

SOEP newsletter

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The SOEP is an integral part of Germany's research infrastructure and is funded by the federal and state governments at DIW Berlin under the framework of the Leibniz Association.





Jan Goebel
Division Head "Data Operation
and Research Data Center
(RDC)"

A note on ... regional and other con- textual data sources in the SOEP

With its diverse topics and over 30 years of data at hand, the SOEP provides a one-of-a-kind source of information on the socio-economic situations of households, families, and individual people in Germany. When the SOEP was first started as an annual household and individual-level survey of adults aged 16 and older, it was designed to account for the household as a context for all social and economic activities and to provide user-friendly possibilities for the analysis of this data by individual researchers. Over the years, innovations in the SOEP survey program have brought progressive improvements in the possibilities and information available to describe people's various life contexts. The data currently or soon to become available extend far beyond the immediate household context.

This development began in the mid-1990s, when it first became possible to group SOEP households at the level of spatial planning regions. Just a few years later, smaller-scale regional codes became available at the county level. Both of these regional indicators are available for the SOEP for every year since 1985 and can easily be linked with consistent time series such as from the BBSR. As of this year, the BBSR information is easily available online at www.inkar.de.

Even on a smaller scale, regional codes can be used with the SOEP as well: postal and municipal codes are available for every year since 1993. And since 2000, households' immediate surroundings can be described using data from [microm GmbH](http://microm.gmbh.de), at the level of street sections or subdivisions of postal code areas (known as "PLZ-8"). To provide these data to our users for their research, we have to take a number of data protection measures. An overview of the possibilities for using these data is given [on our website](#).

We have already made enormous progress over recent years in providing small-scale regional codes for analyses that combine individual data with spatial context characteristics in a useful way. In recent years, it has even become possible to use household coordinates in linked analyses—with the SOEP data, since the survey year 2000. Of course, in such cases, the data protection requirements are extremely high. Access is only provided via a secure server at the SOEP Research Data Center. And even though the simultaneous use of coordinates with survey data is forbidden, we have nevertheless developed a relatively user-friendly

solution for the use of these data in your research. The concept is described [in a recent paper](#).

Alongside the "private" household context and the "public" spatial context, there are also a range of other relevant contexts in which important decisions are made that affect the activities of SOEP households. The [SOEP-LEE project](#), a survey of SOEP respondents' employers carried out in 2012, has led to a substantial improvement in the information available on respondents' workplace contexts and working conditions.

The [project](#) "Early childhood education and care quality in the Socio-Economic Panel" (SOEP-ECEC Quality) is currently being conducted with funding from the Jacobs Foundation to provide a better understanding of how the quality of early childhood care affects later life outcomes. In the framework of this project, data are being collected on the quality of care in childcare facilities attended by children in SOEP households prior to entering school. By combining the data from these facilities with the individual and household data from the ongoing SOEP study, researchers will soon be able to study not only the connections between care quality and child development in early childhood, but also the medium- and long-term effects of early childhood education and care quality—from childhood through school and into adulthood.

Two ongoing projects, both funded through the Leibniz Competition, seek to expand the possibilities for utilizing information from linking register data with survey data. In the project [SOEP-REC-LINK](#), a subsample of respondents from the IAB-SOEP migration sample were asked for permission to link their survey data with register data from the Integrated Employment Biographies (IEB). Because the linkage of survey and register data is both sensitive and potentially very promising for the SOEP, an experimental design was employed, randomly allocating a portion of the participants to the record linkage procedure. This project thus provides the basis for the first detailed investigation of the methodological implications of linking survey and register data. The experience gained in this project will feed into the recently launched Leibniz Competition project [EVA-MIN](#), which also aims at expanding the possibilities for record linkage with the SOEP data in order to analyze the effects of the newly introduced minimum wage in Germany.

With all of our efforts to include a wide range of new dimensions in the SOEP database, our guiding principle always remains the same: as a research infrastructure, we want to provide the international research community with representative longitudinal data on Germany for top-level research that will improve our understanding of all human behavior in its constantly changing contexts.

Jan Goebel
Deputy Director of SOEP

German Section

Ankündigung: SOEPcampus@ Universität Mannheim

Längsschnittdatenanalyse mit dem
Sozio-ökonomischen Panel,
22. – 24. Juni, Mannheim

Der Workshop wird von der Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences (GESS) in Zusammenarbeit mit dem SOEP veranstaltet und findet vom 22. bis 24. Juni 2015 an der Fakultät für Sozialwissenschaften der Universität Mannheim im Gebäude A5,6, Raum C - 108 statt. Lokaler Ausrichter ist der Lehrstuhl für Methoden der empirischen Sozialforschung (Professor Dr. Thomas Gautschi). Für die aktive Teilnahme an dem Kurs und das Erfüllen von Aufgaben im Anschluss können 3 ECTS vergeben werden.

Zielgruppe und Teilnahmevoraussetzungen

Die Veranstaltung richtet sich neben den Mitgliedern der Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences (GESS) auch an alle anderen Studierende, Doktorand_innen und Nachwuchswissenschaftler_innen in den Sozial- und Wirtschaftswissenschaften. Voraussetzung für die Teilnahme sind solide Kenntnisse in multivariaten Analyseverfahren und erste praktische Erfahrungen mit der Datenanalyse. Kenntnisse im Arbeiten mit dem SOEP werden nicht vorausgesetzt. In den Beispielen und Übungen im Rahmen des Workshops wird ausschließlich das Statistikprogrammpaket STATA verwendet.

Teilnahme und Anmeldung

Die Teilnahmegebühr beträgt 50 Euro (reduziert für Studierende 20 Euro). Anmeldungen sind ab sofort und bis zum 20.5.2015 möglich. Laden Sie dazu das [Anmeldeformular](#) von der Homepage der GESS herunter und senden Sie es ausgefüllt per E-Mail an SOEP@uni-mannheim.de. Die Teilnehmerzahl ist auf 35 begrenzt. Mit der Anmeldebestätigung erhalten Sie eine Information, wie die Teilnahmegebühr zu entrichten ist. Informationen zum detaillierten Kursprogramm erhalten Sie unter [SOEPcampus](#).

Bericht: SOEPcampus@DIW Berlin

Am 3. und 4. März 2015 fand wieder der jährliche deutschsprachige Workshop zur Einführung in die Analyse der SOEP-Daten am DIW Berlin statt.



Knapp 30 Teilnehmer_innen aus ganz Deutschland besuchten den Workshop. Im Rahmen von Plenarveranstaltungen wurden die User über Inhalt, Struktur und Nutzungsmöglichkeiten der SOEP-Daten, sowie die Hochrechnung und Gewichtung informiert. Neben dem Dokumentationsmaterial bildete in diesem Jahr auch der User-Support über die SOEP-Website einen Schwerpunkt: Marcel Hebing, SOEP, stellte das neue Informationssystem SOEPinfo v.2 (bzw. paneldata.org) vor. Dieses Informations- und Dokumentationssystem wird als Weiterentwicklung und Ausbau unseres Klassikers SOEPinfo in den nächsten Jahren viele unserer Nutzer_innen durch die Datenaufbereitung geleiten. Entsprechend groß war das Interesse an dem von Marcel Hebing gebotenen Überblick.

Im weiteren Verlauf der Veranstaltung standen die Hands-on-Sessions im Vordergrund, in denen in software- und disziplinspezifischen Arbeitsgruppen der Umgang mit dem neuen Dokumentationssystem auf der Basis von STATA oder SPSS geübt werden konnte. Das abendliche ‚Get-together‘ bot Gelegenheit zur Netzwerkpflege von Datenproduzent_innen und –nutzer_innen. Bei Wein und Brezeln konnten sich alle besser kennen lernen und dabei auch von der Multidisziplinarität der Teilnehmer_innen aus Soziologie, Ökonomie, Politikwissenschaften, Psychologie und Erziehungswissenschaften profitieren.

Gundi Knies, Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), University of Essex, präsentiert die UK Household Longitudinal Study (Understanding Society)



Photos: Christine Kurka

Zusätzlich wurde in diesem Jahr der zunehmenden Nachfrage nach Einführungsangeboten zu international vergleichender Längsschnittforschung nachgekommen. Es wurde daher im Rahmen des Workshops auch ein Vortrag über die UK Household Longitudinal Study (Understanding Society) angeboten, präsentiert von Gundi **Knies**, Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) / University of Essex. Dabei wurden einerseits vergleichende Analysepotentiale zum SOEP herausgestellt, andererseits die strukturellen und thematischen Unterschiede von SOEP und UKHLS diskutiert. Dieser Vortrag stieß auf breites Interesse auch bei Teilnehmer_innen außerhalb des Workshops.

Wir freuen uns, dass die Schulung wiederholt eine positive Resonanz unter den Teilnehmer_innen hervorrief, was sich auch in der abschließenden anonymen schriftlichen Befragung spiegelte. Die dabei gegebenen wertvollen Anregungen werden wir

bei der Vorbereitung des SOEP-User-Workshops 2016 berücksichtigen.

Bericht: Workshop „Mikrodaten für die Zeitgeschichte“

Am 9. und 10. März 2015 fand in der Mainzer Akademie für Wissenschaften und der Literatur ein Workshop zum Thema „Mikrodaten für die Zeitgeschichte“ statt. Dabei ging es – und wird weiter gehen – um die systematische Nutzung von Mikrodaten für die zeitgeschichtliche Forschung.

Eingeladen zu dem Workshop, der von der Mainzer Akademie organisiert und finanziert wurde, hatten der Zeitgeschichtler Lutz **Raphel** (Universität Trier) und Gert G. **Wagner** (SOEP), die sich beide aus ihrer gemeinsamen Zeit im Wissenschaftsrat kennen. Mitveranstalter waren der Sozialwissenschaftler Stefan **Hradil** (Universität Mainz und Vizepräsident der Mainzer Akademie) und Claudius **Geisler**, der Generalsekretär der Akademie. Es ging darum auszuloten, welche Möglichkeiten für die zeitgeschichtliche Forschung gezielte Analyse von Mikrodaten der amtlichen Statistik und der akademischen Surveyforschung unter einem spezifischen Blickwinkel der neueren und neusten Geschichte bieten. Als Vertreter der Datenproduzenten waren Mitarbeiter_innen und Nutzer_innen des ALLBUS, des Mikrozensus und des SOEP in Mainz dabei. Und neben Lutz Raphel waren Zeithistoriker_innen und Sozialwissenschaftler_innen aus Berlin, Frankfurt am Main, Mainz und Münster sowie der beiden einschlägigen zeithistorischen Institute in der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft (Institut für Zeitgeschichte München - Berlin (IfZ), Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam (ZZF)) in Mainz vertreten. Die Forschungsstelle für Zeitgeschichte in Hamburg war verhindert, hat jedoch im Vorfeld Interesse signalisiert.

Die Teilnehmer_innen kamen überein, die systematische Nutzung von statistischen Mikrodaten für die zeitgeschichtliche Forschung weiter zu verfolgen. Die Mainzer Akademie für Wissenschaften und der Literatur wird als Organisationszentrum fungieren. Es soll zügig ein Newsletter eingerichtet werden und ggf. zum Jahresende hin zu einem weiteren Treffen eingeladen werden.

SOEP-Nutzer_innen, die Interesse an der Thematik und ggf. an einer aktiven Teilnahme an dieser Initiative haben, wenden sich bitte an Gert G. Wagner (gwagner@diw.de).

Data & Service

SOEP questionnaire 2016

Fieldwork for the 32nd wave of the SOEP survey is underway, and we would like to inform all our users—in particular longtime SOEP users—about our plans for survey content and special modules in 2016. In line with the “SOEP replication schedule”, which defines when and how often the various modules are repeated, we plan to repeat most of the in-depth questions from 2015 on introduction of the minimum wage again next year. We also plan a replication of questions on the Inglehart index of materialist / post-materialist values, which were surveyed in 1985 and 1986. Since then, this module has been repeated every 10 years (1996 and 2006). With the 2016 survey wave, it will provide a unique longitudinal database covering over 30 years on more than 2,000 respondents in the former West Germany, allowing researchers to differentiate period, age, and cohort effects of value changes.

We also plan to repeat the module on “Family and Social Networks,” which was last surveyed in 2011. In it, we regularly ask about the size of family networks outside the private household and where these individuals live. The module includes not only the (closed and standardized) network questions, which now cover five dimensions, but also the so-called “three friends” network question. Last but not least, questions based on the Effort-Reward Imbalance (ERI) Scale will be replicated with all employed respondents. The scale was first used in the SOEP survey in 2006 and repeated for the second time in 2011. The household questionnaire will have no special focus in 2016, but will include the question on pets in the household, which has been repeated every five years since 1996.

For a summary of all special modules in the 2016 survey, please see http://www.diw.de/documents/dokumentenarchiv/17/diw_01.c.499147.de/soep_modules_2016.pdf. If you have any questions, suggestions for shortening parts of modules, or ideas for modifications or additional topics, we would be happy to hear from you. Please contact us at: soep-surveymanagement@diw.de.

We have decided to no longer repeat a number of questions based on an internal discussion and all feedback received on our general revision. For an overview, see: http://www.diw.de/documents/dokumentenarchiv/17/diw_01.c.499150.de/soepfra-

[bo_revision_2015.pdf](#). We would be happy to answer any questions you have on this point as well.

SOEP 1984–2013 data (v30beta)

SOEP-Core, DOI: [10.5684/soep.v30beta](https://doi.org/10.5684/soep.v30beta)

Available for the second time for download and free of charge to all users in EEA countries.

SOEP-Core international version, DOI: [10.5684/soep.v30ibeta](https://doi.org/10.5684/soep.v30ibeta)

The International Scientific Use Version of the SOEP data (95%), available for download and free of charge to all users outside EEA countries.

SOEPlong data ready for distribution

The SOEPlong data will be released in early April (more information on SOEPlong in [SOEPnews-letter 103](#)). After Easter, we will be sending out automatic e-mails to all those who have already ordered SOEPlong data with their personal download link and the password needed to complete the download.

Update still planned

We have not yet obtained the final Microcensus information for 2013 that would allow us to estimate the size of the target population of Sample M—the SOEP’s latest migrant boost sample—within the overall population. For cross-sectional distributional analyses in the context of descriptively oriented policy advice—for example, studies of income inequality or of poverty in the year 2013—we recommend using the final weighting variables that will be released as soon as possible rather than the provisional weighting variables (labeled as BETA version in the data).

Order now: SOEP 1984–2013 data (v30beta and v30ibeta)

As a brief explanation for users who have never downloaded the SOEP data: We have had a very positive experience with our first online data delivery and are delighted to continue providing you the possibility for secure online data downloads. We ensure the highest standards of data protection in the transfer of SOEP data to you through use of the program cryptshare (www.cryptshare.com), which offers completely encrypted transfers as well as a personalized link and password. Please note that you will need two different passwords that will be provided to you by the SOEP hotline to download the data and open the zip file.

Because we no longer have the production costs and postal charges for the DVD, we are able to provide the SOEP data free of charge. DIW Berlin is currently providing the complete (100%) version of the SOEP data to users in EEA countries as well as the International Scientific Use Version of the SOEP data (95%) to users outside the EEA countries.

You can place your order for the SOEP data now with the online order form on our Internet page under “forms.” To obtain the data, please let us know whether you’re working with German or/and English labels in STATA, SAS, SPSS, or ASCII.

The SOEPHotline staff will be happy to take your order, either by e-mail at soepmail@diw.de or by telephone at +49-30-89789-292. You can also complete and return the order form attached to this SOEPnewsletter or order online:

In English: <http://www.diw.de/SOEPorder>

In German: <http://www.diw.de/SOEPbestellung>

Data documentation

None of the additional documentation that was previously included on our DVD is included in the download. However, all these documents are available on the website of our Research Data Center. You can download the documentation of the data in a [zip file](#).

You also will find the documentation as separate files under “generated variables” on the website of the [Research Data Center SOEP](#).

Information on what has changed since the last data release (what additional datasets and variables are available, what bugfixes have been added, etc.) are also provided on the website of the [Research Data Center SOEP](#) (→Documentation, →Changes in the Dataset).



SOEP-IS: Data distribution 2013

The data from the 2013 survey of the SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS) will be released soon and can be ordered by SOEP users now. The data will be available as of April 27, 2015, and will be downloadable from a secure website. Simultaneously we will be releasing the data from the 2011 and 2012 innovation modules.

The SOEP-IS contained the following innovation modules in 2011:

- Implicit Association Test (IAT) and corresponding explicit questions measuring gender stereotypes.
- The measurement of the four facets of sensitivity to injustice (victim sensitivity, observer sensitivity, beneficiary sensitivity, perpetrator sensitivity).
- Questions about private, public, and company pensions.

In 2012, the following innovation modules were surveyed:

- Adaptive Test of Environmental Behavior
- Control Strivings
- Day Reconstruction Method (DRM)
- Experiment on Expected Financial Market Earnings
- Explicit Measurement of Self-Esteem
- Implicit Association Test (IAT) of Self-Esteem
- Fear of Dementia
- Just Sustainable Development Based on the Capability Approach (GeNECA)
- Short Scales on Loneliness & Depression

The data from the 2013 SOEP-IS modules will be provided exclusively to the researchers who proposed the respective ideas for an initial period of 12 months. They will be released to the rest of the SOEP user community in Spring 2016.

BASE II survey 2014

Fifth SOEP-identical survey of the Berlin Aging Study II (BASE-II) completed

The fifth wave of the Berlin Aging Study II (BASE-II), which used the SOEP questionnaire, surveyed 2,232 individuals in 1,536 households. The BASE-II sample was recruited successively and is now complete. There are five waves of BASE-II SOEP-like survey data available for 86 respondents; four waves for 51 respondents; three waves for 913 respondents; two waves for 1,028 respondents; and one wave for 1,236 respondents. The pool of respondents who have stated willingness to participate in the next wave contains approximately 2,500 individuals. This means that over 2,000 respondents can be expected to participate in the next wave. It remains to be determined when this wave will take place.

Project homepage: <https://www.base2.mpg.de/en>

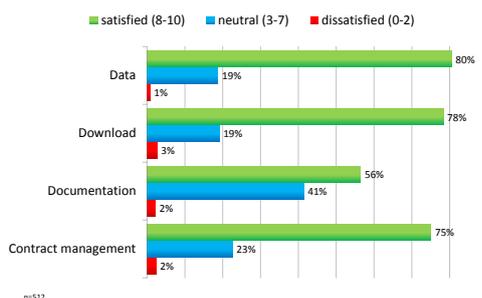
The part of the BASE-II project that is being conducted at DIW Berlin as a related SOEP study (SOEP-RS) is described here: http://www.diw.de/en/diw_01.c.395666.en

Results of the 2014 SOEP User Survey

In fall 2014, a notable 662 SOEP users—to whom we are very grateful—took part again in our SOEP User Survey and gave us feedback on the range of services we currently provide. The survey always asks respondents to evaluate each of our individual service areas. As seen in Figure 1, users gave high marks for the data download service introduced in 2013. Users reported equally high levels of satisfaction with the quality of the data and contract management. In the area of documentation, however, respondents saw room for improvement. We

Figure 1

Satisfaction with SOEP-Services



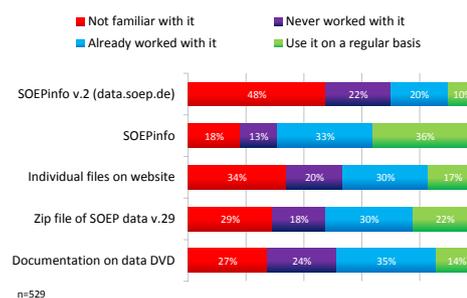
are well aware of the importance of our data documentation and are working constantly to improve in this area. One example is the recently updated Desktop Companion (<http://about.paneldata.org/soep/dtc/>). Since the SOEP is still expanding with its various Related Studies (SOEP-RS), increasing effort is required to produce detailed documentation. Integrating the FiD study, which ran through 2014, into SOEPCore poses one such challenge. In 2015, we will be focusing on adapting these data to guarantee consistent and user-friendly documentation of the SOEP data.

SOEPinfo v.2 to provide better access to data documentation

In addition, we plan to further establish the use of our new metadata portal, SOEPinfo v.2, in our user community. It was developed as part of the open-source project “DDI on Rails” and includes not only thorough documentation of SOEPCore from the previous online resource, SOEPinfo, but also a complete picture of the SOEPlong data. The user survey showed that just a few months after SOEPinfo v.2 was introduced, around one-third of all respondents had already worked with it (Figure 2). This group of respondents gave the version they used an average of 7 out of 10 possible points. In four out of six subcategories—visual design, information content, quality of the generated syntax, and response speed—the average rating was 7 or above. Overall, users’ evaluations of the new SOEPinfo were around equally high as those in 2011 in the same categories.

Figure 2

Use of documentation services



Survey respondents who had not used the new SOEPinfo v.2 reported that they were continuing to use the old SOEPinfo mainly out of habit or because they did not see a need to switch. We are very curious to see how users will respond to the question of which data documentation sources they use in the next user survey. Until then, we would like to encourage all our users to take advantage of this new service and especially of the opportunity to provide us with your feedback.

International cooperation

CNEF

News Ohio State University

Update on CNEF funding situation

Despite the many letters of support from CNEF users, our NIH reviewers did not score the most recent funding application high enough to earn funding (the payline is quite low). Dean **Lillard** will try once more. But in the meantime, he has implemented an alternative funding mechanism to try to generate money to hire assistance for the day-to-day running of the CNEF project.

In particular, he has set up a “gift” account at Ohio State University. For various bureaucratic reasons, this solution is the only one that has a hope of working. He is calling on all “friends of CNEF” to donate to the fund. He invites long-time and new users to donate. If you donate, please send a check made out to “Ohio State University.” In the memo line of the check, write “Fund Number 314978.”

Ohio State University will deposit the money into the “Cross-National Equivalent Fund” that we will then be able to use to defray the data production costs. Right now we don’t have a project assistant or any graduate students so the PSID and BHPS/Understanding Society data have not been updated. As soon as we get the money to hire an assistant, we will update and circulate those data.

Publications

DIW research fellows Dean **Lillard** (Ohio State University) and Richard **Burkhauser** (Cornell University and University of Melbourne), together with HILDA researchers Roger **Wilkins** and Markus **Hahn** (both University of Melbourne), have recently published a paper on the relationship between early-life income inequality and self-reported health in later life. Using CNEF-PSID data for the project, they find a robust association between income inequality and health. People who grew up during periods of more income inequality are more likely to report being in poor health as adults.

Lillard, Dean R., **Burkhauser**, Richard V., **Hahn**, Markus H., and **Wilkins**, Roger. 2015. “Does Early-Life Income Inequality Predict Self-Reported Health In Later Life? Evidence From the US.” *Social Science and Medicine*, 128: 347-355 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2014.12.026>.

Dean **Lillard** (Ohio State University) and Rebekka **Christopoulou** (University of Macedonia) published a paper using CNEF-BHPS and CNEF-HILDA to estimate a robust association between a British “smoking culture” and the probability of smoking among children of British immigrants in the US and Australia. The paper makes novel use of the retrospective smoking information available in the parent files of the BHPS and HILDA and uses CNEF data to control for other characteristics.

Christopoulou, R. and **Lillard**, D. R. 2015. “Is Smoking Behavior Culturally Determined? Evidence from British Immigrants.” *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 110: 78-90 (also available as NBER Working paper 19036).

DIW research fellow Dean **Lillard** (Ohio State University) and Rebekka **Christopoulou** (University of Macedonia) will publish an edited volume on smoking behavior, titled “Life-Course Smoking Behavior: Patterns and national context in ten countries.” Ten chapters of the book describe life-course smoking trajectories of seven cohorts of men and women in Australia, Canada, China, Germany, the Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Using individual data on lifetime smoking, the book covers more than 80 years of history—from the 1920s to the 2000s. Three chapters of the book compare and contrast smoking behavior of men, women, and men relative to women across the 10 countries—with multivariate analyses of the partial correlation common, to all ten countries, between potential determinants and smoking behavior. Oxford University Press will publish the book—available starting June 1, 2015.

The book uses CNEF data from Australia, Germany, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom.

Events & Activities

Evaluation of the new German minimum wage legislation

The Leibniz Competition-funded project “Evaluating the Minimum Wage Introduction in Germany” (EVA-MIN) is now underway. Together with cooperation partners at the University of Potsdam and the Institute for Employment Research (Nuremberg), a work program has been developed. The first visible output will be a workshop in the form of a summer school at the University of Potsdam.

Call for Papers

To kick off the project “Evaluating the Minimum Wage Introduction in Germany (EVA-MIN),” a summer school will be held at the University of Potsdam on September 21-24, 2015.

The aim of the summer school, titled “Effects and Evaluation of Minimum Wages” is to discuss alternative theoretical hypotheses on the effects of minimum wages, evaluation approaches, and the empirical evidence. Talented young researchers (graduate students and young post-docs) will have the opportunity to present and discuss their own research in empirical economics in poster sessions.

Lecturers are Gerard **van den Berg** (University of Mannheim) and Stephen **Machin** (University College London). For more information, please see: http://www.diw.de/de/diw_01.c.498251.en.

SOEP Workshop at the ASA Meeting 2015

August 21-24, Chicago, IL/USA

The annual meeting of the American Sociological Association is the most significant international conference in Sociology. The SOEP has a strong track record of participating in the conference via paper presentations and joint workshops. For this year’s meeting, which will be held on August 21-24 in Chicago, we have further developed and extended our connection with the sociological community in the USA by establishing a workshop devoted specifically to SOEP data at the ASA meeting. This workshop is organized by SOEP team mem-

ber Marco **Giesselmann** and SOEP director Jürgen **Schupp**.

Report: Delmenhorst Symposium

11th International Young Scholar German Socio-Economic Panel Symposium

The International Young Scholar German Socio-Economic Panel Symposium took place from March 12-13, 2015, in Delmenhorst at the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg, Institute for Advanced Study.

The International Young Scholar German Socio-Economic Panel Symposium attracted more than 25 participants. In two days of sessions, PhD students presented papers from their ongoing doctoral thesis projects. The organizing committee consisted of Olaf **Groh-Samberg**, Ulrike **Ehrlich**, Lukas **Hoppe**, Katharina **Klug**, Nora **Waitkus**, and Ramsey **Wise** (University of Bremen, BIGSSS); Martin **Kroh** and Carsten **Schröder** (DIW/SOEP); Markus **Tepe** (Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg); and Susanne **Fuchs** (Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg).

The symposium opened with a welcome address by Olaf Groh-Samberg (BIGSSS, University of Bremen), who briefly reflected on the success of the SOEP Symposium thanks to the efforts of young SOEP scholars at Bremen and Berlin and to the unique format of a one-to-one match of presenters and commentators. He was followed by Carsten Schröder (Deputy Director of SOEP), who emphasized the role of high-quality micro data in the social sciences and the interest of the SOEP in supporting young scholars who make use of SOEP data. Schröder was followed by Wolfgang **Stenzel** (Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg), who highlighted the benefits of the Symposium for PhD students. As Stenzel noted, from the previous cohorts of Symposium presenters, today almost 25 have gained the status of a professor.

Presentations

Presentations on the first day focused on the broad field of labor economics—the interplay between wage schemes and effort, the effects of overqualified re-entry into labor markets, the role of vocational degrees for employment, labor market trends, as well as income risks and income volatil-



Photos: Team Delmenhorst



ity. The SOEP lecture, held by Carsten Schröder, dealt with recent innovations under the overarching umbrella of the SOEP—the SOEP-Related Studies (SOEP-RS), the SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS), and the SOEP minimum wage module, an effort to build a high-quality micro database for a comprehensive evaluation of the recent minimum wage reform. On the second day, the first set of presentations dealt with gender and the labor market. These were followed by presentations on cohort effects on political interest, the employment effects of shop opening hours regulations, intergenerational effects of parental job loss on education, and the interplay between education and cognitive skills.

Needless to say, the common element of all the presentations was their empirical foundation: the German Socio-Economic Panel data. All of the

presentations were of high interest and generated lively discussion involving both the discussants—who did a great job in pointing out the weaknesses and strengths of the papers—and the audience. In the discussions, experts shared their experiences from international top-level research, highlighting gaps in the scientific discourse and encouraging the PhD students to address these with appropriate research designs.

Closing ceremony and winners of the Joachim-Frick Memorial Prize

In the closing ceremony at the end of the second day, the winners of the Joachim-Frick Memorial Prize were honored. The awards speech was given by Carsten Schröder. This year, two prizes were awarded. One went to Annemarie **Paul** for her paper on “After job shopping? Employment effects of a deregulation of shop opening hours in the Ger-

man retail sector,” a technically sophisticated and convincing analysis of an important topic using a quasi-experimental design to identify the employment effect of a liberalization of opening hours. The second prize went to Mareike **Bünning** for her paper on “Fathers’ part time work: Does it have a lasting effect on fathers’ involvement at home?”, which addresses a highly policy-relevant topic and convincingly shows that recent reforms may well lead to better fathers and husbands.

Report on the ninth workshop on panel surveys in Germany

The ninth “Panel Surveys in Germany” workshop took place from February 5-6, 2015, at the University of Mannheim. Held annually since 2009, the workshop provides a venue for the various German longitudinal studies to exchange experiences. A focus is on the discussion of recent survey methodology questions and new challenges facing panel surveys.

This year, the workshop was organized by Ulrich **Krieger** from the German Internet Panel (GIP), part of the “Political Economy of Reforms” Collaborative Research Center (Sfb 884) at the University of Mannheim. Around a dozen presentations were held at the workshop. They included one by SOEP team members Jan **Goebel** and Marcel **Hebing** on recent developments in the SOEP metadata docu-



Photo: Ulrich Krieger

mentation system “DDI on Rails” and on the new Internet platform www.paneldata.org. This site allows panel studies to introduce themselves in a kind of “institutional display case” and enables other researchers to search their information in a standardized metadata documentation format.

Denise **Saßenroth** and Jürgen **Schupp** gave a presentation on the SOEP’s initial experiences with the introduction of CAWI (Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing) in place of CAPI (Computer-

Assisted Personal Interviewing) in a household panel study.

The tenth workshop in February 2016 will be organized by the SOEP group and be held at DIW Berlin.

Report: “Mixed-Methods Projects with the SOEP”

On December 12, 2014, DIW Berlin hosted a workshop on “Mixed-Methods Projects with the SOEP”. It was attended by researchers who are currently using mixed-methods approaches in SOEP-based research, combining or enhancing qualitative surveys with the quantitative SOEP data. The goal was to promote exchange among the over 20 participants and to discuss key issues and problems.

Two major mixed-methods studies have been conducted with the SOEP so far, and two more are scheduled to start soon. One study currently running in the SOEP with third-party funding and headed and presented at the workshop by Ingrid **Tucci** focuses on the children of Turkish immigrants to Germany and their journeys to adulthood (“Das Erwachsenwerden der Nachkommen türkischer Einwanderer in Deutschland”). At the workshop, Andrea **Hense** and Daniela **Schiek** also discussed their experiences on the Bielefeld project “Companies and Inequality: The Synchronic and Diachronic Inequality Effects of Temporary Layoffs (Recalls)” (project head: Prof. Stefan **Liébig**). Olaf **Groh-Samberg**, Henning **Lohmann**, and Benedikt **Rogge** reported on their project on “Status Dynamics and Educational Inheritance of the family.” Andrea **Gensicke** and Axel **Glemser** from our survey institute, TNS Infratest Sozialforschung, also attended the workshop as guests. Ms. Gensicke reported on her experiences as coordinator of SOEP fieldwork. The focus of all these reports was on working together to develop a set of guidelines for conducting mixed-methods studies with the SOEP.

Another point on the workshop agenda was a discussion of open questions in mixed-methods research that are of particular relevance for studies with the SOEP. Important topics were the potentials of mixed-methods studies for the SOEP and issues of data protection and archiving of qualitative interviews with SOEP respondents.

Presenters' reports on their experiences and the group discussions that followed offered a productive framework for discussing key questions of the conception and implementation of mixed-methods studies with the SOEP.

Report: Conference on mixed methods research

"Beyond Methodological Dualism" conference in Bielefeld

The first major conference in Germany on the topic of mixed methods research took place at the beautiful Bielefeld Center for Interdisciplinary Research on February 9-10, 2015. Entitled "Beyond methodological dualism: Combining qualitative and quantitative data," the conference was organized by Ingrid **Tucci** (DIW Berlin and University of Bielefeld), Andrea **Hense** (University of Bielefeld), Michael **Grüttner** and Stefan **Bernhardt** (IAB), and Laura **Bernardi** (LIVES, University of Lausanne). It was funded by the project SFB882, the IAB, and by LIVES, one of the Swiss National Centres of Competence in Research (<http://www.lives-nccr.ch/de>).

Over the two days of the conference, around 60 researchers discussed the diverse facets and challenges of mixed methods research. Four richly informative plenary lectures provided participants with important insights into mixed methods research. Udo **Kuckartz** (Philipps University Marburg) described the emergence, development, and future of mixed methods in detail in his lecture. According to Kuckartz, researchers are increasingly planning their projects from the outset to allow for the combination of quantitative and qualitative research, which shows that mixed-methods designs are highly promising for addressing certain types of research questions. Margrit **Schreier** (Jacobs University Bremen) discussed a range of mixed-methods research designs, focusing on the typologies that are being developed up to the present day. She showed the complexity of these typologies and the problems they entail. The typologies for describing mixed methods designs were a focus of the lecture by Kenneth **Horvath** (University of Karlsruhe) as well. He too discussed the challenges of combining quantitative and qualitative methods in data analysis. In the fourth plenary lecture, Nina **Baur** (Berlin University of Technology) showed, based on three examples from her own research

projects, how different types of data can be connected on different levels of the research process (e.g., survey data with an ethnographic study). As these lectures showed, mixed methods research is indeed by no means limited to the combination of quantitative data with qualitative interviews only.

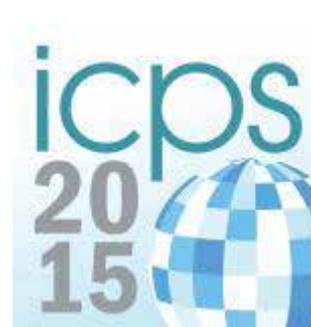
In addition to these four plenary lectures, parallel sessions took place in which methodological questions of research design and sampling and related challenges were discussed on the basis of concrete research projects. Thematic sessions on social inequality, migration research, family research, and labor market research took place as well, offering researchers a forum to present their own findings.

Up to now, two mixed-methods research projects have been conducted on the basis of the Socio-Economic Panel. Two further projects are scheduled to be launched soon.

Report: SOEP at ICPS 2015

International Convention Psychological Science (ICPS) 2015 in Amsterdam

A central part of the mission of the International Convention of Psychological Science (ICPS) is to



promote skill-building in integrative psychological science. SOEP-director Jürgen **Schupp** gave an invited lecture at the integrative science symposium "Psychology in

an Economic World: Cognition, Brain, Behavior, and Development in Socioeconomic Contexts." He talked about "Progress in Societies: Socio-Economic and Subjective Aspects of Well-being." The presentation explored the topic from an economic and sociological perspective, and emphasized the manifold relevance of psychological concepts, especially when it comes to "mapping out" and providing relevant indicators to measure subjective aspects of well-being.

David **Richter** (SOEP) and Jule **Specht** (FU and DIW Research Fellow) organized a symposium titled: "Insights into Long-Term Psychological



Photo: Jürgen Schupp

SOEP Brown Bag Seminars

The SOEP Brown Bag Seminar series offers SOEP researchers an opportunity to present their ongoing research using SOEP data. The seminars take place approximately every two weeks at DIW Berlin. Proposals for special Brown Bag Seminars are welcome.



If you would like to participate, please contact

Sarah (sdahmann@diw.de)
or Christian (ckrekel@diw.de).

If you are interested in finding out more about past presentations, please contact the presenters directly.

Presentations in the last three months have included:

Sara Hassan **Hosney** (German University in Cairo (GUC)): What Factors Determine Female Labor Force Participation in Egypt? January 14, 2015.

Oksana **Tokarchuk** (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano): The impact of tourism on the wellbeing of residents: a case of Germany. February 11, 2015.

Thorsten **Schneider** (University of Leipzig): Protection or selection? New insights into the effect of children on union dissolution in Germany. February 25, 2015.

Martin **Brümmer** and Julia **Rohrer** (University of Leipzig): “What else are you concerned about?” —Exploiting free text for quantitative social sciences. March 23, 2015.

Development: The Importance of Using Large-Scale Panel Studies.” Four papers by Jule Specht (Development of Personality Traits and Personality Types: Periods and Origins of Change), Maike **Luhmann** (The Effect of Unemployment on Life Satisfaction in Couples), Richard E. **Lucas** (Re-examining Adaptation to Disability in the SOEP and BHPS), and David Richter (Childhood Family Structure and General Life Satisfaction in Adulthood) showed the value of representative large scale panel studies like SOEP. Franz **Neyer**, University of Jena, discussed the joint outcome of the four papers.

People & Papers

SOEP People: Five questions to Elke Holst



Elke Holst has been Research Director of Gender Studies at DIW Berlin since 2010; her position became part of the DIW Berlin Executive Board in 2012. According to the F.A.Z. ranking, Holst is considered one of Germany's most influential economists. Elke Holst was a Senior Economist in the SOEP from 1990 to 2012. Her research in the SOEP focused primarily on the gender gap on the labor market. We talked to her at DIW Berlin. The interview (in German) was filmed for the "SOEP People" video series and released on March 20, Equal Pay Day: (http://www.diw.de/de/diw_01.c.499198.de).

1. *Gender has been the focus of your research for more than two decades. How did you arrive at this topic?*

It started when I was young. I was one of just a few girls in the science track at high school (Gymnasium) and later also one of the few women in economics at the University. Also I realized that the jobs I was interested in were mainly held by men. I initially wanted to become a civil engineer. The idea of ensuring that buildings are structurally sound and that high-rises are constructed safely fascinated me. I found out about the realities of being a woman on a construction site during an internship, and that lowered my enthusiasm for the field. It was the intense interest I had in the economic outcomes of individual behavior that finally led me to study economics. At some point I could not avoid the questions: Why is it that the material situation of women is so much worse than that of men? Why are there so many women with low incomes and so few women with high incomes? Why do women so often work in service jobs while men tend to hold the decision-making positions? What does that mean for our society, for everyday life?

