

“Sheds and LATs: Populations at the margins of household surveys”

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Presentation at “Boundaries and composition of households in the last census round in France and UK and implications for household surveys”

21st May 2012

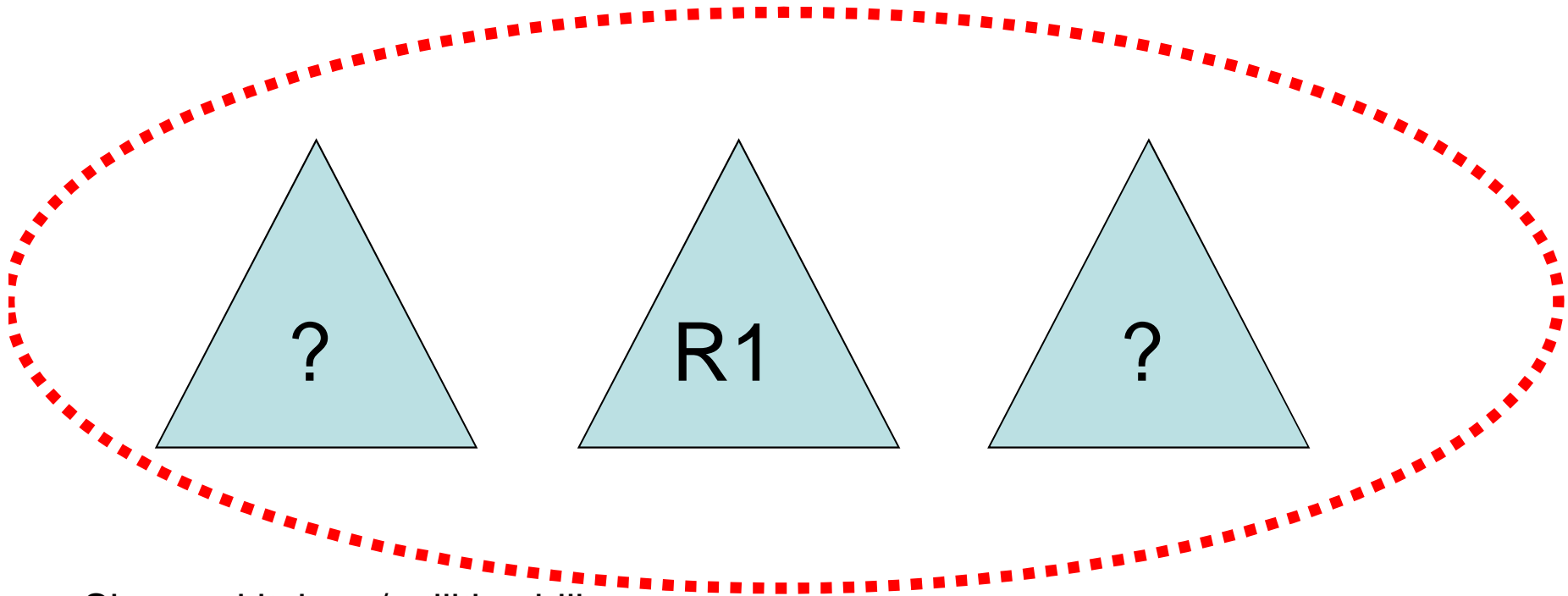
Head of Profession for Statistics - UK Government Dept

“If it’s a standard
household it’s
bleeding obvious...”

“Si c’est une ménage
standard, il est
évidente...”

