

2023

SOEP  
Annual  
Report



2023

SOEP  
Annual  
Report

The SOEP Team



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DIW Berlin Main Entrance

# Letter from the Executive Board of DIW Berlin

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The Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) is one of the major assets of the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin). For almost 40 years, the panel has been collecting information at the individual and household levels on a multitude of socio-economic topics and related areas. Its data are used by thousands of researchers globally and its user community is constantly growing. The SOEP collects data that are highly valued and frequently used in the academic world. As a unique research infrastructure, it not only allows for long-term comparisons, but also for innovative, high-ranking, and cutting-edge research. It also offers the empirical basis and knowledge for well-grounded policy recommendations.

Taking a look at the various accomplishments of the SOEP, one of last year's highlights on the level of cooperations was the agreement on intensifying the already existing academic exchange with "The UK Household Longitudinal Study." Another major achievement is that Philipp Lersch, Associate Professor of Sociology of Social Policy in the Department of Social Sciences at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and researcher at SOEP,

was awarded the renowned European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant by the European Commission. From May 1, 2024, onwards, he will be the head of the research group "Life Course and Inequality" at DIW Berlin. His success is a great example of how high-ranking and up to date the SOEP data are, as well as how well-designed and creative SOEP research endeavors are. We would like to thank and congratulate the entire SOEP team – especially the members of the SOEP management team: Sabine Zinn, Markus Grabka, Jan Goebel, and Carsten Schröder – for all that they achieved in 2023.

With this Annual Report, we now provide an overview of the vast variety of data that the team collects. The different research projects that were conducted in 2023 will also be presented in detail. We wish the readers of this report an enjoyable and inspiring read.



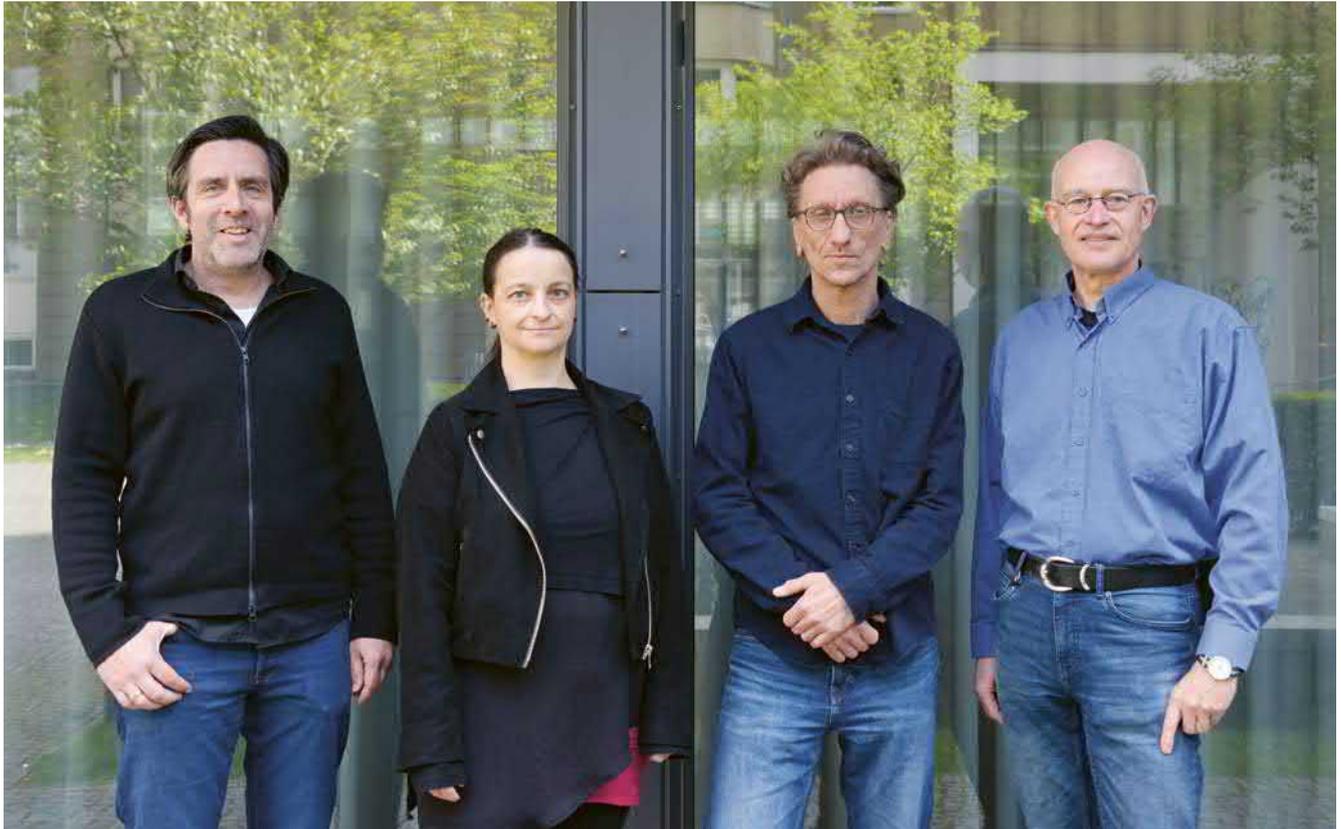
Marcel Fratzscher



Alexander S. Kritikos



Denise Rüttinger



From left to right: Carsten Schröder, Sabine Zinn, Jan Goebel, and Markus M. Grabka

# Editorial

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Dear reader,

2023 was once again marked by various positive developments in the SOEP, both in terms of surveys and the approval of research projects.

First, a positive development concerns the SOEP survey itself: We successfully launched the new M9 subsample, composed of refugees. This allowed for the valid surveying of nearly 4,500 additional households in SOEP-Core. The sample consists of three parts. First, the survey of Ukrainian refugees, which was started as a related study in 2022, was transferred to a regular subsample of SOEP-Core. Second, a refresher sample of Ukrainian refugees was added, consisting of those refugees who arrived in Germany after August 2022. Third, and against the backdrop of ongoing migration to Germany, a further sample of refugees from countries of origin other than Ukraine was drawn. With the new sub-sample M9, SOEP is deepening its successful cooperation with the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) of the Federal Employment Agency (BA) and the Research Center of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF-FZ).

Second, a wide range of research projects was launched and approved in 2023, the most prestigious being a European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant, one of the European Commission's largest research grants. SOEP Senior Research Fellow Philipp Lersch's innovative research project "WEALTHTRAJECT: Understanding Trajectories of Wealth Accumulation and Their Variability" was accepted for the highly competitive grant.

Third, another milestone that SOEP achieved in 2023 was the successful expansion of the analysis potential for data users. This mostly concerns the new data product SOEP-CMI-ADIAB, creating a link between SOEP data and administrative data from the Federal Employment Agency. It represents a highly valuable addition to the existing linkage with administrative data from the German pension insurance (SOEP-RV).

The year 2023 also involved institutional changes. In November 2023, the DIW Board of Trustees passed a new statute that, among other things, establishes the SOEP as an independent business area within DIW Berlin.

This SOEP Annual Report gives you a glimpse of our wide-ranging activities in 2023. Chapter 1 presents several highlights of the SOEP team and new projects that were launched in 2023. This is supplemented by highlights of research work based on the SOEP's migration and refugee samples. Chapter 2 introduces the mission, structure, and divisions of the SOEP at DIW Berlin, the members of our team in 2023, and our advisory bodies. Chapter 3 presents the cornerstones of the SOEP team's research activities. Chapter 4 provides a brief overview of the fieldwork carried out by infas Institut für angewandte Sozialwissenschaft GmbH in 2023. Chapter 5 presents the SOEP team's work on the 38th wave of the SOEP data that was released in autumn of 2023, describes data preparation for the 39th wave of the study, and summarizes the results of our 2023 SOEP User Survey. Finally, chapter 6 lists the scientific output of the SOEP team and the SOEP user community.

The SOEP Annual Report focuses mainly on the dataset we refer to as SOEP-Core. It consists of the original SOEP sample that was launched in 1984 and all of the subsamples and refresher samples that have been added to it over the years. When the SOEP survey first started, its aim was to provide a representative picture of private households in Germany from both a cross-sectional and a longitudinal perspective. This remains the objective of SOEP-Core to this day.

In addition to SOEP-Core, we work on expanding the SOEP data even further by adding new and innovative measurement instruments. Here is where the SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS) comes in, which enables innovative data collection for the research community.

We thank you for your interest in the SOEP!



Markus M. Grabka



Sabine Zinn



Jan Goebel



Carsten Schröder



# PART 1

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# SOEP 2023: The Year in Review

# Highlights

## Jan

### Start of new DFG project on microsimulation

This subproject of the DFG Research Unit “Multi-Sectoral Regional Microsimulation Model (**MikroSim**)” is in the hands of SOEP researchers Sabine Zinn and Angelina Hammon (title: “Simulation of educational trajectories, taking latent decision-making processes into account”). Their goal is to create a methodological framework, including a toolbox, for a transition model with free (unknown) parameters in a dynamic, small-scale microsimulation. A special focus lies on detecting early educational inequalities between native and migrant populations.

**DFG** Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft



### Carina Cornesse becomes head of SOEP Innovation Sample & Social Cohesion Panel

Starting in January, the SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS) is under the management of senior survey methods researcher Carina Cornesse. With her expertise in data quality research and innovative data collection techniques, she sets out to further expand the SOEP-IS data potential. Carina Cornesse also leads the “**Social Cohesion Panel**” on the SOEP side, a SOEP-related household study on social cohesion in cooperation with the University of Bremen.

**SOEP IS**  
Innovation Sample



Mar



## Successful data linkage: New dataset SOEP-CMI-ADIAB available to users

This dataset was developed by SOEP and the Research Institute of the Federal Employment Agency, IAB. It enables researchers to access comprehensive sociodemographic information (SOEP) combined with precise administrative data, notably life course income data since 1975 (IAB). On the SOEP side, not only the data from SOEP-Core but also that from SOEP-IS were linked.



**IAB** INSTITUT FÜR ARBEITSMARKT- UND BERUFSFORSCHUNG

Die Forschungseinrichtung der Bundesagentur für Arbeit

## Launch of DFG project EQUITAX: New insights on taxation and income equality

What are the most effective tax-and-transfer instruments to fight income and wealth inequality? The new DFG-funded project “Inequality, Taxation and Redistribution: Insights from a German/French Perspective (EQUITAX)” aims to find answers to this question by combining the latest macroeconomic, theoretical, and applied microeconomic approaches. EQUITAX as developed by SOEP researcher Charlotte Bartels and is conducted in cooperation with partners at University of Regensburg, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon (ENS), and the Center for Research in Economics and Statistics in Paris (CREST).

Apr



DFG

ENS  
ENS DE LYONCREST  
CENTER FOR RESEARCH  
IN ECONOMIC AND STATISTICS

May

## DFG funding for follow-up project “SoRa+”: Creation of a new type of data linking infrastructure

The German Research Foundation now funds “SoRa+” for another three years. The aim of the project is to link social science and spatial science research data in a data protection-compliant manner and to enable the processing of interdisciplinary research questions.

DFG Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaftgesis  
Leibniz-Institut  
für SozialwissenschaftenFDZ IÖR  
Forschungsdaten-  
zentrum



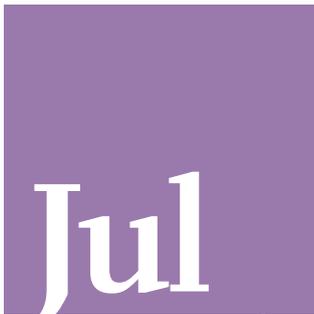
### Charlotte Bartels appointed new member of "Junge Akademie"

SOEP congratulates its researcher Charlotte Bartels for acceptance into the **Junge Akademie** at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) and the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. Charlotte Bartels was selected as one of 10 new members into the prestigious circle of young, outstanding researchers whose aim is to shape the academic system and influence the science discourse.



### Kick-off for new DFG project on Ukrainian Refugees ("SUARE")

Over the next three years, SUARE ("Longitudinal Study of Ukrainian Refugees") will establish a longitudinal data infrastructure on the socio-economic situation of Ukrainian refugees in Germany. The project focuses on how the wave of migration that followed the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, differs from previous refugee movements in scope and institutional context. It aims to integrate the sample of 2,500 households into the IAB-BAMF-SOEP study as well as the main survey of SOEP-CORE for the waves 2023 to 2025.



### High attendance at DIW press conference on the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Germany

The results of the second wave of the **IAB-BiB/FReDA-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Ukrainian Refugees in Germany** are met with great interest: more than 80 journalists and researchers attend a virtual press conference on July 12, 2023, to discuss the findings. The event features representatives of the four research institutions involved in the online study (Yuliya Kosyakova of IAB, Andreas Ette of BiB, Markus M. Grabka of SOEP, Nina Rother of BAMF-FZ). They review progress in labor market integration and other aspects of refugees' social participation.



Sep



## Keynote speech by Charlotte Bartels at “Verein für Socialpolitik” conference

Charlotte Bartels’ speech at this year’s VfS conference matches the overall theme of the association’s 150th anniversary. Under the title “Change and Continuity: Tracing 150 years of discourse on inequality and growth,” she explains how inequality has evolved since the 19th century and what mechanisms shape the distribution of income and wealth. The Verein für Socialpolitik is the largest economists’ association in the German-speaking world. The 2023 conference offered over 800 academics the opportunity to exchange their ideas.



**VEREIN FÜR  
SOCIALPOLITIK**

## Interim professorship at LMU Munich for Charlotte Bartels

Charlotte Bartels is appointed to fill in for Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Monika Schnitzer (currently serving as Chair of the German Council of Economic Experts) during the 2023/24 academic year. The interim W3 professorship in Comparative Economics is located at the [Faculty of Economics](#) at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU). Bartels will teach microeconomic theory in the Master’s in Economics program. In the context of her wealth and taxation seminar, she will discuss questions of wealth distribution and accumulation using SOEP data.

Oct



Nov

### Philipp Lersch receives prestigious ERC Consolidator Grant

SOEP congratulates Philipp Lersch on being awarded the **European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant**, one the European Commission’s largest research grants. The sociologist successfully competed with his project **“WEALTHTRAJECT: Understanding Trajectories of Wealth Accumulation and Their Variability.”** From December 2024, it will receive approximately two million euros over five years. Lersch’s groundbreaking project will investigate the development of wealth and deviations from typical developments over the entire life course and in relation to different social groups. To this end, he will not just use longitudinal and register data but also apply new statistical methods. His work will make a valuable contribution to wealth research and further intensify this research focus at the SOEP.



### Markus M. Grabka appointed chair of the DEAS Scientific Advisory Committee

Markus M. Grabka will serve as chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee from September 29th, thereby bringing in the SOEP’s expertise in the field of ageing and survey research. The **German Ageing Survey (DEAS)** is a nationwide representative cross-sectional and longitudinal survey of the German population aged 40 and older, funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ).



**DZA** | Deutsches Zentrum für Altersfragen

# Dec



## Highly endowed Leibniz funding for WZB-SOEP cooperation „Lab<sup>2</sup>“

The year ends with another successful grant acquisition: The WZB-SOEP project “Incubator for Collaborative and Transparent Economic Sciences (Lab<sup>2</sup>)” wins a **Leibniz Association competition** and is granted one million euros. Lab<sup>2</sup> aims to establish an international network of experimental laboratories, with the goal of carrying out replication and meta-science studies. All datasets are to be shared to make research practices more transparent and improve scientific standards. Project leaders are Levent Neyse (WZB + SOEP/DIW Berlin) and Anna Dreber Almenberg (Stockholm School of Economics). On the SOEP side, the project is also supported by Carsten Schröder. The global institutional network includes various national and international partners, among others the Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in Social Sciences (BITSS).



