

# **Introduction to the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP): Life Course Designs and Causal Analysis**

3rd term workshop

24-25 April 2017

Sala del Capitolo – Badia Fiesolana

Organiser: Professor Hans-Peter Blossfeld

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Prospective and retrospective panel data have become an increasingly important data source for the social and political sciences. This can be explained by the rising importance of the life-course paradigm in sociology which often utilizes retrospective and prospective data on peoples' lives. Contemporary methodological discourses also focus on longitudinal data as an important means to validate causal interpretations. One of the most important sources for longitudinal research is the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP). In this two day workshop, we will explore SOEP data for life-course and causal analysis.

The SOEP is a representative longitudinal survey of the population in Germany conducted annually since 1984. It collects data on topics such as household composition, employment and family biography, income trajectories, health, education, life satisfaction, and personality. Working with a rich longitudinal dataset like the SOEP offers numerous possibilities but also requires specialized skills.

The workshop offers participants the opportunity to gain a well-grounded first understanding of how to work with SOEP data. Additionally, the core analytical potentials of the SOEP (and longitudinal data in general) will be explored. The participants will be introduced into the basics of longitudinal analysis; after the course, they shall be able to perform their own basic life- course analysis utilizing SOEP data.

Lectures in the morning will be accompanied by tutorials and hands-on sessions on the computer in the afternoon. In these afternoon sessions, the users will be guided through the process of data-management and data analysis. The software used in the workshop will be Stata. Basic knowledge of Stata and regression techniques is required. 10 credit-points can be obtained subsequent to the course on the basis of an assignment.

## Programme

### Monday, April 24, 2017

10:00-12:00 **Lecture** *Introduction to the SOEP: Contents and Structure*

13:00-16:00 **Tutorial & hands-on session** *From SOEP raw data to longitudinal analysis: Creating a longitudinal data set and performing simple descriptive longitudinal analyses*

### Tuesday, April 25, 2017

10:00-12:00 **Lecture** *Improving causal interpretations and analyzing the consequences of events: An introduction into empirical life course designs based on SOEP data*

13:00-16:00 **Tutorial & hands-on session** *Employing life-course designs with SOEP data*