Populations at the margins

Difficult populations

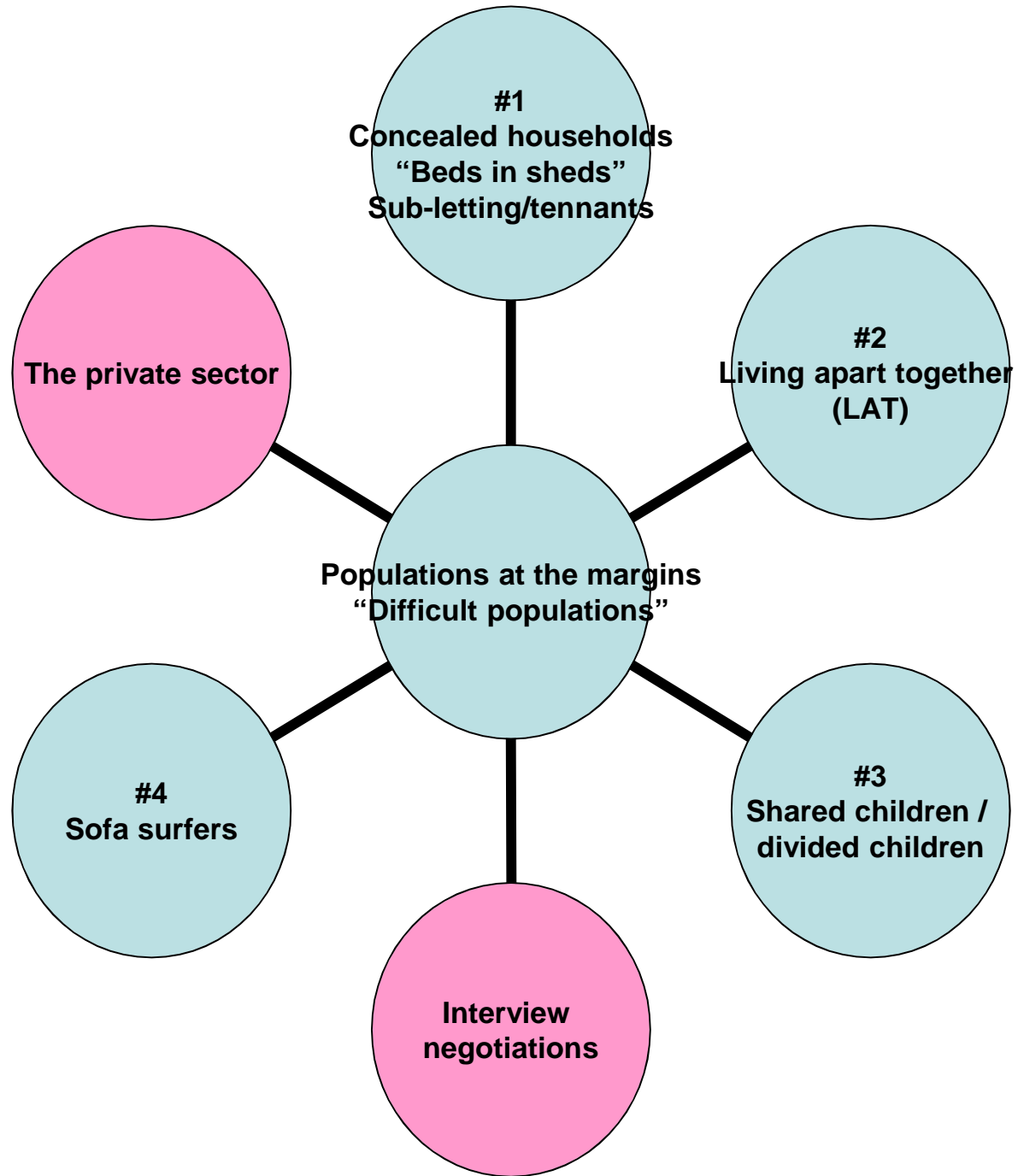


Share a kitchen / utilities bills

R1 did not know

- Names

- Ages



Problematic when...

- Systematically present or dominant in some populations / geographic locations

#1 Concealed households

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17185294

The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window with several tabs open. The active tab is 'BBC News - 'Sheds with beds' are ...'. The address bar shows 'www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17185294'. The page features the BBC News UK header with navigation links for News, Sport, Weather, Travel, Future, TV, Radio, and More. Below the header is a sub-navigation bar with links for Home, UK, Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Mid-East, US & Canada, Business, Health, Sci/Environment, Tech, Entertainment, and Video. The main article is titled ''Sheds with beds' are London's modern day slums'. It includes an aerial photograph of a residential area with several small, brown-roofed buildings. The article is dated 27 February 2012 and was last updated at 19:03 GMT. The text describes these structures as 'sheds with beds' and notes they are often offered to Britain's illegal immigrants. To the right of the article is a 'Most watched/listened' section with a list of seven items, each with a video thumbnail and a number. The items are: 1. Maldives' 'apocalyptic' waste island; 2. How world leaders watched Chelsea win; 3. Annular eclipse provides spectacle; 4. Facebook founder's new status; 5. Bee Gees' singer Robin Gibb dies; 6. Party for victorious Chelsea team; 7. Chen Guangcheng arrives in the US. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button and several open applications: BBC iPlayer Desktop, BBC News - 'Sheds wi...', and Microsoft PowerPoint ... The system tray on the right shows the time as 04:58.

