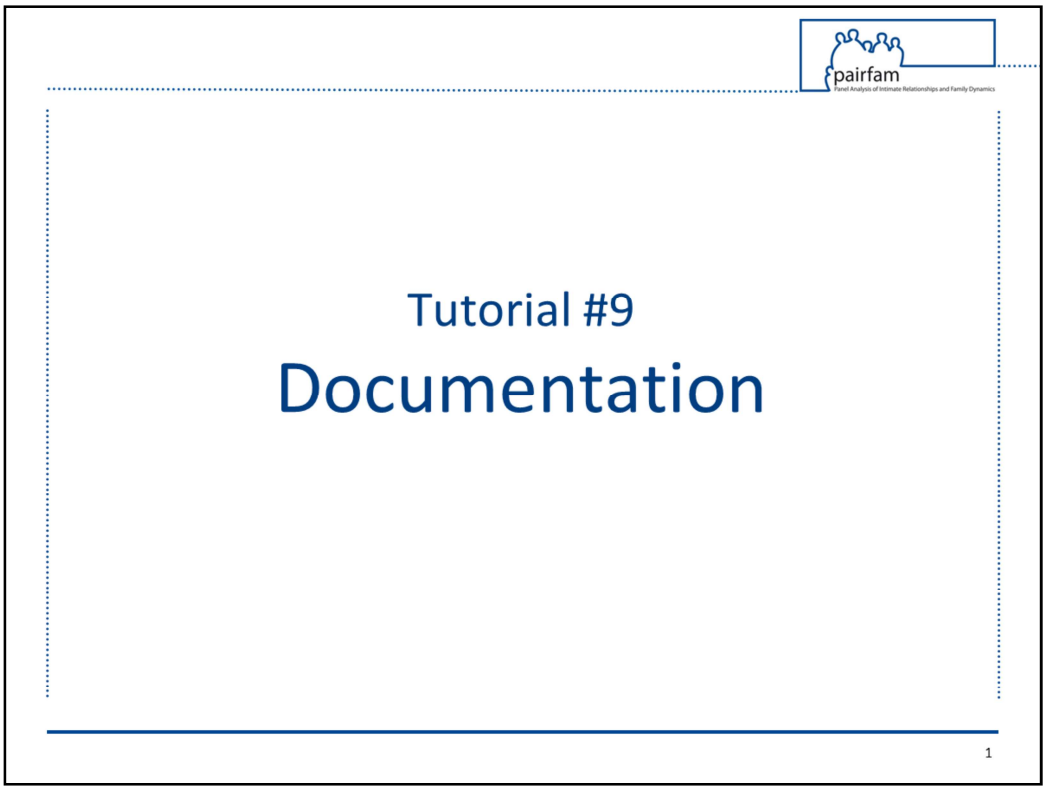
The corresponding video tutorials are available online:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7BcpOtSe5u_zQctYXz4ee79Zc9r4mfnr



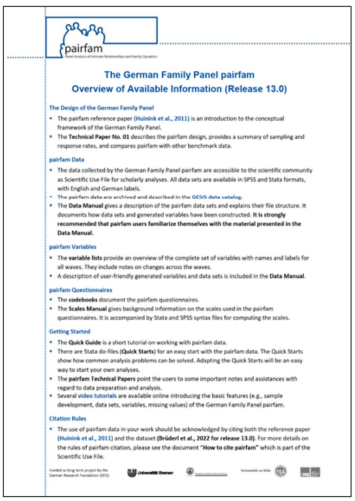
pairfam tutorial

9. Documentation

Kristin Hajek & Madison Garrett, May 2022

This ninth tutorial summarizes the documentation available for the *pairfam* project.

Documentation: Overview



pairfam
Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics

The German Family Panel pairfam
Overview of Available Information (Release 13.0)

The Design of the German Family Panel

- The pairfam reference paper (**Huinink et al., 2011**) is an introduction to the conceptual framework of the German Family Panel.
- The **Technical Paper No. 01** describes the pairfam design, provides a summary of sampling and response rates, and compares pairfam with other benchmark data.

pairfam Data

- The data collected by the German Family Panel pairfam are accessible to the scientific community as Scientific Use File for scholarly analyses. All data sets are available in SPSS and Stata formats, with English and German labels.
- The pairfam data are archived and described in the GESIS data catalog.
- The **Data Manual** gives a description of the pairfam data sets and explains their file structure. It documents how data sets and generated variables have been constructed. **It is strongly recommended that pairfam users familiarize themselves with the material presented in the Data Manual.**

pairfam Variables

- The **variable lists** provide an overview of the complete set of variables with names and labels for all waves. They include notes on changes across the waves.
- A description of user-friendly generated variables and data sets is included in the **Data Manual**.

pairfam Questionnaires

- The **codebooks** document the pairfam questionnaires.
- The **Scales Manual** gives background information on the scales used in the pairfam questionnaires. It is accompanied by Stata and SPSS syntax files for computing the scales.

