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# Swiss Journal of Sociology

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## Social Science Research with Panel Data in Switzerland

Edited by Oliver Lipps, Robin Tillmann, Ursina Kuhn, Dean Lillard and  
Manfred Max Bergman

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- In the past few years there has often been mention of an increase in poverty and precarious living conditions in Switzerland. This article tests the hypothesis of such an impoverishment on the basis of longitudinal analyses from 1999 to 2007, carried out with data from the Swiss Household Panel, and using an index of relative deprivation as a measure of poverty. The results show that on the level of the general population no tendency towards impoverishment can be observed in the past few years. In contrast, an analysis of the individual transitions between high deprivation, precariousness and prosperity indicates that a significant portion of the Swiss population is confronted with persistent or recurring poverty.
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- 235 **Life-Cycle and Housework in Switzerland – Time Devoted to Housework by Men and Women through the Stages of Family Formation** [F] |Caroline Henchoz and Boris Wernli
- The longitudinal and cross-sectional analyses of the SHP data show that the increase in domestic work due to cohabitation, marriage, and especially parenthood is taken on by women, while the workload of men remains stable. Gender is thus a central explanatory factor. Furthermore, our results suggest that the great differences in the amount of time that women devote to housework is related to the fact that they do not mobilize their personal resources to negotiate a greater commitment of their partner, nor do they question

the traditional division of housework labor. They will rather make use of the possibilities at their disposal to diminish a workload which would otherwise be theirs.

Keywords: Longitudinal analysis, housework, life cycle, panel, gender

## 259 The Determinants of Sport Participation in Switzerland | [E] Karine Moschetti

This paper aims at investigating the socio-cultural factors that affect leisure-time sport participation in Switzerland. Data drawn from 8 waves of the Swiss Household Panel is used to evaluate a probit model with random effects, that takes into account the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of the respondents. In line with existing literature, findings from the multivariate analysis show inequalities in sport involvement in Switzerland. These are significantly related to age, income, education, citizenship and cultural aspects. Appropriate and targeted policies promoting participation in sports among the community can be found on the basis of the critical modifiers in the model and their impact.

Keywords: social stratification, sport participation, probit model with random effects, Swiss Household Panel

## 277 Training Itinerary and Biographical Lines | [F] Alexandre Pollien and Lorenzo Bonoli

This paper proposes an analysis of training courses and their connection to other biographical lines, by highlighting their evolution according to social origin and gender. The variable of having received a diploma does not fully explain the longitudinal characteristics of the courses: the social inequalities prove to be also inequalities from the point of view of the followed itinerary. The range of available trajectories as well as the possibility of deviating in order to fulfil a custom trajectory depends on the social characteristics. The training course is connected to other biographical lines, in particular the family and the profession.

Keywords: training careers, life course, biographical events, longitudinal analysis, social inequalities.

## 299 The Leaky Pipeline in the Swiss University System: Identifying Gender Barriers in Postgraduate Education and Networks Using Longitudinal Data | [E] Julia Leemann, Philipp Dubach and Stefan Boes

Recent empirical studies provide evidence in favour of an equalization of male and female educational chances on the Master's level. This paper tackles the question whether gender inequalities develop *after* the completion of a Master's degree while starting an academic career. Using individual data from the Swiss Higher Education Information System we find that over the last decades the doctoral and habilitation rates for women are nearly always lower than the rates for men. With panel data on doctoral graduates in 2002 (drawn from the Swiss Graduate Survey 2003 and 2007) we identify the poorer integration of female emerging researchers in international academic networks and the related differences in social capital as a major cause for gender specific drop-out rates.

Keywords: academic career, doctorate, network, integration, gender inequalities

## 325 School Beginning and Academic Achievement in Mid-Elementary School | [G] Marlis Buchmann and Irene Kriesi

This paper examines whether the the quality of the transition to school i.e. the successful adoption of the new role as a pupil affects academic achievement in mid-elementary school. From the theoretical perspective of the life course, the school start represents an

institutionalized status passage which confronts first graders with the task of fulfilling the institutionalized expectations regarding learning, working habits, and social behaviour. Analyses are based on the child cohort (six-year olds) of the Swiss Survey of Children and Youth (COCON). The findings show that a transition of a high quality has a net effect on academic achievement in mid-elementary school – even when the social background and the child’s competences are being controlled.

Keywords: transition, academic achievement, social background, competences, habitus

**345 How Answers on Political Attitudes are Shaped by Interviewers: Evidence from a Panel Survey | [E] Oliver Lipps and Georg Lutz**

We analyze whether the interviewers’ political opinions have an influence on those of the respondents. The research uses data from a panel survey in which interviewers are randomly assigned to respondents. The results show that the respondents express significantly similar opinions to those of the interviewers in all questions considered. Multilevel models show that more educated respondents are affected to a slightly higher extent and that the interviewer’s experience is also a factor. There is no difference between different respondent subgroups or when both interviewer and respondent share the same socio-demographic characteristics. While there is no evidence for respondents wanting to please the interviewers, the hypothesis of a socially desirable behavior can indeed be confirmed.

Keywords: interviewer effects, multi-level, random interviewer assignment, panel survey, political opinion

**359 Attrition Patterns in the Swiss Household Panel: an Analysis of Demographic Characteristics and Social Involvement | [E] Marieke Voorpostel**

This study investigates attrition in the Swiss Household Panel (SHP), focusing on demographic characteristics and social involvement. Respondents who were present in all waves were compared to drop-out respondents and to those with an irregular response pattern. Findings showed that loyal respondents were more likely to be female, older, married, better educated, and home owners. They also scored higher on social integration and were more satisfied with their health. Demographic characteristics and social integration were independently related to the response pattern, revealing a mild response bias. Re-entering respondents resembled those who dropped out, which helped to diminish the bias. Implications for use of the data are discussed.

Keywords: attrition, panel data, social involvement, nonresponse, panel re-entry

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