Firefox

Noodo authentication server

financial times sofa unable afford ...

BBC News - 'Sheds with beds' are ...

EPC 2012

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'Sheds with beds' are London's modern day slums



BBC NEWS

27 February 2012 Last updated at 19:03 GMT

A series of modern day British slums have been described as "sheds with beds".

The illegal structures, some dangerous and cramped, are offered by landlords - often to Britain's illegal immigrants.

Most watched/listened

- 1 Maldives' 'apocalyptic' waste island
- 2 How world leaders watched Chelsea win
- 3 Annular eclipse provides spectacle
- 4 Facebook founder's new status
- 5 Bee Gees' singer Robin Gibb dies
- 6 Party for victorious Chelsea team
- 7 Chen Guangcheng arrives in the US

start

BBC iPlayer Desktop

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Microsoft PowerPoint ...

EN

04:58

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30 April 2012 Last updated at 01:01 GMT



'Beds in sheds' targeted by national task force

The government is setting up a task force to tackle "beds in sheds" by acting against criminal landlords and removing illegal immigrants.

Housing Minister Grant Shapps and Immigration Minister Damian Green will discuss the problem later with police, immigration and council officials.

Thousands of sheds and outbuildings are rented out illegally, say ministers.

Those who live in them are often migrants who put up with high rents and primitive conditions.



Thousands of outbuildings are let out illegally, say ministers.

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the guardian

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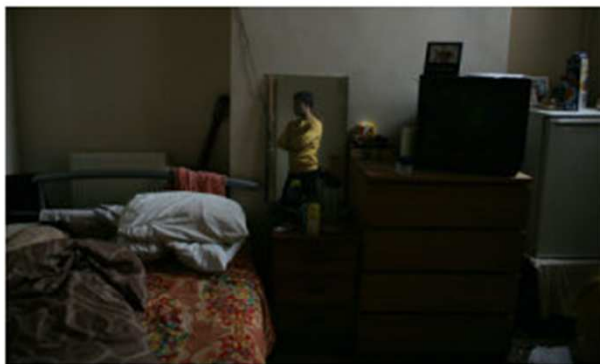
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Society

The woman who lives in a shed: how London landlords are cashing in

Council finds people living in everything from massively overcrowded houses to a walk-in freezer – and the problem is getting worse



The shortage of housing in Newham, east London, and new benefit caps are forcing tenants to take what they can. Photograph: Martin Godwin for the Guardian

Amelia Gentleman

The Guardian, Wed 9 May 2012 16.58 BST

Maria's front door has a house number –

Concealed households : planning & legality

- RES: You see we wouldn't know anything about that if it's their back gardens there's no way of us accessing it, this is what we were saying when we were discussing it amongst ourselves, that there's no way, even if they give us a form saying there's only 1 person living there we haven't got the right to go in and say let me have a look round your house so there's no way of, it's just literally stand at the door so what they say is what you have to take.
- INT: But you have a hunch as a professional?
- RES: You do get an idea but we can't say anything otherwise, it doesn't get recorded anywhere like we discussed it amongst ourselves and
- INT: But when you're discussing it amongst yourselves did you all feel that there were quite a few of these cases?
- RES: Yeah, I think there were more than they let on.

Concealed households: legality & sub-letting

- I think it those people who are renting out rooms and you've got a couple of Polish workers sharing a room and the rent's not declared, the Polish wouldn't be illegal immigrants but the Ukrainians might be, and the Bengalis might be and, yeah, I think it's those **households within households**

Survey consultant, UK

- RES: It's often in rental properties, well I mean I get it with a lot of Eastern Europeans as well, they're the people renting this house and they're paying whatever it is a month, they've got friends staying as well who are paying them rent, so they're subletting, which they're not legally allowed to do. So in that area they then 'oh no he's just visiting' and you feel that ...
- INT: That's your professional mind?
- RES: You can't really, you've just got to accept what they say and that comes up quite often actually.

