

SOEP newsletter

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A note on ... post-truth

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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.



Photo: Stephan Röhl

Jürgen Schupp
 Director of the Research
 Infrastructure SOEP and
 Professor of Sociology at
 Freie Universität Berlin

A note on ...

... post-truth

The Oxford Dictionaries' choice of *post-truth* as the word of the year 2016—followed by the Association for the German Language's selection of *postfaktisch*—has given me, as a scientific researcher, pause for serious reflection. What role is research being relegated to in the post-truth world? Is the post-truth age a threat to science?

In Germany, the term *postfaktisch* was popularized by Chancellor Angela **Merkel**, who is also a doctor in Physics, in a speech after the CDU lost the state-level Landtag elections in Berlin: "It's been said recently that we're living in post-truth times. What that apparently means is that people are no longer so interested in facts, but instead follow their feelings alone." So do feelings or moods have more influence on political reality than facts? In a reality founded solely on feelings, serious data and statistics become irrelevant. Such developments indeed call the role of empirical research fundamentally into question.

The search for knowledge and truth requires effort and careful attention to detail. It demands that researchers maintain a critical distance from ideological simplification in their interpretations and solutions, and above all, that they refuse any temptation to make normative judgments. As researchers, we should be driven by the conviction that we can agree on common quality standards for the production of scientific knowledge, and thus also on criteria for distinguishing good from bad research. In times when the science and research system is creating incentives to publish as quickly and as prolifically as possible, science must treat the use of "alternative facts" and the toleration of biases as taboo, and must unequivocally continue to pursue the dissemination of knowledge and the generation of new insights as its most important goal.

Providing up-to-date, accurate research data to the scientific community that meet these quality standards is the focus of our work in the SOEP infrastructure, which receives public funding primarily to support and enable research. In the social sciences in general and economics in particular, there are important preconditions for the production of statistics and the generation of scientific findings using complex panel econometric models. One challenge lies in the appropriate selection of respondent samples according to random statistical criteria. The formulation of questions that respondents can understand easily without being influenced by the interviewer constitutes a key quality standard for the validity and reliability of empirical data and one that is not always easy to achieve. There are numerous potential pitfalls that arise in the process of data preparation, user-friendly data storage, and variable generation. The imputation of missing responses to survey questions alone is

highly demanding. All these steps are prone to error, and our experiences in recent years also show that the procedures can be improved constantly through the use of new statistical procedures. Also in the final step of data provision—which becomes more complex every year due to the longitudinal character of the SOEP data—the work is done by human beings who are not immune to an occasional omission or programming error.

In every phase of these demanding infrastructural activities, all of which take place prior to data analysis, the SOEP's aim is to constantly improve our survey-methodological quality standards, data checking routines, and imputation procedures. For researchers worldwide to be able to analyze the SOEP data, our work to ensure the transparency of all "interventions" into the data and to provide complete documentation and user-friendly research tools for a metadata set that is increasing in size every year are of crucial importance.

This is the foundation for all our findings on "Living in Germany" today. Whether an empirical result based on the SOEP data finds acceptance as the "state of the research" and is assigned the label of factual knowledge and insight ultimately depends on the researchers responsible for ensuring the quality of scientific publications in specialist journals or books. And in the end, it is citations that decide whether a study has an "impact" and becomes part of the canon of a particular field.

This complex system—which goes to great effort to prevent biases, ideologies, deception and falsification define our social debates—is worth standing up for to combat the rise of populist currents. Evidence-based empirical findings from economics, psychology, sociology, and political science are not comparable with factual knowledge from the natural sciences. At the same time, evidence-based knowledge is the opposite of post-factual evidence. I would like to conclude with just a word on feelings and emotions and the relevance of the subjective: There is a theorem in the social sciences that says that every human act results in real consequences, no matter how unreal the situation leading to the action might be. This theorem is named after American sociologists Dorothy and William Thomas and states: "If men define situations as real, they are real in their consequences." This finding leads to the conclusion that the collection of data from highly subjective reports has value for improving our understanding human actions. This is the reason why the SOEP survey has always asked respondents about a range of subjective perceptions, preferences, and views in addition to collecting data on objective characteristics. It may well be that improving our research on the belief and acceptance of "post-truths" constitutes one of the scientific challenges of our time. Several promising ideas along this line are already among this year's submissions to SOEP-IS.

Jürgen Schupp

German Section



Imagebroschüre des SOEP erschienen

Wer in kompakter Form wissen möchte, zu welchen Themen mit dem SOEP geforscht wird und welche Erkenntnisse sich mit den Daten gewinnen lassen, für den ist unsere neue Broschüre „Leben in Deutschland“ gedacht. Darin präsentieren wir eine Auswahl der für Gesellschaft und Politik wichtigsten Ergebnisse aus den mehr als 7.000 Publikationen auf Basis der SOEP-Daten. Und wir stellen Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler aus aller Welt vor, die mit den SOEP-Daten forschen. Auch die wichtigsten Etappen der Geschichte des Sozio-oekonomischen Panels (SOEP) sind Thema des Heftes.

Die Broschüre löst die vor knapp zehn Jahren aus Anlass unseres 25-jährigen Jubiläums erstellte ab und ist jetzt in [pdf](#)- und [epub](#)-Format online verfügbar, gern senden wir Ihnen auch ein gedrucktes Exemplar zu (Anfragen an soepmail@diw.de).

SOEP@campus 2017

Unsere jährliche In-House Nutzerschulung findet am 27. und 28. Februar statt. Anmeldestart war am 9. Januar 2017, alle 30 verfügbaren Plätze waren innerhalb weniger Tage gebucht.

Unser jährlicher SOEP-Workshop an der Universität Mannheim findet in diesem Jahr vom 26. bis zum 28. Juni statt. Die Anmeldung hierfür ist noch nicht freigeschaltet. Wir werden Sie auf unserer Homepage informieren, sobald weitere Details feststehen. <http://www.diw.de/soepcampus>

SOEP-basierte Workshops, die stärker auf längsschnittliche Analysemethoden abzielen, dabei aber auch SOEP-Einführungen bieten, finden vom 6. bis zum 10. März 2017 in Kooperation mit der Gesis in Köln (**Causal Analysis with Panel Data: Potentials and Limitations**) sowie am 6. und 7. Juni 2017 an der Universität Münster (Workshop: **Panel Data Analysis**) statt.

Data & Service

SOEP data 1984-2015 (v32.1) published

SOEP-Core, DOI: [10.5684/soep.v32.1](https://doi.org/10.5684/soep.v32.1)

SOEP-Core is available for free download (since we no longer have the production costs and postal charges of the DVD) to all users in EEA countries.

After soep.v32 was released, several small errors were identified, which we have now corrected in an update. If you use the datasets BIOCOUPLY or BIOMARSY or the NACE classification of economic activities (Variable *nace15* in BFPGEN or Variable *bfp55_nace* in BFP), our hotline will be happy to provide you with a link to download the update.

SOEP-Core international version DOI: [10.5684/soep.v32.1i](https://doi.org/10.5684/soep.v32.1i)

The updated International Scientific Use Version of the SOEP data (95%) is available for free download (since we no longer have the production costs and postal charges of the DVD) to all users outside EEA countries.

SOEPlong

The user-friendly long-format version of the SOEP data is now also available, of course with the corrected data.

Order now: SOEP data 1984-2015 (v32.1)

The SOEPhotline staff will be happy to take your order online:

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

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

For users who have never downloaded the SOEP data: We have had positive experiences with online data provision so far and are delighted to continue providing the data by secure online download. 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 phone or text message (if you have given us your cell phone number) by the SOEP hotline, a personal password to download the data and a wave-specific password to open the zip file. The personal password is permanent, and the wave-specific password to download the data is provided for each wave. If you have lost or forgotten your wave-specific password (or your personal password), please contact the SOEP hotline. The wave-specific password can be used to download all updates of the data from a given wave as well.

If further questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact our SOEPhotline staff, either by e-mail at soepmail@diw.de or by telephone at +49-30-89789-292.

Data documentation

Most of the documentation is included in the download. However, more documents are available on the website of our [Research Data Center SOEP](#).

You can download the documentation with a zip file (click the [link](#) or scan the QR-code).



What's new in SOEPv32.1

- **BIOCOUPLY** and **BIOMARSY**: In the first version of the data, the wrong data were uploaded for the two datasets by mistake. This version contains the correct datasets.
- **NACE in BFP and BFPGEN**: A user reported implausible values for the variables *bfp55_nace* and *nace15* containing informa-

tion on the current job's industry. In this version, the information has been updated after a bug in the script was fixed.

- **Scale shift in BFP:** In the v32 data release, the scales in BFP on the probability of specific events occurring in working life, which in previous years had been coded from 0-100 at 10-point intervals, were given on a scale from 0-10 for the CAPI and CAWI interviews. This inconsistency was corrected in this update adapting the scales to the previously used coding: scales from *bfp4201*, *bfp4202*, *bfp4203*, *bfp7201*, *bfp7202*, *bfp7203* were multiplied by 10 where *bfpinta* = 9 or 10; also, one case in *bfp7201* was changed from 4 to 40 where *bfpinta* = 8.

