantitative. The initiative is predominantly targeted at those who are at an early stage in their research career or those mid-career researchers wishing to enhance their skills, experience, knowledge and expertise in secondary analysis. The initiative is not confined to academics and this extended call for proposals provides a specific funding opportunity for non-academic researchers that are referred to in this document as 'users'; hence the funding is for **User Fellowships**.

Objectives

2. The principal objectives of the initiative are:
 - to build capacity in secondary analysis amongst new and mid-career researchers in both the academic and non-academic sectors;
 - to spread knowledge and use of secondary analysis through the social science community;
 - to add value to the ESRC investments in the collection, preservation and promotion of large-scale national data sets, by encouraging their use and exploitation; and
 - in the longer term, to maximise the knowledge gained about demographic and socio-economic change from secondary data analysis.

In addition to these objectives, the UPTAP initiative is aimed at fostering collaboration and improving communication between academic researchers and non-academic practitioners. This call specifically targets the researchers outside the academic community by inviting proposals for User Fellowships only.

3. Methodological development is not a focus of this initiative. The Council's commitment to improving methodological skills is being pursued through other activities including the Research Methods Programme and the National Centres for Research Methods and e-Science.

Research Theme and First Round Projects

4. In the UPTAP initiative, the ESRC is concentrating its resources on the **demographic trends and socio-economic processes which affect the economy, society and the population**. It is envisaged that this approach will

have the added value of creating interactions, synergies and exchanges between and across the projects funded under this initiative. The following list of titles by theme gives some indication of the types of projects that are already being undertaken through Postdoctoral Fellowships, Mid-career Fellowships, User Fellowships, Small Grants or Large Grants:

- *Demographic Change - Residential Change*
 - Micro-geography of demographic change 1991-2001
 - Changing residential patterns of the UK 1991-2001
- *Fertility - Motherhood - Childlessness*
 - Understanding the effect of public policy on fertility
 - Consequences of the timing of motherhood and mothers' employment on child outcomes
 - Delayed childbearing and childlessness in Britain: 1958 and 1970 cohorts compared
- *Cohabitation - Mobility*
 - Currently cohabiting: relationship attitudes, intentions and behaviour
 - Links between internal migration, commuting and inter-household relationships
- *Living Arrangements - Childcare*
 - Living arrangements, health and well-being: a European perspective
 - Intergenerational contributions to childcare across Europe
- *Health - Well-Being - Employment*
 - Exploring geographies of happiness and well-being in Britain
 - Does step-parenting influence mental health?
 - How does employment affect cardiovascular risk? A life-course approach in the 1958 cohort
 - Comparing models to describe employment status and health trajectories in British Household Panel Survey
- *Education*
 - Impact of educational qualifications on trends in leisure activities
 - Investigating inequalities in educational attainment
- *Identity - Ethnicity - Segregation*
 - Being a Muslim in Europe: attitudes and experiences
 - Socio-economic position and political support of the BMEs in Britain 1971-2004
 - Trends in gender and ethnic occupational segregation in England and Wales: longitudinal evidence
- *Political - Social Values*
 - A dying creed? Demographic contradictions of liberal capitalism
 - Making of social values: social attitudes and social change
 - Social and political trust: a longitudinal and comparative perspective

Further User Fellowships

5. The ESRC has an interest in making sure that the large-scale data sets that it supports are not only used for research by the academic community but also by the non-academic social science community. UK central, regional and local government, as well as business organisations have the same concerns as the academic community regarding the emerging skills deficit in secondary analysis

skills. Therefore, one of the aims of the UPTAP initiative is to promote the secondary data analysis among non-academic users of social science data and research.

6. User Fellowships are available to facilitate collaboration between the academic and the non-academic sectors. Funding will be provided for the secondment of a younger or mid career member of staff (with annual salary of up to £30K) from a non-academic institution to work full-time or part-time for a period within a centre of expertise where specialist secondary data analysis is done (such as an ESRC Research Centre or an individual department with ESRC accreditation) and may include funding for the fellow to undertake specialist training courses in secondary analysis. The ESRC will provide, through the hosting institution, funding to cover salary costs of (typically) 6 months full-time or 12 months part-time. In addition the ESRC will meet the costs of mentoring by an academic (up to 2 hours a week) plus some additional costs associated with supporting the research (e.g. for travel, data). Typically, the application should not exceed £45K FEC in total for a 6-month full-time fellowship, of which the ESRC will fund 80%.
7. The scheme will allow the non-academic organisation, through the User Fellowship, to draw upon academic expertise in secondary analysis. It will be an opportunity for such organisations to offer to a staff member substantial skill upgrading in the area of secondary analysis, by a short-term secondment to the centre of expertise. It will provide the hosting institution an opportunity to develop links with non-academic users, as part of their user engagement strategies. It is hoped that these user fellowships may lead to future and ongoing collaborative activities between the two organisations.
8. User Fellows will be expected to spend all of the time funded by the fellowship at the centre of expertise and to play an active role in its research activities. The Fellows will be expected to disseminate their experience of secondary analysis widely within both the hosting institution and non-academic organisations. Applications that propose to link ESRC supported large-scale data sets with administrative or government data sets will be particularly encouraged. In such cases it will be a condition of the award that any derived data sets will be deposited with the Economic and Social Data Service.
9. The application for User Fellowships will be made by the academic partner, or mentor, through JeS. The academic partner's role will be to provide guidance on the one hand but also to support the Fellow in producing outputs/publications based on secondary analysis of the data sets concerned.
10. Awards may start any time after the 1st of February 2007 and applicants are encouraged to think flexibly about when it might be appropriate for their fellowship to commence. Applicants may, for example wish to shape their project start around the release of new data which is important to the quality and impact of the work to be undertaken.