## Closer cooperation with British panel study “UK-HLS”

SOEP and “**Understanding Society**” (The UK Household Longitudinal Study) agree to intensify their long-standing collaboration. Since all large studies face similar challenges, mutual exchange can prove beneficial to all parties involved, including among our hard working staff. For instance, SOEP and UK-HLS plan to pool their expertise on panel stability (e.g., participation rates) and survey methods.



# The Year in Numbers

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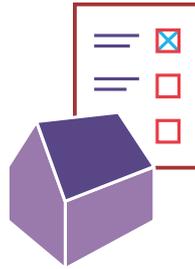
## The survey

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40<sup>th</sup>

wave of SOEP data  
in the field



18,800

SOEP Core

2,070

SOEP Is

successfully  
interviewed households

## SOEP research output

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39

research projects  
at the SOEP



~10 million

euros in outside project funding



60

papers by SOEP staff in  
Web of Science™  
Core Collection Publications



448

papers published worldwide  
using SOEP data

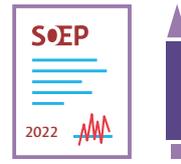
## Worldwide users

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15,493

registered SOEP data users  
from 53 countries



1,377

new SOEP data users

## SOEP Team @ DIW Berlin

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72

members of  
the SOEP team



13

doctoral  
candidates



4

completed  
dissertations



128

guest  
researchers

## Website traffic

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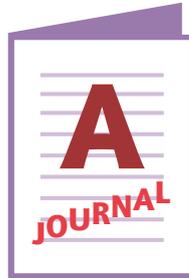
>100,000

visits RDC website

300,000

visits DIW/SOEP website

# Top Publications of 2023



Journal Publications by  
SOEP Team Members with  
a 5-Year Impact Factor  
Higher Than 7.00

**Bartels, Charlotte, Felix Kersting, and Nikolaus Wolf.** 2023. Testing Marx: Capital Accumulation, Income Inequality, and Socialism in Late Nineteenth-Century Germany. *The Review of Economics and Statistics (online first)*. ([http://doi.org/10.1162/rest\\_a\\_01305](http://doi.org/10.1162/rest_a_01305))

**Biddle, Louise, Maren Hintermeier, Diogo Costa, Zahia Wasko, and Kayvan Bozorgmehr.** 2023. Context, health and migration: a systematic review of natural experiments. *eClinicalMedicine* 64. (<http://doi.org/10.1016/j.eclinm.2023.102206>)

**Buchinger, Laura, Theresa M. Entringer, David Richter, Gert G. Wagner, Denis Gerstorf, et al.** 2023. Codevelopment of life goals and the Big Five personality traits across adulthood and old age. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology (online first)*. (<http://doi.org/10.1037/pspp0000477>)

**Caliendo, Marco, Daniel Graeber, Alexander S. Kritikos, and Johannes Seebauer.** 2023. Pandemic Depression: COVID-19 and the Mental Health of the Self-Employed. *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice* 47 (3), 788–830. (<http://doi.org/10.1177/10422587221102106>)

**Fossen, Frank M. and Levent Neyse.** 2023. Entrepreneurship, Management, and Cognitive Reflection: A Preregistered Replication Study With Extensions. *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice (online first)*. (<http://doi.org/10.1177/10422587231211005>)

**Gerstorf, Denis, Nilam Ram, Johanna Drewelies, Sandra Duezel, Peter Eibich, Elisabeth Steinhagen-Thiessen, Stefan Liebig, Jan Goebel, Ilja Demuth, Arno Villringer, Gert G. Wagner, Ulman Lindenberger, and Paolo Ghisletta.** 2023. Today's Older Adults Are Cognitively Fitter Than Older Adults Were 20 Years Ago, but When and How They Decline Is No Different Than in the Past. *Psychological Science* 34 (1), 22–34. (<http://doi.org/10.1177/09567976221118541>)

**Huber, Christoph, Anna Dreber, Jürgen Huber, Magnus Johannesson, Michael Kirchler, et al.** 2023. Competition and moral behavior: A meta-analysis of forty-five crowd-sourced experimental designs. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 120 (23). (<http://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2215572120>)

**Lenhausen, Madeline R., Ted Schwaba, Jochen E. Gebauer, Theresa M. Entringer, and Wiebke Bleidorn.** 2023. Transactional effects between personality and religiosity. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 125 (2), 421–436. (<http://doi.org/10.1037/pspp0000466>)

**Lersch, Philipp M.** 2023. Change in Personal Culture over the Life Course. *American Sociological Review* 88 (2), 220–251. (<http://doi.org/10.1177/00031224231156456>)

**Roos, Yannick, Michael D. Krämer, David Richter, Ramona Schoedel, and Cornelia Wrzus.** 2023. Does Your Smartphone “Know” Your Social Life? A Methodological Comparison of Day Reconstruction, Experience Sampling, and Mobile Sensing. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science* 6 (3). (<http://doi.org/10.1177/25152459231178738>)

# Spotlight on SOEP-based Research on Migration

## Successes and Challenges of Integration

For more than 40 years, the SOEP has been able to describe and analyze processes of migration and integration of migrants and their descendants. This became possible in large part due to the fruitful cooperation with the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) and the Research Center of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), which resulted in various subsamples with an oversample of migrants. As a result of a collaborative effort, two integrated studies, the IAB-SOEP Migration Sample and the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees, provide unique microdata for research on voluntary and forced migrants' life course trajectories. In the following, we highlight how this data contributed to some of the key migration and integration insights released in 2023.



Bundesamt  
für Migration  
und Flüchtlinge



### Persistent Gender Employment Gap Hinders Refugee Women's Labor Market Integration

In many countries, entering the labor market proves significantly more challenging for refugee women than for men. This pattern is particularly prevalent in Germany: Contrary to the employment gains of their male counterparts, women seem to advance only moderately. Researchers from IAB, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and the University of Leipzig came to this conclusion after examining patterns of labor integration among male and female refugees who arrived in Germany between 2013 and 2019. In fact, the gender employment gap is quite narrow after arrival in Germany, but it widens significantly over time. Reasons include, among others, primary responsibility for childcare, challenges of human capital transferability, less contact with Germans, and poorer health. Moreover, women seem to benefit less from gains in host-country specific human and social capital and health improvements.

**Kosyakova, Yuliya, Zerrin Salikutluk & Jörg Hartmann.**

2023. Gender employment gap at arrival and its dynamics: The case of refugees in Germany. *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 87.

DOI:10.1016/j.rssm.2023.100842



## Refugees' Mental Health Suffered No Decline In The First Year Of COVID-19

An interdisciplinary team of researchers from economics, sociology, and psychology, including, among others, Yuliya Kosyakova of the IAB, took a closer look at how mental health and life satisfaction evolved among refugees and other population groups over the first years of the COVID-19 pandemic. Did the onset of the pandemic cause significant mental distress? In the case of refugees, researchers found no drops during that time, neither in satisfaction levels nor in mental health. There are a few potential explanations. First, refugees' mental health and satisfaction may improve after arriving in Germany. Second, they may be more resilient overall, e.g., due to experiences prior to migration.

**Jaschke, Philipp, Yuliya Kosyakova, Coline Kuche, Lena Walther, Laura Goßner, Jannes Jacobsen, Thi-Minh-Tam Ta, Eric Hahn, Silke Hans & Malek Bajbouj.**

2023. Mental health and well-being in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic among different population subgroups: evidence from representative longitudinal data in Germany. *BMJ open* 13, 1–54.

DOI:10.1136/bmjopen-20271331



## Violent Conflicts In The Country Of Origin Increase Religiosity

How do violent conflict and insecurity affect refugees' religious behavior? Yuliya Kosyakova (IAB) and researchers from the Netherlands examined data from the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees on former residents of Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq. They proved that the higher the intensity of a conflict in their area of birth, the more refugees pray as a coping strategy with the existential insecurity threat. The birth region particularly matters here since family and friends are likely to still live there. The increase in religiosity can be observed short- and long-term and does not vary significantly between population groups. If family or relatives still live in the area of birth, the relationship between fatalities and religious behavior is even stronger.

**Tubergen, Frank van, Yuliya Kosyakova & Agnieszka Kanas.**

2023. Religious responses to existential insecurity: Conflict intensity in the region of birth increases praying among refugees. *Social Science Research* 113.

DOI:10.1016/j.ssresearch.2023.102895



# SOEP in the Media

## Selected Media Coverage

### Frankfurter Allgemeine

February 5, 2023

*Gerald Wagner*

#### **Gleichberechtigung: Warum die alte Rollenverteilung immer noch aktuell ist**

Bei der Geburt des ersten Kindes übernehmen auch junge Paare eher traditionelle Rollenmodelle. Männer machen Karriere und Frauen Hausarbeit. Scheitern hier Frauenquote und Familienpolitik?

### DER TAGESSPIEGEL

February 28, 2023

*Felix Kiefer*

#### **Kinderbetreuung, Hausarbeit und Pflege: Sorgearbeit ist weiterhin Frauensache**

Frauen verdienen weniger als Männer. Eine neue Studie zeigt: Die Differenz ist nicht über alle Altersgruppen gleich. Welche Phase ist entscheidend?



April 20, 2023

*Götz Gringmuth-Dallmer*

#### **Datenauswertung Teilzeitarbeit: Am liebsten eine Vier-Tage-Woche**

Montags oder freitags frei oder nur vier Stunden am Tag arbeiten: Für die einen ist es Wunsch, für die anderen Wirklichkeit. Der Anteil derer, die einer Teilzeittätigkeit nachgehen, unterscheidet sich regional oft deutlich. Auffällig sind die Zahlen aus Berlin und Brandenburg.



May 5, 2023

*Insa Gemerott*

#### **Die Vermessung der deutschen Einsamkeit**

Fast die Hälfte der Deutschen fühlte sich 2021 einsam. Das Kompetenznetz Einsamkeit will das subjektive Gefühl messbar machen. Projektleiterin Yvonne Wilke erklärt, wer besonders betroffen ist und welche Hilfe es gibt.

DIE ZEIT

July 14, 2023

*Paul Blickle, Philip Faigle,  
Julian Stahnke, Julius Tröger  
and Zacharias Zacharakis*

### **Soziale Ungleichheit: Bin ich wirklich Mittelschicht?**

Deutschland streitet über die Frage, wer arm ist und wer reich. Vermögen, Arbeit, Wohnen: Finden Sie in unserem Rechner heraus, wo Sie in der Gesellschaft stehen.



September 16, 2023

### **Schwarzarbeit boomt: Haushaltshilfen: Wieso Anmeldung lukrativ ist**

Die meisten Haushaltshilfen werden in Deutschland nicht angemeldet. Dabei profitieren beide Seiten davon, wenn der Job offiziell ist.

Frankfurter Allgemeine

July 27, 2023

*Britta Beeger*

### **IAB-Studie: Was aus den Geflüchteten von 2015 wurde**

Eine neue Untersuchung zeigt: Mehr als die Hälfte ist inzwischen erwerbstätig. Zugleich sind aber viele Geflüchtete aus Ländern wie Syrien, Afghanistan oder dem Irak noch auf finanzielle Hilfe angewiesen.

der Freitag

October 2, 2023

*Pepe Egger  
interviewing Charlotte Bartels*

### **Ökonomin über das Erben zwischen Ost und West: „Die Ungleichheit hält sich hartnäckig“**

Die Ökonomin Charlotte Bartels erforscht die Ungleichheit in Deutschland, die nicht abnimmt, sondern andauert. Und das nicht nur zwischen Ost und West

## tagesschau<sup>1</sup>

October 15, 2023

*Barbara Lindahl*

### **Ukrainische Geflüchtete: Neue Heimat Deutschland – so nah und doch so fremd**

Angekommen, integriert, berufstätig – viele Ukrainer möchten länger oder dauerhaft in Deutschland leben und arbeiten, so eine Studie. Doch dass beide Länder so unterschiedlich sind, ist eine Herausforderung.

## DER SPIEGEL

November 2, 2023

*Benjamin Bidder*

### **Viele Bürger sind zu arm für neue Schuhe, Kleidung oder eine warme Wohnung**

Was heißt hierzulande schon arm? Berichte über den Anteil der armutsgefährdeten Menschen in Deutschland lösen regelmäßig Diskussionen aus. Nun beleuchtet eine Studie, wie vielen Bürgern das Geld für Grundlegendes fehlt.

## DIE ZEIT

October 20, 2023

*Nathanael Häfner  
interviewing Daniel Graeber*

### **Psychische Gesundheit in Krisen: „Menschen über- schätzen, wie glücklich Reichtum macht“**

Schwächele die Wirtschaft, leide die Psyche, sagt der Ökonom Daniel Graeber. Gehe es bergauf, profitiere aber nicht jeder. Was Ungleichheit mit mentaler Gesundheit macht.

## Süddeutsche Zeitung

November 8, 2023

*Roland Preuß*

### **Renten: Die Armen sind ein bisschen weniger arm**

Die Vermögen in Deutschland sind nicht ganz so ungleich verteilt, wenn man Rentenansprüche berücksichtigt. Das zeigt eine Studie des DIW. Große Unterschiede gibt es aber trotzdem.

rbb/24

November 18, 2023

*Simon Wenzel interviewing  
Markus M. Grabka*

## **Erbschaften in Deutschland: „In der Mittelschicht sind die Unterschiede zwischen Ost und West noch offensichtlich“**

Beim Thema Erbschaft sind auch 33 Jahre nach der Wiedervereinigung noch große Differenzen zwischen Ost- und Westdeutschland auszumachen. In Ostdeutschland wird seltener und im Schnitt auch weniger geerbt. Ein Experte erklärt, woran das liegt.

**DER SPIEGEL**

November 29, 2023

*Katharina Koerth*

## **Integration in den Jobmarkt: Immer mehr Geflüchtete arbeiten**

Mehr als die Hälfte der Geflüchteten, die in den vergangenen Jahren nach Deutschland kamen, haben inzwischen einen Job. Eine Studie zeigt: Sie arbeiten zunehmend als Fachkräfte.

**Wirtschafts  
Woche**

November 28, 2023

*Omar Zeroual*

## **Studien über Vermögen: So reich sind die Deutschen**

Über Geld spricht man nicht. Oder doch? Denn vor allem in Krisenzeit sind finanzielle Polster wichtig. Und Vermögensstudien liefern einen Einblick, wo der Durchschnitts-Deutsche finanziell steht. Ein Überblick.

 **Deutschlandfunk**

December 5, 2023

*Patric Seibel (audio)*

## **Unter Druck: Das Erheben repräsentativer Befragungsdaten wird schwieriger**

# PART 2

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# SOEP Mission and Structure

# Mission

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SOEP team  
at DIW Berlin

The German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) is an independent, non-partisan research-driven infrastructure unit that serves the international scientific community by providing nationally representative longitudinal data (the SOEP study) and related datasets (SOEP-Related Studies) on private households in Germany.

The SOEP team is recognized internationally for high-level scientific research on survey methodological and theoretical as well as applied and policy-oriented topics. The SOEP works to communicate research findings to the broader public in an easily understandable way, thus contributing to knowledge transfer from research to society.

The SOEP study is designed from a multidisciplinary perspective to provide data for basic, applied, and policy-relevant research that will improve our understanding of human behavior, economic decisions, mechanisms of social change, and the impacts of political decisions. It takes the household context, the neighborhood,

and different institutional settings and policy regimes into account and also makes use of data from external sources. Boost samples are added regularly to keep pace with societal change. SOEP datasets are linked to data from other sources in line with data protection regulations to expand the potential for scientific analysis. The SOEP's partnerships with studies worldwide promote the use of SOEP data in international comparative research. Research questions and survey contents are solely determined by scientific criteria.

The complete **mission statement** can be found on our website.

The SOEP is one of Germany's most important research data infrastructures in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences and part of the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI). As part of the Leibniz Association, the SOEP receives funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and Germany's state governments.

