

December 2013

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Dear colleagues,

Dear users of German Family Panel data,

The official year of demography is drawing to a close. In addition to our participation in several events of the [Science Year 2013](#), a fair amount has happened inside the pairfam project during the past 12 months.

Last May the field phase of the fifth wave of the German Family Panel was completed successfully. Data preparation has been proceeding well since June. The extensively documented scientific use file with all five waves is expected to be available through GESIS in June of 2014. For the first time, the questionnaire program contains details regarding religiosity (in particular the importance of God in life), addictive behavior, and supplements within the age-specific child modules. The major innovation of the wave is the new sibling module. This includes socio-demographic variables, information on the frequency of contact, emotional closeness and intimacy, and conflicts with all biological, half-, step-, or adopted siblings. The sixth wave of pairfam went into the field phase in October, where the revised network module will be of special interest.

Release 4.0 Now Available

The fully screened and documented data of the first four survey waves of the German Family Panel have been available as release 4.0 since June of 2013. The fourth wave comprises data from 6,999 annually interviewed anchor respondents of the three birth cohorts plus 2,182 partners, 3,350 parents, and 1,084 children. In addition to the annual core modules, supplementary questions about second residence, support payments, further employment relationships, planned pregnancies, and personality (self-regulation, fear/worries, and overstress) were added. [Codebooks](#) and [overview documents](#) provide detailed information on the instruments used. Similar to previous waves the pairfam team offers a wide range of generated variables and data sets for biographical events.

Mistakes in data preparation cannot be avoided completely. For this reason we provide a [bug-fix](#) for release 4.0 on our homepage. By running the do-file for the data sets *parenting2*, *parent2*, *child3*, and *parenting4*, the Alteri-ID is adjusted for some cases. In the course of consistency

checks, these corrections proved necessary. The central anchor ID is unaffected by the bug-fix. Furthermore, one case of *parenting4* was removed due to a lack of plausibility.

Release 3.1 of the additional study [DemoDiff](#) has been available since November, 2013. The intermediate release primarily contains minor corrections such as label revisions, coding of missings, and harmonization with pairfam. To order the scientific use file together with the pairfam data, send the [application form](#) to the [user service](#). The data may only be used for scientific purposes in a specified research project by the person(s) indicated on the application form. The transfer of data to a third party is permitted only if the persons are (a) working in the same project or (b) students who use the data for a student research project or final thesis. Pairfam [user support](#) must be informed of any internal data distribution. For doing so, please use the box "other users in the project" in the application form or the appropriate [distribution form](#) available on the pairfam homepage. For data protection and for updating our user database we kindly ask you to use the [distribution form](#) to register **everyone** as a data user who has access to the data, including student and research assistants.

pairfam User Conference in Munich

The third pairfam user conference took place on October 9th and 10th in the new town hall of Munich. Researchers from various disciplines had the opportunity to present work based on pairfam data to a professional audience of more than 60 national and international researchers at this thematically diverse event.

pairfam Awards

At the end of this year's user conference in Munich the [pairfam Awards](#) were bestowed for the first time. The prize money of €1000 was sponsored by TNS Infratest Sozialforschung and was split between two categories. **Gerrit Bauer**

(LMU Munich) and **Thorsten Kneip** (Max Plank Institute for Social Law and Social Policy, MEA) won the *Best Publication Award* for their article, "Fertility From a Couple Perspective: A Test of Competing Decision Rules on Proceptive Behaviour" (European Sociological Review). Winner of the *Best Presentation Award* was **Yvonne Lott** (Institute of Economic and Social Research, WSI) with her talk on "Childbirth and changes in the distribution of resources and housework: Is couples' power allocation affected?".



pairfam Awards (Photo from left: Gerrit Bauer, Thorsten Kneip, Ulrich Schneekloth (TNS infratest), and Yvonne Lott)

pairfam at Conferences

This year, the project was again represented at numerous national and international conferences. Here is a selection of conferences where concrete analytical results as well as the project itself were presented:

Bernhard Nauck and Daniel Fuß, *108th Conference of the American Sociological Association (ASA)*. New York, USA. August 10-13.

Bernhard Nauck and Johannes Huinink, *27th International Population Conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)*. Busan, Korea. August 26-31.



ASA Conference in New York (Photo from left: Markus Berger, Bernhard Nauck, Jürgen Schupp, Gert G. Wagner, Jutta von Maurice, Martin Diewald, and Daniel Fuß)

Josef Brüderl, Nina Schumann, Bernadette Huyer-May, and Laura Castiglioni, *15th Biennial EARLI Conference for Research on Learning and Instruction*. Munich, Germany. August 27-31.

Sabine Walper, Carolin Thönnissen, and Barbara Wilhelm, *21st Conference of the Section Developmental Psychology of the German Psychological Society*. Saarbrücken, Germany. September 9-11.

Daniel Fuß and Sabine Keller, *datalab-Workshop*. Bielefeld, Germany. September 23-27.

Bernhard Nauck and Sabine Keller, *75th Annual Conference of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)*. San Antonio, USA. November 6-9.

datalab Workshop 2013

During the one-week datalab workshop in Bielefeld in September 23-27, 2013, participants reviewed basic information about the design, structure, and analytic potential of different longitudinal studies. They also had the opportunity to gather some experience in the intensive use of complex datasets through practical computer exercises. Presentations and related exercises provided practical insights into statistical techniques of panel regression, dyadic analysis, and structural equation modeling to about 70 participants. The annual workshop is intended to introduce PhD students and young researchers to the use of longitudinal studies such as the German Family Panel pairfam, the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), and Linked Employer-Employee datasets (Mannheim Innovation Panel, data sets of IfO Institute and SOEP-LEE).