Getting Started

- The **Quick Guide** is a short tutorial on working with pairfam data.
- There are Stata do-files (**Quick Starts**) for an easy start with the pairfam data. The Quick Starts show how common analysis problems can be solved. Adapting the Quick Starts will be an easy way to start your own analyses.
- The **pairfam Technical Papers** point the users to some important notes and assistances with regard to data preparation and analysis.
- Several video tutorials are available online introducing the basic features (e.g., sample development, data sets, variables, missing values) of the German Family Panel pairfam.

Citation Rules

- The use of pairfam data in your work should be acknowledged by citing both the reference paper (**Huinink et al., 2011**) and the dataset (**Brüderl et al., 2022 for release 13.0**). For more details on the rules of pairfam citation, please see the document **"How to cite pairfam"** which is part of the Scientific Use File.

Funded as long-term project by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

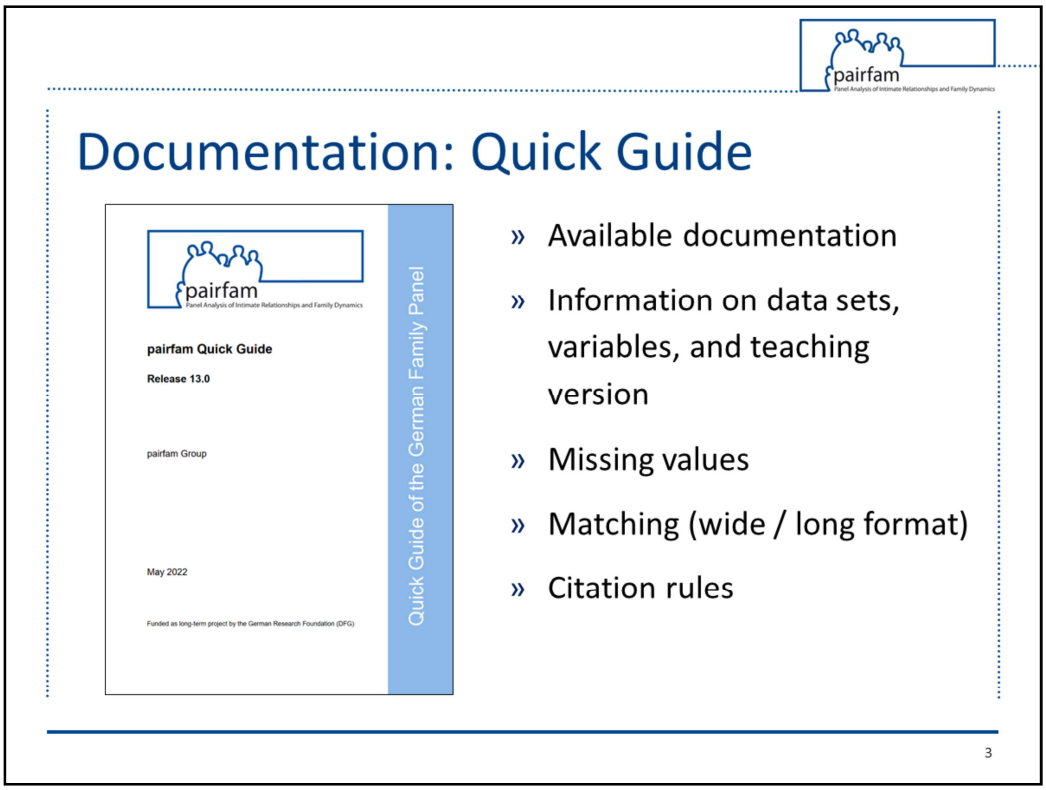
» Summary of available pairfam materials on one page (design, data, documentation, variables, questionnaires,…)

2

What is the Overview?

