



Born Talking



Born talking: using birth cohort data on speech, language and communication to inform policy and practice

Seminar #3 Friday 9th of October 2015

The aim of this third seminar was to introduce members of the group of the Growing Up in Scotland (GUS) cohort and trigger a discussion of what sorts of questions can and cannot be answered in birth cohorts. It was also designed to draw in a much wider group of interested parties from the North of England and from Scotland. In all, thirty people attended from across the country.

The meeting started with an introduction from Professor James Law explaining about the origins of the Born Talking seminar series its aims and some examples of the type of publications that have arisen from the analysis of speech and language data in UK birth cohorts.

There then followed three presentations about how Growing up in Scotland (GUS) data have already been used by researcher at Newcastle University. The first two presentations were from fourth year dissertation students Amy Messenger (*Language development and its relationship to subsequent behaviour in children*) and Alex Boyd (*Predicting language development in young children from alcohol consumption in pregnancy*) and the third was from Professor Law (*Changes in early language development, play and the enjoyment of reading between two GUS cohorts*) on some work that he has been engaged with in conjunction with Tom King from Newcastle University, Paul Bradshaw and others from the Growing Up in Scotland team comparing GUS cohorts 1 and 2 and asking whether two cohorts separated by time can be used to assess the effects of intervention programmes.

Then key note speaker professor Melissa Wake from Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Melbourne, Australia presented the key note entitled *Using language data in the Longitudinal study of Australian Children – what can it tell us?* She described the use of the longitudinal study of Australian Children (LSAC) and the "Child Health Checkpoint" collecting medical, behavioural and developmental data from a representative sample of children across Australia.

After lunch Paul Bradshaw provided a comprehensive introduction to GUS and how it can be used and attendees were [presented with trail dataset to allow them to practice using the data. The meeting closed at 4pm. Feedback suggested that the seminar had been very successful in introducing a number of new people to the use of cohort data and for many, especially those coming from Scotland, GUS may prove a useful resource in future.