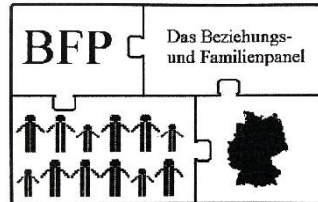




14 years pairfam

A Story of Success

Johannes Huinink und Josef Brüderl



Outline



One Insight – Two Initiatives

The Launch Pad

The 14 Years Flight

Impressions

Achievements

Acknowledgements

One Insight - Two Initiatives



One insight

from analysing couple's and family dynamics and the life course

Analysing individual behaviour and decision-making over the life-course and testing corresponding hypotheses needs (at least nearly) on time information.

We needed prospective panel data!

(Retrospective data are insufficient)

One Insight - Two Initiatives



Two Initiatives

In 2001 two separate initiatives to conduct

- a panel survey on **intimate relationships** (Mannheim)
- an interdisciplinary panel survey on **family dynamics** including intergenerational relationships (Chemnitz/Rostock)

Wise (Rational) Decisions

Merging the initiatives

A joint panel study of intimate relationships and family dynamics

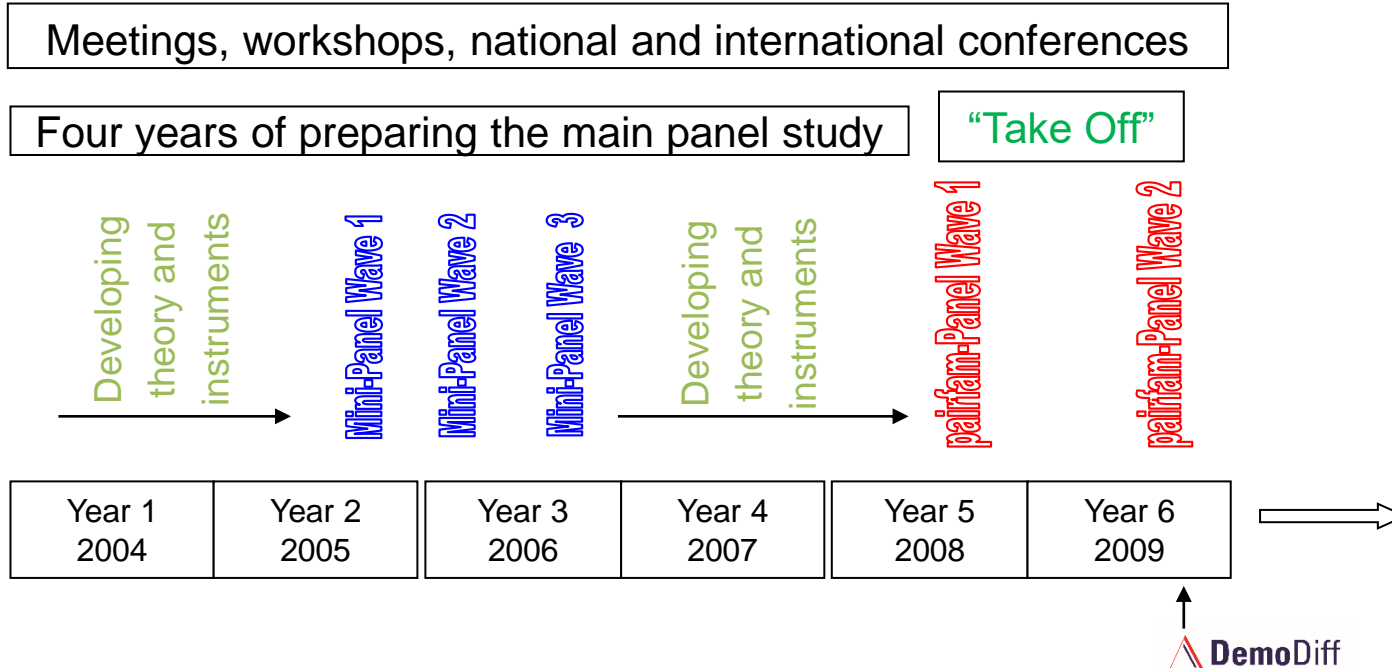
DFG Priority Program (SPP 1161)