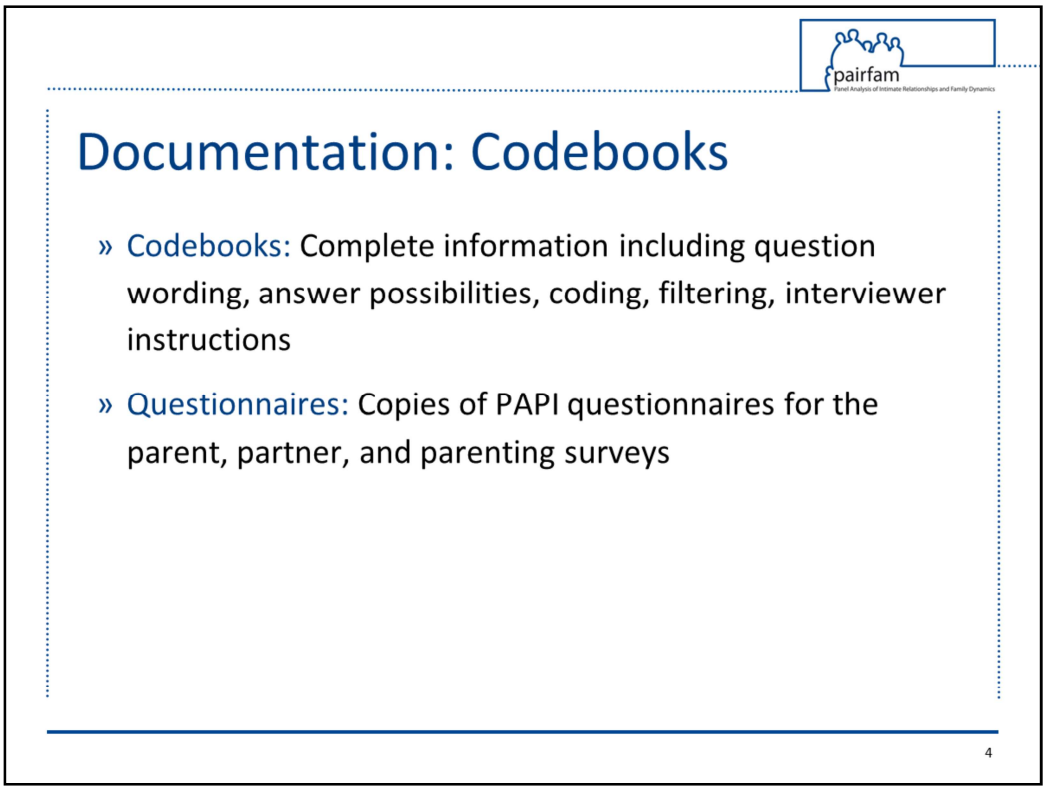
The Overview is a summary of the most important *pairfam* materials on one page.

This is a good starting point where you can find prompts as to where to find more information on which topic.



What is included in the Quick Guide?

The Quick Guide gives a bit more in-depth description of documentation materials, available data sets, variables, and the teaching version, information on analyses and missing values, the combination of data sets in wide and long format, and citation rules.



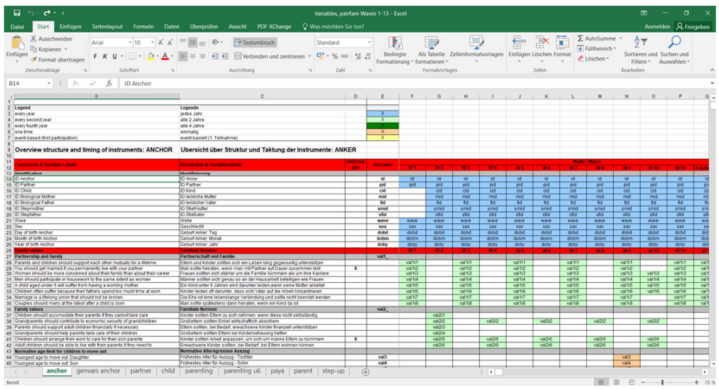
Where do I find specific information on variables?

The codebooks are available in both German and English and include complete information on question wording, answer possibilities, coding, filtering, interviewer instructions, etc. for each group of respondents and each wave.

Copies of the PAPI questionnaires for parents, partners, and the parenting survey are also available, but are only available in German and do not include question numbers.

Documentation: Question Program

» Detailed list of all variable names and labels, including information on changes between waves



5

Is there a quicker way to see which questions were asked to which respondent in which waves?