What's new in SOEPv32

In the last newsletter we reported on the new subsample M2. The following additional changes have been made since Version v31 / v31.1:

Weighting

- In Version v32 of the SOEP data, the new migrant subsample, M2, has been integrated into the SOEP weighting framework. As is our usual practice when a new sample is integrated into the SOEP, we make different weighting factors available for the first wave. The standard weights (*bhhrf/bfphrf*) allow researchers to draw inferences about the underlying population of residents in Germany based on all SOEP samples. The variables *bhhrfam1/bfphrfam1* allow for the same inferences, but only using data from the old Samples A to M1. Comparisons between both sets of weights thus enable researchers to gauge the influence of the recent enlargement of the SOEP for population estimates. Weights specific to the recent boost M2, *bhhrfm2/bphrfm2*, allow researchers to draw inferences about the target population of immigrants to Germany between 2010 and 2013.
- The adjustment of weights to census margins on the individual level has been updated since 1984 so that now the number of women and men in each age group (five-year categories) is given as the margin. Up to now, two separate margins were used for sex and age group.
- Upon request, we now provide weighting factors for survey years 2010 to 2013 (waves BA to BD) excluding Samples L1 to L3. Due to differences in survey instruments used with Samples L1 to L3 in the corresponding waves as part of the "Familien in Deutschland" (Families in Germany) survey, a need for weighting may arise when variables are to be analyzed that were not surveyed in the other samples.

Changed datasets or variables

- **BFVP:** In the dataset on deceased persons from wave 32 (BFVP), the individual ID numbers assigned to the respondent and the deceased person in previous waves were recoded. While the datasets up to and including BEVP with the code -2 in the variable indicate that the deceased person or respondent was not a member of the SOEP, now an individual ID has been introduced for those persons who are not part of the panel population. These are now identifiable based on the ending of the ID variables (*persnr* or *vpersnr*): if (*v*)*persnr* ends in 97, 98, or 99, the person was not a member of the SOEP. For the years up to 2014, these individual IDs still have the value -2.
- **BIOIMMIG:** The variable *biwfam* ("Already Had Family in Country") was recoded incorrectly in the generated dataset for the migration samples in 2013 and 2014. This has been corrected in the current data release.
- **MIGSPELL:** With the integration of the data from 2013 (BD) to 2015 (BF), larger changes in the number and coding of the MIGSPELL variables were necessary, since in particular the status upon entry to Germany was surveyed in the individual waves with differing degrees of specificity. In addition, an improved procedure was introduced for imputation of missing data. A detailed description of the new version of MIGSPELL can be found in the SOEP 2015 documentation on [Biography and Life History Data](#).
- **Survey Year:** With Version 32, variables referring to the survey year are referred to consistently as "*syear*". Previously there were a few variables with names like "*erheb*" and "*svyyear*".
- **Variables connected to occupations:**
 - The variables' names have changed and should now be more informative; the

name of the coding scheme is now part of the variable name, e.g., “isco88”.

- The occupational codes (K1dB92, ISCO-88) now comply better with official standards (e.g., variables with suffixes `_k1db92` or `_isco88` in \$P files).
- In \$PGEN there are now also variables using the coding schemes for K1dB2010 and ISCO-08.
- The code for generating the derived prestige scales has been redesigned, e.g., `egp88_12` for `egp` class based on ISCO-88 in the year 2012.

New datasets or variables

- **BIOIMMIG**: Additional variables for the main reason for migrating to Germany (only available since 2014).
- **PFLEGE**: A new variable, “*appraisal*” with the label: “officially assessed as in need of care”
- **SPEQUIV**: six new variables:
 - `ichsu$$`: Child support, caregiver alimony
 - `fchsu$$`: Imputation flag child support, caregiver alimony
 - `ispou$$`: Divorce alimony
 - `fspou$$`: Imputation flag Divorce alimony
 - `irie1$$`: Riester pension plan
 - `irie2$$`: Riester widow pension plan
- **PPFAD**: Person-related meta dataset
 - Some immigration variables (*germborn*, *corigin*, und *immiyear*) previously contained a -3 for all respondents in Sample G who were not asked to state their country of birth and year of immigration. Since respondents from other samples (e.g., Sample A) were also not directly asked to provide this information and were coded -2, the coding of missing values was not consistent across samples. This inconsistency was corrected in the new update (v32).
 - Respondents who immigrated in the year 1949 (when the Federal Republic of Germany was founded) were previously treated as not having been born in Germany due to a coding error. This has been fixed in the updated version, and now, consistent with the German Microcensus, all persons who immigrated before 1950 (after 1949) are considered to have been born in Germany. This also led to a change in the value label of *immiyear*.
 - More information was considered in the updated version of *miginfo*, leading to changes in the values.

Deleted variables

- **\$PGEN**: From version v32 on *erwtyp* is not a part of the data release. The information related to *erwtyp* categories can be found in the variable(s) `jobch$$`, `emplst$$`, `lfs$$`.

IAB-SOEP-MIG survey data

The IAB-SOEP Migration Sample is a household survey conducted jointly by the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) at DIW Berlin and the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) in Nuremberg. The first wave of the survey was carried out in 2013, where a direct interview was sought with 4,964 persons in 2,723 households. The second wave contains interviews with 3,752 persons in 1,974 households.

The sampling frame of the IAB-SOEP Migration Sample is based on the administrative records in the Integrated Employment Biographies (IEB) of the IAB. The sample has been drawn from 250 regional units with a multi-step procedure that permits a random selection of individuals in the target population using an equal probability selection method. In each of the 250 regional units, 80 addresses were drawn randomly, where some countries of origin have been given a higher probability to ensure a sufficient number of observations. These groups consist of immigrants from the EU-New Member States and Southern European countries.

The individuals have been initially interviewed with a personal and a household questionnaire. All family members aged 16 years or older were also asked the questions of the personal questionnaire.

The IAB-SOEP Migration Sample provides a database which permits to gain new insights by addressing various aspects of immigration regarding activation and attraction of skilled immigrants and to provide clear guidance regarding immigration, integration and labour market policies in Germany. The database contains the following information:

- Migration history: Year of immigration, migration history, search behaviour and information channels, social networks.
- Education history: highest obtained schooling and vocational degrees, years of schooling, education acquired at home and abroad, acknowledgement procedure of foreign credentials, language proficiency.

- Employment history: Employment, self-employment, unemployment in Germany and in foreign countries.
- Labour market background: Earnings, full- and part-time employment, working hours, benefit assistance, reservation wage, participation in active labour market policies.
- Return migration: Return migration intentions, return migration, limited survey of returned immigrants.
- Miscellaneous: Remittances to home countries, life satisfaction, risk preferences, social integration and acceptance.

Please find more detailed information on the dataset under doi [10.5684/soep.iab-soep-mig.2015](https://doi.org/10.5684/soep.iab-soep-mig.2015). All questionnaires and the related reports are available there.

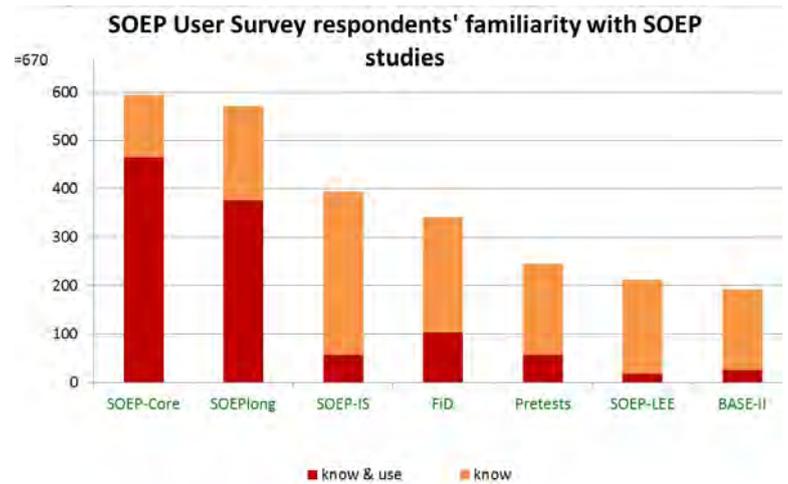
For more information on record linkage with administrative employment and income data please see [SOEPnewsletter 113](#) or our website or the website of the [FDZ IAB](#).

SOEP user survey

At the end of last year, we saw not only high demand for the new SOEP data v32 but also encouragingly high participation in our SOEP User Survey. Around 30% of the 750 survey participants had first started using the SOEP data in 2016. In its sixth consecutive year, our survey went out to all SOEP contract holders and data users. The online survey, set up using the software LimeSurvey, started on November 24, 2016, and could be completed online for one month.

Our questionnaire this year included a larger block of questions about the various SOEP-based studies. On the one hand, we asked about respondents' familiarity with and use of the surveys, on the other hand, we wanted to gain a differentiated picture of the strengths and weaknesses of the data in the areas of data access, data quality, and documentation. In the figure below, you can read descriptions of the various studies by clicking on each one.

We also wanted to make sure our users know about the Complaints Office of the German Data Forum (RatSWD). Twenty percent of our survey respondents were aware of the office, which was founded in 2016 to help data users at registered Research Data Centers to address unresolved problems with data distribution. For more information on the German Data Forum Complaints Office, see:



<https://www.ratswd.de/beschwerdestelle>
(in German).

Please click the study names to learn more!

We would like to again thank our user community for the high rate of participation. Detailed results will be published in the next SOEPnewsletter, in the SOEP Wave Report 2016, and on the SOEP homepage. We would be happy to provide further information if you have any questions about our User Survey. You can reach us anytime at the SOEP-Hotline (soepmail@diw.de).

