

## Editorial **John Bynner**

The 16<sup>th</sup> issue of the Journal brings news on three fronts: editorial team, annual conference and current and future issues.

### Editorial team

Welcome on board to three new Section Editors confirmed at the last Editorial Committee meeting in July. Scott Montgomery from Örebro University Hospital and Örebro University, Sweden, has taken over from Michael Wadsworth as Section Editor for Health Sciences. Richard Layte from Trinity College Dublin has taken over from Robert Erikson as Section Editor for Social and Economic Sciences. Jeylan Mortimer from the University of Minnesota has taken over from Barbara Maughan as Section Editor for Development and Behavioural Sciences. This is also the opportunity to thank the three departing Section Editors for their great contribution to getting the Journal launched and helping it achieve the successful position it holds today; through them we have been extremely fortunate in benefiting from the advice of the excellent reviewers who also play a crucial part in maintaining our high standards.

### Annual conference

The Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies annual conference in Lausanne, 9-11 October, had as its theme this year "Longitudinal Research and Social Policy". Six of the conference symposia were devoted to different features of, and issues arising from, the research policy interface. The emphasis was on looking for common ground and best practice examples across the world of policy implications, impact and brokerage of longitudinal research and how communication and other difficulties are best resolved. The prominence given to policy gives good prospects of expanding the Journal's scope for the first time to include papers in this area.

But the conference programme was by no means restricted to policy-oriented papers. The conference has never attracted so many papers across the full range of SLLS interests, with four strands running through the programme, including two keynote talks, 200 papers and 41 posters presented. All this is grist to the mill for the Journal, as those starting their lives as SLLS conference presentations form a key source of our papers. On the other hand, the conference is by no means the only route to publication in LLCS. Whenever you hear of a colleague working on a

paper in the general area of longitudinal and life course studies, do urge them to consider LLCS as their first choice for publication.

### Current issue

This issue contains four papers reflecting the range of LLCS coverage. The first paper based on data from the UK Millennium Cohort Study is devoted to children's socio-emotional wellbeing under different structures experienced since birth. The second paper moves to the other end of the life course, using data from the UK 'National Survey of Health and Development' (1946 Cohort) extending to the over-60s, to investigate factors in social integration in the later years. A four-fold typology is produced combining marital status with level of integration.

The next two papers shift the emphasis again - this time to methodology and procedure. In a fascinating case study, the means of reconstructing, (through administrative and health record data linkage) a sample from a Scottish longitudinal survey starting in 1936 and another starting in 1947, is reported; there are many lessons for those undertaking comparable challenges in the UK and other countries. The final paper moves again, this time to Australia and the different longitudinal vehicle of the household panel study. Capitalising on a switch in data collection procedure, the focus is on the important issue of whether 'dependent' as opposed to 'independent' interviewing produces the lowest reporting of occupational change between surveys. It does!

### Security and progress

The Journal as always seeks high quality papers on an ever-widening scale from an ever-expanding range of countries. Our aim is to move now from three to four issues annually. And that of course costs money. The greatest help our readers and authors can give to the Journal is to join the Society individually and to encourage their institutions to take up corporate membership. Library subscriptions are a major source of income for us. So the final plea is that you urge your university library to join the forty others that subscribe to the Journal, if they have not already done so, and invest in a set of hardback copies as back-up to the online version. Your Journal needs you!

**SLLS Annual Conference 2015**

**Dublin, Ireland**

**SAVE THE DATE!** The sixth annual conference of the  
*Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*  
will be held in

**Dublin, 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015**