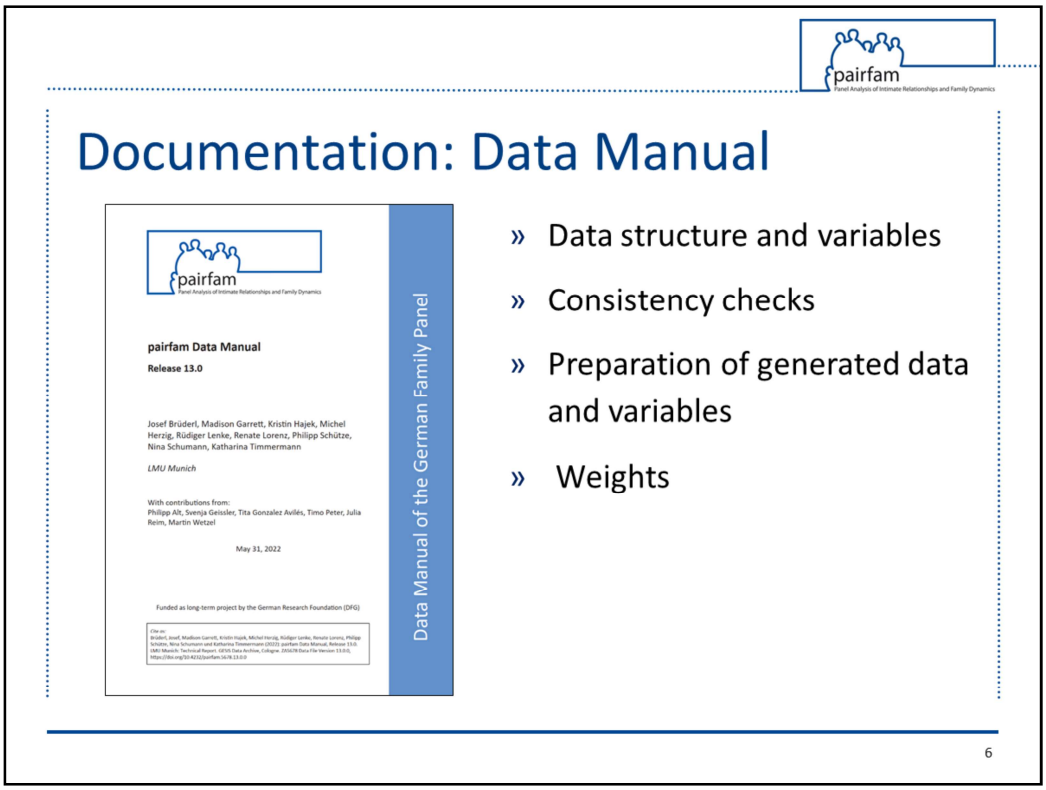
No need to go through all the codebooks for all waves and respondent type - there is a better way!

The Question Program is an Excel sheet that summarizes which questions were asked in which waves for each respondent type separately, including variable names and labels for each question and information on changes between waves.

However, the Question Program does not include information on exact variable labels, filtering, and question wording.

Therefore, we advise first looking through the Question Program to locate variables of interest and understand in which waves and to whom they were posed.

Then, take a closer look at these variables in the respective codebooks for question wording and filtering.

