

My original doctoral research was in Geography at Manchester University, and I still retain a high level of interest in spatial variations, and in particular inter-country comparisons.

After a career break to bring up our two sons, I started to become more involved in academic matters by editing papers on the subject of demography, primarily for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). In doing so, I discovered that the topic of demography was very interesting, considerably more so than the process of linguistic editing, and so in 2005 I enrolled on the new Masters course in Demography at the University of Geneva. At the end of two years of study, I carried out a three-month internship at the UNECE and completed a dissertation based on statistical analysis of fertility data from Bulgaria, Hungary and Georgia.

While examining the variables in the databases of the Generations and Gender Survey from those three countries, some very interesting patterns of religious attendance became apparent. In particular there was evidence of a religious revival taking place, primarily in the Orthodox faith in Georgia, where young people are considerably more active participants than older people.

Having completed the masters' programme, I then proceeded to explore international comparisons of religious attendance, using data from the World Values Survey and European Social Survey. The outcome was that in April 2008 I presented a research paper in Melbourne, Australia at the 5th International Lausanne Researchers Conference, entitled "Young people: are they less religious than older people and are they less religious than they used to be?".

Since then, new data from the latest survey waves have become available and using these, together with Human Development Index data, a model has been developed that may at least partially explain trends in religious observance. In September 2009, I attended a fully-funded Summer School of UCSIA (the University centre of St Ignatius in Antwerp), and in 2010 I presented papers on my work at the SOCREL conference in Edinburgh and at the SSSR conference in Baltimore.

My current interests can be summarised as follows:

- Inter-country comparisons
- Statistical analyses of large data sets
- Secularisation and revival
- Period, age and cohort effects
- The three-way correlations of fertility, religiosity and 'happiness'
- Measures of dispersion, convergence and divergence

I am currently following my research interests independently with the aim of publishing the results in relevant demographic and religious research journals, whilst maintaining links with the Universities of Lausanne and Geneva. I am a member of the Sociology of Religion Study Group of the British Sociological Association (SOCREL) and the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR).