Dear Colleagues,

As the year draws to an end, it is again time for us to inform you about recent events, current activities, and future plans for the German Family Panel (pairfam) project.

The most current pairfam scientific use file (Release 6.0), covering waves one through six, was released in June of this year, and we are pleased that it has been ordered by more than 270 users. If you are using pairfam Release 5.0 and haven’t yet ordered the new release, be sure to do so before December 31, 2015 in order to download the data free of charge.

Meanwhile, field work for the seventh pairfam wave has been completed, and the pairfam team is currently very busy preparing the data for release. The seventh wave covers several new items, including anchor health, critical life events, the willingness to move, preferred working hours, ambivalent feelings towards parents and partners, parental allowance, custody conflicts, and detailed information on child care and children’s sleeping patterns.

Field work for the eighth survey wave is currently underway. More than 2,800 interviews have so far been conducted. In parallel, preparations for the item battery for the ninth wave have already begun in order to ensure its timely completion.

Call for Papers: 5th International pairfam Conference in Munich

From the 29th of June to the 1st of July, 2016, the German Family Panel will host the fifth international pairfam conference at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich. The theme of the conference will be “Parenting, Co-Parenting and Child Well-Being in Changing Families”. Aside from keynote lectures, the conference will give scientists from various disciplines the chance to present their findings to a diverse, international audience of professional colleagues. We invite researchers to discuss work based on pairfam or other data from any discipline.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is February 15, 2016. Please send your abstract to pairfam-conference2016@lmu.de. Additional information can be found on the conference homepage. We are looking forward to seeing you in Munich!
New: In-House Seminars

We have recently begun to organize in-house pairfam workshops at research centers and universities in Germany and Europe. Our team offers to come to your institution and give an introduction to working with pairfam data, including some practical implications. These workshops are especially designed for groups of at least 10 researchers and master students. The level and specific content can be discussed on an individual basis. If you are interested in hosting an in-house seminar at your institution, please contact our user support.

Recent Events: User Workshop in Mannheim and In-House Seminars in Cologne and Bamberg

The workshop "Meet the Data: The German Family Panel (pairfam)" took place this November as part of the broader GESIS workshop program in Mannheim. Furthermore, two in-house seminars took place for the first time in Cologne (ISS) and Bamberg (ifb). Philipp Schütze, Kristin Hajek and Dr. Claudia Schmiedeberg provided an overview of the pairfam data structure, available variables, and data sets, demonstrating their application with practical examples. The focus of the course was data management, including the concatenation of datasets for cross-sectional and panel analyses and the use of generated variables, weights, and generated data sets.

Personnel Changes in the pairfam Team

Dr. Veronika Salzburger (University of Cologne) left the pairfam project this December. We extend our deepest gratitude for her productive collaboration and wish her all the best for her professional and personal future.

Prizes and Dissertations Based on pairfam Data

This year’s winner of the Otto-Hahn Medal, along with 7,500 Euro, was Dr. Christine Schnor for her dissertation on the separation behavior of young couples which focused in particular on the differences between East and West German relationships that produced children. Dr. Veronika Salzburger received the award for outstanding theses at the Chemnitz University of Technology from the envia Mitteldeutsche Energie AG for her dissertation on the adaption of generational relationships after the birth of the first grandchild.

In addition, Dr. Sonja Bastin and Dr. Barbara Wilhelm successfully completed their doctorate conferral. Dr. Sonja Bastin analyzed the partnership development of single mothers and Dr. Barbara Wilhelm the competence and autonomy experience in the role of a parent.
Maximilian Sonntag received the Hogrefe Poster Award for Differential Psychology for his presentation on the development of religiosity – Context-specific personality influences and mobility – based on his undergraduate thesis.

Congratulations to all post docs and award winners!

Recent Publications

The following scientific publications using pairfam data have been published since the release of our last newsletter:


Müller, Bettina & Laura Castiglioni. 2015. Stable relationships, stable participation? The effects of partnership dissolution and changes in relationship stability on attrition in a


We attempt to maintain a current and complete bibliography of all publications of work using pairfam data on our website, and we rely on your help for this. Please inform our user support of any relevant publications and student theses. We also request that you follow our citation rules when publishing work based on pairfam data. Thank you very much!

If you have any questions regarding the pairfam project or its data, please do not hesitate to contact our user support.

The pairfam team wishes you relaxing holidays and a happy New Year!
Yours sincerely, for the entire pairfam team,

**Kristin Hajek**

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