



UNIVERSITÄT
DUISBURG
ESSEN

Open-Minded

***50 Years of the Cologne High School Panel
(CHiSP: 1969, 1985, 1997, 2010, 2019 – from age
15 to age 65)***

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- The data of the Cologne High School Panel (CHiSP)
- Nonresponse / attrition
- Bias?

Initial Survey 1969: Structure Analysis of German High Schools (,Gymnasium')

Students (age 16)

Survey within classes, n = 3240 students,
121 classes, 68 high schools
(Gymnasium) in North Rhine-
Westphalia.

Questions: achievements, interests,
aspirations and life plans, family,
relationship to parents, attitudes,
activities,
sociometric inventory.

Additional: Intelligence-Structure-Test
(4 subscales of Amthauer's IST)

Parents

n = 2646

SES, formal
education,
style of raising
children,
aspirations for
children,
attitudes.

Teachers

n = 2680

pedagogical
principles,
socio-demographic
characteristics,
evaluation of
students' abilities

Directors

n=68

school
characteristics and
regional contexts

Principal investigators: Hans-Joachim Hummell, Michael Klein, Maria Wieken-Mayser, Rolf Ziegler
(University of Cologne, Research Institute for Sociology),

Data available at GESIS Data Archive: ZA600, ZA0942, ZA0639, ZA640, ZA0996

Four follow-ups: 1985, 1997, 2010, 2019

Age 30 (1985)

n=1987 (61.3%)

Face-to-Face (Field Work: GETAS)

Transition from youth to adulthood.

Retrospective survey of life courses:

detailed inventory educational and occupational career,
inventory of family foundation process:
partner, children.

Additional questions concerning:

biographical self-definition,
centrality of life spheres,
goals and contentment,
attitudes (e.g. politics, religion)

Hans-Joachim Hummell, Heiner Meulemann, Maria Wieken-Mayser, Rolf Ziegler and Wilhelm Wiese
Data: ZA1441

Age 43 (1997)

n=1596 (49.3%)

CATI (Field Work: Students at the CATI-Lab of
University of Cologne)

Identity maintenance during adulthood.

Life courses:

Continuation of occupational career and
private life course from 1985.

Additional questions concerning:

Social self-identification, coping strategies,
attitudes: replication of most questions from
first follow-up at age 30.

Heiner Meulemann, Klaus Birkelbach, Otto Hellwig, Werner Hemsing
Data: ZA4228 (cumulative data set)

Four follow-ups: 1985, 1997, 2010, 2019

Age 56 (2010)

n= 1301 (40.2%)

CATI (Field Work: Students at the CATI-Lab of the ISS,
University of Cologne)

Prospective aging study.

Life courses:

Continuation of occupational career and private life
course;

planning for retirement, empty nest and old age;

Additional questions concerning:

Social self-identification, health, financial situation,
leisure activities, volunteer work,

attitudes: replication of most questions from former
follow-ups.

University of Essen: Klaus Birkelbach, Christiane Reinelt (v.d.Kuil), Anne Weber;

University of Cologne: Heiner Meulemann, Sebastian Neumeyer, Barbara Wawrzyniak)

Data: ZA5658 (cumulative data set)

Age 65 (2019/20)

n= 1013 (31,3%)

CATI (Field Work: Students at the CATI-Lab of the
ISS, University of Cologne)

Transition to retirement.

Life courses:

Continuation of occupational career and private life
course, **pathways into retirement;**

Additional questions concerning: Social self-
identification, health, financial situation, leisure
activities, volunteer work, vocational continuities,

realization of plans for retirement,

attitudes: replication of most questions.

Asking for a photograph age 18

University of Cologne: Heiner Meulemann, Veronika Witt;

University of Essen: Klaus Birkelbach, Christian Sondergeld.

Cumulative data set will be available in 2022 at the GESIS Data Archive

Year	1969/70 (Initial Survey)	1984/5	1997	2010	2020
Age	15/16 Youth	30 Early midlife	43 Midlife	56 Late midlife	66 Old age
Sample size n	3.240 students	1.989 (61,3%)	1.596 (49,3%)	1.301 (40,2%)	1.013 (31,3%)
Method	PAPI within classes	PAPI	CATI	CATI	CATI
Occupation	Social background Plan for the future Intelligence Structure Test School grades	Social background Educ./occup. life course	As 1984/5	As 1984/5	As 1984/5
Family		Private life course Partner status	As 1984/5 As 1984/5	As 1984/5 As 1984/5	As 1984/5 As 1984/5
Success		Biog. self definition Biog. self reflection Causal attribution School satisfaction Life satisfaction	Soc. Selftident. As 1984/5 As 1984/5 As 1984/5 As 1984/5	As 1997 As 1984/5 As 1984/5 As 1984/5 As 1984/5	As 1997 As 1984/5 As 1984/5 As 1984/5 As 1984/5
			Coping strategies	As 1997	As 1997
World view		Family	As 1984/5	As 1984/5	As 1984/5
		Politics	As 1984/5	As 1984/5	As 1984/5
		Religion	As 1984/5	As 1984/5	As 1984/5
Retirement				Spare time	Spare time
				Volunteering	As 2010
				Plans for old age	Realization
					Renewed plannig
Life balancing					Life balancing

