



NEWSLETTER

Issue 6, 2024

***The Dynamics of
Demography,
Democratic Processes,
and Public Policy***

***DFG Research Training Group
DYNAMICS***

***Department of Social Sciences
dynamics.office@hu-berlin.de***

MEET OUR NEW DOCTORAL STUDENTS



*Our fifth DYNAMICS Cohort on their Welcome Day on September 2, 2024
(missing in this picture: Anna Sawallisch and Fredric Lüssenheide).*

WILLIAM FERNANDEZ

William Fernandez holds a Bachelor of Economics from Universidad del Pacífico and a Master of Public Policy from the Hertie School. He previously worked as Research Assistant at the Institutions and Political Inequality Unit of the WZB Berlin Social Science Center, and as a Teaching Assistant of Economics and Statistical Methods at the Hertie School. In Peru, he has experience working in quantitative economic research and as a consultant for public sector institutions.

His research interests include the life course (with a focus on old-age individuals), retirement, and pension systems. He is particularly interested in understanding work to retirement transitions in developed nations.



ANTONIA FIDLER

Antonia Fidler holds a B.A with teacher training in Political Science and German Language and Literature from Freie Universität Berlin and went on to follow her interest in interdisciplinary studies by completing a second bachelor's degree in Politics and Economics at the Universität Potsdam. Her Master's degree in Political Science was obtained at the Universität Mannheim. Antonia spent two semesters abroad, one at Université Paris Nanterre and another one at New York University.

Throughout the past years, she worked as a student/research assistant at the Center of Comparative Politics of Germany and France at Freie Universität Berlin, the Jacques Delors Centre, where she supported the Economic Policy Think Tank team, and the ZEW Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research.

Antonia's research interests include political economy, European Integration and regional disparities. More specifically, she aims to investigate to what extent and under which conditions European public spending policies can be successful at mitigating spatial inequalities in economic and demographic developments as well as political discontent.



ANNINA HERMES

Annina Hermes holds a Master's degree in Political Science from Sciences Po Paris and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Dresden, where she worked as a research and teaching assistant at the Chair of Political Systems and Comparative Politics. Additionally, Annina holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Her research interests are in comparative politics and political behavior, with a focus on party competition and the role of challenger parties. Methodologically, she specializes in quantitative and computational methods, particularly text analysis and experimental designs. Her dissertation examines parties' responses to radical right parties and the impact of rise of radical right parties on overall party competition.



PHILIPP HEYNA

Philipp Heyna obtained his Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics from the University of Mannheim, followed by a Master's degree in Social Sciences from Humboldt University Berlin. During his studies, he spent exchange semesters at the University of Sheffield and the University of Copenhagen. His research interests mainly lie in the field of political attitudes and behavior, drawing on methods of causal inference using observational data. Philipp's PhD project concerns recent trends of radicalization among young adults towards radical right populism, investigating the effects of transboundary crises as well as changing political and media environments on younger demographics from a perspective of political socialization.

Before joining DYNAMICS as a doctoral candidate, Philipp was affiliated with the Research Training Group as a student assistant. In a similar role, he also assisted the Chair of Political Science & Political Economy at the University of Mannheim.



DEIKE JANSSEN

Deike Janssen holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Innsbruck and a Master's degree in Social Work, Social Policy, and Social Management from MCI Innsbruck. Her academic background includes international studies at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden and the Middle East Technical University in Turkey. During her studies, she worked as a Research Assistant at the Deutsches Jugendinstitut, focusing on family policy research. Previously, she gained experience as a social worker.

Her main interests include child, youth, and family policies and inequality, with a focus on their interconnections and implications for social work contexts. Deike's research at DYNAMICS will focus on the measurement and social determinants of child and youth poverty, examining how different policies and the socio-economic context shape these determinants.



ELIAS KOCH

Elias Koch is a Research Associate at the Hertie School and an associated member at the Research Training Group DYNAMICS.

His research focusses on party behaviour and parliamentary politics in established democracies, engaging with work on public opinion. In his dissertation project, he examines the behavioural and attitudinal consequences of election forecasting among political elites, the media and voters. Methodologically he specialises in econometric and (quasi-)experimental methods within the social sciences.

Elias holds BA and MA degrees in Social Science from Humboldt-University Berlin (HU Berlin) and visited King's College London for studies abroad. Before starting his PhD, he worked as a Research Assistant at the Chairs of Comparative Political Behaviour (Prof. Dr. Heike Klüver) and German Politics (Prof. Dr. Jochen Müller/Prof. Dr. Andreas Schäfer) at HU Berlin, and at the Chair of Political Sociology and Methods at the University of Greifswald (Prof. Dr. Jochen Müller).



PAXIA KSATRYO

Paxia Ksatryo (none/any) is interested in the evolving relationship between online networks and political participation. Paxia's research explores the dynamics of othering and exclusion on social media and its implications for social movements.

Paxia holds a Master in Public Policy at the Hertie School, preceded by a Bachelor's in Comparative Politics from Sciences Po Paris focusing on Europe and Asia. Awarded the Centre for Digital Governance Thesis Prize, Paxia's Master's thesis constructs publics on r/Mastodon using Reddit discourse following the 2022 Twitter acquisition. Between 2020-2023, Paxia was research assistant to Prof. Daniela Stockmann at the Centre for Digital Governance, mainly working on digital governance in China using nationally-representative survey data.

Since 2018, Paxia has worked in the communications field across academia, the private, and non-profit sectors. Before joining DYNAMICS, Paxia was Communications Manager at the Global Solutions Initiative.



