12th International German Socio-Economic Panel User Conference

Berlin Social Science Center | WZB

Berlin, Germany, June 22–23, 2016
SOEP 2016 – 12th International German Socio-Economic Panel User Conference

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

SOEP 2016, June 22 to 23 at the Berlin Social Science Research Center | WZB

We are pleased to welcome you to this year's International German Socio-Economic Panel User Conference at the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB). The 2016 Conference has been jointly organized with the WZB. It is our 12th SOEP conference, held every two years to provide researchers who use SOEP data an opportunity to present and discuss their work with other researchers. This year we are delighted to welcome researchers from a wide variety of disciplines, including sociology, economics, demography, geography, political science, public health, and psychology. Within the last two years, numerous additional studies have joined SOEP-Core in the broader SOEP “landscape” of studies, and we are happy to see the growing interest in these related data sets among our users.

We were stunned by the number of submissions to our call for papers and by the quality of the submitted abstracts. This program provides you with all the relevant information on the 15 parallel sessions with over 70 presentations.

We hope you enjoy the 12th International German Socio-Economic Panel User Conference, with the many exciting talks and opportunities to meet colleagues and network with researchers from the SOEP community.

Supported by:

DIW VEREINIGUNG DER FREUNDE

DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
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THE VENUE | Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)

In case you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Christine Kurka | 030 89789-283

E-Mail: SOEP2016@diw.de
PLAN OF THE SURROUNDINGS

Address:

WZB – Berlin Social Science Center, Reichpietschufer 50, 10785 Berlin/Germany

Public transport:

Subway and S-Bahn station: **U2/S1/S2/S25** – Potsdamer Platz; bus connection to the WZB: bus **M48**
DETAILED TIMETABLE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2016

08:30 - 09:30  Registration

09:30 - 11:15  Plenary Session I (A 300)

Welcome Address
Marcel Fratzscher (President, DIW Berlin)

Recent Developments in the SOEP
- The Family of SOEP Longitudinal Studies – SOEP-Core and SOEP-IS (Jürgen Schupp)
- SOEP-Migration-Samples 2013/2014 (Martin Kroh)
- Minimum Wage Module (Alexandra Fedorets)

11:15  Coffee Break

11:45 - 13:00  Plenary Session II: Demography and Social Mobility (A 300)

Keynote Speech I: Berkay Özcan (London School of Economics and Political Science LSE, UK)
Parental Family Dynamics and Children's Life Chances

13:00 - 14:00  Lunch (WZB staff restaurant)

14:00 - 16:00  Parallel Sessions with 3-4 presentations each
Parallel S1: Parents and Children (Chair: Carsten Schröder, room: A 300)

Do parents treat (their) children differently? (Martin Diewald, Wendy Johnson, Volker Lang)
Technological Change and the Intergenerational Effect on Schooling (Annemarie Paul, Thomas Siedler)
Dynastic Inequality and Persistence of Human Capital Over Three Generations (Guido Neidhöfer, Maximilian Stockhausen)
Locus of Control and Mothers' Return to Employment (Eva M. Berger, Luke Haywood)

Parallel S2: Employment I (Chair: Alexandra Fedorets, room: A 310)

The dynamics of solo self-employment: Persistence and transition to employership (Daniel S. J. Lechmann, Christoph Wunder)
Earnings Inequality and Non-standard Employment on Three Continents (Ira N. Gang, Myeong-Su Yun)
No Role for the Hartz Reforms? Demand and Supply Factors in the German Labor Market, 1993-2014 (Michael C. Burda, Stefanie Seele)
Performance Pay and Wage Inequality: Evidence from Germany and Great Britain (Pieter De Vlieger)
**Parallel S3: Income Dynamics** (Chair: Jan Goebel, room: B 002/003)

- Income dynamics of liberal professions, entrepreneurs and employees (*Mirko Felchner*)
- Dynamics of income rank volatility: Evidence from Germany and the US (*Louis Chauvel, Anne Hartung, Flaviana Palmisano*)
- Lifetime income inequality with taxation and public benefits (*Peter Haan, Daniel Kemptner, Victoria Prowse*)
- A general approach to income dynamics and inequality (*Francesca Marino, Vito Peragine, Laura Serlenga*)

**Parallel S4: Gender** (Chair: Elke Holst, room: B 004/005)

- The Gender Earnings Rift – Assessing Hourly Earnings Distributions of Males and Females using Structured Additive Distributional Regression (*Alexander Sohn*)
- At School in the Afternoon: Labour Supply of German Mothers with Primary School Children (*Ludovica Gambaro, Jan Marcus, Frauke Peter*)
- Why managerial women are less happy than managerial men (*Hilke Brockmann, Anne Maren Koch, Adele Diederich, Christofer Edling*)

16:00

Coffee Break

16:15 - 18:15

**Parallel Sessions with 3-4 presentations each**

**Parallel S5: Siblings** (Chair: Nicolas Legewie, room: B 002/003)

- Comparing Sibling Similarity in Education Within and Between Countries (*Michael Grätz, Kieron Barclay, Øyvind Wyborg, Torkild H. Lyngstad, Aleks Karhula, Jani Erola, Patrick Präg, Thomas Laidley, Dalton Conley*)
- Cognitive and Non-cognitive Skills and the Reproduction of Inequalities (*Wiebke Schulz, Reinhard Schunck*)
- Sibling similarity in socioeconomic status attainment over the early life course (*Lea Kröger*)
- Twin correlations and social background - descriptive evidence for Germany (*Tina Baier*)

**Parallel S6: Employment II** (Chair: Carsten Schröder, room: B 004/005)

- Comparing the Employment of Older Workers in UK and Germany (*David Wright*)
- Losing (Locus) of Control: An Economic Perspective on Psychological Reactions to Unemployment Shocks (*Malte Preuss, Juliane Hennecke*)
- Using the SOEP data to enable innovative research (*Jianghong Li, Matthias Pollmann-Schult, and Till Kaiser*)
- Time Use, Experienced Well-being and Labor Market Status (*Tobias Wolf, María Metzing, Richard E. Lucas*)
**Parallel S7: Migration** (Chair: Martin Kroh, room: A 310)

Context Effects on Attitudes Towards Immigration - Evidence from German Panel Data *(Stephan Dochow)*

The Economic Assimilation of Immigrants: Comparative Evidence from the Long-Term Panel Studies in Germany and Russia *(Apoorva Jain, Klara Sabirianova Peter)*

The Intermarriage Mental Health Premium. Does Marrying a Native Increase Immigrants' Well-being? *(Gina Potarca, Laura Bernardi)*

Migrant in-work poverty: How much does discrimination explain? *(Romana Careja and Hans-Jürgen Andreß)*

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**Parallel S8: Wealth** (Chair: Markus M. Grabka, room: A 300)

The true richness: savings and children among German, Swiss and Australian families *(Ursina Kuhn, Laura Ravazzini)*

Retirement preparedness across cohorts in Germany *(Johannes Geyer, Peter Haan, Holger Lüthen)*

Wealth portfolios and wealth accumulation in upper middle classes *(Nora Waitkus, Olaf Groh-Samberg)*

Cultural Determinants of Household Saving Behavior *(Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln, Paolo Masella, Hannah Paule-Paludkiewicz)*

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**18:15-19:00 Poster Session I: 9 Poster Presentations** (Chair: Berkay Özcan, room: A 305)

The Effects of Flexible Work Practices on Employees’ Work and Non-Work Attitudes. A Panel Analysis *(Claudia Kröll and Stephan Nüesch)*


Children of unplanned pregnancies – A challenge for testing fertility parameters? *(Thorsten Schneider)*

Income in Jeopardy: How Losing Employment Affects the Willingness to Take Risks *(Clemens Hetschko and Malte Preuss)*

Is your commute really making you fat?: The causal effect of commuting distance on height-adjusted weight *(Laszlo Goerke, Olga Lorenz)*

Routes into lone motherhood – routes into poverty? The importance of selection for explaining lone mothers’ poverty *(Sabine Hübgen)*

Relationship between personality and work success differs for women and men *(Anja Ghetta and Andreas Hirschi)*

Single parents’ social integration: differences between East and West Germany *(Hannah Zagel)*

“Her head had the size of a clementine”: preterm birth effects the adaptation to motherhood *(Nina Richter)*

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**19:00** Aperitivo/Get Together
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<td>Parallel Sessions</td>
<td>Parallel S9: Fertility (Chair: Elisabeth Liebau, room: A 300)</td>
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<td>Intergenerational Patterns of Family Formation in East and West Germany (Zachary Van Winkle, Anette Fasang, Marcel Raab)</td>
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<td>The Impact of Subjective Well-Being on Fertility across Societies: Universal or country-specific? (Letizia Mencarini, Daniele Vignoli, Tugba Zeydanli)</td>
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<td>Retirement, intergenerational time transfers, and fertility (Peter Eibich, Thomas Siedler)</td>
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<td>The link between personality and fertility - is it different for males and females? (Christian Schmitt, C. Katharina Spieß)</td>
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<td>Parallel S10: Personality (Chair: David Richter, room: A 310)</td>
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<td>Let Bygones be Bygones? Socialist Regimes and Personalities in Germany (Tim Friehe, Markus Pannenberg, Michael Wedow)</td>
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<td>The Transmission of Trust through Generations (Sara Tonini)</td>
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<td>Happily ever after or future break-up? – The effect of personality congruence and constellations on relationship satisfaction and stability (Elisabeth Hahn, Juliana Gottschling, Felix Schönbrodt, Beatrice Rammstedt, Frank M. Spinath)</td>
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<td>Unfairness Perceptions at Work (Marta Barazzetta, Andrew E. Clark, Conchita D’Ambrosio)</td>
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<td>Parallel S11: Well Being (Chair: Peter Krause, room: B 002/003)</td>
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<td>The German Middle Class – the nervous centre of society? A panel analysis of subjective status insecurity (Jessica Ordemann, Holger Lengfeld)</td>
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<td>Social Inequality in Well-Being over the Life Course (Fabian Kratz, Gerrit Bauer, Josef Brüderl)</td>
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<td>Reference Income Effects in the Determination of Equivalence Scales Using Income Satisfaction Data (Melanie Borah, Andreas Knabe, Carina Kuhställer)</td>
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<td>What effect has economic decline on life satisfaction? A longitudinal perspective (Damaris Rose)</td>
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<td>Parallel S12: Health I (Chair: Jürgen Schupp, room: B 004/005)</td>
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<td>Working-time Mismatch and Mental Health (Steffen Otterbach, Mark Wooden, Yin-King Fok)</td>
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<td>Plenary Session III: Social Inequalities</td>
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<td><strong>Keynote Speech II:</strong> Richard Breen (University of Oxford, UK)</td>
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<td>Education and Social Mobility</td>
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<td>13:00 - 14:15</td>
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<td>14:15 - 16:15</td>
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<td><strong>Parallel S13: Child Care</strong> (Chair: C. Katharina Spieß, room: A 310)</td>
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<td>Parental socioeconomic status and the quality of early childhood education and care: Evidence from Germany (Juliane F. Stahl, Pia S. Schober, C. Katharina Spieß)</td>
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<td>Parental time for child care – An econometric analysis of German time use data with the Socio-Economic Panel (Normen Peters)</td>
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<td>Public childcare expansion and mothers' return to work behaviour – Evidence from a quasi-experiment in Germany (Irina Hondralis and Gundula Zoch)</td>
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<td>Information Asymmetries Between Parents and Educators in German Day Care Centers (Georg Camehl, Pia S. Schober, C. Katharina Spieß)</td>
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<td>Job Loss and Changes in Personality – Evidence from Germany (Frouke Peter, Silke Anger, Georg Camehl)</td>
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<td>How Health Plan Enrollees Value Prices Relative to Supplemental Benefits and Service Quality (Nicolas R. Ziebarth)</td>
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<td>Spousal Influence in Risk Preference and Health (Mingming Ma)</td>
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<td>Unlucky to Be Young? The Long-Run Effects of School Starting Age on Smoking Behavior and Health (Michael Bahrs and Mathias Schumann)</td>
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<td>Smoking Bans and Political Outcomes: Evidence from a Natural Experiment (Cornelia Struewing)</td>
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<td><strong>Parallel S15: Employment III</strong> (Chair: Maria Metzing, room: B 0004/005)</td>
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<td>The Impact of Private and Public Childcare Provision on the Distribution of Children's Incomes in Germany (Maximilian Stockhausen)</td>
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The Use of Growth Mixture Modeling for Studying Resilience to Major Life Events: Application to Spousal Loss, Divorce, and Unemployment in the SOEP (Frank J. Infurna, Kevin J. Grimm)

Stepping Stones, Dead Ends and Paths of Dualization: Non-Standard Employment and Low Income at Labour Market Entry in Germany (Ramsey Wise)

Care and work: How do middle-aged women combine paid employment and unpaid caregiving of varying intensity? (Nadiya Kelle)

Informal Care and Long-term Labor Market Outcomes (Hendrik Schmitz and Matthias Westphal)

| 16:15 | Coffee Break |
| 16:30 - 17:15 | **Poster Session II: 9 Poster Presentations** (Chair: Reinhard Pollak, room: A 305) |
| | Stability of risk attitudes and media coverage of economic news (Franziska Tausch and Maria Zumbuehl) |
| | Bridge or Barrier? Religion and Immigrants’ Commitment to Democracy (Marion Fischer-Neumann) |
| | Adaptation of Redistribution Preferences or Cultural Resistance. A Study of Migrants in Germany (Olga Griaznova) |
| | Gender specific effects of perceived income injustice on stress-related diseases (Claudia Boscher, Laura Arnold, Andreas Lange, and Bertram Szagun) |
| | Parenthood, risk attitudes and occupational sorting (Katja Görlitz and Marcus Tamm) |
| | Inheritance and wealth inequality (Marten von Werder) |
| | Can Subjective Data Improve Inequality Measurement? An Index of Relative Inequality (Philipp Poppitz) |
| | The Effect of Citizenship on Savings and Wealth Accumulation of Migrants: Evidence from Germany (Fatma Usheva) |
| | Non-take-up of Student Financial Aid: A Microsimulation for Germany (Stefanie P. Herber and Michael Kalinowski) |

| 17:15 - 18:30 | **Closing Plenary Session** (A 300) |
| | Award Ceremony: |
| | - Felix Büchel Award 2016* |
| | - Joachim R. Frick Memorial Prize 2016* for the best three papers & best poster |
| | - Goodbye |
| | *sponsored by the Society of Friends of DIW Berlin – VdF |

| 19:30 | Farewell Dinner (supported by the Society of Friends of DIW Berlin (VdF)) |
How parents treat their children is highly relevant for offspring’s life chances. However, there are numerous concepts of what constitutes parenting which is most relevant for childrens’ well-being, skill development, and educational attainment, e.g., parenting styles and/or different kinds of activities that are theorized as cultural capital in sociology, or skill-enhancing activities in behavioral economics. Parents are differently able to implement/realize favorable parenting practices, be it due to psychological resources, like own skills and personality, be it due to social resources, like money, time, culture, or status. Moreover, they may react to perceived characteristics of their children differently. They may reinforce the development of those whom they perceive as having more potential, or in contrast they may exert compensating efforts for those whom they perceive as less advantaged. Or, following egalitarian ethical considerations, they may nevertheless treat their children equally. Existing evidence is inconsistent regarding these respects, which might at least be partly due to different concepts of parenting, inconsistent operationalizations, and methodologies that do not sufficiently account for unobserved heterogeneities.