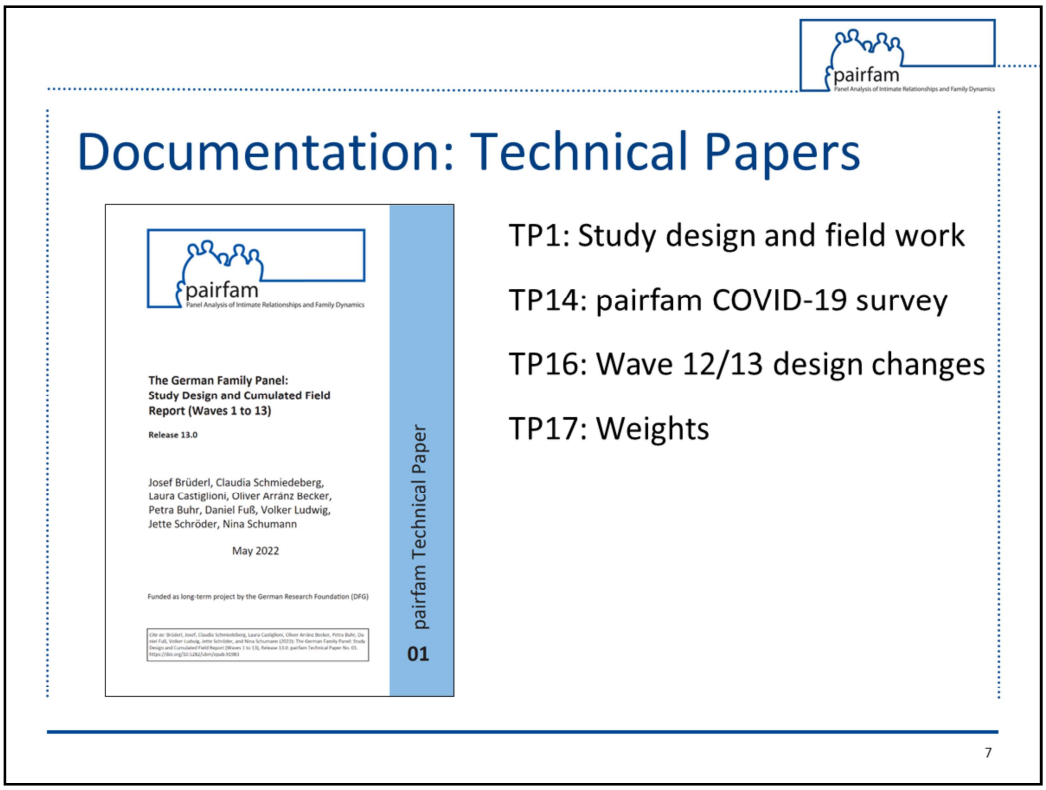


What is the Data Manual?

The Data Manual contains information about the data structure, data sets and variables, data preparation and consistency checks, generated data and variables, and a detailed documentation of the weighting variables.

We highly recommend skimming through the Data Manual – the Nuts and Bolts section is relevant to any analysis, and the index will tell you which other sections might be of interest, in particular the generated variables.

The Data Manual also contains sections dedicated to the integration of the *DemoDiff*, *step-up*, and refreshment samples, as well as changes in survey mode in waves 12 and 13 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



What are the Technical Papers?

These reports were prepared by the *pairfam* team in order to inform users of important information and give support with regard to data preparation and data analysis.

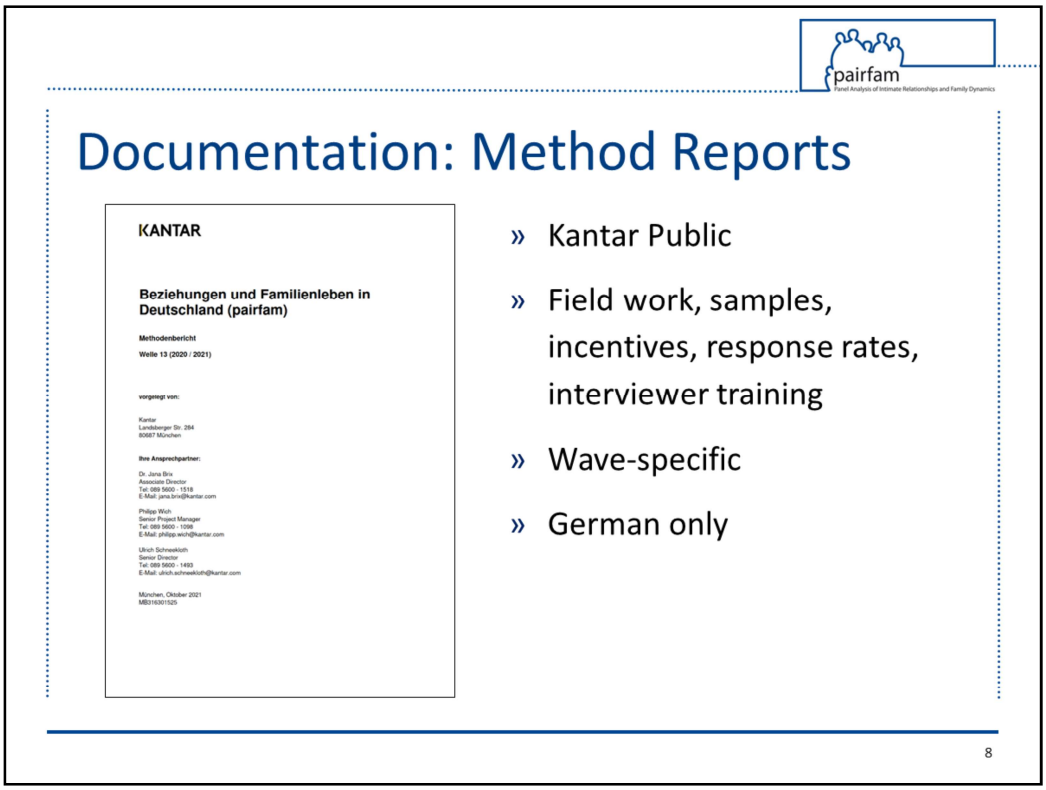
We suggest reading through the titles to see if there is a topic of interest for your research. Some technical papers that are worth mentioning for all analyses are the following:

TP1 summarizes the study design and field work of all waves, including the sampling procedure, respondents and questionnaires, response and attrition rates, measures to maintain panel stability, interview duration, and validation analyses.

