Volunteering in the Life Course
Intergenerational Transmission of Volunteering

10th International German Socio-Economic Panel User Conference
Berlin, June 30th /July 1st 2014
Belit Şaka
Outline

- Volunteering in Germany: status quo?
- Volunteering in the Life Course → Research questions
- Theoretical background: Intergenerational Transmission
- Data & Variables
- Preliminary Results
- Summary & Conclusion
Formal and informal volunteering

Volunteering is considered as unpaid work and time which is provided in order to benefit another person, group or organization outside of the own household.

- Formal volunteering: „participation in clubs, associations or social services“
- Informal volunteering
Recent debate on volunteering

- 2001: „United Nations Year of Volunteer“.
- 2011: „European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship“

Share of volunteers at an international scale

Source: Erlinghagen 2013, based on ESS and CID 2002, 2005
Volunteering, status quo?

Share of (formal) volunteers in Western and Eastern Germany (in %)

Source: own calculations, SOEP v29, weighted
Volunteering, status quo?

Volunteering (regularly) in Western Germany over time and age (in %)

Source: own calculations, SOEP v29, weighted
Volunteering in the life course
An overview and examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dynamic</th>
<th>Multi-dimensional</th>
<th>Multi-leveled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated resources and former experiences have an impact on individual behaviour in future</td>
<td>Makes interactions between different life spheres explicit</td>
<td>Explores the link between changing institutional and cultural context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own volunteering experiences</td>
<td>Interactions between volunteering and birth of the first child</td>
<td>Link between life courses of individuals in immediate proximity, „linked-lives“</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Volunteering and transition to retirement</td>
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<td>Volunteering and transition into marriage etc.</td>
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<td>Cohort effects</td>
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<td>Spousal transmission of volunteering</td>
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<td>Intergenerational transmission of volunteering</td>
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</tbody>
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Intergenerational transmission of volunteering
State of research

- Positive effects of volunteering if at least one parent is volunteering regularly (Grimm et al. 2005; Musick & Wilson 2008; Jones 2000; Caputo 2009; Nolin & Chandler 1997; Metz & Youniss 2003)

- The effects of volunteering mothers is stronger than volunteering fathers (Musick & Wilson 2008)

- Shortterm and longterm effects of growing up in a „volunteering household“ (Suanet et al. 2009, Jennings 2002)
Two theoretical perspectives

Source: based on Bekkers 2007
Data and Operationalization


- **Parental volunteering**
  - Participation in clubs, associations or social services during the formative years of the childhood (14-17), regularly or rarely

- **Parenting style**
  - Supportive parenting

- **Socioeconomic status (parent)**
  - Education level
  - ISEI

- **Control variables**
  - Gender, partner, children, migration background, volunteering experience

- **Socioeconomic status (young adult)**
  - Education level
  - ISEI

- **Employment status**
  - Education level

- **Young adult’s volunteering**
  - Regularly participation in clubs, associations or social services (at least once a month)

**Aged 18-29**
First descriptive results
parent child similarity

Young adults (aged 18-29) current volunteering (in %)

- Inactive parents (N=624): 75.6% not volunteering, 12.7% volunteering rarely, 11.7% volunteering regularly.
- One parent rarely active (N=339): 63.7% not volunteering, 16.3% volunteering rarely, 19.9% volunteering regularly.
- One parent regularly active (N=339): 52.4% not volunteering, 24.5% volunteering rarely, 23.1% volunteering regularly.
- Both parents regularly active (N=339): 38.8% not volunteering, 33.0% volunteering rarely, 28.3% volunteering regularly.

Source: own calculations, SOEP v29, wave 2011, weighted
# Odds of regular volunteering

Results of clustered logistic regression analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parental volunteering</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>parental vol. (regular)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parental vol. (rare)</td>
<td>3,90</td>
<td>2,23</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Socio-demographics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>female</td>
<td>0,71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st gen. migrant</td>
<td>0,37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd gen. migrant</td>
<td>0,72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>partner in hh</td>
<td>0,71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>school aged children (0/1)</td>
<td>0,66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Germany</td>
<td>1,19</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Socio-economics</th>
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<tr>
<td>middle eduction (ref.: low)</td>
<td>1,06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high education</td>
<td>1,27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>full-time (ref.: non empl.)</td>
<td>0,89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>part-time</td>
<td>0,76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unemployed</td>
<td>0,64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>still in education</td>
<td>0,58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISEI = 31-45 (ref: 0-30)</td>
<td>1,08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISEI = 46-90</td>
<td>0,73</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parental socio-economics</th>
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<tr>
<td>middle education (ref.: low)</td>
<td>1,26</td>
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<tr>
<td>high education</td>
<td>1,20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISEI = 31-45 (ref: 0-30)</td>
<td>0,97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISEI = 46-90</td>
<td>0,88</td>
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\[ N = 4597 \]
\[ N (Cluster) = 1978 \]
\[ Pseudo R^2 = 0,08 \]
Changing in the $y^*$-standardized beta coefficients of volunteering for parental volunteering

Controlling consecutively for:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model 1</th>
<th>Only parental volunteering</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parental volunteering, regular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parental volunteering, rarely</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.78***</td>
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<td>0.46***</td>
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<tr>
<th>Model 2</th>
<th>Socio-demographics sex, household composition, Easter Germ.</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parental volunteering, regular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parental volunteering, rarely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.71***</td>
</tr>
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<td>0.43***</td>
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<tr>
<th>Model 3</th>
<th>SES: education level, employment status, ISEI</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parental volunteering, regular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parental volunteering, rarely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.69***</td>
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<td>0.41***</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model 4</th>
<th>Parental SES: education level, ISEI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parental volunteering, regular</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parental volunteering, rarely</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.68***</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0.40***</td>
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## Interaction terms with supportive parenting

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Model 5</th>
<th>Regular Volunteering</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>parental volunteering (reg.)</td>
<td>3.75***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parental volunteering (rare)</td>
<td>2.29***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supportive parenting</td>
<td>1.38**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parental vol (reg.) * supp. par.</td>
<td>0.96 n.s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parental vol (rare) * supp. par.</td>
<td>0.89 n.s.</td>
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Chi$^2$ ***202.27(26)

*Note: All variables of former model were included, but not reported.*

Summary & Conclusions

1. Persisting effects of parental volunteering in the medium term, even when controlling for SES and status transmission → effects of socialization

2. No support for status transmission effects

3. No support for effects moderating the parenting style

Further Questions

- What about in the short term effects of parental volunteering, volunteering at school? To what extent is it referable to accumulated experience, and how much is explained by intergenerational transmission?
- Same results for informal volunteering and caregiving? Any potential spillover effects of volunteering between different kinds of volunteering?
- Can personality characteristics (BIG-5) mediate the intergenerational transmission of volunteering? Transmission of personality? Value transmission? Transmission of civic identity?
- Structural equation models better suited to disentangle the transmission effects?
- ...
Blossfeld, H.-P. & J. Huinink, 2001: Lebensverlaufsforschung als sozialwissenschaftliche Forschungsper-
Caputo, R.K., 2009: Religious Capital and Intergenerational Transmission of Volunteering as Correlates of Civic 
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