We present analyses of the first half of wave 1 of the new TwinLife study, comprising 2000 twin families in four twin birth cohorts. We are able to investigate the interrelation between parenting styles and parental activities representing cultural capital and skill production. We explore main drivers of differential parenting, above all parental cognitive ability and personality, education, income, and social class and analyze their influence on different dimensions of parenting. Based on the study design which includes rich information about parents and children we show to which degree different aspects of parenting are dependent on parental education, SES and income, family structure, or their skills and personality. With the nuclear twin family design we can disentangle to which degree genetic and social factors contribute to differential parenting.

Technological Change and the Intergenerational Effect on Schooling

Technological change has shaped the labor markets in the U.S. and many advanced countries during the last two decades. Increasing the automation of work processes, the rise in computer use increased the demand for high skilled labor and substituted certain workers in occupations with more routine tasks, i.e., tasks that could readily be performed by computers and other machines (Autor et al., 1998). In this study we estimate how parents’ exposure to technological change affects children’s school performance. For the analysis we create a sample of father child pairs using the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP). Taking tasks as imperfect substitutes (Autor et al., 2003), technological change affects occupations with a high share of routine tasks, more than those with more abstract and manual tasks. Consequently, we build on the work of Goos et al. (2014, 2009) and identify three groups of occupations:
abstract, routine and service/manual workers. Employment characteristics of the parents were measured until the child turns 10 years to assure that job polarization impacts parents before the child’s education choice. Due to differences in the child age at the school track choice across German states, the sample is restricted to children at the age of 14 years, i.e., the latest choice age. The identification uses an instrumental variable approach proposed by Autor and Dorn (2013) and exploits exogenous variation in the historical routine share at the state-industry level. The results suggest that children with a parent working in a routine occupation during childhood have a lower probability of choosing a higher school track compared to those with parents in other occupations. The effect is estimated to be more pronounced for boys than for girls. Our findings add to the literature on job polarization by showing that the technological change has far reaching socio-economic and intergenerational consequences.

**Keywords:** job polarization, schooling, intergenerational transmission

**JEL Classification:** J24, J62, O33

**References:**

**Dynastic Inequality and Persistence of Human Capital Over Three Generations**

*Guido Neidhöfer, Freie Universität Berlin, School of Business & Economics*

*Maximilian Stockhausen, Freie Universität Berlin, School of Business & Economics*

Empirical research on the persistence of inequality has been largely restricted to a two generational framework, mainly due to a lack of appropriate data on multiple generations. At the same time, it is often assumed that the intergenerational persistence of socio-economic outcomes follows a first-order Markov process; i.e. the influence of ancestors vanishes within few generations. However, an increasing number of studies show that this assumption should be revisited. This study aims to quantify the extend of persistence of human capital over three generations, comparing the US and Germany. Hereby, we make use of the rich informational content of nationally representative household survey data; the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) and the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP). Applying different measures, we evaluate the persistence of human capital over a span of about 120 years. Our results highlight a relatively high persistence of human capital over three generations in both countries, while intergenerational mobility is slightly lower in Germany than in the US. Finally, we cannot reject the hypothesis that the grandparental coefficient is higher than the one obtained by an iterated regression procedure assuming an AR(1) process, shedding light on the long-run aspects of equality of opportunity within the two societies.
Keywords: Dynastic Inequality, Intergenerational Mobility, Three generations, Equality of Opportunity.
JEL Classification: D63, I24, J62, O15

Locus of Control and Mothers' Return to Employment

Eva M. Berger, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz
Luke Haywood, DIW Berlin

This paper investigates the effect of differences in locus of control (LOC) on the length of mothers’ employment break after childbirth. Using data from the German Socio-Economic Panel study (SOEP), duration data reveals that women with a more internal LOC return to employment more quickly. We argue that there is evidence that this effect is related to differential appreciation of the wage penalty related to later return to the labor market after childbirth. Mothers with very external LOC are found to be insensitive to wage penalties implied by late return. Given the job protection enjoyed by mothers in Germany, economic consequences of differences in this noncognitive skill can be expected to be larger in other settings.

Keywords: Locus of Control, Noncognitive Skills, Personality, Maternal Employment, Female Labor Supply, Survival Analysis
JEL Classification: J22, J24
The dynamics of solo self-employment: Persistence and transition to employership

Daniel S. J. Lechmann, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)
Christoph Wunder, University of Halle-Wittenberg

This study examines dynamics of solo self-employment. In particular, we investigate the extent of true state dependence and cross state dependence, i.e., whether experiencing solo self-employment causally affects the probability of becoming an employer in the future. Using data from the German Socio-Economic Panel, we apply dynamic multinomial logit models and find that the extent of true state dependence is rather small. The observed persistence in solo self-employment as well as transitions from solo self-employment to employership can largely be explained by observed and unobserved characteristics.

Earnings Inequality and non-Standard Employment on Three Continents

Ira N. Gang, Rutgers University
Myeong-Su Yun, Inha University

It is well-known that earnings inequality has risen while non-standard employment has expanded. We use several countries data from the CNEF (including the SOEP and the PSID) to study the sources of changing earnings inequality, focusing on the role played by non-standard employment. Utilizing the information contained in standard earnings equation estimations and measuring changes in earnings inequality in terms of variance of log-wages, our approach is to implement the decomposition method introduced by Yun (2006). The method explains changes in earnings inequality in terms of the effects of characteristics, coefficients and residuals. This is similar to the Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition for wage growth, allowing us to produce not only aggregate coefficient and characteristics effects estimates, but also to distinguish these effects for each variable or groups of variables. Thus we are able to measure the extent to which the changes in earnings inequality were the result of changes associated with the distributions of personal and workplace characteristics of workers or the earnings differences associated with those characteristics. This allows us to clearly see not only how much of the change in earnings inequality is due to changing job structure (standard vs. non-standard jobs) and to changing returns to the types of jobs, but also to measure the impact relative to other factors such as education, gender, industry, etc, and their interactions. Furthermore, we are able to examine how these effects differ from one country to another.

Reference:
No Role for the Hartz Reforms? Demand and Supply Factors in the German Labor Market, 1993-2014

Michael C. Burda, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, CEPR, IZA, FSP 1659 and SFB 649
Stefanie Seele, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, FSP 1659 and SFB 649

The supply and demand framework of Katz and Murphy (1992) provides new evidence on the source of changes in socially insured full-time and part-time employment in years preceding and following the implementation of the landmark Hartz reforms in Germany. Our findings are consistent with a stable demand for labor, especially in western Germany, implying that supply factors were decisive for the evolution of the labor market after 2003. The correlation of changes in wages and labor force participation is also consistent with a positive labor supply shock at a given working-age population. We also show that part-time employment played a decisive role in the post-2003 improvement of the German labor market.

JEL Classification: E24, J21
Keywords: German labor market miracle, Hartz reforms, part-time work, wage inequality

The capable research assistance of Thomas Dengler, Niklas Flamang and Tobias König is gratefully acknowledged. This research was supported by Collaborative Research Center (SFB) 649 of the German Science Foundation (DFG).

Performance Pay and Wage Inequality: Evidence from Germany and Great Britain

Pieter De Vlieger, University of Michigan

Over the past three decades, the United States witnessed an increase in the fraction of workers that are paid based on their performance using bonus pay, commissions, or piece-rate contracts. Recent research found these payment structures present an important channel through which increasing returns to skill have been translated into higher wage dispersion. Whether other countries experienced similar correlations between pay for performance systems, returns to skill and wage inequality is unknown. We explore these correlations in two countries that experienced similar trends as the US in terms of wage inequality and returns to skill: Germany and Great Britain. We use data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (1984-2010) and the British Household Panel Survey (1993-2008). Adjusting for misclassification error in reported performance-pay status, we show performance-pay wages in Great Britain are closely related to worker's education and increasingly so over time, which is consistent with firms offering performance-pay contracts in response to changes in the return to skill. Results in Germany are less clear cut. Decomposing wage distributions using reweighing and recentered influence function regressions, we find that the increased prevalence of performance pay explains about 10% of increased wage dispersion in Great Britain over the observed period and is especially important in the upper part of the wage distribution. This link is much weaker in Germany. Overall, these results suggest that performance pay may have played a similar role in the United States and Great Britain, but that it has not been a key channel through which increasing returns to skill have been translated into increased wage dispersion in Germany.
Income dynamics of liberal professions, entrepreneurs and employees

Mirko Felchner, Leuphana University of Lueneburg, Research Institute on Professions (FFB)

The aim of this study is to analyze the income dynamics of self-employed, i.e. entrepreneurs and liberal professions, and employees in Germany with a dynamic panel data estimators. The special interest of the author is on the income dynamic of liberal professions and entrepreneurs and how they differ from employees.

To model the dynamics a lagged dependent variable is added to a classic Mincer equation. The resulting problem of endogeneity by correlation of the error term with a suspected unobserved heterogeneity is encountered by a dynamic panel data estimator. Using this method, the speed of adjustment is estimated based on data from the German Socioeconomic Panel of the DIW for the years from 2000 until 2013. The coefficient for the adjustment speed is significantly different from zero for both the self-employed and employees. Overall, entrepreneurs and professionals yield very similar results and have an almost twice as high speed of adjustment than employees.

Dynamics of income rank volatility: Evidence from Germany and the US

Louis Chauvel, University of Luxembourg
Anne Hartung, University of Luxembourg
Flaviana Palmisano, University of Luxembourg

This paper provides a methodology to compare profiles of income rank volatility over time and across distributions. While most of the existing measures are affected by changes in the marginal distributions, this paper proposes a framework that based on individuals’ relative position in the distribution results to be neutral to the structural changes that occur in the economy. Applying this approach to investigate rank volatility in Germany and the US over three decades, we show that while poorer individuals are the most volatile in both countries, the volatility trend of the middle class marks the difference between these two countries.

Keywords: rank volatility, risk, inequality, middle-class.
JEL Classification: D31, J6, I30.

Lifetime income inequality with taxation and public benefits

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In this paper, we show how taxation, unemployment insurance, welfare, disability benefits and public pensions affect the inequality of lifetime income. Using results from a dynamic life-cycle model estimated using German panel data, we show that taxation and public benefits combined reduce the inequality of lifetime income, measured by the Gini coefficient, by 22%. Pensions only slightly reduce inequality in lifetime income. Welfare benefits, meanwhile, make persistent transfers to individuals at the bottom of the distribution of lifetime income and, therefore, are highly effective at reducing the inequality of lifetime income. Welfare benefits and disability benefits have increasingly progressive
effects on lifetime income as the persistence of employment shocks increases, suggesting that these programs are particularly important for targeting lifetime inequality when labor market frictions are high.

**Keywords:** Lifetime income inequality; lifetime earnings; unemployment insurance; pensions; welfare benefits; disability benefits; redistribution; life-cycle labor supply.

**JEL Classification:** D63; D91; H23; J22.

**A general approach to income dynamics and inequality**

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*Laura Serlenga, University of Bari “Aldo Moro”*

It is pretty uncontroversial that not all types of inequality play the same role. When looking at income dynamics, only permanent differences across individuals – permanent inequality – should be targeted. At the same time, a theory of social justice called Equality of Opportunity (EOp) recognizes that all inequality arising from factors beyond individuals’ control – circumstances and luck – should be compensated. In this paper, we propose a single approach to study inequality, where permanent inequality can be considered an upper-bound measure of Inequality of Opportunity (IOp), i.e. the maximum amount of inequality individuals are not responsible for. Matching the theoretical moments with the sample ones, as in the income dynamics literature, in order to estimate the variance of the unobserved parameters by GMM, we provide a more comprehensive proxy of unfair inequality, which (i) includes both luck and circumstances, differently from the standard IOp approaches, that generally neglect all random factors; (ii) fully accounts for IOp dynamics. An application to the 1992-2012 waves of the German Socioeconomic Panel (SOEP) shows that static and aggregate measures of IOp may lead to underestimate its true contribution to total inequality, also because they do not account for the effect that some specific circumstances exerts on the dynamics of IOp.
The Gender Earnings Rift – Assessing Hourly Earnings Distributions of Males and Females using Structured Additive Distributional Regression

Alexander Sohn, University of Göttingen, Chair of Statistics

This paper reconsiders the old issue of gender related discrimination with respect to labour earnings. Rather than employing a labour definition based on payment, we employ an activity based definition based on Margaret Reid’s “third party criterion”. Moreover, we assess discrimination on the grounds of full conditional wage distributions using Structured Additive Distributional Regression instead of just their conditional means.

Examining earnings discrimination with respect to gender in Germany in 2013, we find that gender wage discrimination is greatly exacerbated if considered in such a framework, as women are faced not only with a lower expected pay, but also with a more unequal distribution as well as a higher workload of unpaid activities. Thus we find that pecuniary discrimination is not conned to a wage gap in the region of 12% as found using a conventional approach but rather an earnings rift between 54% and 74% depending on the degree of aversion of inequality considered.