2. *What's been your most surprising research finding so far?*

I recognized that even the most interesting findings from in-depth analyses of gender differences on the labor market found relatively little resonance among researchers, policy makers, or the public at large. In the early 2000s, I had the idea of publishing a simple indicator that anyone could understand and even reproduce themselves: the percentage of women in top management and on the supervisory boards of a large number of major corporations in Germany. This simple indicator made it clear that women were almost entirely absent in the top positions in the economy. It took a few years for the public to really pick up on these alarming findings, but finally, when a quota was introduced in Norway, interest in the topic exploded. Since then, the media have been reporting extensively about our results on the situ-

ation of men and women in management positions. Interest groups took up the topic, and now Germany even has a law introducing a gender quota on the supervisory boards of large publicly traded companies. That simple indicator on the percentage of women in top management bodies also brought more attention to our more in-depth studies on the causes of women's lower chances of promotion and lower earnings based on SOEP. Such in-depth studies are very important for good policy advice.

3. *You have been working with SOEP data since the early 1990s. Why do you find these data so interesting?*

The SOEP is an extraordinarily important and interesting dataset. It offers a treasure-trove of objective and subjective indicators for research on life in Germany. I personally am interested mainly in labor market questions: What causes someone to take a job, and what determines how many hours they work? What individual and structural characteristics determine people's earnings? How does it happen that men earn more than women? Why do women end up in management positions less frequently than men? With the SOEP you can also study how these outcomes are related to changes in the household. Do successful men tend to have successful women as partners? And what about successful women? Which types of relationship constellations encourage and which ones discourage women's financial independence?

4. *You're now a successful gender researcher. What has helped you in your professional life?*

I had a crucial experience that has always driven me to want to succeed: I went to school in the 1960s and early 1970s. There were a lot of protests and demonstrations, and it was all very exciting. So it often happened that I skipped part of the school day, and occasionally I got a warning letter. This annoyed my father immensely. What bothered him most of all was that I wasn't using my potential. And then one day he made the momen-

tous statement: “Elke, you don’t have to keep going to academic-track high school—it’s enough for you to go to secretarial school.” I realized that it’s important and a gift to be able to use your potential to learn. It also sparked my ambition.

5. *What’s your advice to young women who want to pursue a research career?*

It’s important to know the rules of the game in research. To get a good job, it’s important to have good publica-

tions. Networking also shouldn’t be underestimated. Mobility and experience abroad are also beneficial for a career. But at the same time, a woman shouldn’t put pressure on herself to be the epitome of perfection. You can’t change the world alone. But women can join together in interest groups with other women—and also with supportive men—to work toward equal career opportunities for women and men.

SOEP Survey Committee welcomes two new members

SOEP Survey Committee members James **Heckman** and Janet **Gornick** finished their current appointment period at the end of 2014. We would like to again express our thanks to them for all of their much-appreciated work on behalf of the SOEP.

The Board of Trustees of DIW Berlin has formally appointed two new members in consultation with the DIW Executive Board and the SOEP Directors.

Uwe **Sunde** will join the committee. He is a Professor of Economics at the University of Munich, where he works at the Institute of Population Economics. His research focuses on long-term development and human capital formation, labor economics, and behavioral economics.

Susann **Rohwedder** is a Senior Economist at the RAND Corporation, USA, and Associate Director of the RAND Center for the Study of Aging. She is also professor at the Pardee RAND Graduate School. Her research focuses on the economics of aging in the areas of household consumption and saving behavior, retirement, and expectation formation. Much of Rohwedder’s research work has an international focus. She is engaged in ongoing research comparing saving and retirement across the United States and several European countries.

The Board of Trustees has also extended Bärbel-Maria Kurth’s appointment for an additional three years.

Our nine Survey Committee members are: Dalton Conley (on first term: 2013-2016), Simon Gächter (on second term: 2013-2016), Jutta Heckhausen (on

first term: 2013-2016), Guillermina Jasso (on second term: 2013-2015), Bärbel-Maria Kurth (on second term: 2015-2018), Peter Lynn (on second term: 2013-2015), Susann Rohwedder (on first term: 2015-2018), Uwe Sunde (on first term: 2015-2018), and Rainer Winkelmann (Chairman, second term: 2013-2016).

The next annual SOEP Survey Committee meeting will take place on July 3, 2015, at DIW Berlin.

Award goes to dissertation using SOEP data

The Economics of Education Committee of the Verein für Socialpolitik, one of the largest professional economics associations in Europe, awarded its 2013/14 Best Dissertation Prize in the Economics of Education for a dissertation that was based in large part on SOEP data. Pia **Pinger** received the prize for her dissertation “Essays on Skills, Health and Human Inequality” submitted to the University of Mannheim in 2013 and supervised by Gerard van den Berg and James Heckman. Pinger’s dissertation is comprised of five chapters, three of which—“Maintaining Locus of Control”, “A Validation Study of Intergenerational Effects of Early-Life Conditions on Offspring’s Economic and Health Outcomes Potentially Driven by Epigenetic Imprinting”, and “Intergenerational Effects of Economic Distress: Paternal Unemployment and Child Secondary Schooling Decisions”—use the SOEP data. The



awards ceremony took place at the Committee's annual meeting at DIW Berlin on March 12-13, 2015. The prize is awarded every two years with the aim of promoting outstanding research in the economics of education and providing it with public visibility.

2015 SOEPprize

The selection process is currently underway for the next SOEPprize (official name: the VdF Best Publication Prize) for publications based on the SOEP data. Two years ago we made some changes in the decision-making process for the award, and now the final decision rests with the SOEP Survey Committee. The selection process is also no longer based solely on nominations but on all publications submitted to us and archived in SOEPlit within the two-year eligibility period. The current period is 2013 and 2014.

Nevertheless, we are grateful for suggestions of publications that would qualify for the best scientific publication by a junior researcher aged 35 or younger (suggestions to: soeplit@diw.de). We hope to be able to report decisions on the winners in the next SOEPnewsletter.



Personnel

The SOEP welcomes Sandra **Bohmann**, who joined the SOEP team in mid-February as a doctoral student. After completing a degree in European Business Studies at the University of Applied Sciences Regensburg and a BA in International Business Management at Oxford Brookes University, she shifted her focus slightly and completed an MA in Philosophy and Economics at the University of Bayreuth. Her thesis was entitled "The role of redistributive preferences and beliefs about the origin of social inequality in the Inequality-Growth Nexus." She has been a member of the BGSS since 2014 and is conducting research on socioeconomic determination of non-cognitive skills and their role in reproducing social inequality.



Peter **Eibich** left the SOEP on March 1. He is now working as a Senior Researcher am Health Economics Research Centre, Nuffield Department for Population Health, University of Oxford (<http://www.herc.ox.ac.uk/>). The work there will focus initially on the ACHE study and the cost-effectiveness of knee and hip replacements.

Jan **Goebel** and Daniel **Schnitzlein** have been appointed by Federal Labor Minister Andrea Nahles to the Scientific Advisory Board for the German federal government's Fifth Poverty and Wealth Report (Armut- und Reichtumsbericht der Bundesregierung). Every four years, the German government submits a poverty and wealth report to the Bundestag. The report is produced under the oversight of the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs with scientific advice from the advisory board as an instrument to monitor policy measures and obtain suggestions for new measures. The SOEP was also an important source of information for the German government's Poverty and Wealth Reports in past legislative periods (see: http://www.diw.de/de/diw_01.c.32228.de/gutachten_und_sonstige_arbeiten.html#274325). The fifth Poverty and Wealth Report is scheduled to appear in 2016.



Lukas **Hoppe** joined the SOEP team in mid-February to work on the project "Socio-Spatial Segregation in Germany: Scope and Trends," which is financed by the BMAS in the framework of the government's Poverty and Wealth Report. The project will analyze additional microm data in combination with SOEP data. In his dissertation at the Bremen International Graduate School for the Social Sciences (BIGSSS), Lukas Hoppe is using SOEP and microm data to explore how the co-occurrence of social and ethnic segregation produce differential effects on the integration of immigrants and their

children in Germany. Given his interest in linking sociological and spatial research questions, Lukas is especially happy to be able to be part of current developments in the area of socio-spatial data in the SOEP.



Simon **Kühne** recently won a 7,050 US dollar award from the Charles Cannell Fund in Survey Methodology for his research project “Attitude Inferences and Interviewer Effects: The Role of Interpersonal Perceptions in Face-to-Face Interviews.”

The project is part of Simon’s dissertation on “Determinants of Interviewer Effects in Face-to-Face Surveys” and is being supervised at the BGSS by Martin Kroh. The Charles Cannell Fund in Survey Methodology is based at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. Please find more information [here](#).



Maximilian **Priem** started work in the SOEP in March. His responsibilities will include integrating the FID data into the data released to SOEP users. He just completed his MSc in Public Economics at the FU Berlin

with an analysis of income trends in East and West Germany.



Marius **Pahl** successfully completed his exam as a Specialist in Social and Market Research. Congratulations!



Anika **Rasner** has left the SOEP team. She took up her new position in the Federal Chancellery on March 1. She joined a project group responsible for organizing and evaluating the Citizen Dialogs that Chancellor Merkel plans to hold.

SOEP staff activities

To give you an impression of our ongoing work, we list selected presentations by SOEP staff members at conferences.

