Changing High Cultural Activities over the Life Course in Germany

Although lifestyles in general and high cultural activities in particular are relatively robust over the life course, they can be subjected to certain transformations over time. Next to age effects which are mostly close connected with changing consumption patterns of leisure activities like going to the opera or theatre for example, also cohort effects can stand behind these changes. While the first connection could be pointed out in numerous investigations, the relation between birth cohort and high cultural activities were examined only insufficiently so far. But also changing living conditions due to socio-economic reasons and family formation processes plays an important role. Using the longitudinal data set of the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP) the presentation regards changing patterns in high cultural consumption to close the research gap. To analyse the impact of age and cohort effects as well as changes of economic resources or family situation over time random effects models are estimated for a time period covering five years between 1990 and 2008. It can be observe that next to age and cohort also other changing living conditions influence the consumption of high cultural activities over time. Next to changes in the individual socio-economic situation due to labour market changes also particularly family events like changing household formations by marriage or birth affect the probability of high culture participation.