TP14 presents the design and instruments of the *pairfam* COVID-19 survey, an additional study that was conducted in 2020.

TP16 explains the effects of survey design modifications in waves 12 and 13 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

TP17 is also helpful as a detailed overview of the included weighting variables in the anchor data and their application.

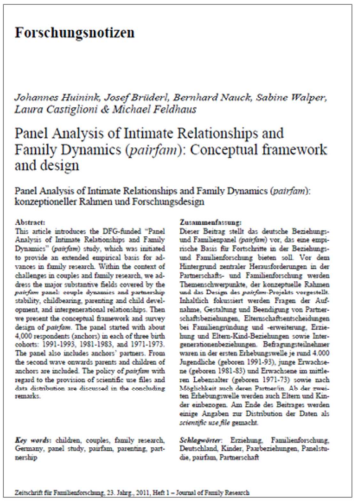


Who wrote the Method Reports?

The Method Reports were written by the survey institute Kantar Public to sum up field work, samples, incentives, response rates, survey implementation, and procedures to increase panel stability.

Compared to the Technical Paper No. 1, which covers the same topics, the Method Reports are more detailed in their fieldwork description and are available for each wave separately. However, they are only available in German.

Documentation: Reference paper



Forschungsnotizen

Johannes Huinink, Josef Brüderl, Bernhard Nauck, Sabine Walper, Laura Castiglioni & Michael Feldhaus

Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics (*pairfam*): Conceptual framework and design

Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics (*pairfam*): konzeptioneller Rahmen und Forschungsdesign

Abstract:
This article introduces the DFG-funded "Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics" (*pairfam*) study, which was initiated to provide an extended empirical basis for advances in family research. Within the context of challenges in couples and family research, we address the major substantive fields covered by the *pairfam* panel: couple dynamics and partnership stability, childbearing, parenting and child development, and intergenerational relationships. Then we present the conceptual framework and survey design of *pairfam*. The panel started with about 4,000 respondents (anchors) in each of three birth cohorts: 1991-1993, 1981-1983, and 1971-1973. The panel also includes anchors' partners. From the second wave onwards parents and children of anchors are included. The policy of *pairfam* with regard to the provision of scientific use files and data distribution are discussed in the concluding remarks.

Key words: children, couples, family research, Germany, panel study, pairfam, parenting, partnership

Zusammenfassung:
Dieser Beitrag stellt das deutsche Beziehungs- und Familienpanel (*pairfam*) vor, das eine empirische Basis für Fortschritte in der Beziehungs- und Familienforschung bieten soll. Vor dem Hintergrund zentraler Herausforderungen in der Partnerschafts- und Familienforschung werden Themenschwerpunkte, der konzeptuelle Rahmen und das Design des *pairfam*-Projekts vorgestellt. Inhaltlich fokussiert werden Fragen der Aufnahme, Gestaltung und Beendigung von Partnerschaftsbeziehungen, Elternschaftsentscheidungen bei Familiengründung und -erweiterung, Erziehung und Eltern-Kind-Beziehungen sowie Intergenerationenbeziehungen. Befragungsteilnehmer waren in der ersten Erhebungswelle je rund 4.000 Jugendliche (geboren 1991-93), junge Erwachsene (geboren 1981-83) und Erwachsene im mittleren Lebensalter (geboren 1971-73) sowie nach Möglichkeit auch deren Partner/in. Ab der zweiten Erhebungswelle werden auch Eltern und Kinder einbezogen. Am Ende der Beiträge werden einige Angaben zur Distribution der Daten als *scientific use file* gemacht.

Schlagwörter: Erziehung, Familienforschung, Deutschland, Kinder, Paarbeziehungen, Panelstudie, pairfam, Partnerschaft