Paper presentations in the next three months

Sarah **Dahmann**: How does education improve cognitive skills? Instructional Time versus Timing of Instruction. (1) [20th Spring Meeting of Young Economists](#), May 21-23, 2015, Ghent/Belgium; (2) [Health. Skills. Education. New Economic Perspectives on the Health-Education Nexus](#). Conference at the University of Duisburg-Essen, May 29-31, 2015, Essen/Germany.

Sarah **Dahmann**: Lernen wir nicht für die Schule sondern fürs Leben? – Der Einfluss von Bildung auf Persönlichkeit und Intelligenz. Doktorandenforum Gesellschaft der Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, April 16-19, 2015, Bonn/Germany.

Christian **Krekel**, Jens **Kolbe**, Henry **Wüstemann**: The Greener, The Happier? The Effects of Urban Green and Abandoned Areas on Residential Well-Being. (1) [2015 Meeting of the European Public Choice Society](#), April 7-10, 2015, Groningen/The Netherlands; (2) [Scottish Economic Society \(SES\) Annual Conference 2015](#), April 13-15, 2015, Perth/United Kingdom.

Christian **Krekel**, Alexander **Zerrahn**: Sowing the Wind and Reaping the Whirlwind? The Effect of Wind Turbines on Residential Well-Being. [Scottish Economic Society \(SES\) Annual Conference 2015](#), April 13-15, 2015, Perth/United Kingdom.

Paul **Schmelzer**: Job mismatch: a trap or a bridge? Labour market careers after an initial mismatch in Germany. Social Inequality, Cohesion and Solidarity. [Spring Meeting](#) of the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) of the International Sociological Association (ISA), May 28-30, 2015, Tilburg/The Netherlands.

Sabine **Hommelhoff**, David **Richter**: Refuting the cliché of the distrustful manager (Poster). Respectful and effective leadership—managing people and organizations in turbulent times. 17th congress of the European Association of Work and Organizational Psychology ([eawop2015](#)), May 20-23, 2015, Oslo/Norway.

David **Richter**, Jürgen **Schupp**: The multiple-cohort longitudinal study SOEP as a rich data source for work and organizational psychology. Respectful and

effective leadership-managing people and organizations in turbulent times. 17th congress of the European Association of Work and Organizational Psychology (eawop2015), May 20-23, 2015, Oslo/Norway.

Paper presentations in the last three months

Sarah **Dahmann**: How does education improve cognitive skills? Instructional Time versus Timing of Instruction. 11th International Young Scholar German Socio-Economic Panel Symposium, March 12-13, 2015, Delmenhorst/Germany.

Christian **Krekel**, Christopher **Wrtil**: Economic Attitudes and Elections: Mechanisms of Change in Coalition Politics. LSE Political Science and Political Economy Brown Bag Seminar, February 9, 2015, London/United Kingdom.

Christian **Krekel**, Jens **Kolbe**, Henry **Wüstemann**: The Greener, The Happier? The Effects of Urban Green and Abandoned Areas on Residential Well-Being. (1) 8th RGS Doctoral Conference in Economics, February 25-27, 2015, Essen/Germany; (2) 79th Conference of the International Atlantic Economic Society, March 11-14, 2015, Milan/Italy.

Jan **Goebel**, Christian **Krekel**, Tim **Tiefenbach**, Nicolas R. **Ziebarth**: Natural Disaster, Policy Action, and Mental Well-Being: The Case of Fukushima. FEEM Labour Economics Brown Bag Seminar, March 12, 2015, Milan/Italy.

David **Richter**, Jule **Specht**: Insights into long-term psychological development: The importance of using large-scale panel studies. Symposium at the International Convention of Psychological Science (ICPS) 2015, March 12-14, 2015, Amsterdam/The Netherlands.

David **Richter**, Jule **Specht**: Childhood family structure and general life satisfaction in adulthood. International Convention of Psychological Science (ICPS) 2015, March 12-14, 2015, Amsterdam/The Netherlands.

Jürgen **Schupp**: Progress in Societies: Socio-Economic and Subjective Aspects of Well-being. Invited Talk at the Symposium "Psychology in an Economic World" of the International Convention of Psychological Science (ICPS), 12-14 March 2015, Amsterdam/The Netherlands.

University teaching (Summer Semester 2015)

Marco **Giesselmann**: Lebenslauf und Ungleichheit. Seminar, Universität Bielefeld.

Martin **Kroh**: Advanced Quantitative Methods: Multilevel and Logitudinal Data Analysis. Seminar. Humboldt Universität zu Berlin.

David **Richter**: Emotionale Entwicklung von der Kindheit bis ins hohe Alter. Seminar. Humboldt Universität zu Berlin.

Daniel **Schnitzlein**: Intergenerational Mobility. Lecture. Leibniz-Universität Hannover.

Daniel **Schnitzlein**: Forschungsseminar. Seminar. Leibniz-Universität Hannover.

Carsten **Schröder**: Ungleichheitsmessung. Vorlesung. Freie Universität Berlin.

Jürgen **Schupp**: Determinanten subjektiven Wohlbefindens und kulturelle Prägungen. Seminar im Masterstudiengang. Freie Universität Berlin.

Ingrid **Tucci**: The Segmented Assimilation of immigrants' children: theoretical approach and empirical evidences. Seminar. Universität Bielefeld.

Ingrid **Tucci**: Erwachsenwerden in Deutschland und Frankreich. Seminar. Universität Bielefeld.

Gert G. **Wagner**: LIFE Academy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI/USA.

Gert G. **Wagner**, Jan **Goebel**, Markus **Grabka**: Einführung in die VWL für NichtökonomInnen. Vorlesung. Technische Universität Berlin.

Short-term special courses (January - July 2015)

Alexandra **Fedorets** and Knut **Wenzig**: Einführung und Arbeiten mit dem SOEP. SOEPcampus@Universität Mannheim, June 22-24, 2015, Mannheim/Germany.

Marco **Giesselmann**: Analyse von Paneldaten mit Regressionsmodellen. SOEPcampus@Universität Mannheim, June 22-24, 2015, Mannheim/Germany.

Jan **Goebel**: Inhalte und Struktur des SOEP. SOEPcampus@DIW Berlin 2015, Workshop zur Nutzung des SOEP, March 3-4, 2015, Berlin/Germany.

Jan **Goebel** and Marcel **Hebing**: Dokumentation der SOEP-Daten und paneldata.org. SOEPcampus@DIW Berlin 2015, Workshop zur Nutzung des SOEP, March 3-4, 2015, Berlin/Germany.

Martin **Kroh**: Stichprobenziehung, Non-Response und Gewichtung im SOEP. SOEPcampus@DIW Berlin

2015, Workshop zur Nutzung des SOEP, March 3-4, 2015, Berlin/Germany.

Jürgen **Schupp** and Denise **Saßenroth**: Einführung von CAWI statt CAPI in einer Haushaltspanelstudie – erste Erfahrungen des SOEP. Workshop "Panel-surveys", February 5-6, 2015, Mannheim/Germany.

SOEP Visitors

Past, current, and upcoming guests (more than one month)

Anja Bruhn, Potsdam Graduate School (PoGS), University of Potsdam/Germany

Peter Eibich, University of Oxford/UK

Frederike Esche, Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (BGSS), Humboldt Universität zu Berlin/Germany

Jens Kolbe, TU Berlin/Germany

Jessica Ordemann, University of Leipzig/Germany

Michael Weinhardt, University of Bielefeld/Germany

Florian Wiesweg, TU Berlin/Germany

Short visits (past, current, and in the near future)

Stephan Dochow, University of Cologne /Germany

Roberto Gabriele, University of Trento/Italy

Malte Hoffmann, Hamburg Insitute of International Economics (HWWI)/Germany

Stefanie Hoherz, ISER, University of Essex/UK

Angela Kopmann, Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW)/Germany

Dafina Kurti, University of Cologne/Germany

Winfried Markmann, RWTH Aachen University/Germany

Charlotte von Möllendorff, Oldenburg University/Germany

Oksana Tokarchuk, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Brunico/Italy

Katharina Weßling, University of Tuebingen/Germany

New data users

Prof. Ainhoa **Aparicio**: Working Women and Fertility: The Role of Grandmothers' Labor Force Participation. Collegio Carlo Alberto, Moncalieri, Turin/Italy.

Prof. Nicole **Baerg**, PhD: The directional change in remittance flows to and immigration policy of developed countries. Universität Mannheim, Mannheim/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Sabine **Baumgart**: Fachgebietseigene Forschung zu umweltbezogener Gerechtigkeit. Technische Universität Dortmund, Fakultät Raumplanung, Dortmund/Germany.

Dr. Eric **Beinhocker**: Demographics and inequality. How does population ageing affect income inequality? Two approaches to the age-period-cohort model. University of Oxford, Institute for New Economic Thinking, Oxford/UK.

Prof. Laura **Bernardi**: Social Vulnerability in a Longitudinal Perceptive. Université de Lausanne, Faculté des Sciences Sociales, Institut des Sciences Sociales, Lausanne/Switzerland.

Prof Dr. Ivo **Bischoff**: regionale Bildungsfinanzierung und Chancengleichheit, Universität Kassel, FB7 Finanzwissenschaft, Kassel/Germany.

Wolfram **Brehmer**: Geringfügige Beschäftigung als Haupt- und Nebentätigkeit. Hans-Böckler-Stiftung, WSI Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaftliches Institut, Düsseldorf/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Christian **Breunig**: Accessing causality and pinpointing the causal mechanisms of policy feedback. Universität Konstanz, FB Politik- und Verwaltungswissenschaft, Vergleichende Politik, Konstanz/Germany.

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Prof. Dr. Florian **Englmaier**: Saliency of wages and exploration of discontinuous wage distributions. Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Volkswirtschaftliche Fakultät, Seminar für Organisationsökonomik, Munich/Germany.