TwinLife

First data release of the German twin family panel



TwinLife is a genetically sensitive panel study on the development of inequalities in different life domains. It is carried out by researchers at Bielefeld University and Saarland University. The TwinLife data management is residing at the DIW Berlin and cooperates with the SOEP unit. Data collection started in 2014 and is planned to continue for 10 years, covering over 4,000 monozygotic and same-sex dizygotic twin pairs living in Germany and their families. The comparison of monozygotic and dizygotic twins not only facilitates the analysis of social mechanisms but also the identification of genetic differences as well as research on the interaction and covariation of social and genetic causes of inequalities.

To these ends, data collection in TwinLife covers six important domains of inequality: I. Education, academic performance, and skill development; II. Occupational careers and labor market attainment; III. Social, cultural, and political integration and partici-

patation; IV. Subjective quality of life and perceived capabilities; V. Physical and psychological health; VI. Behavioral problems and deviant behavior.

Survey Design

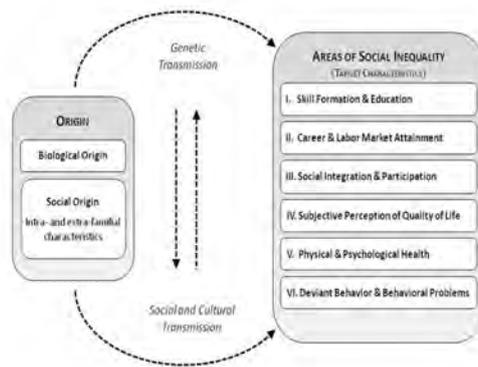
The TwinLife panel combines a sequential cohort design with an extended twin family design (ETFD). The related surveys are conducted yearly, and the mode alternates between face-to-face at home, including some tests, and telephone interviews. Parts of the face-to-face surveys are conducted in parallel modes, i.e., as computer-assisted or paper-and-pencil self-interviews, permitting related methodological analyses.

The sequential cohort design comprises four cohorts: The youngest twins in cohort 1 (birth years 2009 and 2010) are about 5 years of age at the time of the first survey in 2014 and 2015. The oldest

twins in cohort 4 (birth years 1990 to 1993) are around 31-32 years of age at the time of the last survey in 2022 and 2023. The twins in cohorts 2 and 3 are born in the years 2003 to 2004 and 1997 to 1998, respectively. This design enables the TwinLife panel to cover an age range between 5 and 32 years with a data collection phase of 10 years. This age range covers important life-course transitions from school entry to the labor market entry phase as well as critical life stages for meeting a partner and starting a family.

As part of the ETFD, the biological and, if applicable, social parents as well as the sibling that is closest in age to the twins are surveyed in addition to the twins themselves. Moreover, the partners of adult twins are included as well. This family perspective facilitates comparisons regarding different degrees of genetic similarity, and it is important to analyze the manifold influences of the family environment on the development of the twins in greater detail.

TwinLife has incorporated several questions and item batteries from the SOEP, e.g., on labor market status, educational participation, child care, household environment and personality, facilitating comparative analyses using both panels.



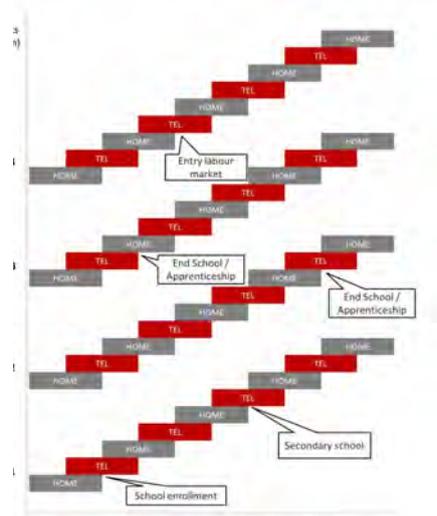
Data access

Since November 2016, data on the first face-to-face at-home interviews with 2,009 twin families have been available as a scientific use file in the GESIS data catalogue. The data and documentation are available in English and German. Besides the survey data collected, the data release contains mode-related paradata on a variable-by-variable basis as well as socio-demographic information on the interviewers.

A comprehensive documentation is available in the metadata-documentation-system [paneldata.org](https://data.soep.de/twinlife) developed by the SOEP (<https://data.soep.de/twinlife>).

Please use the following link for further information on the content of the release and data access:

<http://doi.org/10.4232/1.12665>



Events & Activities

SOEP Brown Bag Seminars

The SOEP Brown Bag Seminar series offers SOEP researchers an opportunity to present their ongoing research using SOEP data or methodological research that is deemed relevant for the SOEP survey. The seminars take place approximately every two weeks at DIW Berlin. We also encourage researchers from outside DIW Berlin to attend the seminars and present their research! Proposals for special Brown Bag Seminars are also welcome.



If you would like to participate or present, do not hesitate to contact us to subscribe to the SOEP Brown

Bag mailing list or to obtain a list of available slots from the organizers Cortnie Shupe (cshupe@diw.de) and Katharina Poschmann (kposchmann@diw.de).

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

Presentations in the last months have included:

Maria **Metzing** (DIW Berlin), Robin **Jessen** (FU Berlin), Davud **Rostam-Afschar** (Universität Stuttgart-Hohenheim): Optimal Taxation Under Different Concepts of Justness. October 19, 2016.

Melanie **Olczyk** (Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences): Ethnische Einbettung und Bildungserwerb von Jugendlichen mit Migrationshintergrund – Zur Bedeutung ethnisch segregierter Nachbarschaften und elterlicher Freundschaftsnetzwerke. November 2, 2016.

Marcel **Hebing** (DIW Berlin): Metadatenmanagement und paneldata.org. December 1, 2016.

Elisabeth **Hahn** (Saarland University): „Wege in Deutschland“ – Eine Studie zur Analyse integrationsfördernder und -hemmender Faktoren bei Flüchtlingen. November 30, 2016.

Jessica **Ordemann** (University of Leipzig): Monetary returns to tertiary degrees for non-traditional alumni. January 11, 2017.

Silke **Schneider** and Verena **Ortmanns** (GESIS): Computer Assisted Measurement and Coding of Educational Qualifications in Multicultural Surveys (CAMCES): a new set of survey tools. January 25, 2017.

People & Papers

SOEP People: Five questions to Rainer Winkelmann



Rainer **Winkelmann**'s research on unemployment and happiness using SOEP data led to his groundbreaking 1998 paper "Why are the unemployed so unhappy?" (written jointly by Liliana **Winkelmann**), which conclusively demonstrated—for the first time—that unemployment makes people unhappy. It is the most widely cited paper in the history of the SOEP.

Rainer Winkelmann studied economics at the University of Konstanz, Paris IX-Dauphine, and Washington University in St. Louis, and he holds a PhD from the University of Munich (1993). He has taught at Dartmouth College, USA, and the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, and was a visiting professor at Harvard University, Syracuse University, and UCLA. He has been a Professor of Economics at the University of Zurich since 2001. His research is in micro-econometrics with applications to social policy issues in the fields of labor,

health, and well-being. He is a member of the DIW Berlin Scientific Advisory Board and chaired the SOEP Survey Committee up to the end of 2016.

The video of our interview, "SOEP People: A Conversation with Rainer Winkelmann" can be found at: http://www.diw.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=diw_01.c.552138.de.

- 1. Your paper "Why are the unemployed so unhappy?", published in 1998 in the journal *Economica*, paved the way for a growing body of research on unemployment and happiness. What did you find out?**

First, we found that unemployment matters a lot to individuals' well-being. For instance, unemployed people on average have a 10 percent lower probability of being happy than employed people. Second, we found out that income is not that important for well-being. This fits with an idea that emerged around the same time that economics is too narrow in focus. It's not just what makes workers go to work. It's not just a high per capita GDP that's needed for a good society. There is much more to it than that—there are other things that people look for and that contribute to their well-being. It's not just money.

Incidentally, we published another paper three years before the *Economica* paper in the journal *Konjunkturpolitik*, where we studied how unemployment affects the household when one partner is unemployed. The SOEP data allowed us to do that because they provide the family context. What we found is not really that surprising: women are very unhappy when their partner is unemployed. This actually means that unemployment is overall even worse than what we described in our *Economica* paper, because it not only affects the unemployed person but also spills over in the household.

- 2. Today, almost 20 years later, do you see policy impacts of that research?**

One part of the long-term impact was to put life satisfaction and well-being research on the agenda and say it's not just money that matters; there should be broader notions. It's not enough to focus on macroeconomic factors like maximizing GDP; to have high well-being in a country, other things matter as well. That has slowly started to have an impact in policy circles. Now the OECD has a "better life index" that takes account of these broader measures of well-being that came from life satisfaction and happiness research. The UN edits a world happiness report. Our research has supported the idea that one should judge progress not just by looking at income changes or GDP growth, but also by looking at other indicators.

- 3. Several countries are discussing the introduction of a basic income. What does your research say about how a basic income might affect people's incentive to work?**

For economists, the idea of a basic income clearly has some appeal. As a labor economist, one is very aware of welfare traps: situations where people with low incomes who receive benefits have no monetary incentive at all to start working. Basic income would solve that. I think that our evidence is consistent with the notion that even a basic income would

not stop most people from working because actually they like to work; they get social recognition from work. With a basic income, you can also work to supplement your income and have a higher income as a consequence. In this sense, there is some link between our unemployment research and the discussion on basic income.