- Interdisciplinary SPP approved by the DFG
- 16 research projects in sociology, psychology, economics accepted to participate, 5 research projects co-opted
- Project work started in April 2004

The Launch Pad



Structure of the SPP 1161



The 14 Years Flight



pairfam start in 2008

Division of work among universities

Bremen: co-ordination, **parenthood and fertility**

Chemnitz: **intergenerational relationships, integration**

Mannheim: **social embeddedness, methods/data management**

Munich: **intimate relationships, parenting/child development**

Field work by the survey-institute **Infratest/Kantar**

The 14 Years Flight



Sample

Cohort design:

“anchor”: cohorts 1971-73, 1981-83, 1991-93

Multi-actor design:

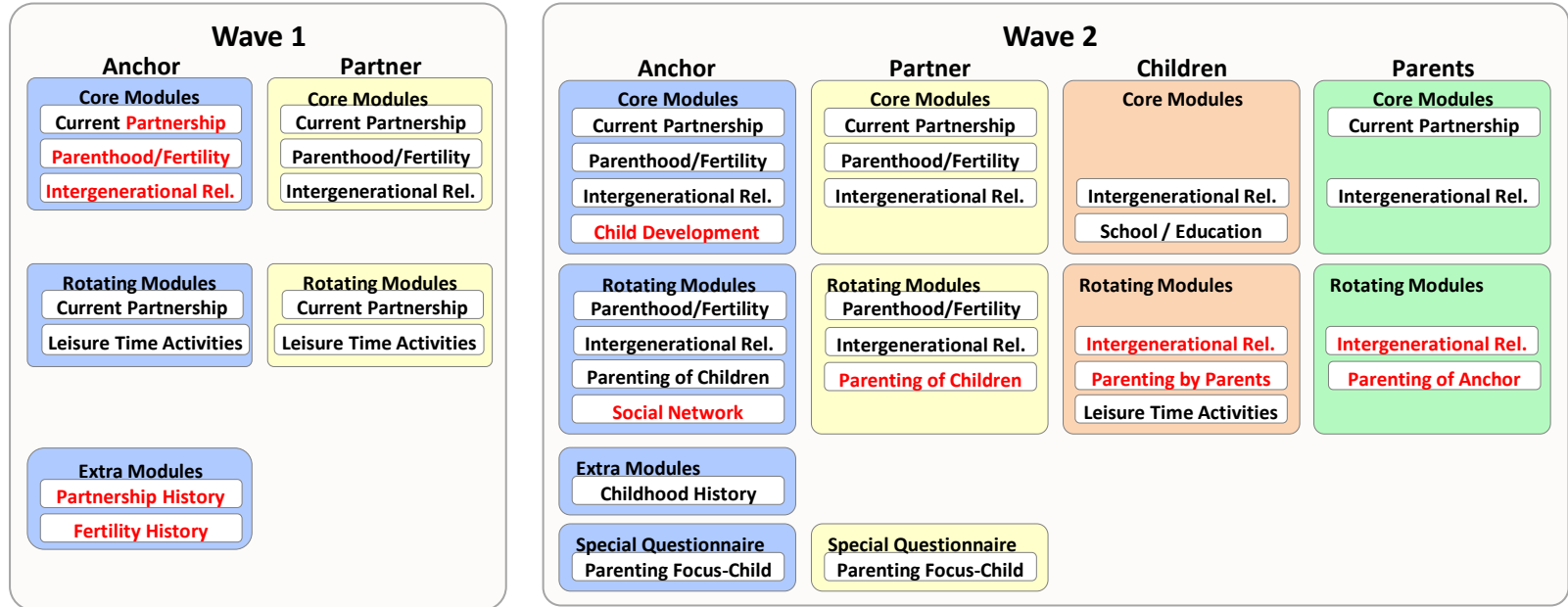
- + partner (irrespective of institutionalization)
- + 8-15 year old children (later grow into the panel as „step-ups“)
- + (step)parents (waves, discontinued after wave 8)