JEL-Classification: C13, C21, D31, J16, J24, J31
Keywords: Inequality; Wage Distribution; Discrimination; Gender Gap; Structured Additive Distributional Regression; Polarisation

At School in the Afternoon: Labour Supply of German Mothers with Primary School Children

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Jan Marcus, DIW Berlin and University of Hamburg
Frauke Peter, DIW Berlin

The relationship between childcare availability and mothers’ decision to work on the labour market has been extensively studied, with findings suggesting that increases in the availability of childcare raise maternal labour supply. Most of this literature examines childcare for children below compulsory school age, with the view that schools provide fully subsidized childcare. However, the extent schools do so depends on the length of the school day and the problem of childcare remains especially acute in countries with only half-day schooling and little afternoon care options.

In this paper we examine the case of Germany and use data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) to estimate the effect of being at school in the afternoon on maternal labour supply. We look at the changes in maternal employment when children change from kindergarten to primary school. In order to give our estimates a causal interpretation, we have to tackle two empirical challenges: selection bias and reverse causality. We make use of the rich pre-treatment information in the SOEP, including detailed data on children and their childcare usage, and on parents and their employment histories. The data also comprise information that is usually unobserved, such as job search behaviour and the intention to work. Further, the data include the date of the interview and detailed calendar information on individuals’ labour force status, which helps to mitigate concerns that mothers’ decisions to work precede the choice of enrolling their children in an afternoon program. Based on these unique data, we find that being at school in the afternoon increases the mother’s probability to start working, to work full-time, and to increase the number of hours they work as their child enters school. Our findings
highlight how childcare availability continues to shape mothers’ employment patterns well after school entry.

Why managerial women are less happy than managerial men

*Hilke Brockmann, Jacobs University Bremen*
*Anne Maren Koch, Volkswagen Auto Uni, Wolfsburg*
*Adele Diederich, Jacobs University Bremen*
*Christofer Edling, Lund University, Sweden*

The underrepresentation of women in leadership positions is discussed as a general problem. In 2015, Germany passed a law that set a gender quota for women in corporate boards. But women with managerial careers are significantly less satisfied with their life than their male counterparts. Why? In a representative German panel dataset (SOEP) we find biological constraints and substitutive mechanisms which differently determine the subjective well-being of female managers. Women’s terminated fertility has a negative impact on women’s life satisfaction between the ages of 35 and 45, when managerial careers usually take off. Money and spare time can compensate for this biological difference, but women substitute (spare) time for much more income than do male managers. So, in order to reach better gender equality in leadership positions, women must be either paid higher incomes (on average around ten per cent) or must be incentivized with more spare time than men. In the conclusion, we speculate on a new mix of carrots and sticks for advanced careers in order to boost female representation in leadership positions.
Parallel Sessions 5-8

Comparing Sibling Similarity in Education Within and Between Countries

Michael Grätz, University of Oxford, Nuffield College
Kieron Barclay, London School of Economics
Øyvind Wyborg, University of Oslo
Torkild H. Lyngstad, University of Oslo
Aleksi Karhula, University of Turku
Jani Erola, University of Turku
Patrick Prag, University of Oxford, Department of Sociology and Nuffield College
Thomas Laidley, New York University
Dalton Conley, New York University

We compare the variation of sibling similarity in education by family background between different societies. We study inequalities in cognitive test scores, school grades, and final educational attainment using data from Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The data sources we use include the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP), the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS), the United States Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) and National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health) as well as registry data from the Nordic countries. Within the countries, we compare sibling correlations along the dimensions of parental education, occupation, migration background, and family size. The comparison of these estimates within and between countries allows us to demonstrate the variation in sibling similarity, i.e. the omnibus impact of family background, across policy landscapes. Our findings show similar levels of sibling resemblance for cognitive scores, school grades, and final educational attainment. Most of sibling similarity is at comparable levels across countries. We find, however, some differences in sibling similarity in educational attainment with sibling similarity being higher and more polarized between advantaged and disadvantaged social groups in Germany and the United States.

Keywords: educational inequality, siblings, social origin

Cognitive and non-cognitive Skills and the Reproduction of Inequalities

Wiebke Schulz, Bielefeld University and DIW Berlin
Reinhard Schunck, Bielefeld University

Both cognitive and non-cognitive skills are important determinants of educational and occupational attainment. These skills also play a major role in the reproduction of social class across generations. Cognitive and non-cognitive skills are in part inherited and in part nurtured by one’s family of origin. Nevertheless, research so far has paid little attention to disentangling the influence of non-cognitive and cognitive skills from other origin effects. The first aim of this paper is to address the stratification of these skills and their contingency on family of origin characteristics. We investigate to what extent social background characteristics such as parental education and household income determine cognitive and non-cognitive skills, while simultaneously taking into account parental cognitive and non-cognitive skills. The second aim is to assess the influence of these skills on educational attainment net of social origin confounders. More specifically, we assess the influence of general cognitive abilities and self-efficacy on
attained grades in Math and German. The estimation of the influence of non-cognitive and cognitive skills in a sample of twins allows keeping time invariant characteristics of the family of origin constant. Due to the both social and biological transmission of skills we expect their influence to decrease as more of origin confounders are taken into account.

We base our analyses on the newly available TwinLife data (www.twin-life.de), a representative sample of identical and fraternal twins and their families in Germany. Our results indicate that both general cognitive abilities and self-efficacy are stratified by social origin. Moreover, while a large part of the association seems to be driven by unobserved confounders associated with the family of origin, general cognitive abilities and self-efficacy affect educational achievement independent of social origin.

**Sibling similarity in socioeconomic status attainment over the early life course**

*Lea Kröger, European University Institute (EUI)*

How does the influence of family background on socioeconomic status change over the early life course? To answer this question, I study the similarity of siblings’ socioeconomic status over the early life course. Sibling similarity is treated as an estimate of the total influence of the family on status attainment. The main intent of the paper is to assess whether siblings converge or diverge in their level of socioeconomic status attainment. Sibling similarity is estimated as the intra-class correlation, taken from a multilevel decomposition of the variance of different measures of status attainment of siblings nested in families.

I use 30 waves (1984 to 2013) from the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP), including a total of 12,206 siblings in 5,887 families. Socioeconomic status is measured as level of education, occupational status, labor market earnings and job hierarchy position between age 17 and 45.

Results show that the total influence of family background varies between different outcomes of status attainment. Educational attainment shows higher levels of sibling similarity (between 0.3 and 0.7) than labor market outcomes like earnings, job hierarchy, and occupational status (similarity between 0.1 and 0.5). Also, siblings are clearly converging in their similarity of educational attainment with higher age. For labor market outcomes, results are mixed. Similarity in earnings is reduced with age, while it increases in occupational status and remains stable in job hierarchy position.

The results indicate that family influence on siblings’ socioeconomic status varies, depending on the age it is evaluated. When analyzing family influence on status attainment, it is therefore important to interpret siblings’ status similarity within the context of their respective life course stage.

**Twin correlations and social background - descriptive evidence for Germany**

*Tina Baier, Bielefeld University and DIW Berlin*

This paper examines whether similarity of twins in educational achievements varies depending on the social class position of the family. Outcomes of interest refer to cognitive skills and upper secondary track attendance. Social class is indicated with parent’s level of education as well as occupational status differentiating between lower, intermediate and higher levels of social background. Empirical analyses are based on the newly collected data from the TwinLife study which surveys twins and their families residing in Germany on an annual basis. Exploiting this data source provides the unique opportunity to examine correlations among monozygotic (MZ) twins in Germany. The study of monozygotic twins improves estimations of the total impact of family background as MZ twins share by far more family influences than ordinary siblings do. MZ twins grew up under almost the same environmental conditions and are genetically alike. Thus, MZ twin correlations are less prone to omitted variable bias and provide
more accurate estimations of shared and non-shared familial influences. Preliminary results indicate that intergenerational transmission processes are dependent on families’ social class position but also differ with respect to the outcome under study: correlations in cognitive skills are high among twins from lower and higher social background. However, inequality for MZ twins from lower social backgrounds increases when looking at upper secondary track attendance as correlations for MZ twins from less advantaged social backgrounds are the lowest. This finding indicates that parents from lower social backgrounds may direct parental inputs—due to the lack of resources—differently in children with similar cognitive ability.
Comparing the Employment of Older Workers in UK and Germany

David Wright, University of Brighton

Extending working life is an objective for many nations. However, the UK government has recently reported only modest improvement “compared to many nations”. A comparison of European Labour Force Surveys show that Germany has reversed early retirement much faster than the UK since 2003. This was not forecast by previous researchers. In particular, Ebbinghaus’ influential cross-national analysis of early retirement, published in 2006, had predicted that liberal welfare states regimes like the UK would react faster than conservative ones like Germany. A review of changes to pensions and employment policies suggests the UK puts more emphasis on recruitment of older workers, flexible working and gradual retirement while Germany puts more emphasis on retention of older workers through age-management and employment protection. The paper compares the employment transitions of older workers using data covering 1993 to 2013 from the longitudinal surveys British Household Panel Survey, Understanding Society and the German Socio-Economic Panel. It finds little evidence for the recruitment of older workers or gradual retirement in either the UK or Germany and concludes it was the greater employment protection for older workers in Germany that enabled the employment rate for older workers to increase even during the recent recession.

Keywords: Older workers, United Kingdom, Germany

Losing (Locus) of Control: An Economic Perspective on Psychological Reactions to Unemployment Shocks

Malte Preuss, Freie Universität Berlin, Chair of International Public Economics
Juliane Hennecke, Freie Universität Berlin

While the effect of an individuals' locus of control on labour market outcomes has been analysed repeatedly, most studies neglect the potential reverse causality between labour market outcomes and LOC and, therefore, risking biased estimation results. We use dismissals as a shock on individual's labour market position, to see whether a change in labour market status is accompanied with a change in LOC. Using German panel data, we identify a significant negative effect of losing the job through dismissal on the locus of control. As the effect is significant for individuals experiencing unemployment only, we argue that the event affects the LOC only if individuals are confronted with an actual loss of control over their labour market status, e.g. involuntary unemployment. However, as time goes by, the loss of control gets out of focus and the LOC recovers.

Keywords: Locus of control, Job Loss, Germany

Using the SOEP data to enable innovative research

Jianghong Li, Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)
Matthias Pollmann-Schult, Berlin Social Science Center (WZB), Bielefeld University
Till Kaiser, Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)

This presentation aims to show case the strength of the SOEP and the closely related data set, the Families in Germany Study (FiD) and demonstrate how we utilized the two datasets to address innovative research questions, with two examples. At the same we would like to point out the limitations
of the datasets in the hope that these would be addressed in the future order to enable more vigorous, new research. The first example comes from a research publication in which we entered into an almost unchartered research area on work-family interface and examined the link between fathers’ long commute to work and children’s (ages 5-6) social and emotional wellbeing. This is the first and the only study that investigates this important topic using nationally representative data. The findings show that fathers’ daily and weekly commute to work was associated with more emotional and behavioural problems in children. The second example comes from a research paper that used panel data from the FiD to examine the impact of both fathers’ and mothers’ nonstandard work schedules (evenings, nights, and weekends) on children’s wellbeing. The contributions of the paper are: 1) we demonstrate that not only mothers’ nonstandard work (NS) schedules (which the majority of previous research narrowly focuses on) but also fathers’ NS schedules are linked to increases in child behavioural problems, 2) this association is partially mediated by inconsistent parenting (both mothers and father), possibly as a result of fatigue and stress associated working NS schedules; 3) thanks to the detailed information on work schedules and parenting for both fathers and mothers collected in the FiD, we were able to overcame a common methodological issue regarding endogeneity). The both studies bear implications for theory, future empirical research, and policy on work-family reconciliation and the larger issue of social inequality.

**Time Use, Experienced Well-being and Labor Market Status**

*Tobias Wolf, Freie Universität Berlin*

*Maria Metzing, DIW Berlin*

*Richard E. Lucas, Michigan State University*

Labor market status determines the allocation of time and activities. Depending on being employed or not, the available time for leisure and non-market work activities is compounded in fundamentally different ways. We analyze a novel dataset which assess individual time use and various experienced well-being measures by the day reconstruction method (DRM). The representative and longitudinal data are surveyed in the German Socio-Economic Panel Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS, waves 2012-14) and allows to investigate the relationship between respondents’ time allocation reported in diaries and experienced well-being during the reported episodes. The sample is split into three employment status: regular employed, employed with supplementary in-work income support (“ergänzendes Arbeitslosengeld 2“) and unemployment. To aggregate the overall experienced well-being of a day, we weight different affective measures by the time an individual spent in the respective activity. Thereby, we generate measures of experienced affective well-being such as the share of total time in pleasurable activities (p-score) or the time-weighted net affect. We use the p-score as an outcome for a multinomial regression analysis and show that the average experienced well-being level for the different employment status differ only slightly. Employed individuals experience a little less time in pleasurable activities compared to unemployed persons. Individuals receiving in-work income support experience comparable affective well-being as unemployed respondents. Unemployed allocate more time to pleasurable activities – mainly into leisure activities, but also into home production. Thus, the different time allocation shapes the experienced well-being over the course of the day. Further, we control for individual fixed effects, day of the week as well as wave effects – but this does not alter the general picture. Our results are in strong contrast to the established literature about the effects of labor market
status on the (evaluative) life satisfaction, which is considerably harmed by becoming unemployed.

**JEL Classification:** D13, J22  
**Keywords:** Time Use, Subjective Well-Being, Unemployment, Day Reconstruction Method (DRM), SOEP-IS
Context Effects on Attitudes Towards Immigration - Evidence from German Panel Data

**Stephan Dochow**, Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS)

This contribution deals with the question whether long term exposure to immigrants in the immediate residential environment affects German natives’ concerns towards immigration using German Socio Economic Panel data from 2000 to 2013. It posits that changes in concerns about immigration through the social environment occur slowly and thus takes a longitudinal perspective. Based on intergroup contact theory, I hypothesize that Germans get less worried about immigration through ongoing exposure to immigrants in their residential environment.

It extends previous research in two ways. First, by measuring proximity to immigrants in small contextual units (building blocks), I am able to analyze the effects of direct social experiences in residential contexts. Second, this contribution will focus on long-term effects of residential exposure to immigrants whereas the majority of studies in the context of the research question is cross-sectional.