Dr. Abdul **Erumban**: The contribution of migrants to German growth and future prospects in an aging society. University of Groningen, Faculty of Economics and Business, Groningen/The Netherlands.

Prof. Dr. Michael **Feldhaus**: Der Hund als Vorbote zur Elternschaft – Analyse familialer Lebenslagen. Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg, Institut für Sozialwissenschaften, Oldenburg/Germany.

Prof. Nicole **Fortin**: Impacts of accelerated migration flows following the Euro crisis on Germany's economy. University of British Columbia, Vancouver School of Economics, Vancouver, BC/Canada.

Prof. Dr. Matthias **Freund**: Multivariate Methoden in der Einkommensanalyse (SOEP in der Lehre). Hochschule Niederrhein, Fachbereich Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Lehrgebiet Finanzmathematik, Optimierung und Statistik, Mönchengladbach/Germany.

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Prof. Dr. Karl-Werner **Hansmann**: Der Einfluss der ungleichen Einkommens- und Vermögensverteilung Deutschlands auf das Wachstum des Bruttoinlandsprodukts. Universität Hamburg, Institut für Operations Management, Hamburg/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Martin **Hellwig**: Labor Outcomes of Second Generation Immigrants in Germany: Do Country of Origin and Assimilation Matter? Max-Planck-Institut zur Erforschung von Gemeinschaftsgütern, Bonn/Germany.

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Matthias S. **Hertweck**: 1) The ins and outs of German unemployment—a transatlantic perspective 2) The aggregate effects of the Hartz reforms in Germany. Universität Konstanz, Fachbereich Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Juniorprofessur für Makroökonomische Theorie, Konstanz/Germany.

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Prof. Ed **Hopkins**, PhD: Social preferences or comparison income effect? University of Edinburgh, School of Economics, Edinburgh/UK.

Prof. Dr. Daniela **Hosser**: Differentielle Effekte in der Prädiktion delinquenten Verhaltens. Technische Universität Braunschweig, Institut für Psychologie, Entwicklungs-, Persönlichkeits- und Forensische Psychologie, Braunschweig/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Stefan **Kramer**: Erstellen von probabilistischen Automaten auf der Grundlage von Historien. Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Mainz/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Marc **Kuhn**: Mehrdimensionale Erfassung der Unternehmensleistung von Integrationsfirmen in Baden-Württemberg. Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg, Zentrum für empirische Forschung (ZEF), Stuttgart/Germany.

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Jun.-Prof. Dr. Maike **Luhmann**: Determinanten und Konsequenzen von subjektivem Wohlbefinden und Einsamkeit. Psychometrische Validierung der SOEP-Einsamkeitsskala. Universität zu Köln, Psychologie, Cologne/Germany.

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Martin **Nybohm**, PhD: Co-payments for medical consultation in Germany—Analyzing the effects using a difference-in-difference approach. Stockholm University, Department of Economics, Stockholm/Sweden.

Dr. Dirk **Oberschachtsiek**: Aus- und Weiterbildung im Wandel der Zeit. IHK-Forschungsstelle Bildung Bayern, Ingolstadt/Germany.

Prof. Mary **O'Mahony**: Health, Productivity and the Role of Women: The Effect of the Individuals' and their Spouses Health on Retirement Decisions. King's College London, Management, London/UK.

Prof. Dr. Markus **Pannenberg**: Shadows of the past: The effect of political regimes on personality. Fachhochschule Bielefeld, Fachbereich Wirtschaft, Bielefeld/Germany.

PD Dr. Sören **Petermann**: Soziale Isolation in Deutschland. Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt a. M./Germany.

Prof. Per **Pettersson-Lidbom**, PhD: Parental Leave and Family Well-Being in Germany—Evidence from the 2007 Reform. Stockholm University, Department of Economics, Stockholm/Sweden.

Dr. Norberto **Pignatti**: Evolution of Risk Attitudes. Tbilisi State University, International School of Economics, Tbilisi/Georgia.

Prof. Dr. Andreas **Pyka**: Connecting EU. Network analysis of economic development and social cohesion in Europe. Universität Hohenheim, Institut für Volkswirtschaftslehre, Lehrstuhl für Innovationsökonomik, Stuttgart/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Falk **Radisch**: Der Anspruch der Bildungs-gerechtigkeit durch offene Ganztagsangebote in NRW. Universität Rostock, WSF Institut für Soziologie, Institut für Schulpädagogik und Bildungsforschung, Rostock/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Nadine **Riedel**: Secondary School Attainment and Geographical Proximity to Universities - Evidence from Germany. Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Fakultät für Wirtschaftswissenschaft, Lehrstuhl für Finanzwissen-schaft und Wirtschaftspolitik, Bochum/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Thomas **Rigotti**: Transitionen im Beschäf-tigungsstatus – Differenzielle Zusammenhänge zu Gesundheit und Wohlbefinden. Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Psychologisches Institut, Arbeits-, Organisations- und Wirtschaftspsychologie, Mainz/Germany.

Prof. Robert **Rudolf**: Gender, Employment and Happi-ness: Cross-Country Evidence. Korea University, Divisi-on of International Studies, Seoul/South Korea.

Dr. Rolf **Schmucker**: DGB-Index Gute Arbeit - Bundes-weite Repräsentativerhebungen zur Arbeitsqualität von Arbeitnehmern. Institut DGB-Index Gute Arbeit, Berlin/Germany.

Dr. Silke L. **Schneider**: Finding the most efficient question format for long list questions in computer-assisted surveys. GESIS – Leibniz Institut für Sozial-wissenschaften, Survey Design and Methodology, Mannheim/Germany.

Dr. Oliver **Sigrist**: The Aggregate Effects of the Hartz Reforms in Germany. Schweizerische Nationalbank, Zurich/Switzerland.

Dr. Dorothea **Spannagel**: Verteilungsbericht des WSI. Hans-Böckler-Stiftung, WSI Wirtschafts- und Sozialwis-senschaftliches Institut, Düsseldorf/Germany.

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Prof. Dr. Jale **Tosun**: Arbeitslosigkeit in Deutschland. Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Institut für Po-litische Wissenschaft, Heidelberg/Germany.

Dr. Paolo **Tubaro**: Social integration across the Life-Cycle. University of Greenwich, London/UK.

Prof. Dr. Claus **Wendt**: (1) Healthcare-Seeking of older persons in Germany (HEALSEE) (2) Energiearmut und

Gesundheit. Universität Siegen, FB 1 Sozialwissen-schaften, Siegen/Germany.

Dr. Cornelia **Wrzus**: Persönlichkeit, Gesundheit und Lebensereignisse. Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Psychologisches Institut, Mainz/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Thomas **Zellweger**: The Impact of the Family on Entrepreneurial Outcomes and Behaviour. Univer-sität St. Gallen, Center for Family Business, St. Gal-len/Switzerland.

Dr. Haibo **Zhou**: 1) Spouse's role in partner's occupa-tional choice in self-employment. 2) Career trajectory of self-employed individuals. 3) The influence of cul-ture on second-generation immigrants' occupational choice in self-employment using the epidemiological approach. University of Groningen, Faculty of Econo-mics and Business, Innovation Management and Stra-tegy, Groningen/The Netherlands.

SOEP publications

Recently Published

DIW Economic Bulletin

Significant Statistical Uncertainty over Share of High Net Worth Households

New estimates by DIW Berlin show: Germany's richest one percent holds more than 30 percent of private wealth

How rich are the super-rich really? In the case of Germany, this question is difficult to answer. Since the suspension of the wealth tax in 1997 nearly nothing is known about private wealth and its distribution in Germany. Furthermore, billionaires and multimillionaires tend to be underrepresent-ed in surveys and samples due to their low num-bers. Yet at the same time, the wealth holdings of the super-rich are substantial, and knowing more about them could be useful in guiding tax and so-cial policy. In a study conducted on behalf of the Hans Böckler Foundation, DIW Berlin estimated the wealth holdings of Germany's richest per-centile by combining existing sources of data on the wealth distribution. Since the only partially verifi-able Forbes World's Billionaires List served as a basis for the study, SOEP wealth distribution ex-perts Christian Westermeier and Markus Grabka estimated two different scenarios. Both are accom-panied by uncertainties, but they both suggest that

the richest Germans hold significantly more wealth than shown in data from panel studies like the SOEP or the Bundesbank “Private Households and their Finances” study. The findings show that the richest one percent of the population does not hold around one-fifth of private wealth in the country, as shown in the SOEP, but rather around one-third. The authors estimated the wealth of the richest .1 percent to be three times as high for the year 2012. This estimate raises estimates of the total wealth holdings of Germans in 2012 from 6.3 trillion to 9.3 trillion euros. According to the Forbes List, the 55 German dollar billionaires alone held around 230 billion euros net wealth in 2013.

“The data situation is very difficult,” say Westermeier and Grabka, summing up the challenges of the analysis. “The chance that one of the few German billionaires or multimillionaires would show up in a representative survey is close to zero. Evidence from a US study has shown that willingness to participate in studies declines with increasing wealth.” Official data sources provide no indication as to private holdings of the country’s super-rich in Germany—in contrast to other countries such as those with a wealth tax. “We therefore have to estimate top wealth holdings. Basically the only data base we have are rich ‘lists.’” Westermeier and Grabka based their analysis on what is widely considered to be the most reliable of these—the Forbes Magazine list. Its list of all the people in the world with estimated wealth of more than one billion dollars for 2013 included more than 50 Germans. According to other statistical sources, the highest German private wealth holdings appear substantially lower: in the SOEP, “only” just below 50 million euros, and in the German Bundesbank study, just under 80 million. Given that the Forbes list showed a tendency to overestimate wealth holdings in a comparison with American tax data, and since survey data tend to over-represent the middle class compared to very rich households, the authors compared the Forbes data with various other statistics and estimated various scenarios for their simulation.