4. *Your research has high policy relevance, but you're also known in the SOEP community as an innovator and expert in micro-econometric methodologies.*

Most of my research is really one step before policy-oriented research. I develop microeconomic methods and am happy if people use them in applied research that goes into policy reports, but I don't have to be the person that actually does that. I find it more interesting to be guided by my curiosity than by current policy issues, so I think a bit more long-term about what to work on and what fascinates me. I find research fascinating because you can make discoveries—you think about questions that no one has addressed before. Whether it gets published in the end is almost secondary. We've written papers that were never published but I still thought it was a good experience and a good idea to do that research.

5. *As a data user for over 30 years, you've seen numerous changes and innovations in the SOEP study...*

The most important thing for my purposes was that from the start in 1984, the SOEP included a life satisfaction question, which no other survey had at the time and which was quite visionary. I think that has paid off nicely for the SOEP and for many researchers. We now have 32 years of data this year, so there are also tremendous opportunities for future research to look at long time series of consistent measurements in life satisfaction.

Another point that I think is important about the SOEP is that success breeds success. Once the SOEP was there—it was early and was doing good things—others picked up on it. A research community developed around the SOEP. That also makes the SOEP more attractive to you as a young researcher because you benefit from the experience, from the acknowledgment that this is a good dataset, and it becomes easier for you to publish. There are also the SOEP user conferences. All these aspects are important points when deciding what data to use.

Awards to SOEP researchers

Ralph **Hertwig**, cognitive psychologist at Berlin's Max Planck Institute for Human Development, has received the 2017 Funding Prize in the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Programme from the DFG (German Research Foundation) for his work on the psychology of human judgment and decision-making. Ralph Hertwig is the fourth SOEP data user to be awarded this distinguished research prize: he was preceded by Ulman **Lindenberger**, Armin **Falk**, and Lutz **Raphael**. The SOEP group will be working with Hertwig on the "Origins and Determinants of Risk Preferences" project, which is financed by the Max Planck Society and will run until 2021. A joint publication on the subject has already been published based on SOEP data:

Josef, Anika K., David **Richter**, Gregory R. **Samaney-Larkin**, Gert G. **Wagner**, Ralph **Hertwig** and Rui **Mata**. 2016. Stability and Change in Risk-Taking Propensity Across the Adult Life Span. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 111, No. 3, 430-450. (doi: [10.1037/pspp0000090](https://doi.org/10.1037/pspp0000090)).

The 2016 Joachim Herz Award for Economics in the category "Best Project of a Senior Researcher" including a grant of €50,000 also went to a SOEP researcher. Urs **Fischbacher**, who was recently appointed to the SOEP Survey Committee, was honored for his distinguished achievements in experimental economics, last year's award theme. The award promotes interdisciplinary and methodologically innovative approaches in research.

SOEP Survey Committee welcomes new members

At its November 2016 meeting, the DIW Berlin Board of Trustees appointed two new members to an initial three-year term on the SOEP Survey Committee. As of 2017, Arthur **van Soest**, Professor at the Tilburg School of Economics and Management, Netherlands, and Urs **Fischbacher**, Professor of Applied Economics at the University of Konstanz, join the other seven members of the SOEP Survey Committee in advising the SOEP on

its survey and services. At the same meeting, the Board appointed Jutta **Heckhausen** and Dalton **Conley** to a second three-year term.

Arthur van Soest is a renowned expert in micro-econometrics and panel data analysis. Through his very successful research on the economics of decision-making, he has gathered extensive experience with surveys and experiments. Urs Fischbacher's research deals with questions of altruism, motivation, cooperation, social norms, and fairness.

According to the By-Laws, the nine members advise SOEP management on the development of the survey and on SOEP service. The new appointments were necessary because the former Chair of the Survey Committee, Rainer **Winkelmann**, as well as Simon **Gächter** had served their statutory limit of two terms on the committee. The SOEP group extends its sincere thanks to both Rainer Winkelmann and Simon Gächter for their extraordinary commitment and contributions to the SOEP. Rainer Winkelmann has played a significant role as Chair of the SOEP Survey Committee in the SOEP's successes over the course of his two terms in office. In January, Uwe **Sunde** assumed the position as Chair of the Survey Committee.

For more on the SOEP Survey Committee, see: http://www.diw.de/en/diw_02.c.221327.en/soep_survey_committee.html

Statement on the relevance of population-based longitudinal studies

The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities, and acatech – the National Academy of Science and Engineering released a joint statement in 2016 on the relevance of population-based longitudinal studies for science and social policies that is now available online in English.

According to the statement, such large-scale instruments or indeed “research infrastructures” are extensive and complex research instruments with an at least national, if not international relevance for the empirical research in the social, economic and behavioural sciences as well as in epidemiology

and health research. The present statement aims at providing recommendations for the structure of research funding and the harmonisation of future research efforts.

[Download the paper](http://www.leopoldina.org/en), or go to: <http://www.leopoldina.org/en>

Analyzing special population or occupational groups

The paper “Berufsgruppe ‘Erzieherin’: Zufrieden mit der Arbeit, aber nicht mit der Entlohnung” by C. Katharina **Spieß** and Franz G. **Westermaier** published in the *DIW-Wochenbericht Nr. 43* (in German) in 2016 has again shown that the SOEP sample size is now so large that it provides the basis for statistically valid findings on even relatively small population groups. We encourage SOEP users to conduct more analyses like these.

The expansion of day care in Germany over the past few years has led to a corresponding growth in the number of childcare workers. How satisfied are these employees with their work? Do they feel overburdened? And how do their feelings differ from those working in comparable professions? The study by Spieß and Westermaier attempts to answer these question using data from the SOEP. The data show that childcare workers are quite satisfied with their work, reporting satisfaction levels as high as those of primary school teachers. When it comes to pay, however, they are more dissatisfied than those in the comparison groups. Although they do not feel burdened by many aspects of their work, the balance between effort and reward is poorer than it is among most of the other professional groups. More investment in early education could be worthwhile, because if childcare workers are more satisfied with their pay and find their jobs less stressful, the quality of education will increase overall. This will ultimately be an investment in current and future human potential.

Spieß and Westermaier cite examples of other articles using SOEP data to study small population groups. Studies on teachers and artists include:

Steiner, Lasse, and Lucian **Schneider**. 2013. “The happy artist? An empirical application of the work-preference model” *Journal of Cultural Economics* 37, no. 2, pp. 225-246. (doi: [10.1007/s10824-012-9179-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10824-012-9179-1))



Schult, Johannes, Manuela Münzer-Schrobligen, and Jörn R. Sparfeldt. 2014. “Belastet, aber hochzufrieden? – Arbeitsbelastung von Lehrkräften im Quer- und Längsschnitt”, *Zeitschrift für Gesundheitspsychologie* 22, no. 2, pp. 67-67. (doi: [10.1026/0943-8149/a000114](https://doi.org/10.1026/0943-8149/a000114))

Dohmen, Thomas, and Armin Falk. 2010. “You get what you pay for: Incentives and selection in the education system,” *The Economic Journal*, vol. 120, no. 546, F256-F271. (doi: [10.1111/j.1468-0297.2010.02376.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-0297.2010.02376.x))

Staff and community news



Sarah **Dahmann** successfully defended her dissertation on “Human Capital Returns to Education – Three Essays on the Causal Effects of Schooling on Skills and Health” at Freie Universität Berlin. On the same day, she received her graduation certificate from the DIW Graduate Center at a ceremony with 15 other PhD graduates, including three former SOEP members, Elisabeth Church (née Bügelmayer), Adrian Hille, and Nina Vogel. Sarah has left the SOEP to start a postdoctoral position at the University of Sydney as of March. We wish her all the best and a good start “down under.”



Christoph **Halbmeier** began work in February as a SOEP research assistant on the DFG project “Wealth Distribution in Switzerland and Germany: Evidence from Survey Data”. He finished his degree in economics in October of last year at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. His master’s thesis analyzed the effects of trade on the labor productivity in German industries. He worked previously as a student assistant on the SOEP team, and plans to complete a PhD while working at the SOEP.



Jannes **Jacobsen**, Jana **Jaworski**, and Lisa **Pagel** recently joined the SOEP as part of the project “Refugee Families in Germany.” Jannes completed his master’s degree in Sociology at the Freie Universität Ber-



Photo: Sarah Dahmann (center) was one of the 16 PhD graduates receiving a certificate from the DIW Graduate Center



lin in early 2016. His master’s thesis deals with antisemitism and racism, examining these issues in different religions from a comparative perspective. His research interests also include migration. At the SOEP, he will be responsible for documentation and aspects of data weighting for the GeFam project. Jana completed her master’s in Economics at the University of Potsdam in October 2016. Her master’s thesis used SOEPlong v31 data



to test the existence of an urban wage premium in Germany. At the SOEP, she is responsible for preparing the data from samples M3 and M4 (GeFam), and also for aspects of questionnaire development, in particular for addressing the interests of external researchers. Lisa completed her master’s degree in Psychology at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin in September 2016. In her master’s thesis, she looks for evidence of whether the “traditional” survey question of how many books a family has in their household is still a good proxy for a young person’s cultural capital. Her work in the GeFam project will also deal with educational questions, focusing in particular on the individual and institutional factors that help adolescent refugees to assimilate successfully into the German educational system.