I make use of a relatively new type of statistical models (Marginal Structural Models, Robins et al., 2000), which is useful for the research question at hand. Preliminary effect estimates indicate a decline in concerns about immigration of about 10 percentage points after 10 years of residential exposure to immigrants. They showed to be similar over several model specifications and an alternative set of statistical models (fixed effects models). I will discuss advantages of Marginal Structural Models for the research question at hand, their underlying assumptions and whether these assumptions are likely to hold. Finally, problems with generalizing the results, interpreting the estimated parameters as causal, as well as data limitations are discussed.

**Reference:***


The Economic Assimilation of Immigrants: Comparative Evidence from the Long-Term Panel Studies in Germany and Russia

**Apoorva Jain**, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill  
**Klara Sabirianova Peter**, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, IZA and CEPR

This study examines the evolution of immigrant earnings and employment in Germany and Russia - the two countries with one of the largest migration stocks in the world but different migration policies and migration history. We exploit the longitudinal features of the data to estimate the rate of convergence/divergence in hourly wage rate, expected earnings, employment outcomes, and overall life satisfaction between immigrants and natives over the twenty year period. We show that the commonly estimated average returns to post-migration experience hide significant variation in assimilation rates between immigrants with different observed characteristics and unobserved abilities. Assimilation rates tend to decline over time, increase with linguistic proximity and political instability in the home countries, and increase with the pre- and post- migration stock of human capital. Interestingly, the results are similar between the two countries despite the different mix of migrants and different migration policies. The estimates also suggest that immigrants with lower innate abilities have higher assimilation rates, thus supporting the “catch-up” hypothesis.
The Intermarriage Mental Health Premium. Does Marrying a Native Increase Immigrants' Well-being?

Gina Potarca, University of Lausanne, National Centre of Competence in Research LIVES
Laura Bernardi, University of Lausanne, National Centre of Competence in Research LIVES

Intermarriage, particularly marriage with natives, is universally believed to be the ultimate proof of assimilation and the bridging of social and cultural gaps between native and immigrant groups. Nonetheless, empirical evidence of the actual consequences of intermarriage on the integration of individuals with a foreign background is limited. Existing studies that do examine the potential rewards of intermarriage find that entering a marital union with a native provides immigrants a premium, albeit not large, in terms of labor market performance and earning levels. However, little is known about the spillover effects of intermarriage on other non-economic aspects of integration, such as mental health. We seek to understand the merits, other than of economic nature, of marrying a native and how it can contribute to immigrants’ subjective well-being. Taking on a dynamic approach, we examine the extent to which having a native spouse increases immigrants’ satisfaction with life over time. Using German Socio-Economic Panel data on a sample of 600 German first- and second-generation immigrants, we estimate repeated-measures mixed models that uncover changes in life satisfaction before and after the transition to (inter)marriage. Results confirm theoretical expectations regarding a long-term hindering effect of intermarriage on immigrants’ subjective well-being. There is however strong evidence of an anticipating (or rather a selection) positive effect occurring years before marriage. Finally, we also found particular differences between origin groups in trajectories of well-being shortly after intermarriage, as well as in the long run, depending not only on cultural proximity to the host country, but also on their social and economic integration, as well as inherent differences in life satisfaction among ethnic minorities. As opposed to Turkish or Eastern European immigrants, the Southern European immigrants married to a native are distinctively happier than those in endogamous unions both before and several years after marriage.

Competing with the natives: Does discrimination explain migrants’ labor market outcomes?

Romana Careja, University of Cologne
Hans-Jürgen Andreß, University of Cologne

Using data from 1990-2013 from the German Socio-Economic Panel study we analyze how the opinion climate in the form of hostility or openness toward migrants shape their opportunity structure on the labor market. The analysis differentiates between natives, first and second generation migrants in West Germany. Hourly wages and in-work poverty are the labor market outcomes of interest. We use subjective experiences of discrimination as reported by migrant respondents in the SOEP and vote shares of extreme right parties in federal elections as indicators of the opinion climate towards migrants for each year in the observation period. Our analysis shows that the opinion climate shapes migrants’ labor market outcomes. While first generation migrants are not affected, because they work in jobs not attractive for natives, second generation migrants suffer from a hostile opinion climate. Our research adds another dimension to the analysis of discrimination. Instead of treating discrimination indirectly as a statistical residual we try to provide a direct measure by referring to the society’s opinion climate.
References:
The true richness: savings and children among German, Swiss and Australian families

Laura Ravazzini, University of Neuchâtel, Institute of Sociology
Ursina Kuhn, FORS

Research on costs of children focuses usually on household income. The accumulation of wealth or debt is clearly another very important aspect to evaluate the economic situation of families with children. On the one hand, children might encourage precautionary savings and a thriftier lifestyle, on the other hand, children might generate financial strain until their complete independence. In this context, parents might face a radical change in their saving attitudes before and after the arrival of a baby. Furthermore, saving might depend on the age of the children. In Anglo-Saxon countries, children are generally found to have a very low impact on the accumulation of parental wealth, but such effects may diverge depending on family policies. A comparative study of the SOEP data with the Swiss Household Panel (SHP) and HILDA from Australia might therefore provide useful insights about the ability of families to save in different social and political settings. In addition, we will take account of children’s age, family structure and the consequences of mother’s cuts in labour supply on wealth accumulation in the longer term. Empirically, we will first estimate ordinary regression models on net worth, using the same variables for all three countries. Secondly, we exploit longitudinal information using fixed effect models. The SOEP and HILDA offer wealth information for three time points. Whereas the SHP provides wealth levels only for 2012, it includes an annual categorical variable of wealth accumulation.

Retirement preparedness across cohorts in Germany

Johannes Geyer, DIW Berlin
Peter Haan, DIW Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin
Holger Lüthen, Freie Universität Berlin and DIW Berlin

The risk of old-age poverty is expected to increase in the coming decades. However empirical evidence is relatively scarce. In this paper we analyze whether households approaching retirement age have accumulated enough assets to be well prepared for retirement. We compare the financial situation across different cohorts. We estimate the ability of households to replace preretirement levels of income after retirement and we compare the expected income to poverty thresholds. The study is based on wealth data from the SOEP (2002, 2007, 2012) and complemented by matched social security data from the pension insurance accounts (VSKT).

Keywords: retirement preparedness, wealth, matching, cohort
JEL Classification: J14, J24

Wealth portfolios and wealth accumulation in upper middle classes

Nora Waitkus, University of Bremen, Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS)
Olaf Groh-Samberg, University of Bremen, Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS)

Sociological class analysis has largely neglected wealth as a structuring factor and even as a distributional outcome or correlate of social class inequalities. In recent years, however, a main concern has been the
rapid accumulation of economic capital, in both income and wealth, at the very top of the distribution. Moreover, wealth is becoming increasingly relevant not only for the so-called one percent, but also for the middle classes. In contrast to social class schemes based on occupations, we follow Savage, Warde and Devine (2005) by taking up an asset-based perspective on class analysis and explicitly take into account wealth in its various components together with other forms of economic and cultural capital. Drawing on household panel data from the years 2002-2012 of the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP) we apply Latent Class Analysis in order to detect distinct classes based on capital portfolios. Focusing on the upper middle classes, we distinguish five types of upper middle classes characterized by different wealth and income profiles (i.e., home owners, asset holders, petty bourgeoisie & landlords, managerial elite, and top elite). In a next step, making use of the longitudinal character of the SOEP, we explore different accumulation profiles of wealth and incomes in a longitudinal five-year perspective (i.e., 2002 to 2007, and 2007 to 2012). Our (so far preliminary) results reveal strong differences between risky (financial) and secure (long-term investments) accumulation profiles. In a last step, we investigate potential determinants and mechanism of wealth accumulation by means of regression analysis of wealth differences.

Cultural Determinants of Household Saving Behavior

Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln, Goethe University Frankfurt  
Paolo Masella, University of Sussex  
Hannah Paule-Paludkiewicz, Goethe University Frankfurt

We analyze whether culture affects the saving behavior of households and which cultural channels matter for this household decision. To disentangle cultural effects from economic and institutional factors, we study how the saving behavior of second-generation immigrants relates to the attitudes and beliefs in the respective countries of origin. Using data from Germany and the UK, we find that culture significantly determines household saving behavior. The two cultural components that we robustly identify to affect saving rates are the attitudes towards thrift and the wealth accumulation motive: Second-generation immigrants from countries that value thrift and wealth accumulation more tend to save more in Germany. By linking parents to their children, we present evidence that these attitudes are related to the saving behavior of both, parents and children. We also provide evidence that future-orientation is related to the saving behavior through the intergenerational transmission of language, rather than the direct transmission of attitudes.
The Effects of Flexible Work Practices on Employees’ Work and Non-Work Attitudes. A Panel Analysis

Claudia Kröll and Stephan Nüesch, University of Münster

We explore the effects of flexible work practices (FWP) on employees’ work attitudes (job satisfaction and turnover intentions) and non-work attitudes (leisure satisfaction and perceived health). Where authors of previous work have used cross-sectional studies, we reexamine the effects of FWP using nationally representative individual panel data of the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP). Personality is likely to confound the relationship between FWP and employees’ attitudes because it influences both job selection and thus the availability of FWP and employees’ attitudes. Because personality is widely considered to be a stable concept, we eliminate the confounding influence from personality traits by running individual fixed-effects regressions. Controlling for individual heterogeneity, we find that flexible work schedules, sabbaticals and telecommuting significantly increase job satisfaction and that sabbaticals and telecommuting (but not flexible work schedules) significantly decrease turnover intentions. The effects of FWP on leisure satisfaction and health are mostly weak and statistically insignificant. Models that do not control for such heterogeneity either underestimate the positive effects on work attitudes or even find detrimental effects. We discuss limitations, directions for future research and practical implications.

Keywords: flexible work practices, flexible work schedules, sabbaticals, telecommuting, job satisfaction, turnover intentions, leisure satisfaction, health, fixed-effects
The Motherhood Wage Gap: Does Timing Matter?

Andrea Siebert-Meyerhoff, University of Münster

Although we observe an increase in gender equality on the labour market in the last decades, like rising participation rates of women and a narrowing of the gender wage gap, there is substantial evidence of a wage penalty for women once they have children. In order to shed light on the effect of motherhood timing on career outcomes, the paper investigates whether postponing the first birth counteracts the negative effect of having children on wages. Using data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) for the years 1991-2013, I estimate a fixed-effects model that allows to reveal the underlying mechanisms of the motherhood wage penalty. I include measures for changes in wage growth before childbirth to control for factors that simultaneously influence childbirth and wages. Since the age at first birth is time-invariant, I estimate the fixed-effects model separately for different age-at-first-birth categories. Additionally, I test for self-selection in the labour market. The results indicate that a postponement of the first birth narrows the motherhood wage gap and thus, has a positive influence on wages. Nevertheless, high productive women who give birth later in life seem to self-select out of the labour force.

Children of unplanned pregnancies – A challenge for testing fertility parameters?

Thorsten Schneider, Leipzig University

Micro theories on fertility, e.g., the economic theory of family, or assumptions about life course specific sequencing norms frame fertility behaviour in industrialized countries as a decision. Their predictions are tested in numerous empirical studies. Theories and empirical research widely ignore, that giving birth may also result from unintended pregnancies. Some studies have been published for the US in recent years. At least in this context, unplanned pregnancies are no minor phenomenon and having an unplanned pregnancy is highly selective in respect to mother’s education, race and parity. We discuss how education, educational and labour market participation, partnership status and gender preferences influence unplanned and planned conception in Germany. To test these hypotheses data from the Socio Economic Panel Study (SOEP), collected between 2001 and 2012, are used. The focus is on the planning status of pregnancies leading to a birth. The information on pregnancy intentions is collected retrospectively from mothers in the survey wave immediately after the birth. The data are analysed with event history models for competing risks (planned vs. unplanned pregnancy). There are major differences in the transition intensity to both types of pregnancies. Against the argument of lower opportunity costs, unemployed women do not have an increased propensity of a planned conception leading to a first birth; instead they get pregnant unintendedly more often. Highly educated women are more likely to have a planned pregnancy leading to a first birth. Furthermore mixed gender preferences are masked if the analysis of the transition to a third child, which includes the gender of previous children, does not differentiate between planning status. Although there are different limitations of this study such as missing information on abortion, the results make clear, that it is necessary to differentiate between planned and unplanned pregnancies to explain and empirically investigate fertility behaviour.

Keywords: Fertility intentions, births, competing risks, Germany
Income in Jeopardy: How Losing Employment Affects the Willingness to Take Risks

_Clemens Hetschko and Malte Preuss, Freie Universität Berlin_

Using German panel data, we assess the causal effect of job loss, and thus of an extensive income shock, on risk attitude. In line with predictions of expected utility reasoning about absolute risk aversion, losing one’s job reduces the willingness to take risks. This effect strengthens in previous hourly wage, begins to manifest itself as soon as an employee perceives the threat of job loss and is of a transitory nature. The change in stated risk attitude matches observable job finding behaviour, confirming the behavioural validity of our results.

Is your commute really making you fat?: The causal effect of commuting distance on height-adjusted weight

_Laszlo Goerke and Olga Lorenz, Trier University – IAAEU, IZA, and CESifo_

This paper explores the relationship between height-adjusted weight (BMI) and commuting distance in Germany, using micro-level data for the period 2004 – 2012. First, an ordinary least square model is estimated. Second a fixed effects model is used to remove time invariant unobserved heterogeneity. To take care of reverse causality, the fixed effects model is further estimated after replacing contemporaneous commuting distance variables by one-year lags of distance variables. Finally, the fixed effects specification is additionally estimated using exogenous variation of commuting distance to account for the endogeneity of commuting distance and height-adjusted bodyweight by keeping employer and residence location constant in the estimations. Any change in commuting distance is than the result of employer-induced workplace relocation (so the employer moves to another location). In contrast to previous papers in the literature, according to which commuters are more likely to suffer from overweight and obesity, we find no evidence that longer commutes are associated with a higher BMI. More precisely, the results reveal that an increase in commuting distance does not affect an individual’s BMI. Even after controlling for time-invariant characteristics no significant associations are observed. In addition, the non-existence of a relationship between BMI and commuting distance is consistently found across various sub-samples and prevails regardless of included control variables (e.g. physical activity and eating habits). Concentrating on the models in which we account for the potential reverse causality bias, we also obtain non-significant relationships.