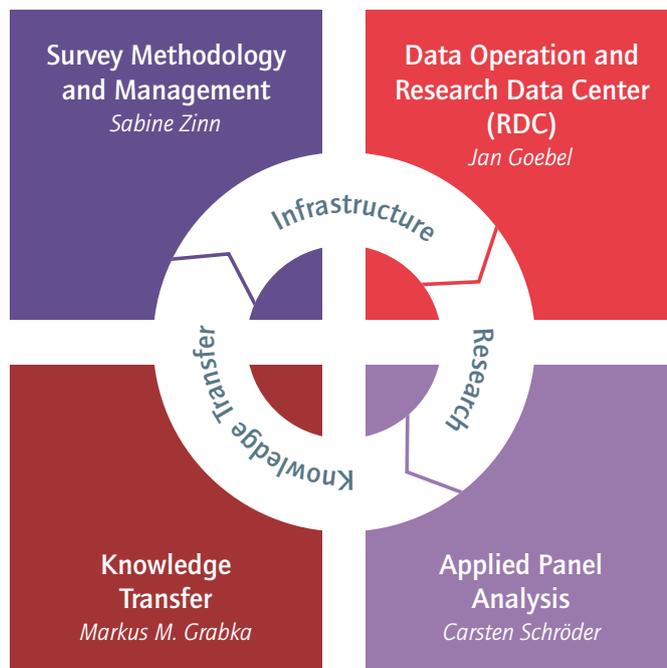
# SOEP Structure and Governance

## SOEP Division Structure

The independent research-driven infrastructure SOEP consists of four divisions. The four SOEP divisions carry out a wide range of tasks to ensure the high quality of its infrastructure, research, and transfer. Besides conceptualizing studies and samples (**Survey Methodology and Management**), SOEP staff prepare data for user-friendly analysis and distribute them to researchers (**Data Operation and Research Data Center**). **Applied Panel Analysis** analyzes the data while **Knowledge Transfer** provides training in the use of the SOEP data and disseminates SOEP-based research findings throughout society – to both the policy community and the broader public.

## Governance

The SOEP Infrastructure is managed by the SOEP Director who is also a member of the DIW Executive Board. The Vice Director supports the SOEP Director. Each division is managed by a Division Head. The SOEP Survey Committee, which is comprised of up to ten highly recognized researchers appointed by the DIW Board of Trustees serves as a scientific advisory board to the SOEP.



# SOEP Staff at DIW Berlin

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## Survey Methodology and Management

The team of the Survey Methodology and Management division is responsible for all aspects of data collection, ranging from sampling and survey designs as well as questionnaire development to research on selectiveness in the data. Experts from the team work closely with the other SOEP divisions, the SOEP Survey Committee, and with the institute that conducts the fieldwork for the SOEP survey.

The team is also responsible for the SOEP refugee and migration samples and the Innovation Sample. The latter provides a framework for testing new and innovative concepts, questions, and survey instruments for potential inclusion in the main SOEP-Core study. A further area of the team's work is non-response analyses, survey data weighting, and data documentation.

The team's research focuses on the one hand on innovative topics in the field of survey methodology and statistics, such as new methods of sample selection, novel survey modes, and the generation of appropriate weighting factors and imputation methods (with a focus on statistical learning methods). On the other hand, researchers on the team study current social issues ranging from immigration and refugee integration to the mental health and life satisfaction of people in Germany.



**Prof. Dr. Sabine Zinn**

**Vice-Director of SOEP and  
Division Head Survey  
Methodology and Management**

*Research Fields:* Survey Methodology and Data Science, Survey Statistics, Simulation in the Social Sciences, Demography



**Dr. Julian B. Axenfeld**

**Coordinator Social Cohesion Panel  
– SOEP-Related Study ZHP-FGZ**

*Research Fields:* Survey Methodology and Data Science, Nonresponse, Imputation, Machine Learning in Survey Research



**Dr. Louise Biddle**

*Research Fields:* Migration, Health, Inequality, Survey Methodology and Data Science

*Research Project:* SUARE



**Dr. Adriana Cardozo  
Silva**

*Research Fields:* Labor and Employment, Migration, Inequality  
*Research Projects:* Refugee Families in Germany (GeFam2) and Evaluation of the Skilled Workers Immigration Act (M8)



### Dr. Carina Cornesse

**Head of SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS)**

*Research Fields:* Recruitment and Maintenance of Panel Studies, the Benefits and Limitations of Probability-Based and Nonprobability Samples, the Application of Mixed-Mode Data Collection Designs, and on Linking Survey Data to Data from Other Sources



### Valeriia Heidemann

**Doctoral Candidate BGSS**

*Research Field:* Migration  
*Research Project:* LARGE



### Miriam Gauer

**Doctoral Candidate BAGSS**

*Research Fields:* Gender, Migration, and Data Science



### Ellen Heidinger

**Doctoral Candidate BGSS**

*Research Fields:* Refugee Health and Social Networks of Refugees



### Martin Gerike

**Specialist in Market and Social Research, SOEP-IS**



### David Kasprowski

**Doctoral Candidate BGSS**

*Research Fields:* Sexual Minorities and Gender Diversity, Inequality, Well-Being  
*Research Project:* GeSMIN



### Florian Griese

**Specialist in Market and Social Research, Survey Management**



### Simon Kleineweber

**Project Management**



### Dr. Angelina Hammon

*Research Fields:* Handling of (Non-Ignorable) Missing Data and Multiple Imputation, Statistical Emulation of Large-Scale Simulation Models



### Michael D. Krämer

**Doctoral Candidate LIFE**

*Research Project:* Personality and Social Relationship Dynamics: Short- and Medium-Term Processes in Daily Life (DIPS)



**Prof. Dr. Cornelia Kristen**

Supports the SOEP in the Research Area of Migration and Integration



**Rainer Siegers**

Expert in Sampling and Weighting



**Dr. Elisabeth Liebau**

Survey Management  
Research Field: Migration  
Research Project: GeFam2



**Dr. Elena Sommer**

Research Fields: Survey Methodology and Data Science, Questionnaire Development, Survey Operations, Migration, Social Capital  
Research Project: SUARE



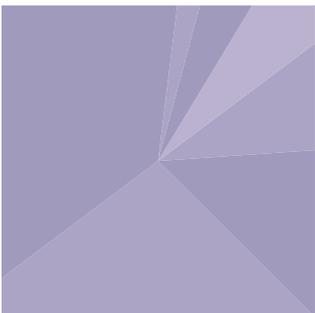
**Andrea Marchitto**

Research Fields: Survey Methodology and Data Science  
Research Project: SUARE



**Dr. Hans Walter Steinhauer**

Expert in Sampling, Weighting, and Imputation  
Research Fields: Item- and Unit-Nonresponse, Panel Attrition  
Research Project: Evaluation of the Skilled Workers Immigration Act (M8)



**Anna-Tabea Müller**

Specialist in Market and Social Research  
Research Fields: Survey Methodology and Data Science  
Research Project: FGZ-Panel



**Felix Süttmann**

Expert in Sampling, Weighting, Imputation, and Modeling Nonresponse



**Maximilian Müller**

Team Assistance



**Alina Zainullina**

Specialist in Market and Social Research  
Research Fields: Survey Methodology and Data Science

# Data Operation and Research Data Center

Experts from the Research Data Center of the SOEP (RDC) prepare the survey data for both longitudinal and cross-sectional scientific analysis. They generate numerous user-friendly variables and impute missing data – for instance, in cases where respondents failed to provide complete answers to income questions. They also provide access to small-scale regional codes through a variety of secure data channels.

The team provides SOEP data to researchers worldwide in the form of scientific use files, based on a data use contract. Researchers can analyze datasets that are subject to stricter data protection regulations either through remote data access or at a secure guest work station at the SOEP.

Comprehensive documentation on all SOEP data is published online either as downloadable PDF files or on [paneldata.org](https://paneldata.org), the open-source documentation system developed by the SOEP staff. An overview of the SOEP-Core data can be found in the [SOEPcompanion](#).

Specialists in market and social research complete their vocational training in the RDC and support the experts on the team.

The RDC is accredited as a research data center by the German Data Forum and is active on the Standing Committee Research Data Infrastructure (FDI) in promoting exchange among the various research data centers.



**Dr. Jan Goebel**

**Head of Division Data Operation  
and Research Data Center**

*Research Fields:* Income and  
Regional Inequality



**Philippa Cumming**

*Research Fields:* Survey  
Methodology and Data Science  
*Research Project:* SUARE



**Dr. Jascha Dräger**

**Spell Data**

*Research Fields:* Education,  
Inequality



**Andreas Franken**

**Doctoral Candidate**

*Research Project:* Leibniz Science-  
Campus SOEP-RegioHub



**Xiaoyao Han**

*Research Field:* Data Science  
*Research Project:* KonsortSWD –  
TA3.M5 Open Data Format



**Dominique Hansen**

Metadata and Data Documentation



**Jana Nebelin**

Data Generation and Testing  
*Research Field:* Refugees



**Alexander Jung**

Data Management and Anonymization  
*Research Project:* SORA+



**Kenny Pedrique**

Server Administration  
*Research Project:* KonsortSWD – TA2.M2 RDCnet



**Philipp Kaminsky**

SOEHotline, Contract Management



**Marvin Petrenz**

Data Generation and Testing



**Neil Murray**

Doctoral Candidate  
*Research Fields:* Personality, Data Science, Transportation, Behavioral Economics  
*Research Project:* KonsortSWD – TA2.M2 RDCnet



**Claudia Saalbach**

Data Generation and Testing  
*Research Project:* KonsortSWD – TA3.M5 Open Data Format



**Janine Napieraj**

SOEHotline, Contract Management, Data Generation and Testing



**Sarah Satilmis**

Data Generation and Management  
*Research Fields:* Empirical Social Research, Inequality Research, Computational Social Science



**Ingo Sieber**  
Metadata and Data  
Documentation



**Stefan Zimmermann**  
Data Generation and Testing



**Knut Wenzig**  
(Meta-)Data Management,  
Trainer FAMS  
*Research Project:* KonsortSWD –  
TA3.M5 Open Data Format

# Applied Panel Analysis

The Applied Panel Analysis division is made up of senior researchers as well as graduate students from a variety of doctoral programs. Key areas of the team's empirical and methodological research include distributional analysis, policy evaluation, education and health, and integration and migration. Their research is based primarily on SOEP data but also on other international datasets such as the Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF), to which the team contributes.

Their ongoing research with these datasets ensures that the quality of the data is monitored regularly, systematically, and meticulously – from the questionnaire modules to the survey data. The team works closely with colleagues in different departments at DIW Berlin and is part of interdisciplinary networks worldwide.



**Prof. Dr. Carsten Schröder**

**Head of the Division Applied Panel Analysis**

*Research Fields:* Public Economics and Social Policy



**Patricia Axt**

**Team Assistance**



**Dr. Charlotte Bartels**

*Research Fields:* Public Economics, Economic History, Distribution of Income and Wealth

*Research Projects:* Harmonization of International Household Panels, German Poverty and Wealth Report, EQUITAX



**Dr. Mattis Beckmannshagen**

*Research Fields:* Labor Economics, Inequality, and Health

*Research Project:* Record Linkage of SOEP with Administrative Data



**Dr. Laura Buchinger**

**Doctoral Candidate IMPRS-LIFE**

*Research Fields:* Personality, Life-Span Development, Mental Health



### Dr. Theresa Entringer

*Research Fields:* Personality, Personality Development, Mental Health  
*Research Projects:* Leibniz Research Alliance "Resilient aging", GDR-Past and Mental Health: Protective and Risk Factors (DDR-PSYCH), Dynamics of Mental Health of Immigrants (DMHM), Personality and Social Relationship Dynamics: Short- and Medium-term Processes in Daily Life (DIPS)



### Dr. Johannes König

*Research Fields:* Labor Economics, Public Finances, Inequality  
*Research Projects:* Life-Course Income Dynamics (LINDY), Beschäftigungsrisiken und Arbeitsqualität in der digitalen Transformation (SOEP-Digi)



### Dr. Daniel Graeber

*Research Fields:* Intergenerational Mobility, Health Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconometrics  
*Research Project:* Groups put at Particular Risk by COVID 19 (GaPRisk)



### Dr. Emilija Meier-Faust

*Research Fields:* Education, Inequality, Child Development, Personality  
*Research Project:* BRISE



### Dr. Christoph Halbmeier

*Research Fields:* Economic Inequalities and Labor Markets  
*Research Project:* SOEP-LEE



### Lorenz Meister

**Doctoral Candidate DIW GC**  
*Research Fields:* Health, Inequality, Political Economy  
*Research Project:* Groups put at Particular Risk by Covid-19 (GaPRisk)



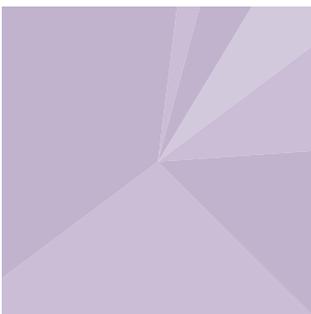
### Viola Hilbert

**Doctoral Candidate BSE/DIW GC**  
*Research Fields:* Inequality and Distribution



### Thomas Rieger

**Doctoral Candidate at DIW GC**  
*Research Fields:* Economic Inequality, Political Economy



### Dr. Blanka Imre

*Research Fields:* Labor Economics, Law and Economics, Health Economics  
*Research Project:* CNEF



### Dr. Levent Neyse

*Research Fields:* Behavioral and Experimental Economics  
*Research Projects:* Rationality and Competition: The Economic Performance of Individuals and Firms and BSE Insights, Lab<sup>2</sup>



**Johannes Seebauer**

**Doctoral Candidate BSE /  
DIW GC**

*Research Fields:* Labor Economics,  
Public Economics, Economics of  
Inequality

*Research Projects:* MLK-E005,  
MLK 025



**Yogam Tchokni**

**Doctoral Candidate DIW GC**

*Research Fields:* Labor Economics,  
Discrimination, Migration

*Research Project:* SOEP-RV



**Barbara Stacherl**

**Doctoral Candidate**

*Research Fields:* Health, Regional  
Inequalities

*Research Project:* Leibniz Science-  
Campus SOEP-RegioHub



**Francesca Verga**

**Doctoral Candidate DIW GC**

*Research Fields:* Labor Economics,  
Gender Economics, Inequality

# Knowledge Transfer

The Knowledge Transfer division has three key tasks. First, the division provides diverse services to researchers. **SOEPCampus workshops** and **SOEPTutorials** offer young researchers an introduction to the SOEP data. A wide range of information and documentation materials are published or made available online to assist researchers in their work with SOEP data (e.g., SOEP Survey Papers, paneldata.org, SOEP website). The **SOEP in Residence** guest program enables visiting researchers to analyze the SOEP data on site at DIW Berlin with support and advice from experts on the SOEP team.

Second, the team manages communications with SOEP interviewers and study respondents. It prepares information material and makes research results based on the SOEP available to them. The aim of these measures is to maximize the respondents' willingness to participate in order to obtain microdata about long-term histories of individuals for the data users.

Third, the Knowledge Transfer division disseminates findings from research based on SOEP data to policy makers and the broader public to provide a solid empirical basis for public debate and political decision making. Findings from SOEP research appear not only in international journals but also in the DIW Berlin Weekly Report as well as in the Data Report that is published jointly by the German Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), the Federal Agency for Political Education (bpb), the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB), and the SOEP. Every year, the SOEP also provides the indicators used by diverse government departments and agencies in their official reports. These publications form the basis for the public relations work of the Knowledge Transfer division, including high-profile public events.