Michaela **Schmälzle** joined the SOEP group this January to support in survey management of the SOEP-related study PIAAC-L. Michaela studied Sociology at the University of Konstanz and the University of

Mannheim. In her master's thesis, she examined the relationship between different pathways to retirement and retirement adjustment in Germany. Her research interests include the development of social inequalities over the life course as well as survey methodology.



Hannes **Kröger** joined the SOEP group in December 2016. He holds a PhD in Sociology from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. His dissertation investigated health selection effects on the German labor market. After his dissertation, Hannes worked at the European University Institute (EUI), Florence, investigating health inequalities in a life course perspective. At the SOEP, he works in the BRISE (Bremer Interventionsstudie zur Stärkung der frühkindlichen Entwicklung) project. His research interests are in the fields of health inequalities and applied statistical methods in the social sciences.

SOEP staff activities

Paper presentations January – April 2017

Michele **Battisti** and Alexandra **Fedorets**: The gender wage gap in Germany: Field of study and occupational choice. [The International Conference on PIAAC and PIAAC-Longitudinal](#), April 5–6, 2017, Mannheim/Germany.

Luise **Burkhardt**, Daniel D. **Schnitzlein**, Jürgen **Schupp**: The relationship between cognitive skills and risk aversion. New evidence from German panel data. [The International Conference on PIAAC and PIAAC-Longitudinal](#), April 5–6, 2017, Mannheim/Germany.

Marco **Gießelmann**: Working-Time of Difference of Parents around first Childbirth. Kolloquium des Seminars für Soziologie der Universität Tübingen, January 1, 2017, Tübingen/Germany.

Jan **Goebel** and Knut **Wenzig**: Forschungsdatenzentrum SOEP. [7. Konferenz für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsdaten: Forschung. Daten. Infrastruktur](#). February 8–9, 2017, Berlin/Germany.

Jannes **Jacobsen** and Lisa **Pagel**: Surveying the refugee population in Germany—Experiences from the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Refugee Sample. [The International Conference on PIAAC and PIAAC-Longitudinal](#), April 5–6, 2017, Mannheim/Germany.

Robin **Jessen**, Davud **Rostam-Afschar**, Maria **Metzing**: Optimal Taxation under Different Concepts of Justness. [Allied Social Sciences Associations \(ASSA\) 2017 Annual Meeting](#), January 6–8, 2017, Chicago, IL/USA.

Ingrid **Tucci**, Nicolas **Legewie**: Les bifurcations dans les parcours professionnels: apport des méthodes mixtes à partir d'une grande enquête de panel. Le parcours en question: comprendre les tensions entre les logiques individuelles, collectives et institutionnelles. [Colloque](#) organisé par l'Association Française de Sociologie, February 2–3, 2017, Paris/France.

Katharina **Poschmann**: Job-related training, learning opportunities at work and personality traits. [The International Conference on PIAAC and PIAAC-Longitudinal](#), April 5–6, 2017, Mannheim/Germany.

David **Richter** and Martin **Kroh**: Prevalence and magnitude of question order effects in household surveys. [The International Conference on PIAAC and PIAAC-Longitudinal](#), April 5–6, 2017, Mannheim/Germany.

Daniel D. **Schnitzlein**: Do cognitive skills foster trust? Evidence from 30 countries around the world. [The International Conference on PIAAC and PIAAC-Longitudinal](#), April 5–6, 2017, Mannheim/Germany.

Jürgen **Schupp**: Analysepotenziale zur Gesundheit mit dem Sozio-oekonomischen Panel (SOEP). Soziologisches Institutskolloquium des Instituts für Soziologie der Martin Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, January 25, 2017, Halle/Germany.

Paper presentations October – December 2016

Marco **Gießelmann**, Marina Hagen, Reinhard **Schunck**: Motherhood and Mental Well-Being: Linking the Life-Course Approach with Gender Perspectives. Education and the Life Course: Determinants and Consequences of Unequal Educational Opportunities. [Conference of the Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies \(SLLS\)](#), October 5–8, 2016, Bamberg/Germany.

Markus M. **Grabka**: Die Vermögensverteilung in Deutschland. Exkursion des Instituts für Siedlungs- und Wohnungswesen der Universität Münster, October 4, 2016, Berlin/Germany.

Nicolas **Legewie**: Panel-basierte Mixed-Methods-Studien. Design, Feldzugang, Potentiale und Herausforderungen. Mit dem SOEP und anderen statistischen Daten arbeiten. Quantitative und qualitative

Sekundäranalysen. Workshop am Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam, October 13, 2016, Potsdam/Germany.

Nicolas **Legewie**: Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA). Atelier „Méthodo“ de Laboratoire d'Economie et de Sociologie du Travail (LEST), October 4, 2016, Aix-en-Provence/France.

Christian **Schmitt**: Low Fertility, Labor Market, and Family: Factors, Outcomes, and Policy Implications (invited). East-West-Center (EWC) & Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA) joint conference, December 8–9, 2016, Honolulu, HI/USA.

Jürgen **Schupp**: Progress in Societies: Socio-Economic and Subjective Aspects of Well-Being. Presentation, Conference „Well-being and Time“, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, October 17–19, 2016, Münster/Germany.

Knut **Wenzig**: Publishing DDI-Related Topics: Current Status and Related Working Group of the DDI Alliance. 8th Annual European DDI User Conference (EDDI16), December 6–7, 2016, Cologne/Germany.

Knut **Wenzig**: Same Same But Different - Documenting Panel Data Using DDI (Tutorial). 8th Annual European DDI User Conference (EDDI16), December 6–7, 2016, Cologne/Germany.

Presentation at policy forums (November – February)

Markus M. **Grabka**: Die Einkommens- und Vermögensverteilung in Deutschland. Besuch des Leistungskurs Sozialwissenschaften des Rats- und Herder-Gymnasium Münster, January 31, 2017, Münster/Germany

University teaching (Winter semester 2016/2017)

Marco **Gießelmann**: Sozialstrukturelle Bedingungen und Folgen individuellen Handelns. Seminar. Universität Bielefeld

Markus **Grabka**: Empirische Mikroökonomik: Analysen sozio-ökonomischer Ungleichheit - Einzelansicht. Projektseminar. Technische Universität Berlin

Christian **Schmitt**: Sozio-demographische Zukunftsszenarien und was aus ihnen wurde. Seminar. Universität Rostock

Christian **Schmitt**: International vergleichende Arbeitsmarktanalyse und Erwerbstätigkeit. Seminar. Universität Rostock

Daniel **Schnitzlein**: Bachelor- und Master-Kolloquium Bildungsökonomik. Leibniz-Universität Hannover

Daniel **Schnitzlein**: Economics of Education II. Vorlesung. Leibniz-Universität Hannover

Daniel **Schnitzlein**: Seminar zur Bildungsökonomik. Seminar. Leibniz-Universität Hannover

Carsten **Schröder**: Ökonomie des Wohlfahrtsstaates. Vorlesung. FU Berlin

Jürgen **Schupp**: Methodologies and Research Themes of Inequality in European Comparative Structural Analyses. Seminar. FU Berlin

Short-term special courses (February)

Marco **Gießelmann**: Introduction to the Socio-Economic Panel Study. SOEPcampus@DIW Berlin, February 27–28, 2017, Berlin/Germany.

SOEP visitors

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

Geschke, Sascha-Christopher, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin/Germany

Krekel, Christian, London School of Economics and Political Science, London/UK

Ordemann, Jessica, University of Leipzig/Germany

Salikutluk, Zerrin, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin/Germany

Samarsky, Elena, University of Oxford/United Kingdom

Siebert, Stefan, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin/Germany

Tucci, Ingrid, LEST, Aix-en-Provence/France

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

Backhaus, Teresa, FU Berlin/WZB, Berlin Social Science Center, Berlin/Germany

Dahmann, Sarah, University of Sydney, Australia

Hense, Andrea, Soziologisches Forschungsinstitut Göttingen/Germany

Hilbig, Hanno, WZB Berlin, Berlin Social Science Center, Berlin/Germany

Hoppe, Lukas, Jacobs University of Bremen (BIGSSS)/ Bremen/Germany

Ingensiep, Cathrin, University of Hamburg, Hamburg/Germany

Kolbe, Jens, Technische Universität Berlin, Berlin/Germany

Kossow, Tom, University of Heidelberg/Germany

Hartmann, Jörg, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen/Germany

Margaryan, Shushanik, University of Hamburg/Germany

Rink, Anselm, Columbia University/USA

Santiago Vela, Ana, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin/Germany

Sievert, Stephan, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin/Germany

Stella, Luca, University of Wuppertal/Germany

Stroh, Daniel, Nova School of Business and Economics, Lisbon/Portugal

Vogel, Nina, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin/Germany

New data users

Assistant Prof. David R. **Agrawal**, PhD: Commuting taxes and the quality of job matches. University of Kentucky, Martin School of Public Policy, Lexington, KY/USA.

Prof. Alisher **Aldashev**: After the curtain: empirical studies of migration in transition economies. Kazakh-British Technical University, International School of Economics, Almaty/Kazakhstan.

Prof. Massimo **Anelli**: Intercultural marriages and children outcomes (Assessing the impact of having European parents of two different nationalities on cognitive & non-cognitive abilities of the children). Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi, Department of Policy Analysis and Public Management, Milan/Italy.

Dr. Yu **Aoki**: The effect of early life health conditions on later life outcomes. University of Aberdeen, Old Aberdeen/UK.