“The difference between our overall estimation and the other available data is substantial in all scenarios,” the researchers conclude. While according to the SOEP, the richest 0.1 percent of German households in 2012 held around 5 percent of total wealth, the new estimates suggest between 14 and 16 percent. “The statistically estimated value has approximately tripled.” The share of the richest one percent of German households increased from 18 percent based on the SOEP to more than 30 percent (depending on the scenario between 31

and 34 percent). Together, the richest 10 percent hold between 63 and 74 percent of private wealth in the country, according to the estimates, rather than “just” 60 percent as previously assumed.

Westermeier, Christian, and Markus M. Grabka: Significant Statistical Uncertainty over Share of High Net Worth Households. In: *DIW Economic Bulletin* 5 (2015), 14/15, rr. 210-219.

Scientific Publication

When clocks are set forward, life satisfaction declines

According to a recent study based on data from the SOEP and the UK study Understanding Society, people’s life satisfaction declines when they lose an hour to daylight savings time. “Especially parents of young children suffer when daylight savings time begins,” says Daniel Kühnle from the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, one of the study’s two authors. Setting clocks back again in the fall has no measurable effects on satisfaction. The study has just been published as SOEPpaper 744.

Daylight savings time was introduced in 1916. In a speech honoring William Willet for proposing the idea of daylight savings time in the UK, Winston Churchill said that the effect of this measure has been to “enlarge the opportunities for the pursuit of health and happiness among the millions of people who live in this country.”

This came at a price, however, according to data on Germany from the Socio-Economic Panel and on the UK from Understanding Society (formerly the British Household Panel). Estimates by the study’s authors Daniel Kühnle and Christoph Wunder show that in both countries, respondents’ life satisfaction declines the week after the start of daylight savings time. The decline is especially pronounced among parents of young children. The second week after losing an hour to daylight savings, life satisfaction returns to its original levels. For Germany, this means that household income would have to rise by around 10 percent in the first week after the start of daylight savings to compensate for the estimated decline in satisfaction.

The authors explain the temporary decline in satisfaction not only through the physical adaptation to a new daily rhythm. “People experience it as a strain when they lose free time,” says one of the study’s authors, Daniel Kühnle. “This is especially true of parents, who have little time to themselves as it is.”

The researchers do not argue for eliminating daylight savings time, however. They suggest “making up” for the lost hour by giving people more freedom to decide how to allocate their time. “One possibility would be to make working hours more flexible the week when clocks are set forward,” says Daniel Kühnle.

For their representative study on Germany and the UK, Kühnle and Wunder used data on 29,653 male and female SOEP respondents from 1984 to 2004, and 8,950 Understanding Society respondents from 2009 to 2012. The study used data collected from respondents two weeks before and two weeks after the beginning and end of daylight savings time.

Kuehnle, Daniel and Christoph Wunder (2015): Using the life satisfaction approach to value daylight savings time transitions. Evidence from Britain and Germany. *SOEPPaper 744*, Berlin.

New in SOEPlit

In English

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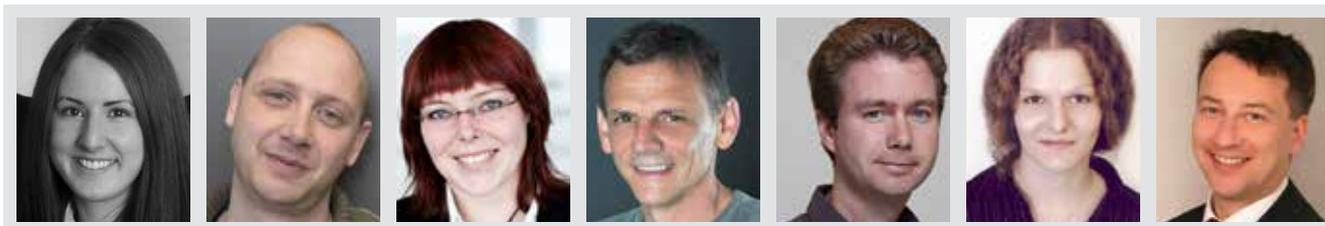
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Upcoming Conferences/Workshops 2015

June 22-24, 2015	SOEPcampus@Universität Mannheim Längsschnittdatenanalyse mit dem Sozio-oekonomischen Panel, Mannheim/Germany
July 13-17, 2015	6th Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA), Reykjavik, Iceland, July 13-17, 2015 (information booth)
August 21-24, 2015	Introduction to the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP): Practice, problems, and analytical potentials of longitudinal household surveys Workshop at the ASA 2015 Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL/USA
September 21-24, 2015	Summer School "Effects and Evaluation of Minimum Wage," University of Potsdam/Germany

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The data are distributed at no cost. You will receive an e-mail containing a personalized link to download the data through Cryptshare. You will be given your password over the telephone or via mail, (but not via e-mail.)

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Data available from the Socio-Economic Panel Research Data Center (RDC SOEP)

- SOEP-Core** for Waves A-BD, (1-30) 1984-2013 **v30**
 - SOEPlong** (compressed data format in long format)
 - SOEPregional data** (only within the EEA* and Switzerland)
 - Municipal size classes
 - Spatial planning regions
 - SOEP in the college classroom** (50% version)
- FiD dataset** (Families in Germany) **v4**
- SOEP-IS data set** (Innovation Sample) **SOEP-is-2012**

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- PanelWhiz** (bilingual)
(only for SOEPCore and SOEPlong)
- STATA** bilingual
- SPSS** German
- SPSS** English
- SAS** German
- SAS** English
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* EEA = Member States of the European Economic Area as well as Iceland. A special contract is needed in addition for the regional data.

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 - Gemeindegrößenklassen
 - Raumordnungsregionen
 - SOEP in der Lehre** (50% Version)
- FiD-Datensatz** (Familien in Deutschland) **v4**
- SOEP-IS-Datensatz** (SOEP-Innovations-Stichprobe) **SOEP-is-2012**

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2015 German Stata Users Group meeting

Date:	June 26, 2015
Venue:	Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung (IAB)
Cost:	TBA
Submission deadline:	March 1, 2015

Call for Presentations

We would like to announce the 13th German Stata Users Group meeting to be held Friday, June 26, 2015 at:

Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung (IAB)
Bundesagentur für Arbeit
Regenburger Str 104
90478 Nürnberg (Nuremberg)

All Stata users, from Germany and elsewhere, or those interested in learning about Stata, are invited to attend.

Presentations are sought on topics that include the following:

- User-written Stata programs
- Case studies of research or teaching using Stata
- Discussions of data management problems
- Reviews of analytic issues
- Surveys or critiques of Stata facilities in specific fields, etc.

The conference language will be English, due to the international nature of the meeting and the participation of non-German guest speakers.

Submission guidelines

If you are interested in presenting a paper, please submit an abstract by email to one of the scientific organizers (max 200 words). The deadline for submissions is **March 1, 2015**. Presentations should be 20 minutes or shorter.

Registration

Participants are asked to travel at their own expense. There will be a small conference fee to cover costs for refreshments and lunch. There will also be an optional informal meal at a restaurant in Nürnberg (Nuremberg) on Friday evening at additional cost.

You can enroll by contacting Christiane Senczek by email or by writing or phoning.

Christiane Senczek
Dittrich & Partner Consulting GmbH
Prinzenstr. 2

42697 Solingen

Tel: +49 (0) 212 2 60 66-0
Email: christiane.senczek@dpc.de

The final program, cost, and venue will be circulated in April 2015.

Organizers

Scientific Organizers

- Johannes Giesecke
Humboldt University of Berlin
Johannes.giesecke@hu-berlin.de
- Stephanie Eckman
IAB
stephanie.eckman@iab.de

Logistics Organizer

Dittrich & Partner Consulting GmbH (dpc.de), the distributor of Stata in several countries, including Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, the Czech Republic, and Hungary.

P O V E R T Y to P A R T I E S **a n d** **I N S T I T U T I O N S to I N E Q U A L I T Y**

Linking Structural Inequalities & Social Policy Making

BIGSSS International Conference 2015

Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS)
University of Bremen

Thursday and Friday, September 24th & 25th, 2015

Call for Papers:

This conference aims to identify linkages between social stratification and mobility and social policy and welfare states. It focuses on issues that lie at the intersection of inequality and policy. For example: Does social policy enable or inhibit social mobility? Do welfare states change in response to increasing social inequality? How are actors and institutions causing or responding to inequality? It brings together the stratification focus of the ECSR and the policy focus of ESPAnet into a common framework in order to broaden our theoretical horizons and illuminate the social inequality and political process nexus.

For paper submissions we seek abstracts of no more than 300 words. The conference is open to all academics, and we hope for a good mix of PhD students, postdocs, lecturers and professors. The conference welcomes those from any discipline germane to stratification and social policy; i.e. political science, sociology, economics, demography, and social psychology. It welcomes research on any geographic states or regions. Please see the website link below for specific session themes and details on submission of abstracts.

Keynote Speakers:

Prof. Jane Gingrich (University of Oxford)

Prof. Mads Meier Jæger (University of Copenhagen)

Prof. Susanne K. Schmidt (BIGSSS/University of Bremen)

Website:

<https://www.bigsss-bremen.de/conferences/bigsss-international-conference-2015.html>

Deadline for Abstracts: 31 March 2015, per email to sssp@bigsss-bremen.de

Conference Organizers: Nate Breznau, Michelle Hollman, Katja Möhring,
and Angelika Schenk

Conference Partners: The European Network for Social Policy Analysis ([ESPAnet](#))
Institute of Intercultural and International Studies ([InIIS](#))
Center for Social Policy Research, University of Bremen ([ZeS](#))