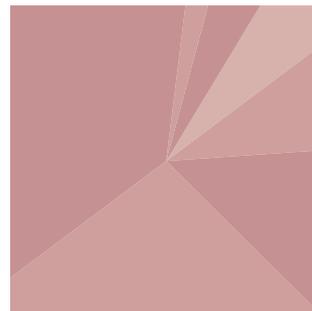
**Dr. Markus M. Grabka**

Acting Division Head Knowledge Transfer  
*Research Fields:* Income and Wealth Inequality, Social Policy



**Dr. Sandra Bohmann**

SOEPCampus  
*Research Fields:* Social Inequalities, Equality of Opportunity, Socio-Emotional Skills  
*Research Project:* Perceptions of Inequality and Justice in Europe (PIJE)



**Deborah Anne Bowen**

German-English Translation and Editing



**Janina Britzke**

Event Management, Documentation, and Publications;  
Project Coordinator KonsortSWD - TA 3: Data Production



**Dr. Theresa Entringer**

*Research Fields:* Personality, Personality Development, Mental Health  
*Research Projects:* Leibniz Research Alliance "Resilient aging", GDR-Past and Mental Health: Protective and Risk Factors (DDR-PSYCH), Dynamics of Mental Health of Immigrants (DMHM), Personality and Social Relationship Dynamics: Short- and Medium-term Processes in Daily Life (DIPS)



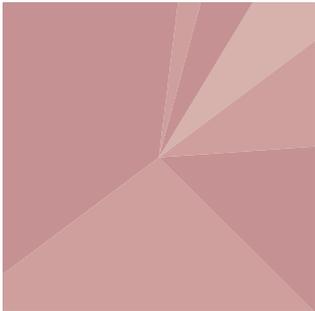
**Isabel Gebhardt**

*Research Project: SOEP Transfer*



**Verena Neumann**

SOEP Communications  
Management



**Elisa Grabas**

Documentation, Reporting,  
and Web Content



**Uta Rahmann**

Documentation, Reporting,  
and Web Content



**Selin Kara**

Documentation, Reporting,  
and Web Content  
Trainer FAMS



**Monika Wimmer**

SOEP Communications  
Management

# SOEP Survey Committee

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The **SOEP Survey Committee** is appointed by the DIW Berlin Board of Trustees. The members shown represent the appointment period for 2023. The up to ten renowned international scholars on the SOEP Survey Committee provide advice on the further development of the SOEP survey and SOEP user services. They meet at least once a year with the SOEP team. We are very grateful to this impressive group of researchers for their commitment to work with us in building and enhancing the SOEP.

## Members of the SOEP Survey Committee

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**Prof. Dr. Jutta Mata  
(Chair)**

Chair of Health Psychology at  
*University of Mannheim*



**Prof. Conchita  
D'Ambrosio, Ph.D.**

Professor of Economics at  
*University of Luxembourg*



**Prof. Dr. Frank Kalter**

Professor of General  
Sociology at *University  
of Mannheim*



**PD Dr. Oliver Lipps**

Head of the *FORS  
Methodological Research  
Unit* and Private Docent  
at the *Institute of Sociology,  
University of Berne*



**Prof. Cäzilia Loibl, Ph.D.**

Professor of Consumer Sciences and State Extension Specialist at *Ohio State University*



**Annette Scherpenzeel, Ph.D.**

Senior Researcher at *Netherlands Institute for Health Service Research, Utrecht*



**Dr. Tobias Schmidt**

Senior Researcher in the *Research Centre of Deutsche Bundesbank, Frankfurt am Main*



**Prof. Dr. Philippe Van Kerm**

Professor of Social Inequality and Social Policy at the *University of Luxembourg* on a joint appointment with the *Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)*



**Prof. Dr. Joachim Winter**

Chair of Empirical Economic Research at *LMU Munich*

**Alumni of the SOEP Survey Committee**

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Prof. Dalton Conley, Ph.D. (2013–2019)

Prof. Dr. Urs Fischbacher (2016–2023)

Prof. Dr. Simon Gächter (2010–2016)

Prof. Janet Gornick, Ph.D. (2010–2014)

Prof. Dr. Karin Gottschall (2010–2013)

Prof. Melissa A. Hardy, Ph.D. (2016–2021)

Prof. Dr. Jutta Heckhausen (2013–2019)

Prof. James Heckman, Ph.D. (2010–2014)

Prof. Guillermina Jasso, Ph.D. (2010–2015)

Prof. Dr. Monika Jungbauer-Gans (2018–2023)

Prof. Dr. Frauke Kreuter (2019–2023)

Prof. Dr. Bärbel-Maria Kurth (2012–2018)

Prof. Peter Lynn, Ph.D. (2010–2015)

Prof. Lucinda Platt (2016–2021)

Prof. Dr. Susann Rohwedder (2015–2020)

Prof. Dr. Uwe Sunde (2015–2021)

Prof. Dr. Donald Tomaskovic-Devey (2020–2023)

Prof. Dr. Arthur van Soest (2016–2019)

Prof. Dr. Rainer Winkelmann (2010–2016)

# SOEP Research Fellows

## SOEP Senior Research Fellows



### Dr. Cornelia Kristen

Professor of Sociology, area Social Stratification, *University of Bamberg*, and Senior Research Fellow at *SOEP*



### Prof. Dr. Jürgen Schupp

Senior Research Fellow at *SOEP at DIW Berlin* and *Freie Universität Berlin*



### Prof. Dr. Gert G. Wagner

Senior Research Fellow at *SOEP*, Max Planck Fellow at the *MPI for Human Development* (Berlin), Research Associate of the *Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG)* in Berlin, and member of the *National Academy of Science and Engineering (acatech)*

[diseased in 2024]

## Research Group Leader



### Prof. Dr. Philipp Lersch

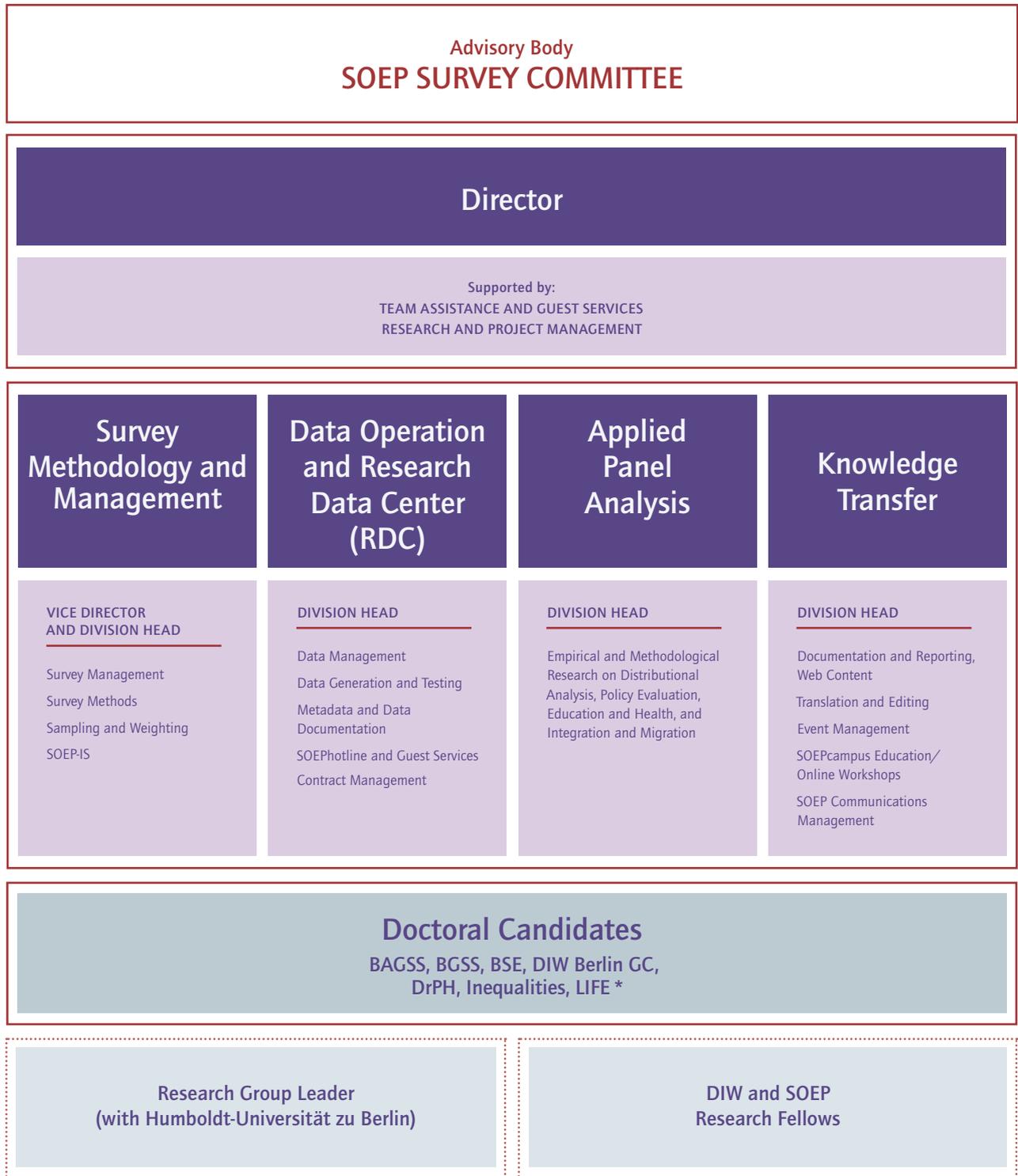
Associate Professor of Sociology and Social Policy at *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin* and Research Group Leader "Life Course and Inequality"

## DIW Research Fellows at SOEP

Prof. Conchita D'Ambrosio, Ph.D., *University of Luxembourg*  
 Dr. Annette Brose, *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*  
 Prof. Dr. Martin Diewald, *Bielefeld University*  
 Prof. Dr. Marcel Erlinghagen, *University of Duisburg-Essen*  
 Prof. Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln, Ph.D., *Goethe University Frankfurt*  
 Prof. Dr. Jürgen Gerhards, *Freie Universität Berlin*  
 Prof. Dr. Denis Gerstorf, *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*  
 Prof. Dr. Johannes Giesecke, *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*  
 Dr. Marco Giesselmann, *University of Zurich*  
 Prof. Dr. Karsten Hank, *University of Cologne*  
 Prof. Jennifer Hunt, Ph.D., *Rutgers University*  
 Prof. Guillermina Jasso, Ph.D., *New York University*  
 Prof. Richard E. Lucas, Ph.D., *Michigan State University*  
 Prof. Dr. Maike Luhmann, *Ruhr-Universität Bochum*  
 Prof. Dr. Stefan Kirchner, *Technische Universität Berlin*

Prof. Dr. Michaela Kreyenfeld, *Hertie School*  
 Prof. Dr. Wenzel Matiaske, *Universität Hamburg*  
 Fabian T. Pfeffer, Ph.D., *University of Michigan*  
 Prof. Regina T. Riphahn, Ph.D., *Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg*  
 Prof. Dr. Christian von Scheve, *Freie Universität Berlin*  
 Prof. Dr. Jörg-Peter Schräpler, *Ruhr-Universität Bochum*  
 Eva Sierminska, Ph.D., *Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research: LISER*  
 Dr. Holly Sutherland, *University of Essex*  
 Dr. Arne Uhlendorff, *Center for Research in Economics and Statistics: CREST*  
 Prof. Mark Wooden, *University of Melbourne*

# SOEP Organizational Chart



⋯ Based at the SOEP but not part of its organizational structure  
 \* BAGSS: Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences  
 \* BGSS: Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
 \* BSE: Berlin School of Economics  
 \* DIW Berlin GC: DIW Berlin Graduate Center of Economic and Social Research

\* DrPH: Doctoral Program for Public Health of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Bielefeld University  
 \* Inequalities: Public Economics & Inequality – Doctoral Program at Freie Universität Berlin  
 \* LIFE: International Max Planck Research School on the Life Course

# PART 3

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# Research by SOEP Staff

# Key Research Areas

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In this chapter, we present the cornerstones of the research carried out by SOEP staff on site in Berlin as well as relevant developments in 2023. For the list of publications by SOEP staff, please see part 6.

The researchers working at the SOEP engage in conceptually advanced and methodologically sophisticated scientific research in economics, sociology, psychology, other fields in the social

sciences, and survey methodology. Their research focuses on important topics and issues in modern societies and is founded on an empirical and analytical understanding of scientific research.

The SOEP primarily works on the following four research areas and the following exemplary questions.

## 1 Social Inequalities and Distribution

This research area deals with the question of how equally or unequally societal resources such as income and wealth are distributed, and how differences in access to education and the labor market create risks and opportunities.

## 2 Subjective Well-Being, Personality, and Health

Researchers examine how living conditions affect health and well-being and what role personality plays across the life course.

## 3 Migration and Integration

This research area investigates the migration history, living situation, and integration of migrants.

## 4 Survey Methodology and Data Science

Experts in survey methodology and data science are working to develop and further improve the SOEP study.

# Selected Third-Party Funded Projects

In 2023, SOEP researchers were actively involved in almost 40 research projects, most of which include cooperations with universities and/or other research institutes. They are financed with about ten million euros in funding by the German Research Foundation, various federal ministries, and the Leibniz Association, among others. Due to the wide variety of projects, the following overview presents a small selection of funded projects in 2023. The complete list of research projects can be found on our [website](#).



## FOCUS: Social Inequalities and Distribution

### Social Cohesion Panel of the Research Institute for Social Cohesion (SCP)

Researchers of this project have developed a representative household panel study specifically on the topic of social cohesion. The survey is conducted by the infas Institute for Applied Social Science under the name “Zusammenleben in Deutschland,” or “Living Together in Germany.” The University of Bremen takes part in the project as a participant of the BMBF-funded “Research Institute for Social Cohesion” (RISC) which also includes ten other research institutions in Germany. The central data center of the RISC is located at the University of Bremen.

**Project Management:** Carina Cornesse, Olaf Groh-Samberg (University of Bremen)

**Project Period:** August 1, 2021–December 31, 2024

**Funded by:** Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and University of Bremen

**In Cooperation with:** University of Bremen



## Perceptions of Inequalities and Justice in Europe – PIJE

This project analyzes perceptions and evaluations of social inequalities using harmonized survey data collected in 30 European countries in 2018 (European Social Survey, Round 9). Over recent decades, European societies have witnessed increasing social inequalities. Faced with more flexible labor markets, open trade, and technological as well as ongoing demographic changes, European welfare models have been unable to effectively address this issue. Developments such as the yellow vest movement in France and the rise of populist parties across Europe have renewed research interest in the mechanisms driving the distribution of income, wealth, and other social resources. There is still little empirically based knowledge about how populations respond to such challenges and how these issues can and should be effectively addressed. The project seeks to fill this gap.

**Project Management:** Sandra Bohmann, Stefan Liebig (Freie Universität Berlin)

**Project Period:** January 1, 2020 – January 31, 2025

**Funded by:** Leibniz Competition

**In Cooperation with:** Helmut Schmidt University | University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg, University of Konstanz, University of Vienna, Radboud University, New York University, MPI für Sozialrecht und Sozialpolitik, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich



## Leibniz ScienceCampus SOEP-RegioHub at Bielefeld University (SOEP@UBi)

Living conditions in Germany today show evidence of increasing and rapidly changing regional disparities in structural, demographic, and economic domains. These disparities often take the form of an adverse access to health care facilities, childcare provision, education, and other public services as well as regional labor market opportunities, business, climate, housing, and transportation infrastructures. The Leibniz ScienceCampus researchers investigate how these regional, social, and economic opportunities influence social cohesion, expectations, political attitudes, preferences, and behavior and thereby exacerbate or mitigate social inequality, social cohesion, political conflicts, and radicalization.

**Project Management:** Jan Goebel (for SOEP)

**Project Period:** October 1, 2020 – March 31, 2025

**Funded by:** Leibniz Association

**In Cooperation with:** Bielefeld University



## FOCUS: Subjective Well-Being, Personality, and Health



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung

### GDR-Past and Mental Health: Risk and Protection Factors (DDR-PSYCH)

This project sheds light on the impact of the East German past on personality traits and mental health within the German population and thereby fills an important research gap. While the former German Democratic Republic (GDR), often known in English as “East Germany,” and its socio-political system have remained a point of reference for the analysis of societal, social, and individual processes in Germany, little is known about how GDR-specific circumstances have shaped personality and mental health. The interdisciplinary research group DDR-PSYCH is led by researchers of the University Medical Center in Mainz.