Prof. Dr. Melanie **Arntz**: Beschäftigungspolarisierung und atypische Beschäftigung. Universität Heidelberg, Alfred-Weber-Institut für Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Heidelberg/Germany.

Prof. Mohammad Arshad **Rahman**: Flexible bayesian quantile regression in longitudinal data models. Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kanpur/India.

Dr. Stefan **Bär**: Sozialisation bei Kindern mit Herzfehler. Universität Heidelberg, Max-Weber-Institut für Soziologie, Heidelberg/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Christina E. **Bannier**: Social finance—empirical analyses. Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, FB Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Gießen/Germany.

Dr. Paolo Nicola **Barbieri**: The “health immigration effect” in Europe. University of Gothenburg, Centre for Health Economics, Gothenborg/Sweden.

Prof. Dr. Dirk **Battenfeld**: Coming out of the riche? Social banking in Germany: an empirical analysis of consumer characteristics and market size. Alanus Hochschule für Kunst und Gesellschaft, Lehrstuhl für Allgemeine Betriebswirtschaftslehre, insb. Marketing and Controlling, Alfter/Germany.

Prof. Francisco Belmonte **Serrato**: Weather and religious beliefs. University of Murcia, Department of Geography and Spatial Planning, Murcia/Spain.

Dr. Carl **Berning**: The company we keep: the electoral and social context. Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz, Institut für Politikwissenschaft, Mainz/Germany.

Prof. George J. **Borjas**: An empirical study on the fiscal impact of immigration in selected European countries. Harvard University, Economics and Social Policy, Cambridge, MA/USA.

Prof. Maristella **Botticini**: The effect of the German refugees on the social capital of West Germany. Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi, Department of Economics, Milan/Italy.

Dr. Pawel **Bukowski**: Real wage stagnation. The London School of Economics and Political Science, The Center for Economic Performance, London/UK.

Dr. Richard **Burns**: A mixture framework for the analysis of change in wellbeing. The Australian National University, Centre for Research in Ageing, Health and Wellbeing, Canberra/Australia.

Dr. Amalavoyal **Chari**: The effect of internet on health. University of Sussex, Department of Economics, Brighton/UK.

Prof. Dr. Robin **Christmann**: Auswirkung unterschiedlicher Richtlinien der Länder zu §31a BtMG („Cannabis-Freigrenze“) auf individuelles Verhalten. Leibniz Fachhochschule, Professur für Volkswirtschaftslehre, Hannover/Germany.

Prof. Giuseppe **Ciccarone**: Psychological determinants of consumption decisions: the role of cognitive and non-cognitive skills in spending and saving attitudes. Sapienza University of Rome, Department of economics and Law, Rome/Italy.

Prof. Dr. Pierluigi **Conzo**: Inside trust: evaluating anticipation and adaptation in generalized trust in response to socio-economic and demographic shocks. University of Turin, Economics and Statistics, Turin/Italy.

Prof. Dr. Herbert **Dawid**: Job Search, Referrals and Occupational Mismatch in the German Labour Market. Universität Bielefeld, Fakultät für Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Bielefeld/Germany.

Prof. Steve **DeLoach**: Labor market outcomes of German immigrants. Elon University, Elon, NC/USA.

Dr. Adam **Dennett**: Smart cities and urban analytics. University College London, Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, London/UK.

Ruth Katharina **Ditlmann**, PhD: Public Opinion towards refugees. Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, Abteilung Migration, Integration und Transnationalisierung, Berlin/Germany.

Prof. Benjamin **Enke**: Trust and migrants. Harvard University, Department of Economics, Cambridge, MA/USA.

Assistant Prof. Jose-Antonio **Espin-Sanchez**: Weather and religious beliefs. Yale University, Department of Economics, New Haven, CT/USA.

Prof. Jane **Falkingham**: Understanding intergenerational relations and exchange. University of Southampton, Centre for Population Change, Southampton/UK.

Prof. Dr. Robert **Fenge**: Die Auswirkung von Einkommensunterschieden auf das Wirtschaftswachstum. Universität Rostock, Institut für Volkswirtschaftslehre, Rostock/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Joachim **Gassen**: Wirtschaftsprüfung und Rechnungswesen im Wandel der Zeit. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Rechnungslegung und Wirtschaftsprüfung, Berlin/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Achim **Goerres**: Die Gesundheit lokaler politischer Eliten in Nordrhein-Westfalen im Jahr 2015. Universität Duisburg-Essen, Lehrstuhl für empirische Politikwissenschaft, Duisburg/Germany.

Dr. Isabella **Hatak**: Well-being and entrepreneurship. University of Twente, NIKOS—Netherlands Institute for Knowledge, Enschede/The Netherlands.

Prof. Dr. Reiner **Hellbrück**: Microeconomic analysis of migration, income and quality of life. Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften Würzburg-Schweinfurt, Fakultät Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Würzburg/Germany.

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Hans-Martin **Henning**: Development of a methodology for the design of optimized transformation paths to sustainable municipal energy systems by evaluating techno-economical, political and social factors. Karlsruher Institut für Technologie KIT, Fachgebiet Strömungsmaschinen, Karlsruhe/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Boris **Hirsch**: Monopsonistische Diskriminierung von Frauen am deutschen Arbeitsmarkt. Leuphana Universität Lüneburg, Institut für Volkswirtschaftslehre, Lüneburg/Germany.

Dr. Marc **Höglinger**: Intergenerational Social Mobility and Life Satisfaction in Germany. Universität Bern, Institut für Soziologie, Bern/Switzerland.

Prof. John **Iceland**: The effect of ethnic diversity on general trust in Germany. Pennsylvania State University, College of the Liberal Arts, Department of Sociology and Criminology, University Park, PA/USA.

Prof. Amaney **Jamal**: Refugees and native reactions in Germany. Princeton University, Department of Politics, Princeton, NJ/USA.

Prof. Dan **Johansson**: Labour market integration of refugee's in Germany: Is there a difference between refugees and other migrant groups? Örebro University, School of Business, Örebro/Sweden.

Prof. Dr. André **Kaiser**: Does homeownership change vote choice? Voting behavior among homeowners under volatile house prices in different political contexts. Universität zu Köln, Cologne Center for Comparative Politics, Cologne/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Odej **Kao**: Algorithmic Bias, Discrimination Discovery and fairness-aware Machine Learning. Technische Universität Berlin, Department of Telecommunication Systems, Berlin/Germany.

Assistant Professor Dr. Yigitcan **Karabulut**: Destined to invest: the effect of personality traits on stock market participation. Erasmus University, Rotterdam School of Management, Rotterdam/The Netherlands.

Prof. Nico **Keilman**: The effect of personal income on childcare time allocation within households. Universität Oslo, Lehrstuhl für Volkswirtschaftslehre, Oslo/Norway.

Prof. Dr. Fabian **Kindermann**: Inheritance taxation and wealth effects on labor supply of heirs. Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Institut für Makroökonomik und Ökonometrie, Bonn/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Martin **Klarmann**: Verändertes Mediennutzungsverhalten der Generation Y im Vergleich zu vorhergehenden Generationen. Karlsruher Institut für Technologie KIT, Institut für Informationswirtschaft und Marketing, Karlsruhe/Germany.

Dr. Tuuli-Marja **Kleiner**: Polarisierung in der deutschen Gesellschaft. Fern Universität Hagen, Politikwissenschaft I: Staat und Regieren, Hagen/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Marko **Köthenbürger**: Municipal Mergers and Political Participation: Evidence from Germany. ETH Zurich, Public Economics, Zurich/Switzerland.

Prof. Zoe **Kourtzi**: Personality as a predictor of migration within and between German federal states. University of Cambridge, Department of Psychology, Cambridge/UK.

Prof. Dr. Jenny **Kragl**: Motivation and incentive pay - a critical look at home office and teleworking. EBS Universität für Wirtschaft und Recht, Department für Management und Ökonomik, Oestrich-Winkel/Germany.

Susanne **Kuger**, PhD: Die Rolle von Integration und Inklusion von Kindern mit Migrationshintergrund in Kindergärten. Deutsches Institut für Internationale Pädagogische Forschung, Bildungsqualität und Evaluation. Frankfurt am Main/Germany.

Prof. Seok-Woo **Kwon**: Entrepreneurship & wellbeing. University of Calgary, Calgary/Canada.

Prof. Ekaterini **Kyriazidou**: Labor force participation of married women in Germany: a panel data analysis. Athens University of Economics & Business, Department of Economics, Athens/Greece.

Prof. Dr. Fabian **Lamp**: Fördern und Fordern – Neue Armutsrisiken im aktivierenden Sozialstaat am Beispiel der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Fachhochschule Kiel, Fachbereich Soziale Arbeit und Gesundheit, Kiel/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Andreas **Lehmann-Wermser**: Die Teilhabe an Musikalischer Bildung und die damit verbundenen Transfereffekte. Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover, Institut für Musikpädagogische Forschung, Hannover/Germany.

Horacio **Levy**, PhD: The squeezed middle class in OECD countries-myth and reality. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development | OECD, Paris/France.

Dr. Jona **Linde**: Social preferences for redistribution of wealth in Germany. Maastricht University, SBE/AE 1, Maastricht/The Netherlands.

Dr. Anne **Lohmann**: Zusammenhang zwischen Glück und Rassismus. Hochschule Osnabrück, Fakultät Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften, Osnabrück/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Oliver **Lüdtke**: Stabilität von Persönlichkeit. IPN - Leibniz-Institut für die Pädagogik der Naturwissenschaften und Mathematik, Päd.- Psych. Methodenlehre, Kiel/Germany.