12,402 nationwide randomly sampled respondents in wave 1

The 14 Years Flight



Survey Program of Wave 1 and 2



+ rich information on life history, socio-demographic status and mobility, personality traits, values, health, mental state, wellbeing etc.

pairfam events – first times

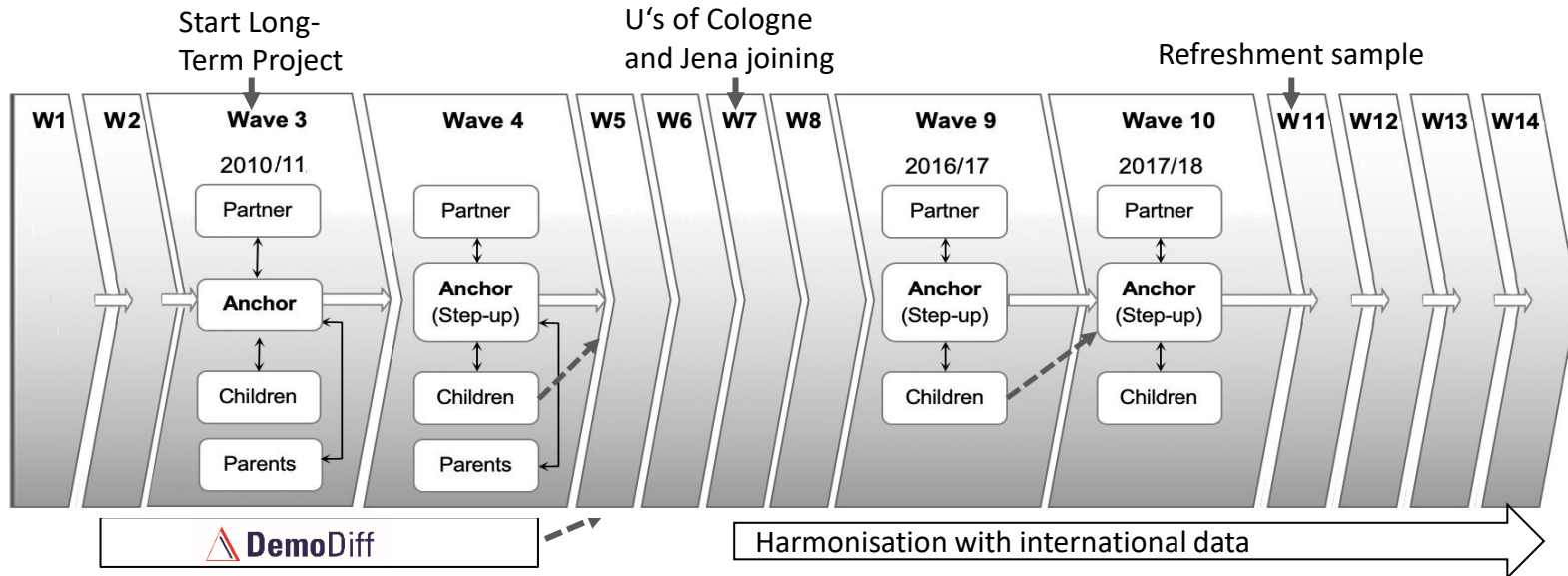
- Contract between the universities and Infratest in July 2008
- Meeting of the Advisory Board in July 2009
- pairfam newsletter in 2009
- User conference in October 2009
- Contract of cooperation between cooperating universities in Jan 2010
- Release of the scientific use file in February 2010
 - prepared and documented according to highest standards
 - by self-administered distribution yet (by GESIS since 2012)
- International conference “Intergenerational relations” in Sept 2010

The 14 Years Flight



pairfam as "Long-Term Project" of the DFG

Countless project meetings, annual international conferences, biannual Advisory Board meetings



pairfam showed...

- **interuniversity large-scale research** is possible in the social sciences and the administrations of universities can go along with it.
- **interdisciplinary large-scale research** is possible among disciplines studying human life courses – and it is urgently needed
- **trustworthy and flexible cooperation** with the commercial survey institute Infratest/Kantar

Beyond the formal

The successful cooperation in pairfam mostly worked in **pleasant communication** – but yes, there were also exciting and physically as well as emotionally exhausting fights from the beginning.