#2 Living apart together (LAT)

- Absolutely, and there's also the rising solo livers who don't actually get married, who don't have children, who may or may not be partnered and be living apart together...And that's going to happen more and more because with owner occupation on the increase and also inheritance and also the way that divorce and just the way we're living our lives and migration and mobility, so we tend to enter our 30's, 40's and 50's and we experience divorce and separation. And then we re-partner and **there are complex lives there that because of inheritance issues people retain their individual homes and also because you're not quite sure what's going to happen with that relationship.**

Academic demographer, UK

#3 Shared/divided children

- RES: I've had that a few times because that is getting more and more common, half a week with each parent. I tend to, wherever the child benefits go that's where I put them ... but I've had the conversation and try and find out exactly but they're adamant it's half and half and that's it.
- INT: So is that something that respondents find difficult to categorise?
- RES: As far as they're concerned they're half and half and that's it, so for the purposes of putting something in the survey I tend to put wherever they are getting child benefit, I tend to say that's where they live.

Professional ONS interviewer, UK

Affective ties: difficult negotiations

- RES: Parents will say that their child at university that's living in rented accommodation, in digs, they will always consider them part of their household... If you say "Well they're not part of your house" and they say "What?" you know, it's like a direct challenge to their ...

Professional interviewer

Sofa surfers / Surfer de canapé

The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window displaying the Financial Times website. The address bar shows the URL: www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/d508586a-2b72-11de-b806-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1vTM3ytq2. The page title is "Sofa, so good - FT.com". The main content area features the article "Sofa, so good" dated April 17, 2009, 6:15 pm. The article text discusses the "Boomerang generation" of young adults returning home due to financial difficulties. The right sidebar includes "Editor's picks" with two featured items: "Q&A: PENSIONS" featuring Steve Webb and "SERIOUS MONEY" featuring a woman. A "FT Corporate Subscriptions" banner is visible at the bottom right of the page.

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April 17, 2009 6:15 pm

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Sofa, so good

They are called “kidults” or “the Boomerang generation”. Children who happily leave home, only to return a few years later as they realise they can’t afford to pay their rent. The credit crunch seems to have exacerbated the trend. There are now almost 2m people over the age of 18 living rent-free with family and friends – nearly four times as many as a year ago, according to Abbey. The poor parents – as if they don’t have enough to worry about, what with decimated pension pots and tumbling house prices.

Ten years or so ago, many of these returnees would have found it relatively easy to enter the property market. But more and more traditional first-time buyers have been excluded – initially because house prices rose to unaffordable levels and, more recently, because they can’t get mortgages. Figures out this week implied the difficulties may be easing. The number of home loans provided to first-time buyers in February was 7 per cent higher than the previous month, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders. Unfortunately for the boomerangers, a closer look shows how much harder it has become for first-time buyers to get a loan. The average deposit put down by this group was 25 per cent in February, compared with 11 per cent the previous year, while their average income multiple for loans has fallen from 3.35 to 2.95. Also, the number of loans supplied to first-time buyers was still down almost 50 per cent

Editor's picks

Q&A: PENSIONS | SERIOUS MONEY

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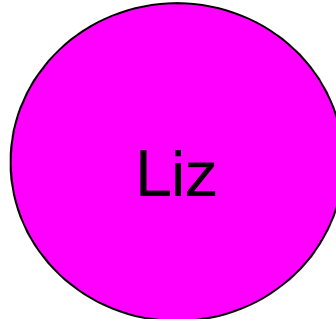
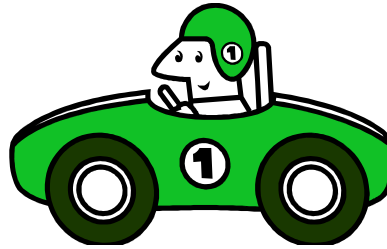
Liz : Not in the census

Liz's sister's house -
Oxfordshire



Mondays-Fridays

Would not include
Liz – did not want
to lose 25%
discount on council
tax



Liz's mother's house
- Hertfordshire



Most weekends

Liz's friend's house

Stayed there on census night



Friend had already completed
the online census.

Want to know more?

- Project website:
 - <http://www.householdsurvey.info/>
- Coast, E., S. Randall, A. Fanghanel, E. Lelievre, S. Ba-Gning (forthcoming) "[Sofa surfers and shed dwellers: new living arrangements and household surveys in the UK and France](#)" European Population Conference, 13-16 June, 2012, Stockholm, Sweden
- Fanghanel, A., E. Coast & S. Randall (forthcoming) "[Mapping intergenerational care across households in the UK: analysing proximity, propinquity and resources in the "tacit intergenerational contract"](#)" European Population Conference, 13-16 June, 2012, Stockholm, Sweden