



Call for Papers

Workshop „Methodological Innovations in Research on Spatial Mobility: Potentials and Pitfalls“

Spatial mobility plays a central role in modern societies. In many European countries, substantial numbers of refugees have entered higher education. The number of study abroad students has continued to rise. And today more than ever, companies and academic institutions compete globally for high-skilled graduates.

The past years have witnessed a surge of new data allowing researchers to more precisely examine the nature, determinants, and effects of spatial mobility. Sophisticated survey designs, geo-referenced data, the extension of bibliometric databases, social media data, and new ways of linking datasets have increased the possibilities of research on spatial mobility and integration in addressing previously hard-to-examine questions. These new possibilities have also come along with new challenges. For instance, collecting and analysing such data often demands substantial human and computational power, as well as the application of innovative methods. Such methods include web scraping, text mining, machine learning, and a variety of statistical modelling approaches.

These methodological developments highlight the pressing need for a discussion about the potentials and pitfalls of newly available data and methods in research on spatial mobility and integration. Relevant questions include:

- How can data collection methods help to overcome problems of sample selection bias, which still characterise large parts of research on spatial mobility and integration?
- Which new methods have become available in these fields, and how can they be applied to improve the estimation of causal effects?
- To what extent do new data collection techniques and empirical methods call into question established findings in research on spatial mobility and integration?
- How do they pave new thematic avenues for these fields in the future, and what hinders theoretical and methodological progress?

To address these and related questions, the DZHW Research Clusters “[Mobility and migration-related inequalities](#)” and “[Empirical methods of higher education research and science studies](#)” jointly organise a workshop on September 27th and 28th, 2021. The workshop provides a forum for both early-career and senior researchers to learn and exchange about novel data collection techniques and empirical methods in research on spatial mobility and integration. It features **keynotes by Prof. Dr. Emilio Zagheni** (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research) and **Prof. Dr. Michael Windzio** (University of Bremen).

Researchers who would like to participate are invited to submit an abstract of up to 500 words for a presentation in English of 15-20 minutes to Olivia Laska (laska@dzhw.eu) by **15th May 2021**. Both theoretical and theory-guided empirical contributions using qualitative and/or quantitative methods are welcome – particularly those focusing on the realms of higher education and science.

Date

September 27th and 28th, 2021

Format

Online workshop

Submissions

Please submit abstracts of up to 500 words to Olivia Laska (laska@dzhw.eu) by 15th May 2021.

Host institution

German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW)

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