**Project Management:** Theresa Entringer (for SOEP)

**Project Period:** April 1, 2019–July 31, 2025

**Funded by:** Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBWF)

**In Cooperation with:** Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and Mainz University Medical Center, University of Greifswald and University Medicine, Robert Koch Institute

### Dynamics of Mental Health of Migrants (DMHM)

Based on representative longitudinal data from large-scale surveys conducted in four countries, this project investigates personality characteristics and family relations as crucial factors in the development of migrants’ mental health. Theoretical models of acculturative stress predict the psychological impacts of adaptation to a new culture and the important role these impacts play in the development of migrants’ mental health. This development is shaped by both stressors and resilience factors within the context of the host country’s migration regime. Personality characteristics and family relations are two crucial factors in this development which have not been investigated from a longitudinal perspective to date.

**Project Management:** Theresa Entringer, Ana Nanette Tibubos (University Medicine Mainz)

**Project Period:** April 1, 2019–April 30, 2024

**Funded by:** German Research Foundation (DFG)

**In Cooperation with:** Mainz University Medical Center

**DFG** Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

## Second Nationwide Antibody Study "Living in Germany – Corona Monitoring" (RKI-SOEP-2)

As part of RKI-SOEP-2, participants in the Socio-Economic Panel study were asked to take a dry blood spot test and complete a short questionnaire. The dry blood spot test allows researchers to determine the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, whether due to recovery from COVID-19 infection or vaccination. The survey data are used to assess vaccination willingness in the population and to determine what factors may stop people from getting vaccinated.

**Project Management:** Jan Goebel, Markus M. Grabka, Sabine Zinn, Antje Gößwald (Robert Koch Institute, RKI), Herbert Brücker (Institute for Employment Research, IAB), Nina Rother (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, BAMF)

**Project Period:** September 1, 2021–December 31, 2024

**Funded by:** Federal Ministry of Health (BMG)

**In Cooperation with:** Robert Koch Institute (RKI), Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)



## FOCUS: Migration and Integration



### IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees in Germany

The project partners established a survey among people seeking protection in Germany from political persecution and violent conflicts. The influx of refugees to Germany, which rose sharply in the second half of 2015, posed challenges for public policy, government administration, and the population at large. To effectively coordinate lodging and assistance for these refugees and to foster their long-term integration into the labor market, educational system, and other societal spheres, robust and reliable information is needed that can be generalized and applied usefully to the challenges at hand. The IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees in Germany provides the data base to successfully address these challenges.

**Project Management:** Herbert Brücker and Yuliya Kosyakova (IAB), Nina Rother (BAMF), Sabine Zinn

**Project Period:** July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2025

**In Cooperation with:** Institute for Employment Research (IAB) of the German Federal Employment Agency (BA), Research Centre on Migration, Integration, and Asylum of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF-FZ)

## Longitudinal Study of Ukrainian Refugees in Germany (SUARE)

The refugee migration from Ukraine after the start of the war differs from previous waves of refugee migration. In the context of this DFG-funded project, researchers pursue the following two goals: (1) establish and further develop a longitudinal data infrastructure on the socio-economic situation of Ukrainian refugees in Germany. The sample of 2,500 households will ultimately be integrated into the IAB-BAMF-SOEP study as well as the main SOEP survey (SOEP-Core). (2) use the data from this project to investigate the specific institutional, economic, and social framework conditions of refugee migration from Ukraine to Germany and to analyze their significance for issues of health and discrimination through comparison with (a) refugees in Germany from other cultural, political, and socio-economic contexts, (b) non-refugee immigrants in Germany, and (c) the native population.

**Project Management:** Herbert Brücker and Yuliya Kosyakova (IAB), Nina Rother (BAMF), Sabine Zinn, Stefan Liebig (Freie Universität Berlin)

**Project Period:** June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2026

**Funded by:** German Research Foundation (DFG)

**In Cooperation with:** Institute for Employment Research (IAB) of the Federal Employment Agency (BA), Research Centre on Migration, Integration, and Asylum of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF-FZ)

## IAB-SOEP Migration Sample

Thanks to the successful cooperation with IAB, SOEP has surveyed people with a direct migration background since 2013. The Migration Sample provides a valuable database for researchers, allowing them to investigate a wide variety of aspects concerning migration to Germany. It consists of different sub-samples, all of whom are integrated into SOEP-CORE (i.e., SOEP's general household panel study). In 2023, SOEP continued to survey the established samples M1, M2, M7, M8a, and M8b.

**Project Management:** Sabine Zinn, Herbert Brücker (IAB)

**Project Period:** June 1, 2013 – December 31, 2025

**Funded by:** Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS), Federal Employment Agency (BA), Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Leibniz Association

**In Cooperation with:** Institute for Employment Research (IAB)





## FOCUS: Survey Methodology and Data Science

### The Linked Employer-Employee Study of the Socio-Economic Panel, Version 2 (SOEP-LEE 2)

The Linked Employer-Employee Study of the SOEP has entered its second round after the initial project start in 2012. The focus of SOEP-LEE2 is on longer-term changes in labor relations in the context of ongoing digitalization. In this context, the project examines how the corona pandemic has affected human resources management and leadership. A key feature of the study is the linkage of individual and organizational data. This makes it possible, for example, to analyze changes in individual employment histories and social structures, educational behavior and the utilization of human capital, opportunities to achieve personal potential and job and life satisfaction.

**Project Management:** Carsten Schröder, Wenzel Matiaske (Helmut Schmidt University | University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg)

**Project Period:** June 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024

**Funded by:** Helmut Schmidt University | University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg

**In Cooperation with:** Helmut Schmidt University | University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg

### KonsortSWD – Consortium for the Social, Behavioural, Educational and Economic Sciences in the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI)

KonsortSWD aims to assist researchers working together on multi- and interdisciplinary projects to implement research data management (RDM) plans. The 14 institutions in KonsortSWD are contributing their experience in the operation of user-oriented research data infrastructures to the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI) in order to strengthen, expand, and deepen a research data infrastructure for the study of human society. The project is primarily user-driven and addresses the needs of the research communities involved.

**Project Management:** Christof Wolf (Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (GESIS), spokesperson)

**Representative of SOEP:** Jan Goebel

**Project Period:** October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2025

**Funded by:** German Research Foundation (DFG)

**In Cooperation with:** Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (GESIS), Leibniz Institute for Research and Information in Education (DIPF), German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW), Freie Universität Berlin, ifo Institute, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories (LifBi), Leibniz Institute for Economic Research (RWI), University of Bremen – Qualiservice Research Data Center, University of Duisburg-Essen – Chair of Public and Regional Policy, Berlin Social Science Center (WZB), Leibniz Information Centre for Economics (ZBW), Leibniz Institute for Psychology (ZPID)

## Bremen Initiative to Foster Early Childhood Development (BRISE)

BRISE is a longitudinal study that systematically investigates the effects of early childhood intervention. It follows approximately 1,000 disadvantaged families in Bremen. Research within the scope of BRISE examines the cumulative effects of a coordinated intervention program on the participating children's cognitive, social, and emotional development. Researchers employ a quasi-experimental longitudinal research design to gauge effects of the coordinated program on multiple dimensions. Linking BRISE to the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) as well as to the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) further enables comparative analyses with additional high-quality data. The insights gained in Bremen inform policy on early childhood and contribute to providing equal opportunities for all children, to protecting children and promoting their development and participation in society.

**Project Management:** Speakers of the project group – Olaf Köller (IPN), Franz Petermann (University of Bremen); Head of the project at DIW Berlin – Jürgen Schupp; C. Katharina Spieß (BiB)

**Project Period:** December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2025

**Funded by:** Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

**In Cooperation with:** Leibniz Institute for Science and Mathematics Education (IPN), University of Bremen, University of Bamberg, Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories (LIfBi), Freie Universität Berlin, Heidelberg University, Max Planck Institute for Human Development Berlin



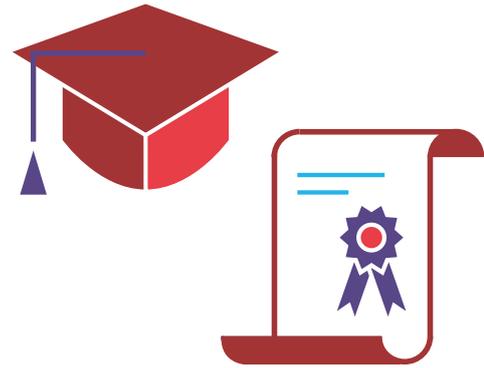
Other financial funders include:



Hans **Böckler**  
Stiftung 

# Completed Dissertations

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## Laura Buchinger

**"Life Goals Across Adulthood and Old Age Associations With Personality and Well-Being"**

**Freie Universität Berlin, November 27, 2023**

**Supervisors:** David Richter, Denis Gerstorff

**Structured Ph.D. Program:** International Max Planck Research School on the Life Course (LIFE)



## Angelina Hammon

**"Analysis of survey data in the presence of non-ignorable missing-data and selection mechanisms"**

**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, May 15, 2023**

**Supervisors:** Johannes Giesecke, Timo Schmid

**Structured Ph.D. Program:** Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences (BAGSS)



## Michael D. Krämer

**"Social Relationships, Personality, and Subjective Well-Being: Investigating Social Processes across Different Methods and Temporal Resolutions"**

**Freie Universität Berlin, May 15, 2023**

**Supervisors:** David Richter, Michael Eid

**Structured Ph.D. Program:** International Max Planck Research School on the Life Course (LIFE)



## Matteo Targa

**"Empirical Essays on Inequality"**

**Freie Universität Berlin, May 15, 2023**

**Supervisors:** Carsten Schröder, Jan Marcus

**Structured Ph.D. Program:** DIW GC

# Expert Reports and Appointments

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## Expert Reports

Cardozo Silva, Adriana

*Expertise on "Zur Situation älterer Menschen mit Migrationshintergrund (50+)"*  
for the German Centre of Gerontology (DZA)/Geschäftsstelle für die  
Altersberichte der Bundesregierung

Lersch, Philipp

*Expertise on "Vermögen bei Scheidung, Trennung und alleinerziehender Elternschaft"*  
for the 10th Family Report of the Federal Government

Schröder, Carsten, Markus M. Grabka, Johannes König,  
Johannes Seebauer, et al.

*"Special analyses of the Socio-Economic Panel on wages and salaries during  
the pandemic (2020 and 2021)"*  
submitted for the Report of the Minimum Wage Commission

## Appointments

Bartels, Charlotte

- Die Junge Akademie, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
- Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), affiliate (Public Economics, Economic History)
- CESifo Research Network, affiliate

Cornesse, Carina

- European Survey Research Association (ESRA), executive committee member; 2023–2025 Chair for Communications
- German Society for Online Research (DGOF)
- Center for Panel Survey Sciences, expert Advisory Board member, NORC Institute (University of Chicago)
- UK Survey Data Collection Methods collaboration, member of the International Advisory Board, Topic: survey futures
- Austrian Socio-Economic Panel (ASEP), member of Scientific Advisory Board

### Goebel, Jan

- **German Data Forum (RatSWD)**, member for the 8th appointment period (three years)

### Grabka, Markus M.

- **German Ageing Survey (DEAS)**, chair of Scientific Advisory Committee
- **Swiss Household Panel**, member of scientific commission

### Graeber, Daniel

- **Institute of Labor Economics (IZA)**, research affiliate

### König, Johannes

- **Verein für Socialpolitik (VfS)**, member of the committee for Social Policy

### Lersch, Philipp

- **SocioHub (Fachinformationsdienst Soziologie)**, member of the Scientific Advisory Board

### Schröder, Carsten

- **Verein für Socialpolitik (VfS)**, chair of the committee for Social Policy

### Wagner, Gert G.

- **"Frontiers in Psychology"** and **"Frontiers in Applied Mathematics and Statistics,"** associate editor of the quantitative psychology and measurement sections
- **Association for Psychological Science (APS), USA**, fellow

### Zinn, Sabine

- Deputy chair of the **Arbeitsgemeinschaft Sozialwissenschaftlicher Institute e.V. (ASI)**
- **Federal Statistical Office of Germany**, member of the Statistischer Beirat (Statistical Advisory Council)
- **"Survey Research Methods,"** associate editor

# PART 4

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# SOEP Data and Fieldwork

# The Portfolio of SOEP Studies

## SOEP-Core

The term **SOEP-Core** refers to the main Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), a wide-ranging representative longitudinal study of private households in Germany launched in 1984 as part of a collaborative research center of the German Research Foundation. Since the SOEP began, it has repeatedly added new subsamples, such as those with a special focus on migrants, refugees, families, and the wealthy. SOEP now surveys around 20,000 households and 30,000 individuals every year. Some of the many topics of SOEP-Core include household composition, education, occupational biographies, employment, earnings, health, and life satisfaction.

## SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS)

The longitudinal **SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS)** was launched in 2011 for the study of innovative research questions as well as innovative survey methods. SOEP-IS publishes a call every year inviting researchers worldwide to propose their own questions or modules for inclusion in SOEP-IS. Examples are economic behavioral experiments, implicit association tests (IAT), and complex procedures for measuring time use (day reconstruction method, DRM).



## SOEP-Cross Country (SOEP-XC)

The SOEP team also links and harmonizes SOEP data with data from other countries. This enables the use of the SOEP data in **cross-national comparative analysis**:

First, the **Cross-National Equivalent File (CNEF)** provides harmonized information on education, employment, income, health, and life satisfaction from nine different international household panel studies. In addition to the German SOEP data, these include data from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Russia, South Korea, Switzerland, Japan, and Australia.

Second, the **EU-SILC Clone** provides harmonized cross-sectional as well as longitudinal information on private households in Germany based on the SOEP data. It directly mimics the data structure of the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC).

Third, the **Luxembourg Income Study (LIS)** is a database of harmonized microdata from over 50 countries including income, employment, and demographic data.

Fourth, the **Luxembourg Wealth Study (LWS)** database contains comparable wealth data for nineteen countries.

## SOEP-Related Studies (SOEP-RS)

**SOEP-Related Studies (SOEP-RS)** are designed and implemented in close cooperation with the SOEP team and structured similarly to the SOEP. They typically incorporate questions from the SOEP questionnaire to validate their results. Some examples of SOEP-RS include BASE-II (Berlin Aging Study II), FiD (Families in Germany), PIAAC-L (Programme for International Assessment of Adult Competencies-Longitudinal), SOEP-ECEC Quality (Early Childhood Education and Care Quality in the SOEP), SOEP-LEE 1&2 (SOEP Employer-Employee Survey), BIP (Bonn Intervention Panel), BRISE (Bremen Initiative to Foster Early Childhood Development), ZHP-FGZ (Cohesion Panel of the Research Institute for Social Cohesion), and IAB-BiB/FReDA-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees from Ukraine.



SOEP XC



SOEP RS

# The SOEP-Core Samples

By Jennifer Weitz and Lennard Liebich

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For each wave of the survey, the SOEP Research Data Center makes the most recent data available to researchers worldwide. The files for each data release are provided to the SOEP at DIW Berlin by infas.<sup>1</sup> It includes gross and net survey data, methodological data, structured metadata, as well as complete documentation. Here we describe the fieldwork of the SOEP-Core sample (A–R, M1, M2 and M7).

## Survey modes used in 2023

As in the two previous years, the SOEP-Core was implemented in the following mixed-mode survey design: All households in all subsamples were initially contacted face-to-face in computer-assisted personal interviews (CAPI). The survey started with interviewers recording or updating the household composition. Once all household members had been listed or updated, it was clear which individuals should be given questionnaires and which questionnaires they should receive.