Communication and dissemination

11. It is expected that applicants should consider outputs regarding the substantive research undertaken. Thus proposals should include plans for communicating their experience of undertaking secondary analysis to others new to, or thinking about, secondary analysis. The dissemination activities might, for example, be in the form of a report or journal paper or may take the form of small scale seminars or workshops which address issues such as any methodological, practical or ethical problems encountered and how they were overcome. Policy bulletins may also be produced as well as bulletins of research findings at the end of the project. User Fellows will be expected to participate in UPTAP activities organised by the Coordinator.

Coordinator and Advisory Committee

12. The Coordinator of UPTAP initiative is Professor John Stillwell (University of Leeds) and the initiative is steered by an Advisory Committee chaired by Mr John Pullinger. The Coordinator brings together the initiative participants with a view to creating a mutually supportive 'community' of award holders. This approach serves to 'gear up' the projects such that the product of the initiative is greater than the sum of its parts. To achieve this, the coordinator organises conferences, meetings, workshops and seminars about common themes addressing either substantive topics or analysis techniques. The Coordinator also has an outreach role, working to maximise the impact of the initiative ensuring wide dissemination of both the outcomes of the research but also any analysis issues or problems that have been identified and/or resolved. The coordinator communicates via an initiative website (www.uptap.net) but also through direct engagement with academics and users. The Advisory Committee has oversight of the programme and offers guidance and advice directly to the Coordinator.

Evaluation of the Initiative

13. This initiative is adopting novel approaches to addressing the ESRC's concerns and as such is a pilot. It will be evaluated in order to assess its success or otherwise and to inform ESRC of how it can best provide continued support for encouraging secondary data analysis and capacity building in the future. An independent evaluator will be appointed toward the end of the initiative in order to undertake a review.

Timeline and Commissioning

14. The main focus of the UPTAP User Fellowship initiative is to attract proposals from the user/practitioner community. In order to raise awareness of the opportunity for funding amongst this community, information about UPTAP was widely circulated during the summer 2006. The deadline for proposals is **31 October 2006 at 4pm.**

Activity	When
Call for proposal	22 September 2006
Closing date for proposals	31 October 2006
Decisions announced	15 December 2006
Projects commence	From 1 February 2007

15. The UPTAP Advisory Committee will undertake the commissioning of the User Fellowships at its next meeting in December.

ESRC Call for User Fellowships in UPTAP (Understanding Population Trends and Processes)

The ESRC invites applications under the first Call for **User Fellowships in UPTAP (Understanding Population Trends and Processes)** the primary aim of which is to build capacity in secondary analysis and promote the use of the large-scale social science data sets, both qualitative and quantitative. The UPTAP initiative is not confined to academics and this call for proposals provides a specific funding opportunity for non-academic researchers in the form of **User Fellowships**.

User Fellowships are available to facilitate collaboration between the academic and the non-academic sectors. Funding will be provided for the secondment of a younger or mid career member of staff (with annual salary of up to £30K) from a non-academic institution to work full-time or part-time for a period within a centre of expertise where specialist secondary data analysis is done (such as an ESRC Research Centre or an individual department with ESRC accreditation) and may include funding for the fellow to undertake specialist training courses in secondary analysis. The ESRC will provide, through the hosting institution, funding to cover salary costs of (typically) 6 months full-time or 12 months part-time. In addition the ESRC will meet the costs of mentoring by an academic (up to 2 hours a week) plus some additional costs associated with supporting the research (e.g. for travel, data). Typically, the application should not exceed £45K FEC in total for a 6-month full-time fellowship, of which the ESRC will fund 80%.

It is anticipated that applicants will be notified of the outcomes of their applications in mid-December 2006.

The closing date for applications is **4pm, October 31st 2006**. Applications received after this time and date will **not** be accepted.

Applications must be submitted via the [Joint Electronic Submission system \(Je-S\)](#) by the Je-S-registered academic mentors based at the host HEI of the User Fellow. Please ensure that you allow sufficient time for this part of the process as no extensions to the deadline will be permitted.

Supporting Documentation:

UPTAP Call for User Fellowships

User Fellow Call Je-S Guidance Notes

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