MS Wissenschaft

Every summer since 2003, the initiative [Wissenschaft im Dialog](#) (“Science in Dialogue”) under the auspices of the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research has sent the exhibition ship *MS Wissenschaft* (*Marine Vessel Science*) on a voyage to river port towns of Germany and Austria.

In 2013 the interactive exhibition was themed “All Generations on the Same Boat” and focused on prolonged longevity, population decline, and increased demographic diversity. In its 600 m² exhibition area, visitors were encouraged to reflect on how we can use these developments as an opportunity for positive change and what research organizations are doing towards it. In an event called “Dialogue on Deck,” experts and visitors were given a chance to converse.



pairfam exhibit at the MS Wissenschaft (Photo: Sabine Keller)

The German Family Panel pairfam participated in this project, presenting results based on the panel data and providing insight into the living condition of families and couples in Germany. After the *MS Wissenschaft* ends its voyage, parts of the exhibition on [demographic change](#) can be visited in the [Haus der Wissenschaft](#) (“House of Science”) in Bremen from November 1, 2013 until January 31, 2014.

Publications

Because bibliographic references demonstrate the scientific value of our study, the correct referencing of pairfam data is very important for the project and for the scientific community. Therefore, we kindly request you to follow the [citation rules](#) published on our website. Please inform the pairfam [user service](#) of any publications based on data from the German Family Panel. In this way, you help us keep the German Family Panel [publication list](#) up-to-date. Importantly, only those publications of which we are aware have a chance to be nominated for the [pairfam Awards](#).

Here is a selection of articles based on pairfam data published in 2013:

- Arránz Becker, Oliver, Veronika Salzburger, Nadia Lois, and Bernhard Nauck. 2013. “What Narrows the Stepgap? Closeness Between Parents and Adult (Step)children in Germany.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 75: 1130-1148. (5)

- Brüderl, Josef, Bernadette Huyer-May, and Claudia Schmiedeberg. 2013. "Interviewer Behavior and the Quality of Social Network Data." In *Interviewers' Deviations in Surveys. Impact, Reasons, Detection and Prevention*, Eds. Peter Winker, Rolf Porst, and Natalja Menold, pp. 147-160. Frankfurt: Peter Lang.
- Pollmann-Schult, Matthias. 2013. „Elternschaft und Lebenszufriedenheit in Deutschland.“ *Comparative Population Studies – Zeitschrift für Bevölkerungswissenschaft* 38: 59-84.
- Schmiedeberg, Claudia and Jette Schröder. 2013. "Does Weather Really Influence the Measurement of Life Satisfaction?" *Social Indicators Research*, doi: 10.1007/s11205-013-0350-7.

**Please keep us informed about your publications based on German Family Panel data.
Thank you very much!**

User Survey 2013

Last February, we invited our users to take part at the first pairfam user survey. The survey provided an opportunity to obtain feedback on our work. A total of forty users, mainly research assistants from German universities, participated in the user survey 2013. Twenty PhD students, ten postdocs, eight master students, one professor of sociology and one bachelor student made use of this opportunity. At least one participant was from abroad.

Some of the results:

- A question about the researcher's subject area permitted multiple answers. Thirty-five respondents work in the social sciences/sociology. The fields of demography and statistics were named 19 times. Seven users work in the fields of psychology, economics, or politics.
- The majority of respondents use cross-sectional data, longitudinal data and/or multi-actor data for their analyses. Context data is used least frequently.
- Three-fourths of respondents use Stata to analyze pairfam data. Only fifteen users prefer SPSS, whereas four respondents use R or SAS. Multiple answers were permitted.
- Survey participants were asked about problems while working with pairfam data:
 - The most serious problem was low case numbers: Sixteen of forty users experienced this kind of difficulty, and fourteen had to abandon their analyses because of it.
 - Most respondents experienced no or only minor problems.
 - The majority of respondents stated that they were pleased with data access (87 %), data quality (75 %), data documentation (71 %), and the user service (70%). Participants were also asked about their overall satisfaction with pairfam, and 84 % of the respondents expressed that they were satisfied or very satisfied.

We would like to thank all those who participated in our survey and who gave us valuable ideas for improving our work and service. If you have any further advice, need, or question about the project, please do not hesitate to contact our [user service](#).

Finally, there have been some personnel changes in the pairfam team. We welcome [Simone Braun](#) and [Philipp Schütze](#) in the survey methodology team at LMU Munich as well as [Christina Gschwendtner](#) (LMU Munich, focus on intimate relationships). In 2013, we saw the departure of Franziska Schmahl (LMU Munich, focus on partnerships), Ulrike Müller (LMU Munich, focus on methodology), and Antje Schimmel (TU Chemnitz, focus on intergenerational relationships). Also, Daniel Fuß (TU Chemnitz, administrative coordination, formerly user service) left the project for other responsibilities. [Laura Castiglioni](#), [Claudia Schmiedeberg](#) (both LMU Munich) and the [user service](#) have taken over his tasks. We wish our colleagues all the best for their professional and personal future.

The pairfam team wishes you a Merry Christmas and a successful New Year.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the pairfam team,

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