Prof. Ruud **Luijckx**: Her penalty, his bonus? How and why parenthood makes men and women more un-

equal at work. Tilburg University, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Tilburg/The Netherlands.

Dr. Anne **Margarian**: Arbeitsplatz- und Berufswahl aus räumlicher Perspektive. Thünen-Institut für Ländliche Räume, Braunschweig/Germany.

Dr. Markus **Marterbauer**: Beschäftigungseffekte im Niedriglohnssektor. Arbeiterkammer Wien, Abteilung Wirtschaftswissenschaft, Vienna/Austria.

Associate Prof. Rahsaan **Maxwell**: Immigration attitudes and urban residence in Europe. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Political Science, Chapel Hill, NC/USA.

Prof. Dr. Sven **Michel**: Ein längsschnittlicher Vergleich ausgewählter sozio-demographischer Merkmale unterschiedlicher Berufsgruppen. Brandenburgische Technische Universität, Cottbus – Senftenberg, Senftenberg/Germany.

Prof. Mishael **Milakovic**: Vermögensverteilung in Deutschland, Verteilungsgesetzmäßigkeiten und Determinanten. Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg, Lehrstuhl für VWL, insbs. Internationale Wirtschaft, Bamberg/Germany.

Assistant Prof. Emanuele **Millemaci**: Personality traits and economic behaviour. University of Messina, Department of Economics, Messina-Bogetta/Italy.

Dr. Jens **Mohrenweiser**: Further training activities and individual characteristics. Bournemouth University, Leadership, Strategy and Organisation, Bournemouth/UK.

Prof. Dr. Elisabeth **Müller**: Investigating Entrepreneurial Judgement. German Graduate School of Management and Law, Entrepreneurship and Family Firms, Heilbronn/Germany.

Prof. Marc-Andreas **Muendler**: Trade, technology and labour markets. University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego), Department of Economics, La Jolla, CA/USA.

Prof. Magnus **Nermo**: Cash for care use in Germany. Stockholm University, Department of Sociology, Stockholm/Sweden.

Prof. Dr. Tina **Nobis**: Sport und soziale Ungleichheit. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Juniorprofessur für Sport, Integration und Migration, Berlin/Germany.

Prof. Rebecca **Neumann**: Migration and Human Capital Adjustments: Evidence from Germany. University

of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Department of Economics, Milwaukee, WI/USA.

Assistant Prof. Tatsushi **Oka**: Understanding the effect of retirement age on healthcare utilisation using a Quantile Regression Discontinuity Design. National University of Singapore, Department of Economics, Singapore/Republic of Singapore.

Dr. Stefania **Paredes Fuentes**: Native-migrant inter-ethnic differences in trust and reciprocity behaviours. University of Warwick, Economics, Coventry/UK.

Dr. habil. Maria K. **Pavlova**: Psychosoziale Vorteile bürgerschaftlicher und politischer Beteiligung über die Lebensspanne und in einem europäischen Vergleich. Wer profitiert wie, von welchen Aktivitäten und warum? Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Institut für Psychologie, Jena/Germany.

Dr. Brienna **Perrelli-Harris**: Consequences of family change in cross-national comparison. University of Southampton, Centre for Population Change, Southampton/UK.

Prof. Dr. Pascal **Perrineau**: Public opinion towards immigration across Europe—Germany. Sciences Po, CEVIPOF, Paris/France.

Prof. Miguel **Portela**: A replication of “Much ado about nothing: conditional logit vs. random coefficient models for estimating labour supply elasticities”—An assignment to the Labour Economics Class. Minho University, Department of Economics, Braga/Portugal.

Dr. Patrick **Präg**: Inequality in the life course. University of Oxford, Department of Sociology, Oxford/UK.

Prof. Michael **Pries**, PhD: Integration of bosnian refugees into the German labor market as a predictor of Syrian refugees’ integration into the German labor market. University of Notre Dame, Economics Department, Notre Dame, IN/USA.

Prof. Pedro **Raposo**: How important is the part in the life satisfaction: use of an ordered dynamic panel model. Catolica Lisbon Business and Economics, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Lisbon/Portugal.

Prof. Ettore **Recchi**: What is the optimal balance between immigrant support through welfare state benefits and the level of self-motivated integration without statehelp that needs to be assumed by states in order to obtain successful integration results? SciencesPo, Observatoire Sociologique Du Changement, Paris/France.

Dr. Reimund **Reinhardt**: Nutzung der sozioökonomischen Daten im Rahmen der Arbeitsweltberichterstattung. Landesinstitut für Arbeitsgestaltung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Informations- und Wissensmanagement, Arbeitsweltberichterstattung, Düsseldorf/Germany.

Dr. Cinzia **Rienzo**: Evaluating returns on investments in the labour market integration of refugees and asylum seekers: a holistic approach. National Institute of Economic and Social Research, London/UK.

Tiina **Ristikari**, PhD: The social ecology of personality development. National Institute for Health and Welfare, Children, Adolescents and Families Unit, Oulu/Finland.

Prof. Dr. Mike **Savage**: The labour market prospects of immigrants in Germany and the United Kingdom. London School of Economics and Political Science | LSE, International Inequalities Institute, London/UK.

Alyssa **Schneebaum**, PhD: Vermögensunterschiede nach Geschlecht in Österreich und Deutschland: Eine Analyse auf der Personenebene. Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, Institut für Makroökonomie, Vienna/Austria.

Assistant Prof. Immo **Schott**: Political Preferences and Unemployment. Université de Montréal, Department of Economics, Montréal/QC/Canada.

Dr. Lars **Schwettmann**: (1) Zugang zur hausärztlichen Versorgung (2) Gesundheit und Gesundheitsverhalten vor und nach Renteneintritt. Helmholtz Zentrum München, Institut für Gesundheitsökonomie und Management im Gesundheitswesen, Neuherberg/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Willi **Semmler**: Wealth inequality: a comparison between US and Germany. Universität Bielefeld, Fakultät für Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Bielefeld/Germany.

Dr. Julien **Senn**: The effects of unemployment on preferences. University of Zurich, Department of Economics, Zürich/Switzerland.

Prof. Mark **Setterfield**: Income inequality and capitalism. The New School For Social Research, Economics, New York, NY/USA.

Dr. Mohammad **Shahid**: Effect of nutrition of the handedness. International Center for Biosaline Agriculture, Dubai/United Arab Emirates.

Prof. Andrew **Shephard**: The effect of the marital support reform of 2008 on marriage rates, divorce rates and women's labour decisions. University of Pennsylvania, Economics, Philadelphia, PA/USA.

Yumiko **Shimabukuro**, PhD: The gender pay gap in Germany: an analysis of influencing factors. Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs, New York, NY/USA.

Prof. Dr. J.A. **Smulders**: The impact of migration on the German labor market. Tilburg University, Department of Economics, Tilburg/The Netherlands.

Prof. Kim M. **Sønderskov**, PhD: Personality and populism. Aarhus University, Political Science, Aarhus/Denmark.

Dr. Alina **Sorgner**: The influence of individual degrees to the decision of entrepreneurship: evidences from Germany. Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena, Lehrstuhl für Unternehmensentwicklung, Innovation und wirtschaftlichen Wandel, Jena/Germany.

PD Dr. Johannes **Stauder**: Die makrostrukturellen Rahmenbedingungen des Partnermarkts im Längsschnitt. Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Max-Weber-Institut für Soziologie, Heidelberg/Germany.

Dr. Max Friedrich **Steinhardt**: Die politische, soziale und ökonomische Integration von Zuwanderern und deren Nachkommen. Helmut Schmidt Universität, Lehrstuhl für Politische Ökonomik, Hamburg/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Nils **Stieglitz**: Entrepreneurial personality and occupational choices. Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, Frankfurt/Main/Germany.

Malena Rosén **Sundström**, PhD: Living in student dormitories and its impact on the development of social capital and civic engagement among students, Lund University, Lund/Sweden.

Prof. Mari **Tanaka**: Research for checking whether interpretation of zero return of compulsory schooling in German is really true. Is there no wage boost effect of no market relevant skill education? Hitotsubashi University, Faculty of Economics, Tokyo/Japan.

Veronica **Toffolutti**, PhD: Wealth and elites. University of Oxford, Department of Sociology. Oxford/UK

Prof. Joanna **Tyrowicz**: Estimating gender wage gaps. University of Warsaw, Faculty of Economics, Warsaw/Poland.

Juniorprof. Dr. Hale **Utar**: Adjustment to Globalization: work-life balance, gender, family and the role of institutions. Universität Bielefeld, International Economics, Bielefeld/Germany.

Prof. Felipe **Valencia**: Long-term cultural impact of religion in Germany: a sub-national analysis. Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms Universität Bonn, Economics, Bonn/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Dirk **Vallée**: SLAM – Schnellladenetz für Achsen und Metropolen (Standortsuche für elektrische Ladeinfrastruktur auf Basis der Verkehrsnachfrage und der Marktdurchdringung durch elektrische Fahrzeuge). RWTH Aachen Universität, Institut für Stadtbauwesen und Stadtverkehr, Aachen/Germany.

Prof. Georg **Vanberg**: Inequality, identity and the belief in meritocracy. Duke University, Department of Political Science, Durham, NC/USA.

Beate **Vedder-Stute**: Entwicklung der Arbeitssituation von Frauen in Deutschland in den letzten 20 Jahren. Fachhochschule Südwestfalen, Ingenieur- und Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Meschede/Germany.