Routes into lone motherhood – routes into poverty? The importance of selection for explaining lone mothers’ poverty risks

_Sabine Hübgen, Berlin Social Science Research Center (WZB)_

Lone mothers in Germany face extraordinarily high poverty risks compared to other social groups within Germany and lone mothers in other European countries. So far, in explaining this phenomenon, research has been neglecting two important issues: First, lone mothers are not a homogenous group, but rather come from very distinct life circumstances. Second, it is important to take these different routes into lone motherhood – and their underlying selection processes – into account in order to disentangle potential selection effects on poverty and actual lone motherhood effect on poverty.
This paper adds to the existing literature addressing these shortcomings in the following way: First, three routes into lone motherhood are distinguished and treated separately throughout the paper: lone motherhood after marriage; lone motherhood after cohabitation and lone motherhood after out-of-relationship child birth. Second, this paper employs a potential outcomes framework using matching and Difference-in-Difference techniques in order to deal with potential selection effects. Analyses are based on the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP), running on an annual basis since 1984. This paper uses all years 1984-2013 and controls for period and cohort effects. Descriptive results show that before entering lone motherhood married mothers have the lowest risk of being poor followed by the so called ‘birth lone mothers’, while already one fourth of cohabiting mothers is at risk of poverty. The transition into lone motherhood aggravates the economic well-being of all three groups, but to a very different degree: While, for formerly married mothers the risk of poverty almost doubles, it increases by 35% for formerly cohabiting lone mothers and ‘only’ by 28% for unpartnered women. Multivariate results from matched Difference-in-Difference estimation point into the same direction: After taking selection into lone motherhood into account, the effect of becoming a lone mother on poverty is strongest for formerly married mothers and weakest for birth lone mothers.

**Keywords:** Lone mothers; poverty risks; selection; matching; Difference-in-Difference

**Relationship between personality and work success differs for women and men**

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The relationship between personality and work success has been studied in-depth, as well as how each is linked to gender. However, previous research neglected how the connection between personality and success at work differ for men and women. We address this issue in order to better understand the different work outcomes of women and men. This topic is especially important in a broader context of gender equality at work, because different personality traits could promote work success differently for men and women. We examined how gender moderates the relationship between the “Big Five” personality traits Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism and work success. We consider both, objective (income, Treiman prestige scores and required skill level of an occupation) and subjective aspects of work success (satisfaction with work and income). The moderation analyses were based on data of the German Socio-Economic Panel SOEP from 2013. Controlling for gender, openness correlated positively with objective and subjective work success. Neuroticism was negatively correlated to all work success measures. Conscientiousness was positively linked to income and satisfaction but negatively to required skill level and prestige of an occupation. The relationship between Extraversion and Agreeableness were both positively related to satisfaction and Agreeableness was further negatively correlated to income. The strength of associations between some personality characteristics and work success differed for men and women. There was a stronger positive relationship for men compared to women between Agreeableness and required skill level, and between Openness and income, required skill level, and prestige. Further, there was a stronger negative relationship for women compared to men between Neuroticism and satisfaction. The relationship of work success and Conscientiousness and Extraversion was not significantly moderated by gender.
Single parents' social integration: differences between East and West Germany

Hannah Zagel, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

This paper investigates the relationship between single parenthood and social contacts in East and West Germany. Social contacts are an important resource for single parents, not only for practical and emotional support, but also in facilitating their labour market integration. But the degree to which single parents are socially integrated varies considerably. This paper asks what explains differences and changes in single parents’ social integration and whether explanations vary between East and West Germany. In East Germany, social integration has been said to generally depend less on the nuclear family than in West Germany. Particular attention is paid to specific markers of the family life course, such as children’s reaching school age and repartnering, in explaining extension or contraction of social contacts. It is expected that contacts to friends and relatives are extended when children reach school age and reduced upon repartnering. For East Germany, following findings from previous research, changes in social contacts are expected to be less marked than for West Germany, especially regarding contacts with relatives. Fixed effects regression is applied to a sample of single parents using data from four waves of the Socio-economic Panel (1998, 2003, 2008 and 2013). Two main findings emerge. Firstly, contacts to friends are indeed extended when single parents’ children reach preschool age, and this relationship is stronger for West Germans. Secondly, contacts to relatives are strong among single parents in both East and West Germany, but entering a new partnership turns out to contract single parents’ family relationships only in the West.

"Her head had the size of a clementine": preterm birth effects the adaptation to motherhood

Nina Richter, University of Konstanz
Intergenerational Patterns of Family Formation in East and West Germany

Zachary Van Winkle, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)
Anette Fasang, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)
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Why is intergenerational transmission of family formation weaker in some country contexts than in others? This paper employs the historically unique situation of the German division to study country context effects on intergenerational regularities in family formation. We use the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) to analyze the longitudinal family formation trajectories from age 15-35 of children born 1953-1978 and their mothers. Findings show that East German mother-child family formation trajectories are more dissimilar than West German mother-child family formation trajectories. Further, East German mother-child dyads are more likely to be categorized as patterns of intergenerational contrast, whereas West German mother-child dyads are more likely to display strong transmission. To account for these differences in intergenerational transmission of family formation between East and West Germany, we propose to combine multichannel sequence analysis, multinomial logistic modeling and decomposition methods for nonlinear probability models. This methodological approach enables us to show that differences in parental education and children’s educational mobility in East and West Germany mediate the strength of intergenerational transmission and contribute to explaining differences in intergenerational patterns of family formation in the two contexts. We conclude that the proposed approach is promising to disentangle cross-national differences in intergenerational regularities in family formation.

The Impact of Subjective Well-Being on Fertility across Societies: Universal or country-specific?

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Daniele Vignoli, University of Florence
Tugba Zeydanli, Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg

Scholars from different disciplines converge in arguing that having decent levels of subjective well-being (SWB) represents a prerequisite for having children. In this paper, we follow this perspective but taking a broader view. We argue that if the quest for happiness is a precondition for fertility this should be true in any contemporary developed society, where having children is the result of an intended action. To substantiate this argument, we incorporate SWB as a determinant of fertility behavior using longitudinal data for Australia, Germany, Great Britain, Russia, Switzerland, and the United States of America. We find that higher levels of SWB are associated with higher probability to have children in the six considered countries, concluding that the quest for happiness before childbearing may be a universal fact in Western low fertility societies.
Retirement, intergenerational time transfers, and fertility

Peter Eibich, University of Oxford
Thomas Siedler, University of Hamburg

Retirement increases the amount of leisure time. Retired parents might choose to invest some of their time into their adult children, e.g. by providing childcare. Such intergenerational time transfers can have important implications for retirement and family policies. This paper estimates the effects of parental retirement on their adult children’s fertility and labor supply. We use a representative household panel dataset from Germany to link observations on parents and adult children, and we exploit eligibility ages for early retirement using a regression discontinuity design for identification. The results show that early parental retirement induces a significant and considerable increase in (adult) children’s fertility. It also decreases labor supply of daughters. The analysis of time use data shows that retired parents provide childcare and assist their children with domestic duties. The findings suggest that early retirement policies can have important spillover effects on younger generations.

Keywords: retirement, fertility, intergenerational transfer, SOEP, time use
JEL Classification: J13, J14, J22, J26

The link between personality and fertility – is it different for males and females?

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Fertility is a phenomenon which is influenced by various factors. Among them is the personality of the partners. However the association of personality and fertility might differ between the partners. The analysis of differences in the impact of personality traits on male and female fertility behavior is the focus of our study. We use the Big-five personality inventory, including neuroticism, openness to experience, conscientiousness, extraversion, and agreeableness to measure the personality of both partners. Our study contributes to the small international literature on this research question by using the SOEP, a particular long lasting panel study. In making use of the exhaustive length of the SOEP, we are able to overcome major shortcomings of the previous studies, which have been based on either cross-sectional or retrospective data. Two aspects, directly linked to the strength of the SOEP study go beyond prior research in this field:
1) We analyze 25 survey waves, thus capturing almost the full fertile life-span of the individuals under analysis. This makes our research question accessible to more refined empirical methods, such as the event history approach.
2) We gain access to an annual observation of key characteristics related to fertility choices like social and economic status, or partnership characteristics provided with the SOEP. Hence, we can differentiate, whether and if which personality traits are capable of influencing fertility behavior directly, and which personality characteristics operate indirectly, e.g. by affecting job stability, or career attachment, thus promoting or delaying childbearing decisions. Our findings show that highly conscientious and extravert men have a higher likelihood to become a father. These effects, however, operate indirectly by improving breadwinner qualities through a stable employment career (Conscientiousness), and by improving chances on the partner market (extraversion). Among women, extensive levels of agreeableness and neuroticism foster the transition to motherhood. The only characteristic, which reveals the same direction of effect of a personality trait, for both men and women, is openness to new
experience, which is negatively associated with the transition to parenthood, and which remains stable after controlling for several covariates.
Let Bygones be Bygones? Socialist Regimes and Personalities in Germany

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Michael Wedow, European Central Bank

The paper aims to demonstrate the effect of a repressive socialist regime on personality and, in particular, explores the role of state-security surveillance in this regard. We treat the separation and reunification of the socialist German Democratic Republic (GDR) and the democratic Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) as a “natural experiment”. We are motivated by the fact that personality is a key determinant of economic behavior and life outcomes.

Our results show a significant, long-lasting impact of the GDR’s socialist regime on personality. Experience with the socialist regime is associated not only with higher neuroticism and conscientiousness scores but also with lower openness ratings and lower internal locus of control scores. Regressions by age cohort indicate that the duration of the exposure to the political regime is important for the regime’s influence on personality. A battery of robustness checks gives confidence that these differences can be attributed to the political regime. All results are obtained from SOEP data.

To identify one channel through which the regime influenced personality, we consider the well-known practice of infiltration by unofficial collaborators (IM). We use official records on unofficial collaborators provided by the Agency of the Federal Commissioner for the Stasi Records and merge them with SOEP data. We can establish that variations in the number of IMs across GDR counties are related to significant differences in personality. Specifically, an individual who experienced more secret-service surveillance under the GDR’s socialist regime is more likely to reciprocate negative acts and to have a lower internal locus of control. In other words, the consideration of the within treatment variation with respect to the surveillance intensity produces findings aligned with our baseline estimates and thus contributes to their explanation.

The observed socialist regime’s impact on personalities has economic significance today. We present qualitative implications and some rough estimates of the average consequences of the “GDR-treatment-effect” for individual labor market outcomes.

The Transmission of Trust through Generations

Sara Tonini, University of Trento

Understanding the formation of trust at the individual level is a key issue given the impact that it has been recognized to have on the economic development and the wealth of nations since Arrow (1972). Recent research highlights the role of the transmission of values - trust, in particular - from parents to their children (Bisin and Verdier, 2001, among others). So far, attempts to empirically measure the strength of this transmission relied on the cross-sectional regression of the trust of children on the contemporaneous trust of their parents (Dohmen et al., 2012, among others). We introduce a new identification strategy relying on a panel sample of parents and of their children drawn from the German Socio Economic Panel. As a result, we show that 1) one half to two thirds of the observed variability of trust is pure noise irrelevant to the transmission process; 2) this noise strongly biases the OLS estimate of the parameters of the regression of children’s trust on parents’ trust but an IV estimate straightforwardly emerges from the analysis; 3) the dynamics of the component of trust relevant to the transmission process shed light on the structural interpretation of the parameters of this regression; 4) the strength of the flow of trust that parents pass on to their children is easily summarised by the conventional R2 of a
latent equation. As applied to our sample, only one fifth of the variability of children’s trust is inherited from their parents.

**JEL Classification:** J62, P16, Z1  
**Keywords:** trust, intergenerational transmission, cultural economics

**Happily ever after or future break-up? – The effect of personality congruence and constellations on relationship satisfaction and stability**

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Forming and maintaining a long-duration relationship is considered as one of the major life-goals (Buss, 1995). So far, it still remains unclear whether congruencies or complementarities of partner’s personality traits and attitudes are successful predictors of relationship longevity. Previous studies postulated a positive effect of partner similarity in certain Big Five personality traits. However, neither combinations of specific personality factors, nor the function of similarity patterns in relation to the individual manifestation of personality were investigated in more detail. In the present study, we examined the effect of personality congruencies and constellations on relationship satisfaction and stability using representative longitudinal data from the German Socio-economic Panel study (SOEP) of about 6,000 couples. By applying different methodological approaches (multidimensional cluster-analyses, response surface analyses), we identified several individual patterns of personality characteristics in females and males as well as pair-constellations. Moreover, we analyzed the relation between patterns of personalities and relationship satisfaction. To further examine causes of relationship stability, couples that split up in the time period under study (n=312), were analyzed in comparison to a matched group of couples that stayed together. Implications and interpretations of the identified patterns of congruencies and complementarities were discussed.