In the end all the egos participating in pairfam were committed to the common goal and always reached compromises without hurting each other (too much).

Excitements (samples)

In the beginning: the question of including psychology or not

In early 2008: the question of the spacing of panel waves (annually or not) in an unforgettable, extremely exciting meeting in the library of the DFG with the review panel and representatives of the DFG

All the time: the question of which questions deserve to be included in the questionnaire. This sometimes lead to kind of critical moments. However, tolerance or insight always won

Scientific outcome

Theory building and testing in family and life course research

- particularly for the interplay between inner-individual processes and behaviour and between life domains

Methodological contributions to panel-analytic research

- in survey design as well as data analysis

Promoting scientific careers

Outreach

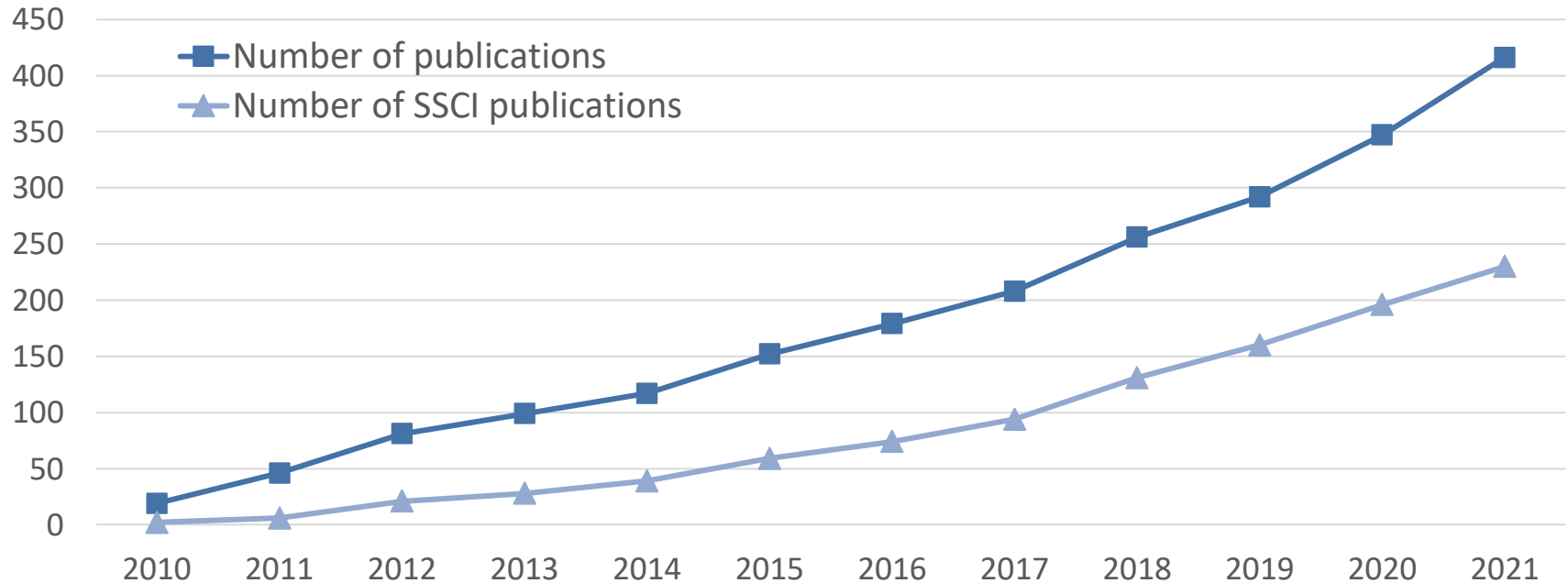
High international visibility and recognition due to

- the successful international publication strategy
- the first class edited and documented scientific use files
- the annual international conferences and workshops
- the presence on all important international conferences