Dr. Johanna **Wallenius**: Income inequality and redistribution in a DSGE model. Stockholm School of Economics, Department of Economics. Stockholm/Sweden.

Prof. Dr. Christa **Wehner**: Analyse der Berufszufriedenheit von Professoren an Hochschulen (HAW/FH). Hochschule Pforzheim, Pforzheim/Germany.

Dr. Conny **Wollbrant**: The effect on risk-preferences of an exogenous income shock. University of Gothenburg, Economics, Gothenburg/Sweden.

Prof. Dr. Stephan **Weinert**: A taxonomy of generation Y preferences and values. Hochschule Düsseldorf, Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Düsseldorf/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Christoph **Wunder**: Empirical analyses of subjective data, such as life satisfaction, job satisfaction, self-assessed health, or expectations about the future. Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Halle/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Roberto V. **Zicari**: Income Prediction. Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Institute of Computer Science-Database and Information Systems, Frankfurt/Main/Germany.

Prof. Dr. Heidrun **Zinecker**: Verräumlichungsprozesse unter Globalisierungsbedingungen. Universität Leipzig, Institut für Politikwissenschaft, Leipzig/Germany.

SOEP publications

Recently Published

Journal Publication

Immigrants suffer more from job loss

According to a recently published study based on SOEP data, immigrants suffer more from unemployment than Germans, but this is only true when comparing male immigrants to German men. The study by Liliya **Leopold**, Thomas **Leopold**, and Clemens M. **Lechner**, entitled "Do Immigrants Suffer More From Job Loss? Unemployment and Subjective Well-Being in Germany", appears in the renowned journal *Demography*. The study is based on longitudinal SOEP data on changes in life satisfaction before and after job loss.

The results show that men (both Germans and immigrants) suffer more from unemployment than women do. The greatest decline in life satisfaction after job loss was found among male immigrants. Here, the immigrants were mainly former "guest workers" from Turkey, Italy, Greece, and Spain, and from the countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The gap in life satisfaction increased with increasing durations of unemployment. After more than two years, the decline in life satisfaction among male immigrants was twice that of female immigrants, and half that of German men.

How can these differences be explained? The study shows that factors like marital status, number of children, disposable income and the decline in disposable income due to unemployment, real estate ownership, gender norms, and religious norms are unable to explain why immigrant men suffer more from unemployment. The researchers suspect that these men have especially high expectations for economic success in Germany. When their expectations are not met, this can lead to more severe psychological strain and thereby to a decline in life satisfaction.

Leopold, Liliya, Thomas **Leopold** and Clemens M. **Lechner**. 2017. Do Immigrants Suffer More from Job Loss? Unemployment and Subjective Well-Being in Germany. *Demography*. (doi: [10.1007/s13524-016-0539-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13524-016-0539-x))

Economic Bulletin

Forced migration, arrival in Germany, and first steps toward integration

A new representative survey of a total of 4,500 recently arrived refugees to Germany conducted by the Institute for Employment Research (IAB), the Research Centre of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF-FZ), and the SOEP has generated an entirely new database for analyzing forced migration and the integration of refugees into German society. The findings presented in the *Economic Bulletin* are based on the first part of the survey, in which over 2,300 people were interviewed. In addition to the causes of forced migration, the survey captures data on escape routes and educational and vocational biographies. Respondents also answered questions about refugees' values, attitudes, and personality traits, as well as their integration into the German job market and education system. The results show that the threats of war, violence, and persecution were their primary reasons for migration, and that the costs and risks of migration are high. The refugees show extreme heterogeneity in educational backgrounds. The share of respondents who arrived in Germany with vocational or university degrees is low. However, these refugees have high aspirations when it comes to education. And in terms of values, they have more in common with the German population than with the populations of their respective countries of origin. The integration of refugees into the job market and education system has just begun, but Germany's integration policy measures are starting to have a perceptible impact.

Brücker, Herbert, Nina **Rother**, Jürgen **Schupp** et al. (2016). Forced migration, arrival in Germany, and first steps toward integration. *DIW Economic Bulletin* 83 (48), 541-556.

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Photo: Jürgen Schupp, Nina Rother and Herbert Brücker presenting the results at the Bundespressekonferenz in Berlin, November 15, 2016.

New in SOEPlit

In English

SSCI/SCI journals

Anusic, Ivana, Richard E. **Lucas**, and M. Brent **Donnellan**. 2017. The Validity of the Day Reconstruction Method in the German Socio-economic Panel Study. *Social Indicators Research* 130 (1), 213-232. (<http://doi.org/10.1007/s11205-015-1172-6>)

Anusic, Ivana, and Ulrich **Schimmack**. 2016. Stability and Change of Personality Traits, Self-Esteem, and Well-Being: Introducing the Meta-Analytic Stability and Change Model of Retest Correlations. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 110 (5), 766-781. (<http://doi.org/10.1037/pspp0000066>)

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The DIW Berlin Board of Trustees has appointed the SOEP Survey Committee. The nine members, all renowned international scholars, provide advice on the further development of the SOEPsurvey as well as SOEPservice. We are very grateful that this impressive group of researchers is willing to help us with the enhancement of SOEP.

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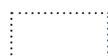
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March 6–10, 2017	46th GESIS Spring Seminar: Causal Inference with Observational Data Week 1: Causal Analysis with Panel Data: Potentials and Limitations
April 24-25, 2017	SOEpcampus@EUI Florenz (Englisch, M. Giesselmann), European University Insitute Florenz
June 6-7, 2017	Panel Data Analysis, Uni Münster (M. Giesselmann)

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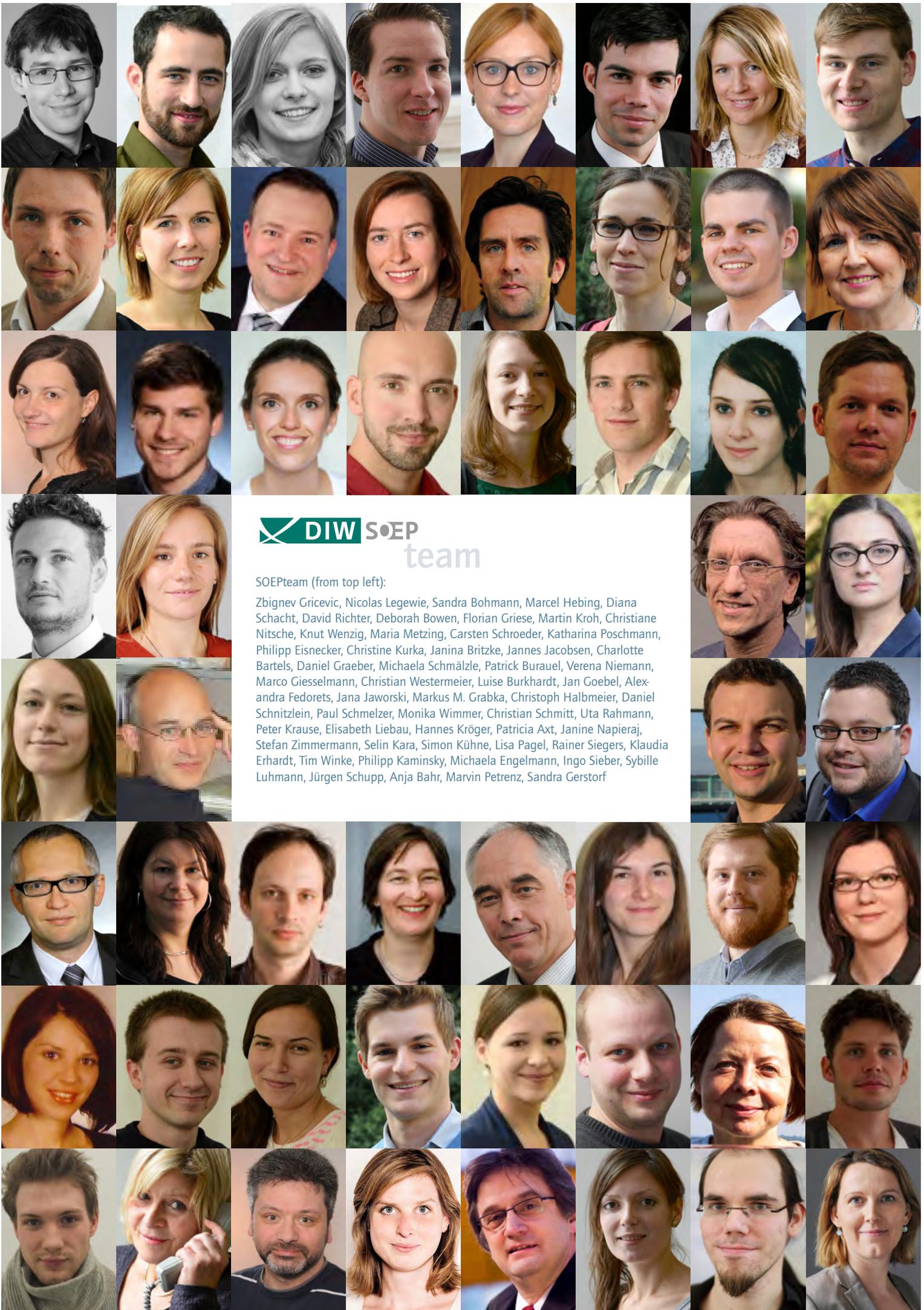
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