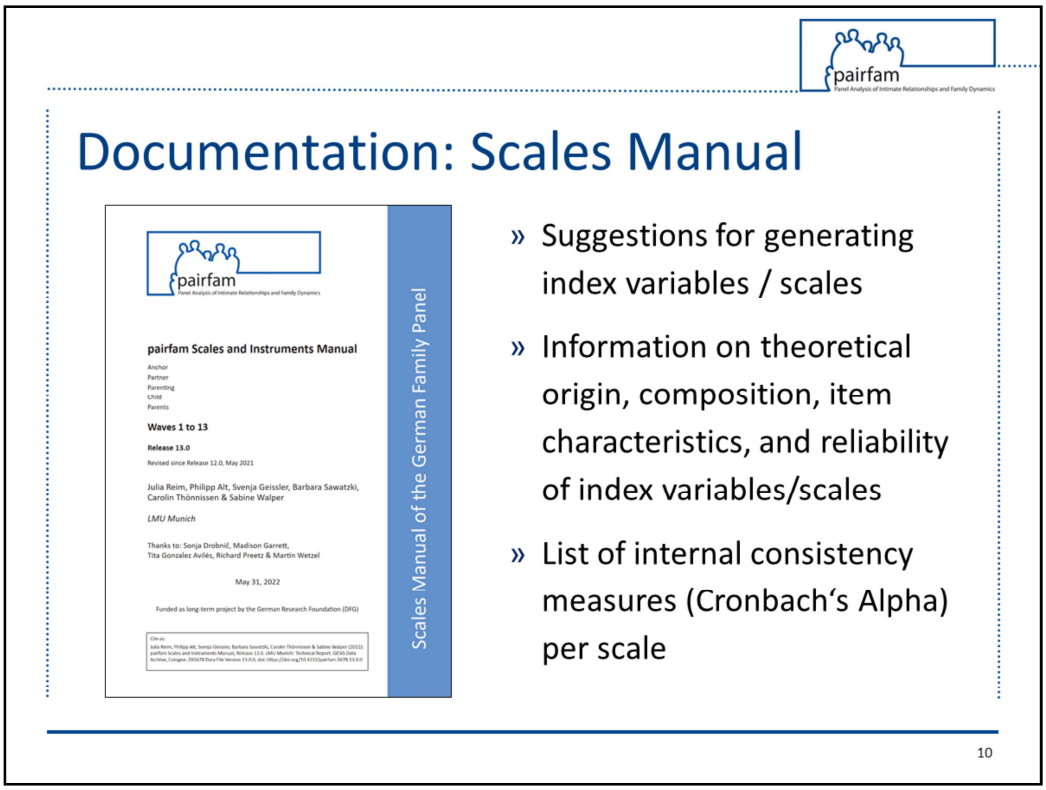
Zeitschrift für Familienforschung, 23. Jahrg., 2011, Heft 1 – Journal of Family Research

- *Huinink et al.* (2011). Zeitschrift für Familienforschung
- Methodological principles
- Theoretical foundation
- Reference for citations

9

The reference paper includes the methodological principles and theoretical foundation of the *pairfam* study.

Please note that this paper should be cited in addition to the data set if you publish your analysis of the *pairfam* data.



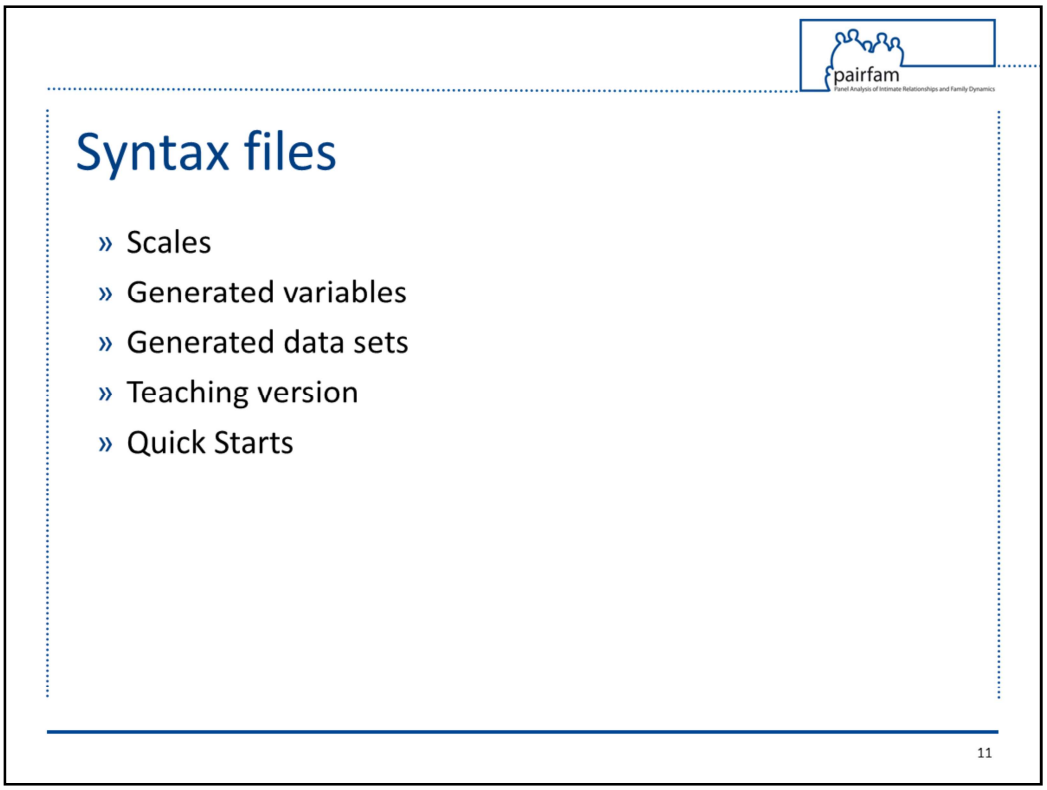
What is included in the Scales and Instruments Manual?

