

SOEP 2012

10th International SOEP User Conference 2012 Berlin, June 28 to 29, 2012

The 10th international SOEP User Conference took place in Berlin on June 28-29, 2012. Over 160 participants from 10 countries attended the event and 66 papers and 15 posters were presented, followed by lively discussions. The first day of the conference was held at the Hertie School of Governance in their building on Friedrichstraße and at DIW Berlin around the corner, and continued the second day at the new headquarters of the Leibniz Association on Chausseestraße in Berlin Mitte.

The wide range of themes dealt with in the research presented at this year's SOEP conference shows that the SOEP data is being used to investigate increasingly complex research questions. As noted in the opening address by permanent secretary of the Senate Administration for Economics, Technology and Research, Mr. Nicolas Zimmer, it is of great social relevance when this research is able to provide policy makers with findings on the health consequences of unjust income distributions or answers to the question of how parental affluence or poverty affects children's educational attainment. Many of the papers at this year's conference dealt with the trends, causes, and consequences of the distribu-



Registration inside ...



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tion of social resources—a core interest shared by a large number of SOEP researchers. Some of these addressed specific questions of access to education and jobs, chances of upward social mobility, but also effects of unemployment and downward social mobility.

The conference was opened by the Acting Director of SOEP, **Jürgen Schupp**. In his opening speech, he thanked two very special guests for attending, both of whom played important roles in SOEP's founding 30 years ago. The first of these was Professor Dr. **Hans-Jürgen Krupp**, one of the founding fathers of the SOEP and President of DIW Berlin in the 1980s. He was responsible for bringing the SOEP to Berlin as part of a multidisciplinary Collaborative Research Center of the German Research Association. The second, **Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Zapf**, was Speaker of this Collaborative Research Center for many years, and also President of the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB). He also acted as Deputy Director of the SOEP for almost half a year between 1988 and 1989 after Hans-Jürgen Krupp was elected Senator in Hamburg. Both of these SOEP founders agreed to speak at a special Brown Bag Seminar that took place alongside the conference and was attended by large numbers of younger SOEP users and doctoral students. There, the two SOEP founders reflected on their experiences and discussed the historical context of the SOEP's founding 30 years ago.

The conference opened on June 28 with a special plenary session in memory of our colleague Joachim R. Frick and in honor of his scientific achievements. The session, with 3 paper presentations, was introduced by **Conchita D'Ambrosio**, Professor at the University of Milan, DIW Research Professor, and coauthor of numerous papers with Joachim R. Frick.



Ursina Kuhn during her presentation.



Jürgen Schupp welcomes the conference participants.



SOEP founding fathers Wolfgang Zapf and Hans-Jürgen Krupp.



Special Brown Bag Seminar.



Conchita D'Ambrosio opening the Joachim R. Frick Memorial Session.

An impressive keynote speech was delivered by **Shelly Lundberg**, Professor of Demography at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and as well Professor at the University of Bergen on “Personality and Educational Inequality.”



Shelly Lundberg giving her keynote.



Dean Lillard opening the first poster session.

That afternoon and the following morning, researchers discussed their current work in 13 different sessions. Before the first evening’s wine and cheese reception, **Dean Lillard**, managing director of the CNEF opened the first poster session.

Photo: Impressions of the first conference day





Impressions of the new headquarters of Leibniz Association.

June, 29, 2012

The next day, **Janet C. Gornick**, Director of the Luxembourg Income Study and as well Professor at the City University New York, held the second keynote speech, “Gender, Work, Family, and Social Policy: A Cross-National Perspective”.

Parallel sessions took place that afternoon, again with a large number of interesting paper presentations. The second poster session was introduced by Thorsten Schneider, Professor at the University of Leipzig.

The second day ended with a closing ceremony. Jürgen Schupp opened by thanking longtime member of the SOEP team at TNS-Infratest, **Fritz Stutz**, for his over 20 years of valuable work managing and updating the SOEP “panel file,” the confidential list of all SOEP addresses, and wished him well for his upcoming retirement this fall.

Thereafter, the Acting Chairman of the Board of the Society of Friends of DIW Berlin, Mr. **Arne Brekenfeld**, thanked the conference participants for attending. The Society’s generous contributions made possible the presentation of awards for outstanding achievement in SOEP at this year’s SOEP Conference.

Arne Brekenfeld first presented the winner of the 2012 Felix Büchel Award to **Prof. Bruce W. Headey** of the University of Melbourne for his over 20 years



Keynote speech II: Janet Gornick.



Jürgen Schupp thanks Fritz Stutz.



Acting Chairman of the Board of the Society of Friends Arne Brekenfeld



Felix Büchel Award Winner Bruce W. Headey.



Photo: Arne Brekenfeld (left), Society of Friends of DIW Berlin and the award winners, Katrin Sommerfeld, Anja Oppermann, and Fabian T. Pfeffer with C. Katharina Spieß from the SOEP2012 Scientific Program Committee.

of work and the publication of 49 refereed papers based on SOEP data. The previous Felix Büchel Award winner from 2010, **Prof. Rich Lucas**, Professor at Michigan State University, held the speech honoring Bruce Headey’s work.

For the first time this year, Joachim R. Frick Memorial Prizes were awarded for the best papers presented at the conference. The Conference Program Committee selected the following from the over 60 papers presented, based also on the recommendations of the session chairs (listed in alphabetical order).

Anja Oppermann, University of Cologne for her paper „A New Color in the Picture – The Role of Educational Fields on Fertility in Western Germany.“

Katrin Sommerfeld, University of Freiburg, for her paper „Higher and Higher? Performance Pay and Wage Inequality in Germany.“

The Joachim R. Frick Memorial Prize for the best poster went to **Frieder Kropfhäuser** and **Marco Sunder**, University of Leipzig, for their work on «A



from the left: Rich Lucas, Bruce R. Headey, and Jürgen Schupp



from the left: J. Schupp, G.Wagner, Christiane Neumann, and A. Brekenfeld



Chairman of the DIW Berlin Gert G. Wagner.



View from the roof top.

Weighty Issue Revisited: The Effect of Body Weight on Earnings and Satisfaction in Germany.»

A special prize was awarded this year for the best lecture in the Special Session in Memory of Joachim R. Frick to **Fabian T. Peffer**, University of Michigan, and **Martin Hällsten**, University of Stockholm for their work on: «Wealth Effects in Three Mobility Regimes. The United States, Germany, and Sweden.»

The conference ended with a dinner and reception in the atrium of the new Leibniz Association head-quarters.



The new Leibniz Association headquarter by night.

Good bye.