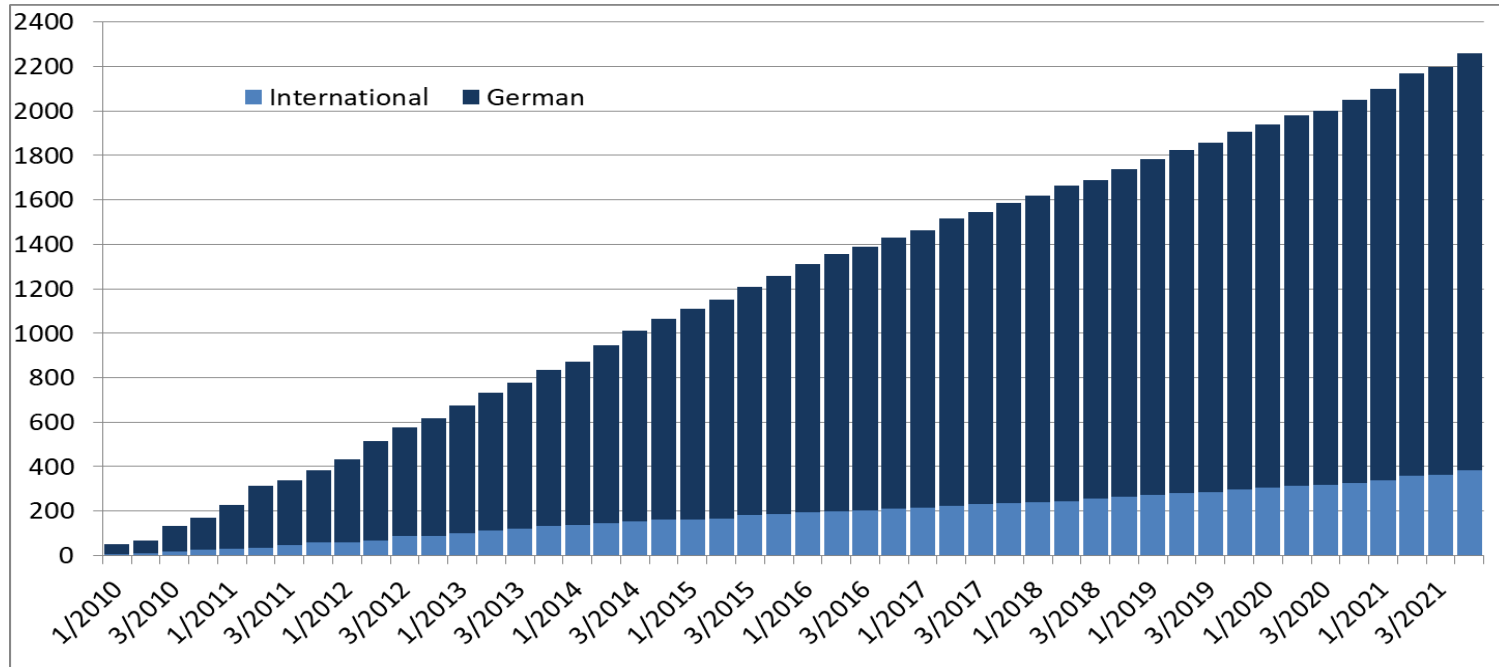
High-quality information on family change in East and West Germany for the public

Appearance in public media and **public debates** on family dynamics and social change

Outreach: Publications with pairfam data



Outreach: Data users



Outreach: Public media



+

APuZ, Brigitte, DIF, Die Welt, MGR, Psychologie heute, Spektrum, Stern, SZ, TAZ, Washington Post, Zeit Wissen and many more



Many expectations fulfilled

Some desirable features could not be implemented or realized
(flexible interviewing schedules, including biomarkers, “smart” survey instruments, and experiments; valid collection of longitudinal data on social networks; better covering the grandparent’s generation)

But: the unique richness of the pairfam data will allow for many further studies contributing to a better understanding of individual and family development.

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- the members of the **Scientific Advisory Board** for their great support

- the survey institute **Infratest / Kantar** for the trustful cooperation
- **GESIS** as the distributor of the data
- the **German Data Forum** approving pairfam as a research data centre

- all **national and international users** of the data and other professional supporters

- the national and international **public media**

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