All household members were primarily to be interviewed in CAPI but were also given the option of completing the questionnaires independently on a tablet (computer-assisted self-interview, CASI) or of filling out the questionnaire in the absence of the interviewer, either online (computer-assisted web interview, CAWI) or on paper (paper-and-pencil interview, PAPI). Respondents who could not be reached at home during the fieldwork period (classified as “temporarily absent”) and respondents who declined to participate in this wave due to a lack of time or other reasons (“soft refusals”) were automatically sent a PAPI questionnaire.<sup>2</sup>

Households and respondents who had not yet been reached by CAPI were switched to the computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) survey mode after at least four attempts to reach them had failed, provided that a telephone number was available for the household or person. Analogous to CAPI, respondents in CATI could switch to CAWI or PAPI if they wished. Individuals who were temporarily absent and “soft refusals” were automatically switched to CAWI or PAPI during CATI fieldwork using the same procedure as in the CAPI fieldwork.

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**1** The infas Institute for Applied Social Sciences in Bonn (infas) is a private, independent social research institute founded in 1959 that conducts research for and advises businesses, research institutes, and policy makers. infas is Germany's largest commercial research institute with a social science focus. Since 2016, the institute has been certified to ISO 20252, the international industry-specific quality standard for organizations conducting market, opinion, and social research. infas also adheres to the standards of the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) and works in cooperation with Westat.

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**2** PAPI questionnaires included a link to the online survey so that respondents could decide for themselves – even after starting out on paper – whether they preferred to complete the questionnaire online.

Table 1

## Net Sample Sizes and Response Rates (RR) in the 2023 Subsamples<sup>1</sup>

Sample	Households (% RR)	Adults (% RR)	Youths <sup>2</sup> (% RR)	Children <sup>3</sup> (% RR)	Total individual questionnaires (% RR)
A	660 (69.4)	874 (75.0)	20 (38.5)	40 (38.1)	934 (70.6)
B	68 (61.3)	92 (75.4)	2 (28.6)	3 (37.5)	97 (70.8)
C	424 (67.8)	553 (75.2)	21 (43.8)	41 (50.6)	615 (71.2)
D	66 (68.8)	96 (79.3)	3 (75.0)	2 (33.3)	101 (77.1)
E	21 (55.3)	31 (81.6)	3 (100.0)	4 (100.0)	38 (84.4)
F	903 (72.0)	1,208 (78.6)	32 (36.4)	92 (53.3)	1,332 (74.1)
G	340 (80.6)	488 (78.7)	5 (41.7)	36 (47.4)	529 (74.7)
H	256 (68.1)	353 (79.1)	15 (75.0)	14 (40.0)	382 (76.2)
J	899 (69.7)	1,219 (78.7)	46 (44.7)	102 (56.4)	1,367 (74.6)
K	476 (67.1)	660 (81.6)	23 (45.1)	70 (72.2)	753 (78.7)
L	1,747 (63.5)	2,715 (74.2)	584 (54.4)	263 (66.4)	3,562 (69.5)
M1	469 (47.7)	622 (66.8)	46 (33.8)	106 (51.2)	774 (60.8)
M2	141 (39.7)	168 (60.2)	19 (44.2)	57 (54.3)	244 (57.1)
M7	159 (27.3)	171 (55.0)	1 (37.5)	9 (13.0)	192 (46.6)
N	1,118 (65.4)	1,543 (74.1)	83 (47.4)	174 (66.9)	1,800 (71.5)
O	304 (51.9)	394 (82.3)	16 (48.5)	47 (72.3)	457 (79.2)
P	764 (55.9)	963 (62.0)	47 (28.5)	80 (55.2)	1,090 (58.5)
Q	327 (74.8)	385 (75.9)	4 (25.0)	12 (41.4)	401 (72.6)
R	3,306 (49.2)	3,489 (61.2)	89 (22.6)	419 (46.1)	3,997 (57.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,448 (58.3)</b>	<b>16,024 (70.8)</b>	<b>1,070 (43.6)</b>	<b>1,571 (53.3)</b>	<b>18,665 (66.6)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Response Rates in percentages in brackets to the right of absolute net sample size. The response rates for the individual questionnaires refer to the target population of participating households.

<sup>2</sup> Adolescents (birth years 2006–2011) who completed their respective questionnaire.

<sup>3</sup> Children (birth years 2012–2023) for whom a child questionnaire has been completed.

## Instruments

In 2023, a total of seven different questionnaires were used for subsamples A–R. These included a household questionnaire to be completed per household, an individual questionnaire to be completed by each adult household member, and up to four additional questionnaires per adult to be completed when certain requirements were met.

Compared to the previous wave, the three different youth questionnaires were integrated into a single youth questionnaire. This change further streamlines the survey and makes it possible to collect data on three more youth age cohorts every year. As a result, for the first time in SOEP history, data from all birth cohorts in the household could be acquired without any gaps (birth year 2005 and older: individual questionnaire; birth year 2006 to 2011: youth questionnaire; birth year 2012 to 2023: child questionnaire). At the same time, the age group-specific design of the three old youth questionnaires was retained in the integrated questionnaire by using a more advanced filter logic.

Additionally, all adult respondents were asked to take part in a grip strength test in 2023. Grip strength measures muscle strength and is an accurate predictor of deterioration in physical and mental function. The grip strength test was administered by the interviewers with a dynamometer. For a reliable measurement, grip strength was measured twice for both hands.

## Response rates

In 2023, a total of 21,362 panel households were contacted: 12,724 of which were in samples A–Q, 6,717 were in sample R, and 1,921 were in the migration samples M1, M2, M7. In total, interviews were realized with 12,448 households. The field results for sample R differ compared to the other samples since sample R was integrated into the panel in 2022 and was now resurveyed for the first time. The field results of samples M1, M2, M7 also differ since the households in these migration samples show a distinct response behavior compared to the rest of the panel.

Encouragingly, the cooperation rate<sup>3</sup> was very high across all samples, at around 87 percent overall. Among the households in samples A–Q, a high response of about 81 percent was achieved for those households that had also participated in the previous wave. Additionally, 21 percent of those households that did not take part in the 2022 wave were brought back into the panel in 2023.

In sample R, around half of the households were successfully re-interviewed in 2023, solidifying their retention in the panel.

For migration samples M1, M2, M7, the response rate was, as in previous years, somewhat lower compared to A–Q with around 73 percent for the samples M1 and M2. It was about 61 percent for sample M7 for those households that had participated in the 2022 wave.

Across all samples, about 21 percent of the new households that split off existing households during the 2023 fieldwork were successfully surveyed.

**Table 1** shows the composition of the net sample in 2023 as well as gross response for the individual subsamples. Looking at the individual level, we see that 16,024 adults were interviewed in the participating households and 1,070 adolescents. Additionally, information about 1,571 children was collected. As expected, the differences in response behavior at the household level are also reflected at the individual level, with responses being somewhat lower for sample R and the migration samples M1, M2, M7 but comparatively higher for all the other samples.

<sup>3</sup> The cooperation rate is defined by the number of interviews divided by sum of interviews and refusals.

# IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees

By Michael Ruland and Theresa Müller

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The SOEP, the Institute for Employment Research (IAB), and the Research Centre of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF-FZ) launched the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees in Germany in 2016. The study now comprises a total of five sub-samples (M3, M4, M5, M6, and M9). Samples M3 and M4 started in 2016, sample M5 in 2017, and M6 in 2020. In 2023, the boost sample M9 was added to the SOEP Survey of Refugees. It consists of three parts: one refresher sample of refugees from all over the world (M9-REF) and two subsamples focusing on Ukrainian refugees, one sample stemming from the IAB-BiB-BAMF-SOEP Survey “Refugees from Ukraine in Germany” and one refresher sample (M9-SUARE).

## Survey modes used in 2023

Prior to the main field phase, all individuals targeted to join the M9 boost sample were contacted via mail and invited to a short introductory survey that could be administered via PAPI or CAWI. For those households that responded to this initial survey, a face-to-face-interviewer contacted and interviewed them again. Additionally, for the M9-REF subsample, a random sample of non-respondents was drawn for the face-to-face field to account for non-random effects of nonresponse in the introductory survey. These households are identified as non-pre-recruited in the following.

In the main field phase, the mixed-mode design used in the previous years was continued. First, interviewers contacted the households personally and recorded or updated the household composition. They then conducted face-to-face interviews with the household members. To increase the motivation to participate, respondents were given the option of completing their questionnaire self-administered on a tablet computer (CASI) or online (CAWI).

The questionnaires and documents were provided in German, English, Arabic, Farsi, and additionally, to address the new target groups of the M9 sample, Turkish, Ukrainian, and Russian. Of the 324 interviewers who worked on the 2022 survey, 180 were native speakers of at least one of the survey languages. Interviewers with the appropriate language skills were assigned to households based on the language used in the last interview or the language skills indicated in the introductory survey. If an interviewer was unable to communicate with a household in a common language, another interviewer with the appropriate language skills attempted to make contact.

## Instruments

In the introductory survey for the M9 boost sample, 8,808 respondents completed the interview in CAWI or PAPI. The duration of the survey in CAWI was around 6.4 minutes. The response rate was quite satisfactory with around one fourth (26.1 percent) of the addressed target persons participating.

In the main field, a total of nine questionnaires were used. The main questionnaires for adult household members such as household questionnaire, individual questionnaire, and biography questionnaire were used in all samples of the SOEP Survey of Refugees, whereas the child, youth, and gap questionnaires were only used in the panel samples M3–M6. This reduced the respondent burden for the M9 households in their first panel wave. The latter was particularly important due to the already long interview duration for new respondents: In addition to the obligatory individual questionnaire (refugee variant: 40 minutes; non-refugee variant: 49 minutes), they also received the biographical questionnaire (refugee variant: 39 minutes; non-refugee variant: 32 minutes).

Additionally, in 2023, the grip strength test was readministered with adult household members in all refugee samples. The response rate here was around 90 percent and the test took around 2.8 minutes on average to complete.

It is important to note that the biographical and gap questionnaires were completed after the personal questionnaire. About 90 percent of the first-time respondents who completed an individual questionnaire also completed the biographical questionnaire and 77.7 percent completed the gap questionnaire.

Corresponding to the other SOEP samples, the integrated child questionnaire was given to one parent of all children born in 2012 or later. The birth year-specific questions were filtered within the questionnaire. The average additional interview time per child (born between 2012 and 2023) was 11 minutes.

As with the child questionnaire in the in 2022 wave, the youth questionnaire for adolescent household members was redesigned for 2023 and now addresses all adolescents born between 2006 and 2011, not only certain birth cohorts. The age-specific questions are filtered within the questionnaire. As part of the redesign, the questionnaire was shortened for all age groups and took only 25 minutes to complete.

As another innovation in 2023, all adult household members were asked for their panel consent at the end of their personal interview. Only those respondents who gave consent will be readdressed for the next wave in 2024. Temporary dropouts in 2023 will be asked for their consent in the following wave. In the panel samples M3–M6 as well as in the boost sample M9, 92 percent of respondents agreed.

## Response rates

**Table 2** shows the composition of the net sample and the response rates in the 2023 face-to-face field for the panel samples M3–M6, the pre-recruited subsamples M9–REF and M9–SUARE, as well as the non-pre-recruited subsample of M9–REF.

We see that a total of 6,334 households participated in the 2023 survey wave, with over 5,000 of these being new households from the M9 boost sample.

If we look at the composition of the gross sample, we see that there are 3,100 households in the panel samples M3–M6. Around half of these households were respondents in the previous wave (45.2 percent) and half temporary dropouts (53.6 percent) with only 37 new split-off households. The three displayed subsamples of the M9 boost sample each contain between around 4,000 and 5,000 new households in the gross sample.

Table 2

**Net Sample Sizes and Response Rates in the 2023 Subsamples<sup>1</sup>**

Sample	Households	Adults	Youths <sup>2</sup>	Children <sup>3</sup>	Total individual questionnaires
M3	265 (37.7)	398 (67.5)	67 (47.2)	147 (63.4)	612 (63.5)
M4	272 (34.9)	451 (67.3)	122 (50.2)	189 (68.2)	762 (64.0)
M5	261 (35.8)	408 (75.8)	51 (43.2)	184 (69.7)	643 (69.9)
M6	235 (26.5)	345 (76.2)	41 (51.3)	148 (63.8)	534 (69.8)
Sample M9-REF (pre-recruited)	2,386 (44.7)	3,295 (73.6)	-	-	3,295 (73.6)
Sample M9-REF (non-pre-recruited)	534 (10.7)	763 (71.4)	-	-	763 (71.4)
Sample M9-SUARE (pre-recruited)	2,381 (60.8)	3,689 (85.3)	-	-	3,689 (85.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,334</b> (36.5)	<b>9,349</b> (77.1)	<b>281</b> (48.2)	<b>668</b> (66.5)	<b>10,298</b> (75.1)

<sup>1</sup> Response rates in percentages in brackets under absolute net sample size. The response rates for the individual questionnaires refer to the target population of participating households.

<sup>2</sup> Adolescents (birth years 2006–2011) who completed their respective questionnaire (questionnaire only applied in the panel samples M3–M6).

<sup>3</sup> Children (birth years 2012 to 2023) for whom a child questionnaire has been completed (questionnaire only applied in the panel samples M3–M6).

The response and cooperation rates differ significantly between the four subsamples: The pre-recruited samples of M9-REF and M9-SUARE have the highest response and cooperation rates, which indicates that the introductory survey had the desired effect of recruiting motivated households for the face-to-face field. However, the numbers also show a remarkable difference between the two target groups of Ukrainian refugees and those from all over the world. While the cooperation rate in M9-SUARE (Ukrainian refugees) was at 83 percent and the overall response rate at 60.8 percent, it was around 10 to 15 percent lower in the M9-REF sample (refugees from all over the world) with a cooperation rate of 72.5 percent and a response rate of 44.7 percent.

The non-pre-recruited sample of M9-REF in comparison only reached a response rate of 10.7 percent with a cooperation rate of 38.3 percent, thereby fulfilling the goal of this subsample (reach 500 households and achieve a response rate of at least 10 percent).

In the panel samples M3–M6, the cooperation rate dropped a little in comparison to the previous wave: it amounted to 55 percent in 2023. This also explains the lower response rate of 33.3 percent. Reasons for these unsatisfactory results in the panel samples are the growing proportion of temporary dropouts that are harder to re-interview as well as the declining motivation of the panel households to participate in general.

When we look at the response on the individual level, we see a total of 9,349 interviews with adult household members, 281 with adolescents, and 668 completed child questionnaires. As mentioned above, the questionnaires for children and adolescents were only administered in the panel samples M3–M6.

As on the household level, the response rates of adult household members also differ significantly between Ukrainian refugees (M9-SUARE) with 85.3 percent and refugees from all over the world where the response rate lies between 71.2 percent in the panel samples M3–M6 and 73.6 percent in the pre-recruited subsample of M9-REF.

# SOEP Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS)

By Maximilian Ponert, Thomas Weiß, Carina Cornesse

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## Introduction

What is the difference between SOEP-IS and SOEP-Core, the main household panel? In short, it is a smaller sample with an experimental focus and varying content. Be it questions about personal attitudes, effects of major life-time events, or short-term experiments – the flexibility offered by SOEP-IS presents an extraordinary opportunity for researchers. It covers a wide range of research objectives and topics, for example risk aversion, changes after childbirth, ageing, digital behavior, and many others.

SOEP-IS is unique in that its content comes from the research community itself: Since 2012, researchers worldwide have been able to submit proposals for innovative modules each year. After initial tests and experiments in 1998 and the following years, SOEP-IS became an independent household study in 2011. What used to be short experiments has evolved considerably over time. In fact, there are many similarities to SOEP-Core in terms of design, questionnaires, and fieldwork procedures.

In contrast to SOEP-Core, all interviews are conducted in German only. Fieldwork takes place from spring to fall and is conducted by infas Institute for Applied Social Science in Bonn. As of January 2023, SOEP-IS is led by Dr. Carina Cornesse, senior survey researcher at SOEP.

## Survey modes used in 2023

The SOEP-IS 2023 was implemented in a mixed-mode design. According to this design, most panel households in the subsamples (E1, E2, I1–I6) were initially processed using a face-to-face interview mode. In the individual households, the survey started by recording or updating the household composition. Once all household members had been listed or updated, it was clear which household members were to be surveyed and which questionnaires these individuals were to receive.

