pairfam

Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics

December 2014

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Dear Colleagues,

Dear pairfam Users,

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

The most current pairfam scientific use file (Release 5.0), covering waves one through five, was released in July of this year, and we are pleased that it has been ordered by more than 200 users already. Field work for the sixth pairfam survey wave was recently completed, and the pairfam team is currently very busy preparing the data it generated for release.

The sixth wave brings several innovations. Anchor data will be augmented by a new network module and by questions, posed for the first time, about critical life events. The sixth wave also includes for the first time data collected from anchor persons' children who turned 16 years old after the fourth wave and thus "grew into" the anchor sample.

Field work for the seventh survey wave is currently underway, and already more than 3,000 interviews have been conducted. Parallel to this, the work of preparing the item battery for the eighth survey wave has begun.

Call for Papers: International pairfam User Conference in Jena

On the 7th and 8th of May, 2015, the German Family Panel (pairfam) will host its fourth international user conference at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena. The conference gives scientists from around the world the chance to present findings to a diverse, international audience of professional colleagues. We invite researchers to discuss work based on pairfam data from any discipline and on any topic.

We will continue the tradition of the pairfam Awards with the support of TNS Infrastructure Sozialforschung. The best paper presented during the conference, selected by a jury, will be honored with a 400 € prize to its author or authors. Also, a scientific paper based on pairfam data, published during the two years leading up to the conference, will be chosen for the "Best Publication Award."

The deadline for submitting conference abstracts is January 12, 2015. Please send your one-page abstract to support@pairfam.de. Additional information is contained in the Call for Papers. We are looking forward to seeing you in Jena!

Recent Events

International pairfam Conference, September 25th-26th, 2014 in Cologne

Over 80 researchers met in September for the fourth international pairfam conference at GESIS in Cologne. Under the motto, "'Linked' Life Course Transitions and Family Outcomes," the conference focused on linkages in family life. The wide-ranging program contained papers on fertility intentions and decisions, multiple aspects of partnerships including their establishment and development, and intergenerational relations. Also included were international comparisons of mobility and family and two papers on attachment. Seven additional research projects were presented in posters.

In keynote speeches, Jennifer Barber reported on the results of her project, "Romantic Relationships, Pregnancy Desires, and Unintended Pregnancy" and Francesco Billari discussed international comparisons of the transition to adulthood. True to the interdisciplinary culture of pairfam, sociology and psychology research that drew on national and international datasets was reviewed.

User Workshop, December 4th-5th, 2014 in Mannheim

The workshop "Meet the Data: The German Family Panel (pairfam)" took place this December as part of the broader GESIS Workshops program in Mannheim. In the course, Dr. Claudia Schmiedeberg, Nina Schumann and Philipp Schütze provided an overview of available pairfam datasets, explaining their structure and demonstrating their application with practical examples. The focus of the course was data management including the concatenation of datasets for cross-sectional and time-series analyses and the use of generated variables and generated datasets. Time-series analysis procedures for panel and event data were used to answer exemplary research questions, and sufficient time was given to the discussion of participants' questions about pairfam data and their use. Participants included doctoral candidates, post-docs, and students.

Updated "Quick Start" Syntax Files Now Online

New Stata syntax files, updated on the basis of Release 5.0, may now be downloaded from the Documentation section of the pairfam homepage. These files make it easy to begin analysis of pairfam data. Among its tools are strategies for combining different data subsets for multi-actor

research designs and for time-series analyses ("Quick Start Matching.do"). The do-file "Quick Start Sample Definition & Weighting.do" shows how to appropriately define a sample for analysis and also lists the available weights for the pairfam anchor sample. Further, the use of a fixed-effects time-series model is demonstrated with "Quick Start Panel Analysis FE.do". The preparatory steps necessary for an event analysis employing the "biopart" dataset are shown in the "Quick Start Biopart EHA.do" file. These Stata syntaxes provide well-tested solutions to typical problems involved in the preparation and analysis of pairfam data, customizable to fit users' specific needs.

Personnel Changes in the pairfam Team and User Support

The pairfam team welcomes its new member, Philipp Alt, who began work in the area of child development with Prof. Sabine Walper at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich in July of 2014. Elisabeth Schubach of Jena joined the team in August, temporarily taking over the duties of Dr. Christine Finn, who is on family leave.

Dr. Eva-Verena Wendt (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich) left the pairfam project in October, and Stefan Fiedrich (also LMU Munich) will be departing at the end of 2014. To both colleagues, whose productive collaboration enriched the pairfam project over many years, we extend our deepest gratitude and best wishes for the future.

Two members of the pairfam team successfully completed their dissertations in sociology this year: Dr. Nadia Lois (TU Chemnitz) did research on "living apart together" relationships. Veronika Salzburger (University of Cologne) focused on the birth of the first grandchild and its consequences for intergenerational relations. Congratulations to both colleagues!

In the new year, the pairfam user service will be coordinated by Kristin Hajek (LMU Munich). She is taking over temporarily for Nina Schumann, who is going on parental leave, and stands ready to help on all questions regarding the pairfam project and its data.

Recent Publications Based on pairfam Data

Dechant, Anna, Harald Rost, and Florian Schulz. 2014. Changes in the division of housework among couples. An overview of longitudinal research studies and new empirical findings based on data from the German Family Panel pairfam. *Zeitschrift für Familienforschung - Journal of Family Research* 26: 144-168

Krapf, Sandra. 2014. *Public Childcare Provision and Fertility Behavior - A comparison of Germany and Sweden.* Opladen: Budrich Uni Press.

Maeder, Miriam. 2014. Earnings-related parental leave benefits and subjective well-being of young mothers: evidence from a German parental leave reform. *BGPE Discussion Paper* 148

Salzburger, Veronika. 2015. *Die Geburt des ersten Enkelkindes. Zur Adaption von Generationenbeziehungen.* Wiesbaden: Springer VS.

Stein, Petra, Sebastian Willen, and Monika Pavetic. 2014. Couples' fertility decision-making. *Demographic Research* 30: 1697-1732.

Wendt, Eva-Verena and Sabine Walper. 2014. Verhütungsverhalten Jugendlicher in Deutschland. Aktuelle Zahlen und Risikogruppen. *Zeitschrift für Gesundheitspsychologie* 14: 142-150.

On the pairfam website, we endeavor to maintain a current and complete bibliography of all publications of work using German Family Panel data. We rely on your help for this. Please inform the user service of any relevant publications and student theses. Also, we 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 service.

The pairfam team wishes you happy holidays and a good start in the new year.

Yours sincerely, in the name of the entire pairfam team,

Nina Schumann

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