The Scales and Instruments Manual contains suggestions for generating index variables and scales.

It gives information on the theoretical origin, composition, item characteristics, and reliability of index variables and scales.

Furthermore, it lists Cronbach’s Alpha of each scale and offers an extensive bibliography of the different concepts.

The scales are not included in the data; however, syntax files are provided for Stata and SPSS in the Scientific Use File for easy (re-)construction.

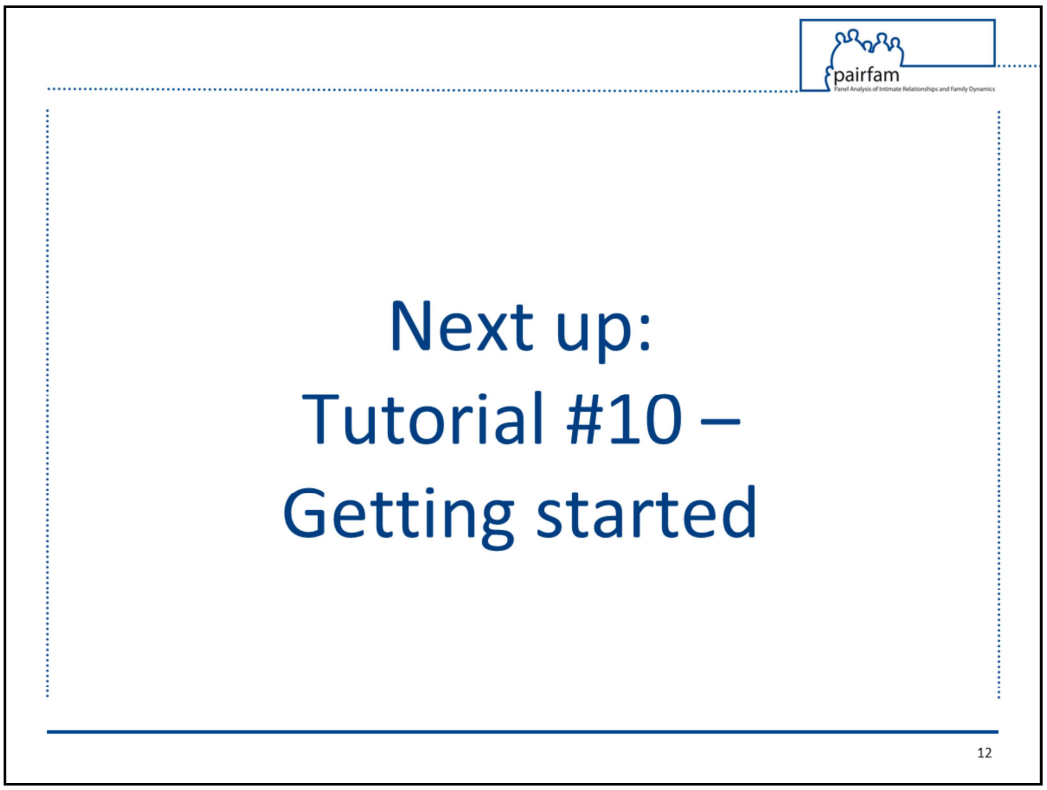


Are there more syntax files available?

In addition to the scales syntax files, we also provide syntax for the generated variables and data sets, as well as files with which you can create a teaching version of the *pairfam* data.

Note that the teaching version can be distributed to your students with the appropriate distribution form.

Furthermore, six Quick Start files are available for Stata users to facilitate the handling of the *pairfam* data. These include suggestions for cross-sectional, longitudinal, and dyadic data matching procedures, constructing samples and weighting, handling missing data, exercising fixed effects panel analysis, and for working with the generated dataset *biopart*.



This concludes the ninth tutorial.

Tutorial number 10 will help you get started with your analysis of the *pairfam* data.