In contrast, all households in the refresher sample (I7) started in CAWI mode (computer assisted web interview). The person who was drawn as part of the refresher sample received the login data for the web survey directly with the initial letter. The recording of the household composition was also done completely self-administered in the refresher sample. This innovation was possible for the first time because the tool for recording household composition was fundamentally revised by infas – it could now also be completed by the respondents themselves, e.g., as part of a web survey. After the head of household had indicated the composition of the household, all other household members who should also be surveyed according to the study design were invited by mail to take part in the web survey.

The same procedure was followed for a small number of panel households: All panel households with a realization of the household questionnaire in the web survey in the last wave also started in the web mode this time (analogue to the refresher sample).

## Instruments

To capture the situation of the household in its entirety, the survey targeted individuals of different ages in the household. In each household, a household interview was conducted regarding the general situation of the household. This interview was conducted with the person who is most familiar with the concerns of the household (head of household). In addition, each household member up to the birth year 2004 should answer the individual questionnaire. New household members were also asked questions about their life course (biography questionnaire). The head of household also answered the child questionnaire for children born between 2011 and 2023 and currently living in the household.

The SOEP-IS 2023 included 14 innovative modules. For each of the nine samples, a different subset of all 14 modules was defined to keep the duration of the interview within reasonable limits. All members of a household, including new household members, received the same subset of innovative modules. These innovative modules with diverse research interests and topics were not separate questionnaires but were integrated into the individual questionnaire at appropriate stages of the interview. The following modules differed from the other innovative modules: For example, a vignette module at the end of the individual questionnaire was incentivized with an additional five euros, provided it was completed. Another module with estimation questions was introduced at the beginning of the interview to all children in the household aged 6 to 13 and a randomly selected parent. There was also a module on climate change which was only given to people in the refresher sample and was incentivized with an additional five euros if an estimation question was answered correctly.

## Response rates

**Table 3** (see the following page) provides an overview of the most important data of the fieldwork overall and differentiated for the panel samples (E1, E1, I1–I6) and the refresher sample (I7).

The gross sample of the SOEP-IS 2023 consisted of 13,166 households: 3,140 panel households and 9,926 refresher households. The households that participated in the previous wave made up 14 percent of the total sample and 56.8 percent of the panel households. The dropouts from the previous wave were 10.2 percent in relation to all households and 41.6 percent in relation to the panel households. The gross sample also included 51 “split” households (1.6 percent) that had been newly formed during the fieldwork. The refresher sample consisted exclusively of new households, these accounted for 75.7 percent of the total gross sample.

Figure 1

### Overview of the Development of the SOEP-IS over Time

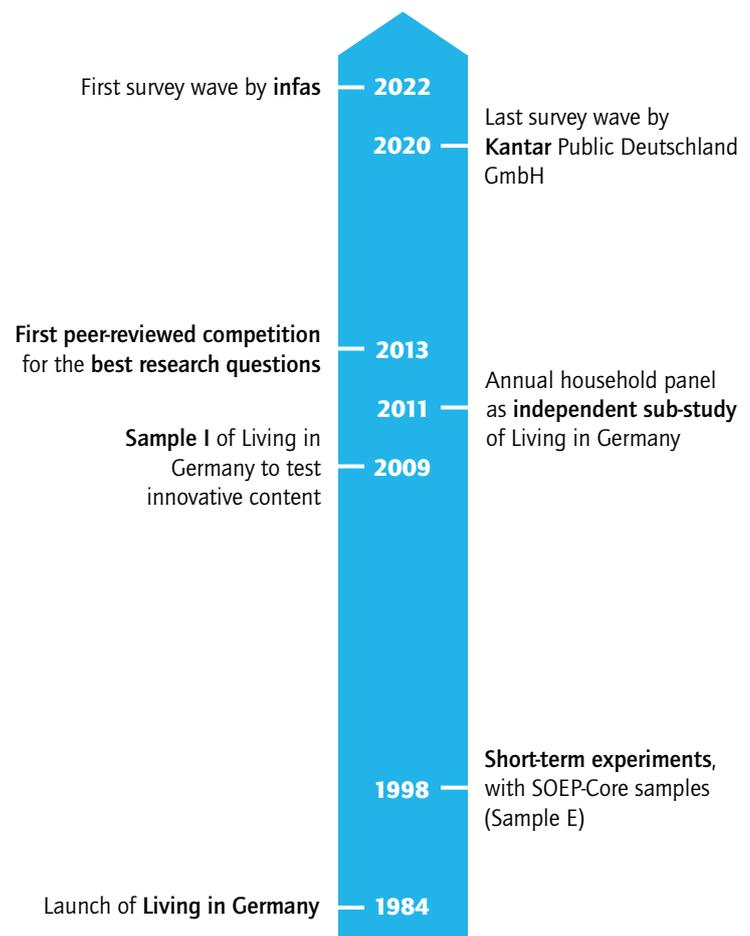


Table 3

## Overview of the Fieldwork of SOEP-IS 2023

	Total		Panel (E1, E2, I1-I6)		Refresher (I7)	
	abs	%	abs	%	abs	%
<b>Gross sample composition by types of household (HH)</b>						
Total	13,166	100.0	3,240	100.0	9,926	100.0
Households in previous wave	1,840	14.0	1,840	56.8	0	0
Dropouts in previous wave	1,349	10.2	1,349	41.6	0	0
New households (incl. split HHs)	9,977	75.8	51	1.6	9,926	100.0
<b>Interviews completed and response rates by type of HH (Net sample)</b>						
Total	4,263	32.4	1,937	59.8	2,326	23.4
Households in previous wave	1,424	77.4	1,424	77.4	0	0
Dropouts in previous wave	513	38.0	513	38.0	0	0
New households (incl. split HHs)	2,326	23.3	0	0	2,326	23.4
<b>Net sample and survey mode on the household level</b>						
Total	4,263	100.0	1,937	100.0	2,326	100.0
Interviewer-administered (CAPI)	1,266	29.7	1,266	65.4	0	0
Self-administered (CAWI)	2,997	70.3	671	34.6	2,326	100.0
<b>Sample size and response rates on the individual level</b>						
Total	7,740	100.0	3,413	100.0	4,327	100.0
Interviews completed	4,867	62.9	2,440	71.5	2,427	56.1
<b>Net sample and survey mode on the individual level</b>						
Total	4,867	100.0	2,440	100.0	2,427	100.0
Interviewer-administered (CAPI)	1,315	27.0	1,315	53.9	0	0
Self-administered (CAWI)	3,546	72.9	1,119	45.9	2,427	100.0
Self-administered (CASI)	6	0.1	6	0.2	0	0

The response rate of the entire gross sample amounted to 32.4 percent, 59.8 percent in panel households and 23.4 percent in refresher households. Panel households from the previous wave had the highest response rate at 77.4 percent. About 38 percent of the dropouts from the previous wave were brought back into the panel in this wave. Unfortunately, none of the “split” households were successfully surveyed during the fieldwork.

Of the total net sample of 4,263 households, 29.7 percent of all household interviews were conducted interviewer-administered and 70.3 percent self-administered. This distribution was different for the panel households: 65.4 percent were conducted interviewer-administered and 34.6 percent self-administered. This finding was to be expected since most of the panel households were initially contacted face-to-face.

At the individual level, 62.9 percent of the interviews were completed. At 71.5 percent, the completion rate for individuals in the panel samples was slightly higher than for those in the refresher sample (56.1 percent).

Looking at the survey modes, 27.0 percent of all interviews at the individual level were conducted interviewer-administered – in the panel samples alone, this figure was 53.9 percent. In contrast, 72.9 percent of all interviews in the web survey were self-administered at the individual level, 45.9 percent in the panel sample and 100 percent in the refresher sample. The CASI mode was only used in individual cases in the panel samples (0.2 percent).

# PART 5

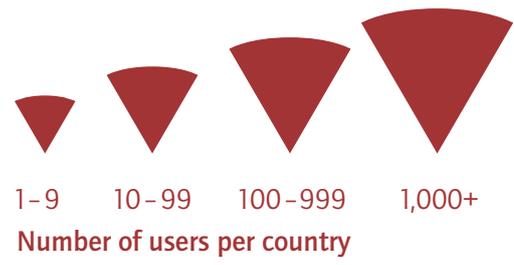
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# SOEP Data Service

# SOEP Users Around the World in 2023

Total number of users: 15,493





# Report from the SOEP Research Data Center

By Jan Goebel

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## The SOEP's 38<sup>th</sup> data release, with additional datasets and user resources

Version 38 of the SOEP-Core data (1984–2021, 10.5684/soepcore.v38.10) was released in 2023 with numerous additional datasets and resources for data users.

With SOEP-CORE V38, several significant changes were implemented. These include switching from proprietary country codings to ISO-3 country codes, resulting in updates to variables such as country of origin and nationality. Due to a change in the survey field institute, the `intid` (interviewer ID) has been reset.

New datasets have been introduced, including BLCORONA containing Corona information at the personal level, HOUSING2021 providing living environment details, as well as GKAL and LKAL featuring occupational and biographical calendars. Raw data updates include renaming/conversion of variables in dataset PBRUTTO for linking SOEP data with IAB social data (the linked **SOEP-CMI-ADIAB** dataset is available at IAB FDZ).

As usual, various updates and adjustments have been made in datasets such as PL, HL, BIOL, JUGENDL, BIOAGEL, BIOPUPIL, KIDLONG, and VPL. Furthermore, changes in individual variables were introduced, like the addition of a new category for short-time work in dataset PGEN.

Lastly, there were structural changes in ZIP file organization, with the introduction of a new folder structure (`soepdata`) for better organization and exclusivity of datasets within this folder.

It was necessary to publish an update for Version 38. In SOEP-CORE V38.1, several updates and additions were made. First, equivalent dataset BLPEQUIV and its corresponding 2021 data in the long format file PEQUIV were included. Further, the release of SOEP-LEE2 data marks a significant addition, with the first wave of establishment data from the SOEP-LEE2 project now available. These data come from enterprises with employees who are SOEP-Core respondents and can be linked to SOEP-Core. Researchers interested in accessing sensitive variables can do so on-site at the Research Data Center of the SOEP.

Specific cases have been excluded based on anomalous time stamps identified by the IAB during quality checks. This affects 87 households and 160 person interviews, representing 0.65 percent of household interviews from 2021 onwards. Adjustments have been made to individual variables and weights accordingly.

All known issues with the data versions can be viewed online ([known issues](#)), as well as the more detailed information on the individual data releases ([Whats New](#)).

We are sure that these changes will enhance data consistency, provide new insights, and improve usability for researchers and analysts using SOEP-CORE V38.1 and beyond.

Figure 2

## Number of New Data Distribution Contracts 2013-2023

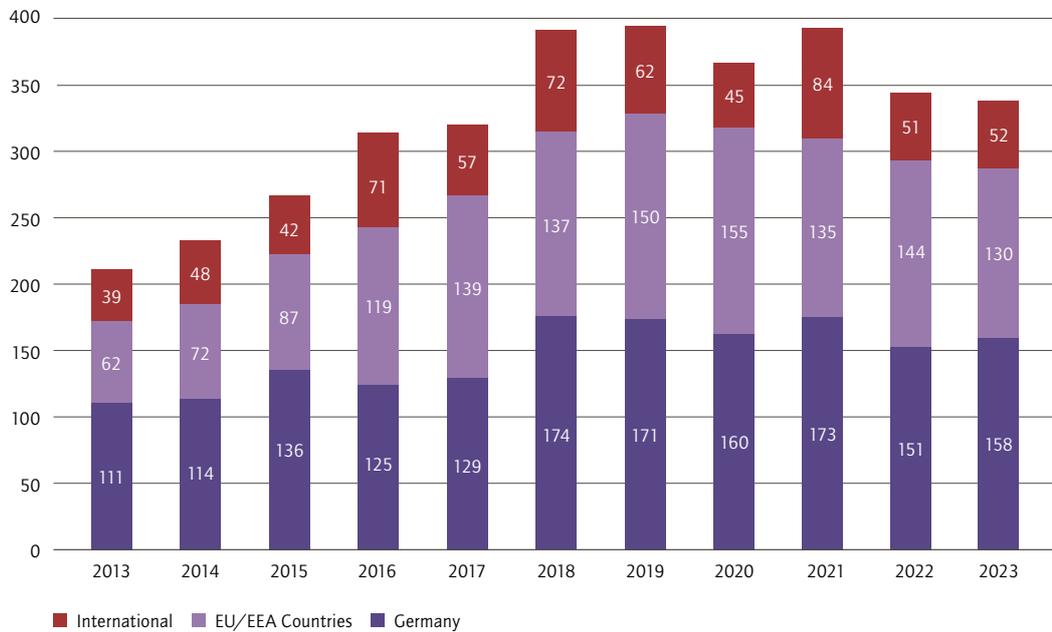
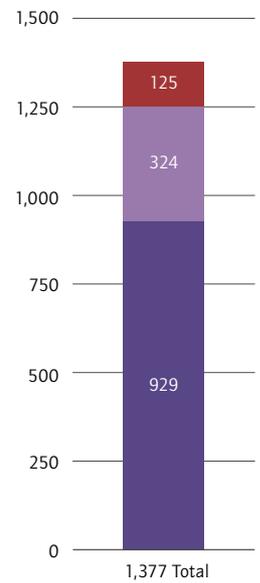


Figure 3

## Number of Researchers in New Contracts 2023



## Number of data users

The SOEP Research Data Center (RDC SOEP), which is accredited by the German Data Forum (RatSWD), provides the international research community with access to anonymous microdata. **Figure 2** presents an overview of the number of data distribution contracts signed each year since 2013. In 2023, a total of 340 external users signed data distribution contracts.

It should be kept in mind that a single data use contract usually covers a number of researchers, if not an entire research team. **Figure 3** shows that 1,377 individual researchers received access to the SOEP data in 2023.

# Results of the 2023 SOEP User Survey

By Denise Rolle

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In order to continuously optimize its services, since 2014, the SOEP invites all data users to take part in an annual User Survey. The aim of the survey is to gain important insights into how the SOEP datasets are used and perceived by the international research community. At the end of 2023, our data users were asked to evaluate our work and express their wishes and criticism. This year, 837 people took the time to participate in the user survey, 65,5 % of them for the first time. We thank everyone who participated!

## Participating users

- They are 38.5 years old on average.
- 73.3 % of the respondents work at an institution in Germany, approximately 7.5 % outside Europe.
- 45.3 % of them identify as female, 53.9 % as male, and 0.8 % as diverse.
- The majority come from the fields of economics (40.2 %), sociology/social sciences (29.3 %), and psychology (8.7 %).
- Almost half of the respondents (48.4 %) have teaching duties at the time of the survey.
- Stata (71 %) and R (42 %) remain the preferred statistical programs. It is striking that the proportion of R users has more than doubled since 2019.

## Purposes of data use

The majority of our respondents (69.2 %) utilize SOEP data as their primary data for their research endeavors. Additionally, 40.1 % of respondents utilize the SOEP data for comparative analyses with other datasets, 18 % engage in international comparative studies, and 12 % employ the data for checks on representativeness. Most research leveraging

SOEP data predominantly culminates in publications within scientific journals, as well as in various research reports and projects (refer to **Figure 4**). Furthermore, a significant number of term papers, theses, and dissertations also rely on SOEP data.

## Consistently high level of satisfaction

At 7.8 out of 10 points, the overall satisfaction of the respondents with the SOEP is almost unchanged compared to 2022 and thus remains at a consistently high level. The reliability, comparability, and comprehensive sample size of the SOEP data are particularly positively emphasized (see **Figure 5**). Users praise the thematic diversity of the SOEP as well as the variety of variables, data quality, and user support. For many, the long time series in conjunction with the sample diversity and richness represent valuable research potential. Despite high satisfaction ratings, our users point to potential for improvement in terms of user-friendliness and documentation. Initiatives such as SOEPcampus, SOEPcompanion, and paneldata.org are being continuously strengthened in order to further facilitate access to, and use of, SOEP data despite the increasing data volume.