Panel attrition		n	1969	1985	1997	2010
1969	Initial Survey of students (age 16)	3240	100%			
	No address	241	7.4			
	No interview (different causes)	1012	31.2			
1985	Respondents (age 30)	1987	61.3	100%		
	Refusal address storage (1985)	142	4.4	7.1		
	Lost (technical reasons)	1	0.0	0.1		
	Deceased (n=26), unable to answer (n=4)	30	0.9	1.5		
	No address and /or telephone number	108	3,3	5,4		
	Passive refusal (no interview during fieldwork)	23	0.7	1.2		
	Active refusal	88	2.7	4.4		
1997	Respondents (age 43)	1595	49.2	80.3	100%	
	Refusal address storage (1997)	8	0.2	0.4	0.5	
	Deceased (n=43), ill: unable to answer (n=3)	46	1.4	2.4	2.9	
	No address and /or telephone number	85	2,6	4,3	5,3	
	Passive refusal (no interview during fieldwork)	63	1.9	3.2	4.0	
	Active refusal	92	2.8	4.6	5.8	
2010	Respondents (age 56)	1301	40.2	65.5	81.6	100%
	Refusal address storage	6	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
	Deceased (ill, unable to answer: not mentioned)	39	1,2	2,0	2,4	3,0
	No address and /or telephone number	86	2,7	4,3	5,4	6,6
	Passive refusal (no interview during fieldwork)	97	3,0	4,9	6,1	7,5
	Active refusal	60	1,9	3,0	3,8	4,6
2019	Respondents (age 66)	1013	31,3	51,0	63,5	77,9

Panel attrition 2019 (logistic regression)

Variables measured during last survey	Odds Ratio		
	2019	2010	1996
Biographical recollection (assessment by interviewer)			
global and occ. life course (1-5, xinter1)	1.139		
private life course (1-5, xinter2)	.889		
Biographical self-reflection (0-9, xinten)	1.025		***
Cooperation			
Count of item-nonresponse(60 vars, attitudes, 0-11)	1,253***	**	***
Cooperativeness attitude questions (ixinter3, interviewer, 1-5)	.805*		
Success			
Educational success (successfully finished university, 0-1)	.730	***	***
Last monthly income adjusted for inflation (100€, xeibln100)	.996		
Last occ. prestige (xmps10)	.988		
Lives with partner (0,1)	.978	**	
Having Children	.999	*	
Divorces (count,0-2)	1.493**	-	-
Subjective Health (1-5)	1.475***	-	-
Gender: Male (0,1)	1.466*		

Number of obs = 1281

Pseudo R2 (Nagelkerke) = .090

Bias through panel attrition? Variables from the initial survey 1969 (age 16) within the follow ups

At age 16:	1969 (n=3240) Mean	Confidence interval (95%)	1985 (n=1987) Mean	1997 (n=1595) Mean	2010 (n=1301) Mean	2020 (n=1013) Mean
Father's occ. prestige (SIOPS)	48.9	(48.4; 49.3)	48.5	48.5	48.6	48.8
Parent's social class (1-6)	3.6	(3.6; 3.7)	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
Study aspiration: sure (0/1)	.39	(.37; .41)	.39	.40	.40	.42
Intelligence (IST)	110.5	(110.1; 110.9)	111.1	111.4	111.6	112.0
Average grade class 10 (stand. within classes +5, lower values better)	5.0	(4.98; 5.02)	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9
Gender: male (0/1)	.47	(.45; .49)	.47	.46	.47	.48

Bias? Variables from the first follow up (1985)

	1985 (n=1987)		1997 (n=1595)	2010 (n=1301)	2020 (n=1013)
At age 30:	Mean	CI (95%)	Mean	Mean	Mean
Finished acad. study (0/1)	.57	(.55; .60)	.59	.61	.64
Occupational prestige (MPS)	92.6	(91.1; 94.1)	93.3	94.3	95.3
Income (month)	2210	(2157; 2262)	2205	2192	2220
Living with Partner (0/1)	.72	(.70; .74)	.73	.74	.75
Having Children (0/1)	.49	(.47; .51)	.50	.50	.51
Satisfaction: occupational (0-10)	6.8	(6. 7; 6.9)	6.8	6.8	6.9
Satisfaction: private (0-10)	7.9	(7.8;8.0)	7.9	8.0	8.0
Satisfaction: general (0-10)	7.5	(7.5; 7.6)	7.6	7.6	7.6
Success attribution: Diligence (0-5)	3.5	(3.4; 3.5)	3.4	3.4	3.5
Intensity of biog. self reflection (0-7)	1,4	(1,3;1,4)	1,4	1,4	1,4
Political interest (1-5)	2.5	(2.5; 2.6)	2.5	2.5	2.5
Postmaterialism (1-5)	4.4	(4.4; 4.5)	4.5	4.5	4.5
Meaning of Life: only myself (1-5)	1,7	(1.6; 1.7)	1.6	1.7	1.6

- Over the years we lost about 69 percent of the initial sample, which lead to a small success bias. This is particularly evident in some socially visible indicators of life course success. However, it is only visible as a weak tendency in variables that evaluate and interpret the biography.
- But: From the beginning we had a selective sample: At the end of the 1960s only 20 percent of the 15-years old visited a Gymnasium, among them only a minor proportion from lower social classes. Now the sample is just a little bit more selective.
- Not a big problem, because we are not very interested in (representative) means and percentages but in mechanisms, dynamics and developments at work during the life course.

Thank you for your attention!