**Reference:**

**Unfairness Perceptions at Work**

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*Andrew E. Clark*, Paris School of Economics - CNRS  
*Conchita D’Ambrosio*, University of Luxembourg

This work investigates the effect of unfair income on subjective well-being and job quits. Following the fair-wage hypothesis (Akerlof, 1982, Akerlof and Yellen, 1990), empirical evidence has shown that individuals change their economic behaviour according to fairness considerations. Another side of the literature, based on the relative income hypothesis (Duesberry, 1949), has provided a large amount of evidence that people do not evaluate outcomes only in absolute terms but also relative to some
reference levels. We contribute to these two strands of literature exploring the effect of perceiving own income as unfair on subjective well-being. Using five waves of the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), we find that those who perceive to earn an unfair income have significantly lower subjective well-being, both in terms of cognitive evaluations (life and job satisfaction) and emotional health. Moreover, in terms of life satisfaction we find that males are more affected than females by unfair treatments. The negative effect of unfair pays is translated into a higher probability of quitting the job, confirming the importance of fairness considerations for labour relations.
The German Middle Class – the nervous centre of society? A panel analysis of subjective status insecurity

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Holger Lengfeld, Leipzig University

In the 2000s, an increase of perceived status insecurity among the middle classes was widely discussed in German sociology and in the public media. In the face of the recent European economic downturn, perceptions of job insecurity among the middle classes are assumed to have grown further. Using German Socio-economic panel data from the mid-1990s to 2013 (SOEP v30: perceived job insecurity), we used an occupational class scheme proposed by Erikson/Goldthorpe/Portocarero (not counting the self-employed) to test this assumption. Descriptive time-series analyses show that although all classes experienced an increase of status insecurity from 1990 to 2007, the middle section of the German middle class experienced the highest average increase. However, between 2008 and 2013, this trend has undergone a reversal for all classes, despite the Great Recession that Europe faced in 2009. Most strikingly, it is again the middle section of the German middle class where status insecurity has declined a great deal: within only six years, perceived status insecurity, which had risen over 25 years, has since reached the low levels that began in the early 1990s. We used stepwise random effects ordered probit-models to identify causes for both the increase and decline of status insecurity. However, these models confirm the findings from our descriptive analysis. Thus for today, fears of dropping out of the middle class has largely disappeared. Additionally, descriptive volatility analysis (cumulation of relative changes over time) reiterates that the time-honoured insight made by Theodor Geiger (1930) for the Weimar Republic still holds true for today, namely that a constitutive characteristic of the German middle class is that it reacts most sensitively to economic changes – it is the nervous centre of society.

Social Inequality in Well-Being over the Life Course

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Gerrit Bauer, University of Munich (LMU), Department of Sociology
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Social inequality can be defined as differences in physical and social well-being. Both forms of well-being are assumed to be “basic human needs” (Adam Smith). Building on Smith’s ideas, the more recent theory of social production functions (Lindenberg, 1996) states that in order to achieve high levels of physical well-being and social appreciation, humans draw on primary intermediate goods, mainly health care, housing conditions, wealth and social relations. Further secondary intermediate goods (in western societies mainly education, employment and income) affect primary intermediate goods. Humans striving for well-being thus try to accumulate primary and secondary intermediate goods. The success in accumulating secondary intermediate goods depends on ascriptive characteristics as for instance social origin. Most research on social inequality has so far focused on intermediate goods as outcomes. Following the theory of social production functions, we argue, that inequality research would profit from a complementary look on the “final outcome”: well-being. Therefore, we will analyze in this paper inequalities in well-being. Further, inequality research often has been static. It is obvious, however, that inequalities may change over the life-course. Therefore, the second major point of our paper is that we will analyze how well-being inequalities develop over the life course. In this vein we investigate – using SOEP data – how well-being (happiness) trajectories differ by social origin, and how intermediate goods mediate these effects over the life course. We test three competing
hypotheses. The cumulative advantage/disadvantage hypothesis states that happiness differentials increase with age. An opposing reasoning argues that negative life events act as an equalizer. Hence, happiness differentials decrease over the life course. A third hypothesis states that personality traits cause stable, unmediatable differentials. We estimate random effects growth curves, modelling flexible age-happiness profiles. Preliminary results show that happiness differentials between persons with high and low social background increase with rising age. This finding is in line with the cumulative advantage hypothesis.

**Keywords:** well-being, inequality, social origin, life-course, age-period-cohort effects

### Reference Income Effects in the Determination of Equivalence Scales Using Income Satisfaction Data

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*Carina Kuhställer, Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg*

We estimate household equivalence scales using income satisfaction data from the German Socio-Economic Panel. We extend previous studies applying this approach by taking reference income into account. This allows separating needs-based from reference effects in the determination of income satisfaction. We show that this adjustment helps to overcome a bias causing an overestimation of adults’ and an underestimation of children’s equivalence weights. Our results indicate that controlling for income comparisons completely eliminates the gap between equivalence scale parameters for adults and children found in other studies. Furthermore, the equivalence weight of children appears to be decreasing in household income.

**JEL Classification:** I32, J13, D31

**Keywords:** equivalence scale, income satisfaction, relative income

### What effect has economic decline on life satisfaction? A longitudinal perspective

*Damaris Rose, Cologne Graduate School (CGS)*

Debates on income inequality appear to follow the assumption that higher income equality will lead to a more satisfied society. Income mobility enables a change in the income distribution, because every individual has the chance to improve his/her economic position in the society. But drawing from the concept of relative mobility, for every upwardly mobile individual, one individual has to be downwardly mobile. Furthermore, income mobility can mean that individuals already in a disadvantaged economic position will decline even further. This paper wants to shed light on the “dark side” of income mobility: how does economic decline impact individual life satisfaction? It is furthermore of importance to take generational differences into account: since each generation grew up under better material and physical conditions, are there changes in the consequences of downward economic mobility?

This analysis is linked to Richard Easterlin’s concept of relative income, operationalizing relative income as one’s relative position in the income hierarchy. Drawing from the conservation of resources theory, set-point theory and the theory of value change, the research questions are evaluated from a variety of different theoretical angles, contributing to both the income and happiness literature as well as social
mobility research. The analysis in conducted with the German socio-economic panel (SOEP), using fixed-effects regressions. As a result, economic downward mobility leads to a decrease in individual life satisfaction that is even stronger the higher the economic decline and the higher the prior economic position of the individual. The analysis shows that individuals anticipate the decline, but fully adapt in their life satisfaction within two years. But overall, contrary to intuition, the influence of economic decline on life satisfaction is very low and has not met expectations. This finding, together with the result that older generations show a stronger decline in their life satisfaction in comparison to younger generations, leads to the conclusion that the relevance of economic decline decreases.
Working-time Mismatch and Mental Health

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Nationally representative panel survey data for Germany (from the SOEP) and Australia (from the HILDA Survey) are used to test the twin hypotheses that psychological health (as measured by the Mental Component Summary Score from the SF-12), is affected by working-time arrangements, and that it is the degree of mismatch between usual and preferred working time hours, rather than the number of hours usually worked, which is most critical. The key feature of the analysis is the use of comparable representative longitudinal data (covering the period 2002 to 2012) for two very different populations where very different regulatory arrangements prevail. Results from the estimation of both fixed-effects models and dynamic models with correlated random effects indicate that overemployment (working more hours than preferred) is associated with adverse mental health outcomes for workers in both Germany and Australia, and it is mismatch rather than the numbers of hours worked each week that is critical. Indeed, these negative associations between overemployment and mental health were not just limited to persons working very long weeks, but were also found among persons working what are traditionally regarded as standard work weeks. Somewhat unexpectedly, the negative association with overemployment was much larger (about twice as large) in Germany than in Australia. Underemployment, on the other hand, is less important. Indeed, among German workers we were unable to find any strong evidence that working fewer hours than desired exhibited any association with mental health scores. In contrast, among Australian workers significant negative effects were found, among both men and women, once underemployment was specified as a continuous variable. Indeed, in Australia an hour of underemployment was found to have about the same harmful effect on mental health as an hour of overemployment.

Education, Taxes, Life-Course Smoking Behavior, Self-reported Health, and Satisfaction with Life: A Cross-country Comparison

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We use retrospective data on lifetime smoking behavior from the Swiss Household Panel, German Socio-Economic Panel, British Household Panel Study, and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics to describe the statistical association between attained years of education, lifetime smoking behavior, self-reported health and satisfaction with life. With the retrospective smoking data we construct measures of smoking behavior in every year of life from birth until the survey year the smoking data were collected. We predict smoking in each year of life using time series data on cigarette taxes or price in each country, allowing for heterogeneous responses for people with different levels of (attained) education. We then model how self-reported health and satisfaction with life systematically vary with measures of each person’s smoking history (whether ever smoked, currently smoke, years smoked), controlling for observed differences in education and other demographic characteristics. The paper tests the proposition that, controlling for unobserved factors that induce people to smoke, smokers are more likely to report worse health and be less satisfied with life than are observationally similar non-smokers. Because the retrospective smoking data are available for everyone who answered the survey(s) that asked those questions – including both current and former smokers – the sample size available for
analysis is large. Further, because all four panel studies sample the general population in each country, the time period included for analysis spans most of the 20th and all of the 21st centuries. The principal advantage of this long sample period is that it affords the chance to exploit more of the temporal variation in taxes (which do not change frequently). As a consequence, the effect of taxes on decisions to smoke is more precisely estimated. Study results directly test a hypothesis that is commonly invoked in public health but never formally tested – that smoking causes people to be unhappy.

Increasing life expectancy and life satisfaction: Are longer lives worth it?

Janina Nemitz, University of Zurich

For several decades life expectancies have increased by half a year every four years and there are no signs for a slowdown of this positive trend. This has generated a growing interest in the value of gained life years. While there exists a broad literature on the association between longer lives and health, evidence on the association between longer lives and life satisfaction is extremely rare. As health is only one of many determinants of life satisfaction, results with regard to these two outcomes may substantially differ despite the strong linkage between health and life satisfaction in old age. Thus, this study adds to the existing literature by asking: Are the longer lives more satisfied lives? To answer this question I make use of the German Socio Economic Panel which includes information on overall life satisfaction for more than 30 years of duration. Two different approaches are taken: First, focusing on deceased respondents only, I analyze time trends of average life satisfaction one year, two or three years, and four or five years prior to death. Second, using Sullivan's life table method I estimate, in analogy to the health literature, satisfied life expectancies at age 60 at different points in time. My preliminary findings suggest that both average life satisfaction prior to death and the proportion of satisfied life expectancy on total life expectancy at age 60 have decreased over time. These patterns are puzzling as respondents who deceased recently are in many domains of life better off (e.g. income, widowhood, health satisfaction) than respondents who deceased in the eighties. One possible explanation might be that increases in life expectancy at age 60 were accompanied by increases in the variability of mortality among 60-year-old survivors, wherefore recently deceased respondents were more likely to experience a friend's death and social isolation.

Keywords: Life expectancy, longevity, happiness, life satisfaction, time-to-death, Sullivan's method

The Impact of Self-Managed Working Time on Health and Work-related Stress – Microeconometric Evidence

Istvan Hegedűs, University of Basel

This paper answers the question whether self-managed working time (SMWT) has an effect on individual health and work-related stress using German Socio-Economic Panel Study data. SMWT that increases both the degree of working time flexibility and employee’s autonomy over working time can have positive and negative effects on employees’ wellbeing with the net effect being theoretically unclear ex ante. To widen the scope of empirical research on working time flexibility, both general subjective health indicators (e.g. self-assessed health) and more objective measures (e.g. sickness absence) are considered. Furthermore several comprehensive work-related stress and strain information are considered. For the adaptation of the research question, firstly OLS regressions and linear probability models are used. Potential estimation biases caused by unobserved heterogeneity are considered by exploiting the panel
structure of the SOEP and applying fixed effects estimation. In order to avoid the problem of reversed causality, the estimations are rerun including lagged dependent variables in the third step. Additionally, to check the robustness of the results, an instrumental variable approach is applied as well as a re-definition of both the sample and the dependent variables. The results indicate that getting their mind off the job is considerable more difficult for SMWT employees. Likewise, the probability to sacrifice their self for work is most likely for these workers, whereas interestingly SMWT lowers the likelihood of sick leave from work. Furthermore, there is no statistically significant influence on general self-assessed health. In line with this results, the estimations indicate that the probability of having time pressure, sleep disorders or emotional strain due to work, is unaffected by SMWT. This suggests that SMWT can blur the boundaries between work and personal life but otherwise, a high degree of flexibility and autonomy over individual working time has no impact on work-related stress and strain.

**JEL Classification:** I10; J81; M54  
**Keywords:** self-managed working time, health, work-related stress, working hours
Parallel Sessions 13-15

Parental socioeconomic status and the quality of early childhood education and care: Evidence from Germany

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With growing maternal labour force participation and increasing provision and acceptance of formal child care, children spend more and more time in early childhood education and care (ECEC) institutions. Given that quality represents a crucial moderator of beneficial effects of ECEC on child wellbeing, we examine whether children from socioeconomically disadvantaged families, assessed by parental education, migration background, and household income, face less favourable conditions when starting their educational career by attending ECEC centres of lower quality compared to more advantaged children. By combining the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP; wave 2013) with information from the 2014 K²ID-SOEP extension study, we analyse 727 children who attend 669 day-care groups in 618 ECEC facilities across Germany. The findings provide some evidence of children with less qualified mothers experiencing lower quality than their more advantaged peers mainly in terms of ECEC quality characteristics which are easy to observe or enquire about for parents. We find hardly any significant differences by parental migration background or household income. Children of mothers who work long part-time or full-time hours partly attend ECEC centres of higher quality than children whose mothers are not employed. We conclude that the existence of systematic differences in the experienced quality of ECEC may contribute to the intergenerational transmission of low levels of education and hence the reproduction of social inequalities. Measures intended to increase transparency with regard to the quality provided by ECEC institutions should be developed with great care because, depending on their complexity and accessibility, they can either reduce or further strengthen links with family socioeconomic status.

Parental time for child care – An econometric analysis of German time use data with the Socio-Economic Panel

Normen Peters, Leuphana University of Lueneburg

In this paper we analyze whether the time spent for child care can be identified for German parents who live in a couple household and what attributes can be used to explain a possible change by applying advanced micro econometric methods to German time use data provided by the German Socio Economic Panel. Compared to numerous papers that have explained the parental time for primary child care solely we consider the dependence between household partners decisions for child care, home production, market work and leisure. Further we account for zero observations of the time use allocations. For that we estimate the parameters of a system of seemingly unrelated non-linear equations using a mixed process regression approach for the years 2005, 2009 and 2013 utilizing the latest version of the German Socio Economic Panel. Besides considering typical demographic and socio-economic influences and compositional- or behavioral effects of intra family changes like varying relationship-, personal- and marital situations or the number and age of children in the household we identify a link between the time spent for child care and parents individual attitudes like the importance of having children or to live in a well functioning relationship. Further we exploit empirical longitudinal information about specially
self-perceived individual characteristics of German parents. So we can assess whether big five personality traits like neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, conscientiousness or agreeableness can additionally used to explain the parental time spent for child care of German households apart the fact that female labour force participation may have increased.