## SOEP-IS: High satisfaction with innovation modules

Around 16.9 % of respondents have already worked with SOEP-IS or even do so regularly. Since 2018, all evaluation results have improved: respondents rated the accessibility of the data on average with 8.3/10, data quality with 8.3/10, and documentation with 7.3/10 points.

Figure 4

### SOEP Data Use by Types of Research Work

n=554, multiple choice

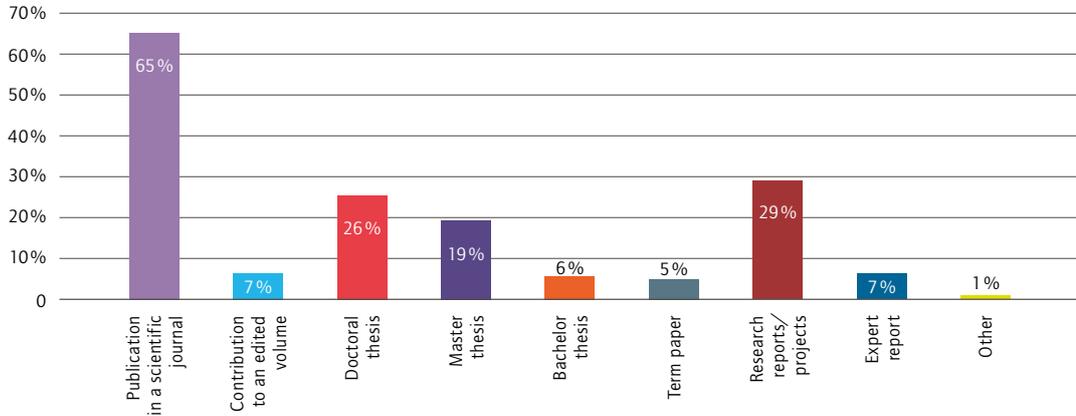
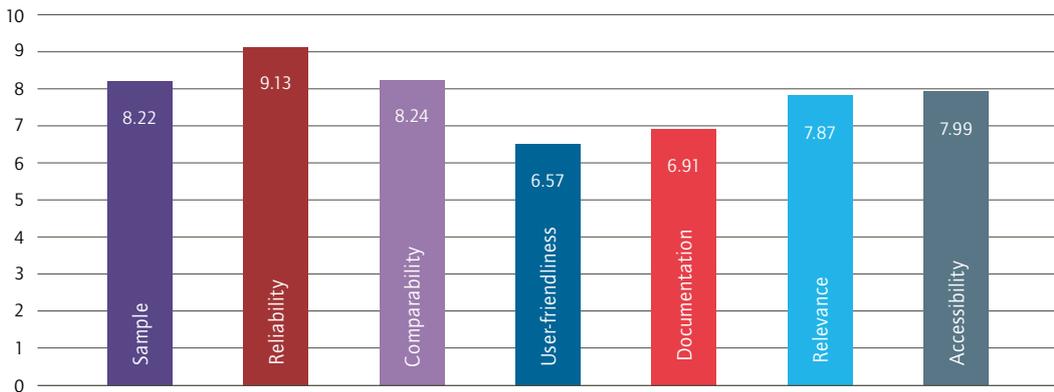


Figure 5

### Satisfaction with Aspects of SOEP Data Quality (Mean)

n=592, rating scale from 0 (completely dissatisfied) to 10 (completely satisfied)



## News from the Research Data Center and Survey Management

In the 2023 survey, some of our data users are critical of the delays in data release that occurred during the transition of the survey institute. Thus, we are all the more pleased that three milestones have already been reached in 2024 to speed up the processes:

- The receipt of raw data for SOEP-Core 2023 was completed at the beginning of April 2024, meaning that the review process with infas began almost five months earlier than in the previous year.

- The field start for the 2024 survey year is earlier than ever before since the start of the collaboration with infas (calendar week 9).
- Questionnaire development for the 2025 survey year will also begin in April 2024, more than two months earlier than in the previous year.

These advances set new standards in data preparation and provision. We are confident that we will be able to provide data earlier again in the future.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the 2023 User Survey! For more results of the survey, please check our [website](#).

# Record Linkage with Administrative Pension Data (SOEP-RV)

By Mattis Beckmannshagen, Jan Goebel, Markus M. Grabka, Carsten Schröder, and Yogam Tchokni

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SOEP is constantly striving to improve the analytical potential of the data. This is done by making changes and additions to the questionnaires, but also by linking the SOEP data with data from high-quality external sources such as administrative registers. Currently, the SOEP data are linked with two registers, namely with data from the German Pension Insurance (SOEP-RV) and with data from the Federal Employment Agency (SOEP-CMI-ADIAB). Of course, such a linkage requires the individual consent of those surveyed.

SOEP-RV is a joint project of SOEP and the Research Data Centre of the German Pension Insurance (FDZ-RV). The German Pension Insurance contains comprehensive information on individual employment and pension histories starting at the age of 14. The data include detailed information on retirement periods, pension contributions, paid pensions, early retirement, social security income, and other topics. Linking SOEP data with these high-quality, long-term monthly data offers an invaluable enhancement to the SOEP study.

The long-time frame of the social security data provides unique possibilities, e.g., for research combining administrative and survey data to answer questions about long-term inequality or the effects of policy reforms. Thus, SOEP-RV offers significant potential for research on pensions and old age, as well as on methodological questions such as the consistency of self-reported versus administrative information. More information can be found online at: [www.diw.de/soep-rv\\_en](http://www.diw.de/soep-rv_en)

Since 2023, the SOEP data has also been linked to data from the IAB's Integrated Employment Biographies. This includes information on previous employment, receipt of unemployment benefits or participation in employment measures. Some of this information goes back as far as 1975. The linked data (SOEP-CMI-ADIAB) is particularly useful for research questions that require very precise income data spanning the life course. More information can be found [online](#).

# What is the EU-SILC-like panel? (EU-SILC Clone)

By Charlotte Bartels

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The European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) contain data from across Europe on individual and household income, household living conditions, individual health, childcare, employment, and self-assessed financial situation. EU-SILC offers both cross-sectional and longitudinal data. However, until 2020, the German EU-SILC data contained only cross-sectional data. Thus, German households could not be compared to other European households in the longitudinal dimension.

Against this background, SOEP developed the “EU-SILC-like panel.” Compared to the data of the German Federal Statistics Office, it allows for comparative longitudinal analysis of European households including Germany. The EU-SILC-like panel is based on the SOEP and includes all EU-SILC panel variables for which the respective information is available in the SOEP. Detailed information is provided in our EU-SILC-like panel codebook and on the SOEP website at: [www.diw.de/soep\\_silc-clone](http://www.diw.de/soep_silc-clone)

## What can data users do with the EU-SILC-like panel?

- The EU-SILC-like panel based on SOEP data allows researchers to conduct longitudinal analyses that include Germany along with other EU-SILC countries. One could compare, for instance, trends for the duration in poverty or other dynamic measures requiring panel data.
- Users can compare trends and levels for specific variables and groups using the EU-SILC-like panel and the German EU-SILC cross-sectional data. For example, median monthly imputed rent (figure 6) is more than 3,000 euros higher in German EU-SILC cross-sectional data than in the EU-SILC-like panel based on SOEP.
- Data users may also decide to use the EU-SILC-like panel based on SOEP instead of the EU-SILC cross-sectional data. If the aim is to analyze trends from 2005 up to the latest survey year, users might prefer the EU-SILC-like panel because the new survey design of the official German EU-SILC since 2020 has hindered comparison with results from preceding years, as noted by the **German Federal Statistical Office**. For example, self-employment income (figure 7) takes a hit in 2021 according to the EU-SILC-like panel based on SOEP, in contrast to a rather stable evolution throughout the Covid-19 pandemic documented in German EU-SILC cross-sectional data.

"EU-SILC" refers to cross-sectional EU-SILC.

"SOEP" refers to EU-SILC-like panel based on SOEP.

— Median EU-SILC  
— Median SOEP

Figure 6

**Imputed Rent HY030N**

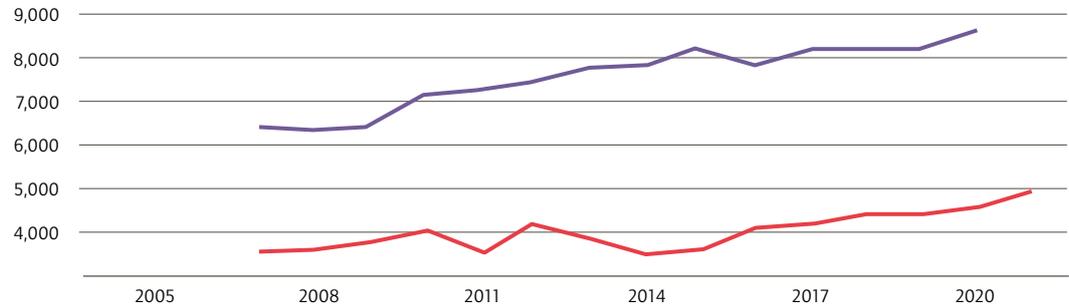
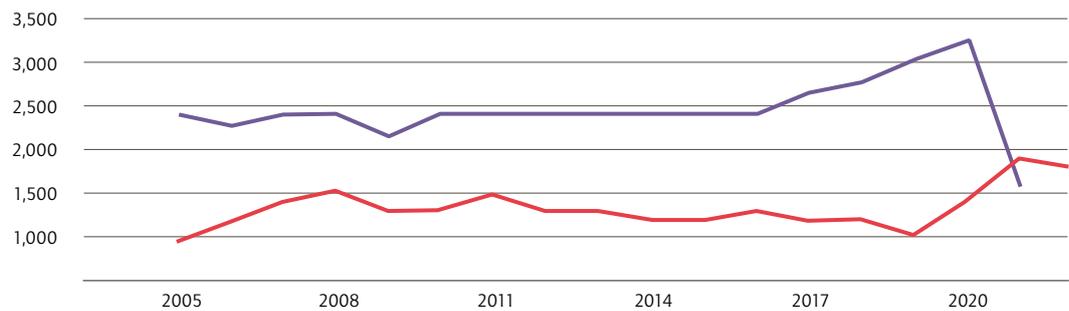


Figure 7

**Cash Benefits or Losses from Self-Employment PY050G**



# PART 6

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# Scientific Output

# Web of Science™ Publications: SOEP Staff and User Community

## Overview of SOEP-Based Web of Science™ Core Collection Publications over the Last Decade

Figure 8

SOEP-Based Web of Science™ Core Collection Publications 2013–2023

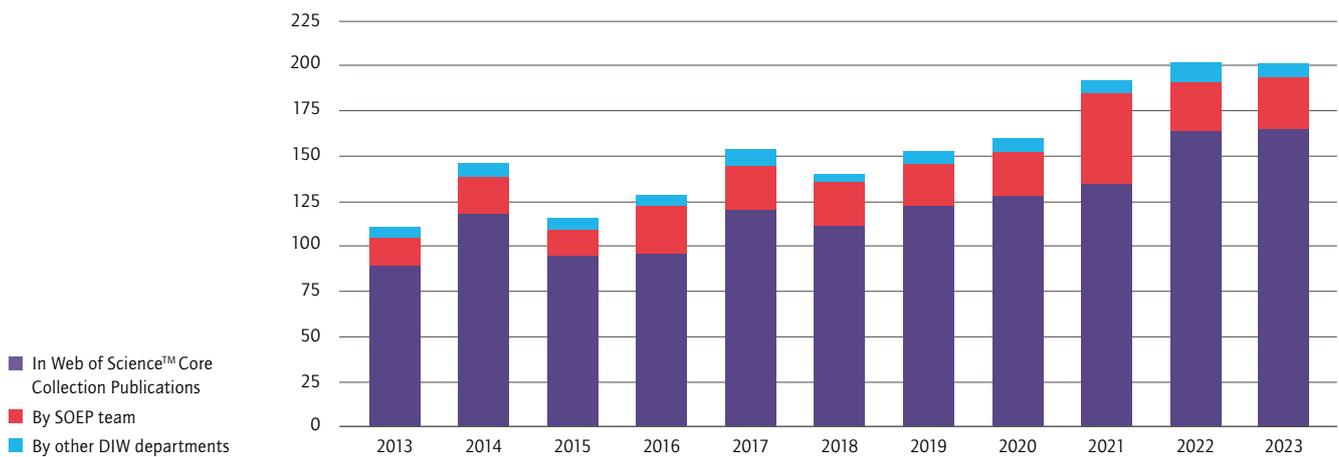
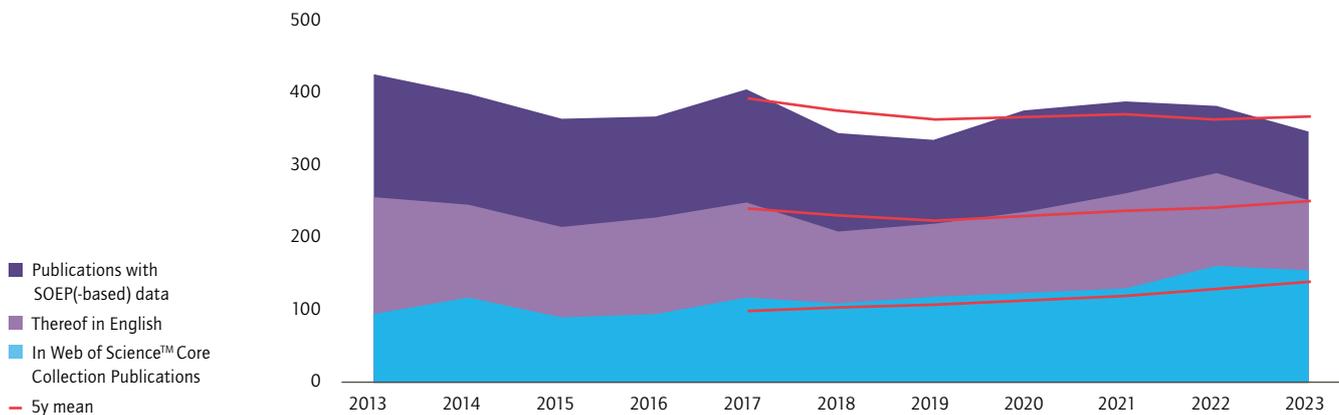


Figure 9

SOEP-Based Publications by the SOEP User Community 2013–2023



# SOEP Staff: List of Web of Science™ Core Collection Publications

In addition,  
please find the  
top publications  
of 2023 on  
page 18.

## A

**Adriaans, Jule and Matteo Targa.** 2023. Gender differences in fairness evaluations of own earnings in 28 European countries. *European Societies* 25 (1), 107-131. (<http://doi.org/10.1080/14616696.2022.2083651>)

**Aksoy, Cevat G., Panu Poutvaara, and Felicitas Schikora.** 2023. First Time Around: Local Conditions and Multi-dimensional Integration of Refugees. *Journal of Urban Economics* 137 (September 2023). (<http://doi.org/10.1016/j.jue.2023.103588>)

## B

**Bach, Ruben L., Carina Cornesse, and Jessica Daikeler.** 2023. Equipping the Offline Population with Internet Access in an Online Panel: Does It Make a Difference? *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology* (online first). (<http://doi.org/10.1093/jssam/smad003>)

**Bartels, Charlotte, Timm Bönke, Rick Glaubitz, Markus M. Grabka, and Carsten Schröder.** 2023. Accounting for Pension Wealth, the Missing Rich and Under-Coverage: A Comprehensive Wealth Distribution for Germany. *Economics Letters* 231. (<http://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4419617>)

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## SOEP User Community: List of Web of Science™ Core Collection Publications

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# Other Publications

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# SOEP Survey Papers

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The Socio-Economic Panel  
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