

**"Methodological Innovations in Ongoing Household Panel Studies".**

Long-running scientifically driven household panel data studies have to achieve a delicate balance. On the one hand, they must ensure continuity in their survey questionnaires and stability in the measurement and mode of data collection, and on the other, they must adapt to changes in scientific focus, integrate emerging research fields, and adjust to innovations in survey methodology.

The main reason why some studies continue to collect the same data without any changes is that this provides the advantage of increasingly long data sequences on the same individuals and their life courses. This in turn allows researchers to analyze long and multiple spells, intergenerational mobility, and the impacts of early life circumstances on later life stages.

In the last decade, most of the major household panel studies - including the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), the German Socio Economic Panel (SOEP), and the British Household Panel Study (BHPS) - have taken the approach of integrating innovations incrementally. At the same time, following the example of other panel studies (such as HRS and Share for Europe), they are also in the process of incorporating major improvements that will broaden their research focus.

The session invites papers discussing criteria for alternative and innovative design options for long-running panel surveys in the following areas:

- Mode of data collection and especially ways of combining modes (mixed-mode)
- Experiences with web survey modes
- Incentives and changes in incentives
- Use of event-triggered questions or modules
- Non-response follow-up studies
- Changes in the interval between waves (or retest studies) or changes in recall periods
- Implementing behavioral experiments in a panel survey
- Interviewer data and interviewer surveys
- Non-questionnaire data (linkages with register data and/or linked organizational surveys)
- Changes in sample membership (e.g., due to (former) family members no longer residing in the household)

Contributions based either on ongoing panel data or on pilot studies for long-term panel surveys are especially welcome.

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Session organizers: Jürgen Schupp, German Socio-Economic Panel Study, German Institute for Economic Research, Berlin, Germany, and Peter Lynn, Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), University of Essex

To make a submission, or for further enquiries, please email Jürgen Schupp <mailto:jschupp@diw.de> and Peter Lynn [plynn@essex.ac.uk](mailto:plynn@essex.ac.uk).

Potential paper presenters should send a paper proposal (maximum 500 words) - as ASCII text in the body of an email or as a \*pdf file attached to an email - to Jürgen Schupp and Peter Lynn **before February 17, 2008**.

You are welcome to submit a full paper at this stage if you have one (in pdf format). If you do so, please also submit an abstract in the format specified above.

Authors will be informed whether or not their submission has been accepted by the end of March 2008. Authors of accepted papers will be required to register for the conference and to present their paper orally.

Feel free to circulate this invitation among anyone you think might be interested in the session or in the conference as a whole.