**Public childcare expansion and mothers' return to work behaviour – Evidence from a quasi-experiment in Germany**

*Irina Hondralis, Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences, funded by DFG*

*Gundula Zoch, Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences, funded by DFG*

Mobilising non-working mothers to participate in paid employment and to make further progress towards gender equality remains at the top of the political agenda in most OECD countries. Early childcare is considered to be a powerful instrument in promoting mothers’ continuous employment. Consequently, the European Council set precise targets to increase maternal labour force participation by providing childcare services in all member states. Since 2005, Germany has made immense public investments to meet the European childcare policy targets. However, the question remains: How does the recent expansion of public childcare facilities for under-three-year-olds affect mothers’ employment interruption after childbirth and their return to work behaviour in Germany? This article aims at answering the question and to provide first quasi-experimental evidence on the employment effects of the childcare reform, starting in 2005. In line with economic and sociological theories, we expect that the reform decreases mothers’ interruption durations and to facilitate returns to work with substantially more working hours. We exploit large regional and temporal variation in childcare availability across districts along with East-West differences. By investigating the relationship of the expansion of childcare services and return behaviour of mothers separately for East and West Germany, we are able to examine whether different starting levels in formal childcare but also cultural norms may moderate any short-term policy effect. The analysis links the SOEP and the FID with annual administrative records on state subsidized childcare provision on district level and applies survival analysis with a difference-in-difference approach. Our preliminary results suggest that the increase in public childcare services for under-three-year-olds is associated with shorter interruption durations after childbirth. Overall, the results point towards a significant influence of institutional factors, such as greater availability of less costly public childcare on the interruption duration of mothers, even after controlling for individual and household factor.

**Keywords:** Employment interruptions, female labour supply, gender inequality, public childcare, social policy

**Information Asymmetries Between Parents and Educators in German Day Care Centers**

*Georg Camehl, DIW Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin*

*Pia S. Schober, DIW Berlin*

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Economic theory predicts market failure in the market for early childhood education and care (ECEC) due to information asymmetries. These theoretically occur because ECEC are service goods and parents often
find it difficult to observe their quality. Quality of ECEC services is of special interest due to its potential long-term consequences on individuals’ lives. In our paper we empirically investigate information asymmetries between parents and ECEC providers in Germany. We investigate if information asymmetries exist and if so, for which types of quality aspects. Moreover, we analyze if information asymmetries are related to the socioeconomic background of the parents or to center characteristics. We make use of an unique extension study of the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) and Familien in Deutschland (FiD), which allows us to compare quality information by parents and 734 ECEC institutions. We find considerable information asymmetries between parents and providers in the German ECEC market. They differ across quality aspects but only little due to socio-economic background of the parents or center characteristics. Our contribution to the literature is twofold: First, we look at information asymmetries in a highly regulated market compared to previous studies of the US ECEC market which is less regulated. Second, by comparing the buyers’ and the sellers’ perspectives’, we analyze a different type of information asymmetries than the literature has previously done. An implication of our finding is that availability of information about ECEC quality should be improved in Germany.

Keywords: Child care, quality, information asymmetries, socio-economic differences, Germany

Job Loss and Changes in Personality – Evidence from Germany

Frauke Peter, DIW Berlin
Silke Anger, IAB and University of Bamberg
Georg Camehl, DIW Berlin

Non-cognitive skills, for example personality traits, have long been considered to be quite stable over adulthood. Economic studies on non-cognitive skills as determinants or outcomes therefore assumed their stability over time to rule out reverse causality. However, recent evidence from psychology suggests that the stability assumption may not always hold. Personality traits may be related to certain life events, but from an econometric point of view, these studies do not identify causal effects. Our paper aims at identifying causal effects of job loss on changes in personality and thereby at complementing recent studies in economics and psychology on the stability of personality traits. We use data from the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP) for the years 2004 to 2014 which include three measurements of the Big 5 personality inventory. We exploit detailed employment information, particularly on reasons of job termination and unemployment spells. We use plant closures and dismissals as an operationalization of job loss that has been widely used as an exogenous event in the literature. Our results based on linear regression models suggest that job loss leads to a drop in emotional stability. The other dimensions of the Big 5 personality inventory remain (nearly) unchanged. Moreover, our findings suggest that especially individuals who are not reemployed at the time of the second skill measurement experience the largest drop in emotional stability. Apart from the abovementioned theoretical considerations, these findings are highly interesting as changes in non-cognitive skills due to job loss may help to explain duration dependence of unemployment. We find evidence that persons who lose their job face changes in their non-cognitive skills and may thus find it more difficult to reenter employment.
How Health Plan Enrollees Value Prices Relative to Supplemental Benefits and Service Quality

Nicolas R. Ziebarth, Cornell University

This paper empirically assesses the relative role of health plan prices, service quality and optional benefits in the decision to choose a health plan. We link representative German SOEP panel data from 2007 to 2010 to (i) health plan service quality indicators, (ii) measures of voluntary benefit provision on top of federally mandated benefits, and (iii) health plan prices for almost all German health plans. Mixed logit models incorporate a total of 1,700 health plan choices with more than 50 choice sets for each individual. The findings suggest that, compared to prices, health plan service quality and supplemental benefits play a minor role in making a health plan choice.

Spousal Influence in Risk Preference and Health

Mingming Ma, University of Southern California

Marriage as one of the most important relationships one may form in lifetime could have significant impact on one's attitudes, behaviors and well-being. In this paper, I examine the causal influence of one's significant other on one's self reported risk preference, health behaviors and health outcomes using household longitudinal survey data from Germany when controlling for the endogeneity problem due to assortative mating and shared environment between spouses. Difference GMM estimation results show that having a more risk-loving spouse will indeed make oneself more willing to take risk likewise a partner who smokes induces smoking behaviors of the other. While emotionally both healthier husband and wife have significant impact on each other, only the physical health of the wife has a robust and significant impact on husbands, but not the other way around.

Keywords: Risk preference, Spousal influence, Difference GMM, Health behavior, Health
JEL Classification: I12; D81; C23

Unlucky to Be Young? The Long-Run Effects of School Starting Age on Smoking Behavior and Health

Michael Bahrs, University of Hamburg
Mathias Schumann, University of Hamburg

Smoking and its health consequences cause considerable costs in both the US and Germany. The economic literature shows that social outcomes such as smoking behavior are largely affected by childhood factors including cigarette prices, taxation, and school peers. School starting age is a further important factor because it significantly affects a child's school environment.

While most studies focus on the short-run effects of school starting age on smoking and health, we examine the causal long-run effects for adults who are in their late thirties. We employ a fuzzy regression discontinuity design to account for the endogeneity of school starting age by using exogenous school entry rules, which are based on a child’s date of birth, as instrument. The analysis is based on survey data from the German Socio-Economic Panel.

Our results show that an increase in school starting age by one month reduces the risk of smoking by 1.3 percentage points and increases the likelihood to report good or very good health by 1.7 percentage
points in the long run. Furthermore, the effect on self-rated health can be explained by differences in physical rather than mental health. Moreover, we show suggestive evidence that peers are an important mechanism through which school starting age affects smoking behavior and health.

**Smoking Bans and Political Outcomes: Evidence from a Natural Experiment**

*Cornelia Struewing, Trier University*

This paper uses German SOEP data to investigate whether public smoking bans have an effect on political outcomes. During 2007 and 2008 smoking bans were implemented in all of Germany’s sixteen federal states to prohibit smoking in bars, restaurants and dance clubs. However, the states introduced the smoking bans on different dates between 2007 and 2008, which provides the opportunity to identify causal effects of public smoking bans on different outcomes.

The implementation of smoking bans led to a strong opposition from the beginning. The German hospitality union (Dehoga) feared a loss of sales and the demise of numerous pubs. As a consequence, bar owners filed a constitutional complaint against the bans in two states. Since the implementation of smoking bans not only influenced the German hospitality industry but also individuals’ personal lives, we investigate the effect of smoking bans on political outcomes. We exploit the variation across states in the introduction of smoking bans to estimate difference-in-differences models.

The results show that being exposed to a smoking ban increases political interest in West Germany and decreases the probability to support the federal state government in East Germany. A subgroup analysis reveals that in particular female and male smokers in West Germany score higher in political interest and are more likely to support a specific political party than no party at all, following the ban. Regardless of gender, smoking status or age, East Germans are by roughly 20 percentage points less likely to support the party or coalition in power. Furthermore, young female smokers in East Germany report a strong increase in interest in politics and have a higher probability to switch party preferences if they are exposed to a smoking ban. Overall, the results suggest that the introduction of smoking bans had a strong impact on political outcomes, although the effects vary across subgroups of the population.

**Keywords:** Smoking bans, political interest, party identification, treatment effects
The Impact of Private and Public Childcare Provision on the Distribution of Children’s Incomes in Germany

Maximilian Stockhausen, Freie Universität Berlin

This paper is the very first to assess the impact of extending children's disposable cash income to encompass the monetary value of parental and non--parental childcare time on economic inequality in Germany. Combining panel data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) with administrative data from the German Federal Statistical Office covering the years 2008 to 2012, it can be shown that extended income inequality is always significantly lower than cash income inequality. Furthermore, while cash income inequality of children has slightly increased between 2008 and 2012, there has been no significant change in extended income inequality as defined in this paper; it even tends to be lower in 2012 than in 2008. This is very likely due to the expansion of public childcare, because transfers from non-parental childcare add most to the cash income of children in absolute and relative terms. In particular, children living with single parents profit most from in-kind benefits in relative terms. This paper also shows that differences in family structures are not the most pressing issue: whether a child profits from non-parental childcare – but also from parental childcare – depends on its position in the initial cash income distribution. Children from the lowest quintile profit, by far, more than children from the fourth or fifth quintile. Nevertheless, even children from high quintiles gain from extending the income definition. These findings provide further evidence for the legitimation of the hypothesis that the provision of public childcare is an appropriate measure for social policy makers to reduce inequalities among children in Germany. At least it shows that the provision of public goods lowers the importance of cash income regarding the welfare of children.

The Use of Growth Mixture Modeling for Studying Resilience to Major Life Events: Application to Spousal Loss, Divorce, and Unemployment in the SOEP

Frank J. Infurna, Arizona State University
Kevin J. Grimm, Arizona State University

We examine the extent to which individuals are able to show stable, healthy levels of life satisfaction that are indicative of resilience, before and after three major life events: spousal loss, divorce, and unemployment. Our approach and focus is methodological in that we tested common held assumptions of growth mixture modeling (GMM). GMM combines latent growth curve and mixture modeling approaches and is a commonly used method to extract sub-groups or trajectories of change underlying the data. For example, GMM has been used to show that most individuals exhibit a resilient trajectory of stable, healthy levels of functioning following major life events (MLE). However, GMMs are often applied to data that does not meet the statistical assumptions of the model (e.g., normality) and researchers often do not test additional model constraints (e.g., homogeneity of variance across classes), which can lead to incorrect conclusions regarding the number and nature of the latent classes. We evaluate whether these methodological assumptions of GMM are tenable and how they influence class size and identification in the study of resilience to MLE. To address our research questions, we use data on changes in life satisfaction before and after spousal loss, divorce, and unemployment from the German Socio-Economic Panel Study. Our findings show that relaxing the assumption of variance homogeneity across classes results in a better fitting model through better class identification and contrary to previous research, a fewer proportion of individuals show a resilient trajectory, with a recovery trajectory being
most prominent. Assuming normally distributed data increases the over-extraction of classes. Our findings showcase that the assumptions underlying GMM are not tenable, leading to errors in class size and identification and misinforming conceptual models of resilience. The discussion focuses on how GMM can be leveraged to effectively examine trajectories of resilience, recovery, and other forms of adaptation following MLE and avenues for future research.

**Stepping Stones, Dead Ends and Paths of Dualization: Non-Standard Employment and Low Income at Labour Market Entry in Germany**

*Ramsey Wise, University of Bremen, Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS)*

As part of an on-going process of labor market deregulation, the Hartz IV reforms have contributed to the growth of so-called non-standard employment in Germany, especially amongst labor market entrants. Although Germany is typically characterized by smooth transitions into the labor market, the prevalence of non-standard employment is extremely likely to increase insecurity experienced during this period. From this perspective, Germany is a particularly interesting case for investigating how non-standard employment impacts economic independence during the early career. While most studies ascribe to either an integrative or entrapment perspective of non-standard employment (i.e. bridge or trap), these views do not fully capture the range of outcomes, given the heterogeneous nature of non-standard employment. Consequently, I take up the dualization framework, which is rooted in labor market segmentation, critical welfare state and insider outsider theories. Results are thus discussed with regards to implications for social inequality, and specifically, whether the growth of atypical employment at the start of the career contributes to a strengthening of existing socio-economic cleavages. To this end, this study pools longitudinal data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (v30) in order to estimate the effect of different types of non-standard employment on low income after accounting for the allocation of atypical employment amongst labor market entrants. Following individuals for a period of five years after leaving education for the last time, the sample includes a balanced panel of 4,248 labor market entrants. Using Event History Analysis, preliminary results indicate that the risk of low income amongst this demographic is largely transient, however, clearly increased for individuals in non-standard employment. The duration of experiencing low income, and ultimately impacting the integration of labor market entrant during the transition to adulthood, is highly conditional on gender, skill level and occupation – with substantial implications for growing inequality amongst the working population.

**Keywords:** Labor Market Entry; Transition to Adulthood; Non-Standard Employment; Precariousness; Dualization; Economic Independency; Social Inequality and Stratification

**Care and work: How do middle-aged women combine paid employment and unpaid caregiving of varying intensity?**

*Nadiya Kelle, Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)*

How does caregiving for the sick or elderly people affect women’s employment behaviors? And who are the women who actually assume these responsibilities? By analyzing data on 6,483 middle-aged women from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), I first find that caregivers are not disproportionately recruited from people with a weak labor market attachment. It is not a selective group of women that
provides care. Instead, women are likely to take on caring roles irrespective of their labor force attachment and previous employment histories. Second, I find that while intensive caring roles involving three and more hours of care per day are strongly associated with women’s exits from the labor market, less intensive caregiving is likely to result in women moving from full-time to part-time employment. This is the first study based on the German data to show that. Previous research on other European countries either finds no significant differences between labor market participation of low-level caregivers and non-caregivers, or shows that low-level caregivers tend to work even more hours than non-caregivers. The finding of the present study may be attributed to the specific German context, where many care recipients are eligible to receive payments from the insurance and many caregivers have a legal right to cut back on work when care needs arise. Even though my analysis shows that, for some women, part-time employment is a useful strategy for combining care and paid work, it is still the case that women with any caring role experience serious difficulties in maintaining the Proposal for the 12th International German Socio-Economic Panel User Conference level of employment they had prior to caregiving. Therefore, there is a need for policy changes to help women to combine paid work and care.

