English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). SHARE’s great advantages for researchers are the cross-national design, the international embeddedness, the longitudinal character and the multidisciplinarity through various variables.

SOEP—The German Socio-Economic Panel

SOEP is an annually conducted survey of private households in Germany. It covers a wide range of social, behavioral and economic issues such as household composition, occupational biographies, employment, earnings, health as well as personality and satisfaction indicators. The panel was started in 1984 in West Germany and in 1990 in East Germany. Since then, more than 15,000 households with 30,000 adults have been surveyed every year.

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Prof. Dr. Jürgen Schupp
FUNDED BY: Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the State Governments
WEBSITE: www.diw.de/soep

TWINLIFE—Genetic and Social Causes of Life Chances

TWINLIFE is a long-term research program to examine the mechanisms shaping social inequalities over the life course by taking genetic as well as social effects and their interplay into account. Data collection began in 2014 with the survey of more than 4,000 pairs of twins between 5 and 23 years and their families. Important life transitions and developmental tasks (i.e. school enrollment, first romantic relationship, job entry) were captured within a cohort sequential design. TWINLIFE focuses on six areas of life: Education and academic performance, career and labor market attainment, integration and participation in social, cultural and political life, quality of life, physical and psychological health as well as behavioral issues and deviant behavior. The data will be available for the scientific community in summer 2016.

PROJECT COORDINATORS: Prof. Dr. Martin Diewald, Prof. Dr. Rainer Riemann, Prof. Dr. Frank Spinath
FUNDED BY: German Research Foundation (DFG)
WEBSITE: www.twin-life.de

PANEL DATA FROM GERMANY

31st International Congress of Psychology
July 24–29, 2016
Yokohama, Japan
Panel Data from Germany

NEPS, PAIRFAM, PIAAC-L, SHARE, SOEP, and TWiNLIFE are the six major large-scale longitudinal studies in German social sciences. They provide a unique data infrastructure on topics like inequality, ageing, living arrangements, and education. These ambitious projects are forming a new basis for innovative, cross-national, and interdisciplinary research as they all make their comprehensive data available to the scientific community worldwide.

NEPS—National Educational Panel Study

NEPS is a longitudinal survey centered on educational processes and individual competence development from early childhood until late adulthood in Germany. Among other issues, it captures educational decisions and returns to education in formal, nonformal, and informal contexts throughout people’s lives. The longitudinal survey started in 2009. The total baseline sample consists of about 60,000 randomly selected target persons plus about 40,000 people from various social contexts.

PAIRFAM—The German Family Panel

PAIRFAM is a long-term research program for the analysis of intimate relationships and family dynamics in Germany. Its focus is on private living arrangements, parenthood decision making, parenting, child development, and intergenerational exchanges. The survey started in 2008 with a nationwide random sample of more than 12,000 anchor respondents. Interviews are conducted annually. The additional inclusion of partners, parents, and children into the survey creates a unique data base to study attitudes and mutual interdependencies of family members as they develop over time.

PIAAC-L—The Longitudinal PIAAC Follow-Up Study in Germany

PIAAC-L started in 2013 as a follow-up study to the OECD PIAAC survey, the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies. Additional information on the German PIAAC respondents and their household members are obtained in three annual waves of data collection, including a repeated measurement of adults’ competencies based on PIAAC and NEPS instruments. One of the major goals of this longitudinal survey is to investigate skill gain, loss and maintenance in the adult population. Data of the three waves will be available in form of scientific use files through the GESIS Data Archive.

SHARE—Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe

SHARE is a cross-national study of adults aged 50 and older. It addresses the subject of ageing in Europe and includes a vast scope of health measures, social network information, socio-economic and psychological variables and retrospective information on life histories. In biennial survey waves, more than 293,000 interviews with approximately 123,000 individuals have been accomplished in over 20 countries since 2004. The study is harmonized with the U.S. Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and the...