**Informal Care and Long-term Labor Market Outcomes**

*Hendrik Schmitz, University of Paderborn, RWI, and CINCH*

*Matthias Westphal, RGS Econ, University of Duisburg-Essen, and CINCH*

In this paper we estimate long-run effects of informal care provision on female caregivers’ labor market outcomes. We assess effects up to eight years after care provision and, thereby, complement the previous literature that focuses on short-run-effects. We compare a static version, where average effects of care provision in a certain year on later labor market outcomes are estimated, to a partly dynamic version where the effects of up to three consecutive years of care provision are analyzed. Our results suggest that there are significant initial negative effects of informal care provision on the probability to work full-time. The reduction in the probability to work full-time by 4 percentage points is persistent over time. Effects on the probability of being in the labor force are quite small, however, high care intensity strongly reduces the probability to be in the labor force eight years after the start of the episode. Short-run effects on hourly wages are zero but we find considerable long-run wage penalties. All in all, we find considerable negative labor market effects even several years the end of informal care provision.

**JEL Classification:** I10, I18, C21, J14, J22

**Keywords:** Informal Care, labor supply, inverse probability weighting, dynamic sequential models
Poster Session II

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Stability of risk attitudes and media coverage of economic news

*Franziska Tausch and Maria Zumbuehl, University of Bern*

This paper investigates the impact of exogenous changes in individuals' perceived economic environment on their self-stated risk attitudes by exploiting changes in media coverage of economic news. We use information on risk attitudes from the German Socioeconomic Panel and combine it with data on the average daily frequency of economic news reports during the year and the month preceding the date of the risk attitude elicitation. Using fixed effects regressions we observe effects of both long and short term changes in the media. We find that an increase in economic news in the previous year, irrespective of whether the news are bad or good, is negatively related to individuals' willingness to take risks. An increase in news that are aggregated over the previous month, however, relates to a decrease in risk aversion if the news are predominantly good. The strength of the relations depends on individuals' personal characteristics and personality traits. A positive correlation between bad news coverage and individuals' worries suggests that changes in risk perception may mediate the relation between news coverage and risk attitudes.

Bridge or Barrier? Religion and Immigrants’ Commitment to Democracy

*Marion Fischer-Neumann, University of Bamberg, BAGSS*

This article examines the role of religion in predicting Turkish and non-Turkish immigrants’ psychological commitment to the democratic regime in Germany. Since the terrorist attacks in 2001, the impact of religion on immigrants’ political attitudes towards European receiving societies has gained major attention within public and scholarly debates. From the angle of a social identity and subjective evaluation perspective as well as arguments of well-being and perceived discrimination, I discuss how
two components of migrants’ religious identity, religious belonging and social religious behaviour, affect the satisfaction with current democratic governance differently. Moreover, I address the moderating influence of immigrant generation, ethnic origin, as well as national group membership. The employment of panel models on data measured in two waves (2005 and 2010) from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) reveals that religion is indeed linked to the democracy satisfaction of immigrants, yet in complex ways: while religious attendance generally contributes to migrant democracy satisfaction, belonging to a certain denomination has no independent effect regardless of migrants’ specific ethnic background. Compared to self-identified Muslims with a Turkish ancestry, non-Turkish Muslims from Western/Eastern European as well as other non-European countries are more satisfied with the democratic regime. Moreover, I find that German-born Muslim-Turks, compared to foreign-born, are less satisfied with democracy. Finally, the analyses show that the experiences of discrimination and general well-being are driving mechanisms for immigrants’ psychological commitment to democracy.

Adaptation of Redistribution Preferences or Cultural Resistance. A Study of Migrants in Germany

Olga Griaznova, European University Institute EUI

The question about adaptation of preferences for redistribution is of particular interest nowadays because of their political and electoral importance. “Is it possible that living under a specific system leads to adaptation of preferences?”, Alberto Alesina and Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln asked this question in their paper “Good-Bye Lenin (or Not?): The Effect of Communism on People’s Preferences” (Alesina and Fuchs-Schündeln 2007, 1507). They discussed the long-lasting effect of Communism, however we could reinforce the accent and ask the same question about migrants from different cultures and welfare regimes: “Do migrants adapt their redistribution preferences to a new institutional context or do they hold on to attitudes shaped in their country of origin?”. This question seems to be even more important if we take into account increasing migration flows in Europe and inclusion of migrants into electoral process.

To answer this question I utilize data of the German Socioeconomic Panel (SOEP). Hence I test dynamic of redistribution preferences of migrants from Turkey, Poland, Russia and Kazakhstan compared to West and East Germans from 1997 to 2002. Effect of income mobility in each subsample is of particular interest. I assess the effect of tenure in Germany on redistribution preferences. At first I include into my model baseline controls: age, gender, marital status, labor force status, education, occupation of the respondent, the number of children, the number of adults in the household and the annual household income. On the second stage some macro indicators like income per capita, unemployment rates in German states, gross and net transfers per capita that each state receives from other states and the federal government in 1997 and 2002 as well as different modifications of income proxies on individual level are added for robustness check.

The general conclusion of the paper says that migrants adapt in a long run their redistribution preferences to the average preferences of the country where they live. However the dynamics varies across different migrant groups.
Gender Specific Effects of Perceived Income Injustice on Stress-related Diseases

Claudia Boscher, Laura Arnold, Andreas Lange, and Bertram Szagun, Hochschule Ravensburg-Weingarten

BACKGROUND: Income injustice is associated with an increased risk of disease. The physiological stress response is considered as a link. The aim of the study was to identify the influence of subjectively perceived income injustice on stress associated diseases, regarding the load duration of this perception.

METHODS: Based on the German Socio-Economic Panel Study, data from 5657 workers in the survey years 2005-2013 has been analyzed. The dependent variable is as an index of the doctor’s diagnosed new cases from diabetes, asthma, cardiopathy, stroke, hypertension and depression in the years 2009-2013. The key predictor is the injustice perception of the own income. To operationalize the duration of the injustice perception, the variable for the years 2005, 2007 and 2009 has been accumulated. Using logit models factors were identified that affect the probability of stress-related diseases. There were performed gender separated analyzes and analyzes that detect only full-time employees.

RESULTS: The more often the income is assessed as unjust, the higher is the risk of stress-related diseases. An over 5 years unjustly perceived income increases significantly the risk of disease in women (OR 1.64 95% CI 1.17-2.30) and in men (OR 1.38 95% CI 1.002-1.90). Women working full-time seem particularly affected (OR 2.43 95% CI 1.54-3.84). Furthermore, regular physical activity is a highly effective protective factor against stress related diseases in men.

CONCLUSIONS: Perceived income injustice reveals to be a significant risk factor for stress-related diseases within a dose-response-relationship with increasing duration of exposure. Results of stress research indicate that this reflects the ‘allostatic load’. Women possibly attach more value to justice than men what might explain the higher reactivity. Individual evaluation models to assess whether income is perceived as fair or unfair, could be of crucial importance.

Parenthood, risk attitudes and occupational sorting

Katja Görlitz and Marcus Tamm, Freie Universität Berlin, RWI, and IZA

This study analyzes how risk attitudes change when individuals become parents and whether these changes can explain labor market behavior with respect to occupational sorting. The analysis is based on the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) that contains information on individuals’ general risk attitudes in seven panel waves, in addition to demographic and family-related information. Risk attitudes are measured based on individuals’ self-assessment in a survey question. Individual fixed effects regressions document the extent to which individuals’ risk attitudes change as a consequence of parenthood. We also investigate whether this is a permanent change or a transitory one that fades away when children grow older. Merging administrative data on the fatal risk of injury to the SOEP data (based on the occupational code) answers the question whether individual changes in risk aversion affect occupational sorting. To be concrete, the occupation-specific injury risk is analyzed separately for a sample of individuals whose risk aversion drops around the time of first childbirth and for those not becoming more risk-averse. From a theoretical perspective, becoming more risk-averse should decrease individuals’ occupation-specific fatal injury risk, while a higher willingness of taking risks should increase the occupation-specific fatal injury risk. The results show that men and women experience a considerable increase in risk aversion which
already starts before becoming a parent, is largest shortly after giving birth and disappears when the child becomes older. It can also be shown that individuals who become more risk-averse along parenthood are more likely to change to occupations having a lower risk of injury.

**JEL Classification:** D1, D81, J13, J16.  
**Keywords:** Risk aversion, parenthood, children, occupational choice, gender differences

### Bequests and Gifts: How do They Shape the Wealth Distribution?

*Marten van Werder, Freie Universität Berlin*

This descriptive study evaluates the effect of intergenerational transfers on the wealth distribution in Germany. By means of regression analysis, it controls for three confounding factors the literature typically neglects: The age structure of society, households’ saving adjustments due to expectations about future transfers and - closely related to this – variations in the immediate consumption from transfers. The paper resorts to quartile-wise predicted wealth in order to identify the distributional implications of these factors. Results suggest that the propensity to consume from transfers varies over the wealth distribution and tends to reinforce the equalizing effect of transfers on inequality in wealth. Effects of age structure and expectations turn out to have only negligible effects on wealth inequality. After all, results indicate a robust equalizing effect of transfers on wealth.

**Keywords:** Bequests, saving, wealth distribution, inequality  
**JEL Classification:** D63 E21

### Can Subjective Data Improve Inequality Measurement? An Index of Relative Inequality

*Philipp Poppitz, University of Hamburg, Macroeconomic Policy Institute - IMK*

Based on the common understanding that economic inequality cannot only be described by the distribution of income and wealth, multiple designs and applications of multidimensional inequality measures have been developed in the last decade. However, the process of selecting and weighting different dimensions of inequality has always been controversial. This paper asks, whether subjective assessments of individuals can improve the measurement of relative inequality. Given that purely normative as well as data-driven methods have distinct drawbacks, this paper relies on a hybrid method to select and weight dimensions of economic inequality. In the first step, normalized weights for 15 European countries including Germany are calculated, based on the 2009 ISSP cross-sectional wave. Instead of life satisfaction or happiness, the subjective social status of individuals is regressed on different dimensions of inequality, which are related to the types of capital as described by Bourdieu. The results show that besides income and wealth, especially the parental background and the working status affect the assessment of relative inequality and that the heterogeneity between countries is significant. In the second step, an aggregate index of multidimensional inequality following Maasoumi (1986) is constructed for the sample case of Germany combining the SOEP waves from 2002, 2007 and 2012 with the regression weights from the ISSP. The unified index of multidimensional relative inequality shows a different level and time trend and the cross-tabulation of deciles reveal significant changes within the distribution compared to common univariate measures of income or wealth inequality.
The Effect of Citizenship on Savings and Wealth Accumulation of Migrants: Evidence from Germany

Fatma Usheva, University of Milan

A growing challenge for many countries in the world is population ageing and its effects on pension system. Despite immigration is seen as a possible solution to smooth transition from pay-as-you-go pension schemes, a significant fraction of migrants themselves are at/or near retirement age. However, we know very little about immigrants’ capacity to provide for themselves in old age and achieve economic security. Apart from that, another growing challenge is the integration of migrants into the host country society. Due to the increasing pressure of international migration, citizenship laws have moved to the front line of the integration policy agendas, not only as a way to foster integration, but also as a measure to affect labour markets, welfare programs and demographic trends. The following paper aims at combining the aforementioned challenges in order to further expand our knowledge about the effect of immigrants’ citizenship status on their savings and wealth accumulation choices. The empirical strategy exploits two immigration reforms in Germany, and using SOEP data, the question we aim to answer is: Does a more liberal access to citizenship affect savings of migrants and what are the likely channels through which these effects take place? In the literature, acquiring host-country citizenship is usually seen as a way to alter the duration of stay for migrants (Constant and Zimmermann, 2011). One of the first studies linking length of stay and migrants’ saving and remittance behaviour is the work of Merkle and Zimmermann (1992). Using data for Germany, they find that return intentions significantly affect migrants’ remittances but not their savings. In addition, Dustmann (1997) argues that not only return intentions play a role, but also the level of uncertainty, leading to accumulation of precautionary savings. Following this line of research, our preliminary results show that immigrants significantly reduce their propensity to save and amount of savings after naturalization, while remittances are unaffected. In addition, we find that this reduction is significantly stronger among low-educated migrants. These results suggest that both precautionary savings and return intentions are likely channels through which these effects take place.

References:

Non-take-up of Student Financial Aid: A Microsimulation for Germany

Stefanie P. Herber and Michael Kalinowski, University of Bamberg, Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences – BAGSS, and Fraunhofer-Institut für Angewandte Informationstechnik – FIT

This paper estimates the percentage of students who do not take up their federal need-based student financial aid entitlements and sheds light on determinants of this behavior. Against the background that educational mobility in Germany is low although extensive student financial aid for needy students is available, it is crucial to know whether students assert their claims for student aid at all. To investigate non-take-up, we set up a microsimulation model for the German Socio-Economic Panel Study 2002–2013.
and estimate the respective aid amounts students would have received, had they filed an application for need-based aid. The results indicate that about 40% of the eligible low-income students do not take up their entitlements. We employ instrumental variable techniques and a sample selection model to consider several potential explanatory factors for this behavior. Our results suggest that non-take-up is inversely related to the level of benefits, though the elasticity is rather low. Apart from that, a shorter expected duration of benefit receipt is related to a higher non-take-up rate, whereas the possibility to draw upon older siblings’ experience with completing the complex application for aid is associated with higher probabilities to claim. Moreover, we find robust evidence that significantly more students socialized in the former socialist East Germany choose to take up student aid than similar West German students. Finally, in line with behavioral economic theory, debt aversion of highly impulsive and impatient students is associated with higher rates of non-take-up.

**JEL Classification:** I22; I23; I24; I38  
**Keywords:** Non-take-up of social benefits; welfare program participation; federal student aid; student loans; microsimulation; behavioral economics; debt aversion; self-control
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