Picture: Bernhard Ludewig

FREDRIC LÜSSENHEIDE

Fredric Lüssenheide is a Research Fellow at the Chair of International Politics in the Department of Social Sciences at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and an associated member at the Research Training Group DYNAMICS.

He holds a B.A. in History and Political Science and an M.A. in Conflict Studies and Peacebuilding, both from Osnabrück University. During his studies, he spent a semester abroad at the University of Bologna. He previously worked as a Research Assistant at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies, as well as in the Department of Government and Public Policy and the Department of Comparative Politics at Osnabrück University.

His research focuses on violent conflicts, including their determinants, consequences, and historical legacies. Methodologically, he is particularly interested in causal inference, with a focus on quantitative methods utilizing observational data.



LENNARD NAUMANN

Lennard Naumann is a member of the research group "Institutions and Political Inequality" at the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB) and an associated member at the Research Training Group DYNAMICS.

He holds a B.A. in Political Science and Economics from the University of Heidelberg and an M.Sc. in Statistics from the Humboldt University of Berlin, the Free University of Berlin, and the Technical University of Berlin. During his studies, he spent exchange semesters at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá and at the ISCTE — University Institute of Lisbon. In the past, he has worked for the Bertelsmann Transformation Index, the Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change, and the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research.

In his dissertation project, Lennard uses quasi-experimental and experimental methods to study intergroup relations and prejudice. He focuses on the drivers of intergroup approach and avoidance patterns among majority and minority groups, and on how intergroup contact preferences affect outgroup attitudes and discrimination.



THOMAS NAWRATH

Thomas Nawrath holds a BSc in History and International Relations from the London School of Economics and a master's degree in Political Science from Freie Universität Berlin, where he also spent an exchange semester in the Political Science PhD program at Vanderbilt University. Prior to his master's studies, he worked full-time as a digital political communications consultant in Berlin for two years. Additionally, Thomas has also interned in the Bundestag and at a think tank in Washington, DC as well as worked at the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) in Berlin.

Thomas's research interests revolve around the intersection of foreign policy and public, political parties and democratic responsiveness. He is particularly interested in how the impact of public opinion and parties' responsiveness on foreign policy decision-making varies in different European democracies.



CLARA OVERWEG

Clara Overweg holds a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Social Sciences from Maastricht University as well as a Master of Arts in Social Sciences from Humboldt University in Berlin.

Previous workplaces include the Berlin Social Sciences Center (WZB), where she worked as a student assistant, the University of Vienna, and the University of Bamberg, where she works with Prof. Katja Möhring in a project of wealth and pensions of men and women in East and West Germany.

Clara is interested in social inequalities over the life course, in particular in old-age material well-being. Her dissertation project focuses on the economic position of migrants in European pension systems.



ANNA SAWALLISCH

Anna Sawallisch is a research and teaching fellow at the Chair of International Politics at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and an associated member at the Research Training Group DYNAMICS.

She holds a Bachelor of Science from Leuphana Universität Lüneburg and a Master of Science in Global Development from the University of Copenhagen. During her studies, she spent a semester abroad at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch and attended a Winter School at TEC de Monterrey in Mexico City. Additionally, Anna conducted field research in Tajikistan, Nepal, and Ghana. In the past, she worked with INGOs and as an assistant in conference organization.

In her thesis, Anna aims to examine the effects of unequal access to information on both political and economic behavior. To do so, she plans to use quantitative and social data science methods, particularly employing (quasi-) experimental designs.



FREDERIK THIEME

Frederik Thieme is an associated member at the Research Training Group DYNAMICS. In addition, he is a teaching and research fellow at the Chair of Comparative Political Behavior in the Department of Social Sciences at HU. He earned his MA in Social Sciences from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in 2022 and his BA in Media & Communication Studies and Political Science from Freie Universität Berlin in 2020.

Frederik's research methodology focuses on quantitative research, causal inference, and (field) experimental methods. His academic interests include economic inequality, its causes and consequences, climate politics, public attitudes toward climate protection, and the broader topic of political behavior in general. More info on current research projects can be found on his personal website.



FRANZISKA VEIT

Franziska Veit holds a Master's degree in Social Sciences from Humboldt University. During her studies, Franziska worked as a student assistant at the Chair of Political Sociology and Social Policy. Previously, she obtained her Bachelor's degree in the interdisciplinary program Politics & Economics at the University of Münster.

Franziska's research interests revolve around the political implications of the post-industrial transformations of labor markets, as well as political socialization and intergenerational family processes.



LENA WAGNER

Lena Wagner earned her Master's in Public Policy from the Hertie School in 2022. During her studies, she co-founded an initiative for improved policy response to intimate partner violence. She later joined the Hertie School as a Research Associate, where she supported the expert commission of the 10th family report, issued by the German family ministry. Lena completed her Bachelor's degree at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, with a semester at Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María in Chile. After her undergrad studies, she gained professional experience in social business and public sector consulting.

Lena's research interests focus on family, gender, and social inequality and how these associations are changing as family life-courses are becoming increasingly complex.



***RESEARCH REPORTS:
INSIGHTS INTO SOME DISSERTATION
PROJECTS FROM OUR DOCTORAL STUDENTS***

VINCENT RAMOS, PhD: ***Employment Uncertainty***

My dissertation project began with a recognition that labor market positions are simultaneously determined and deterministic. In times of crisis—such as the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic—unemployment, informality, and precarious employment typically increase, reshaping life course decisions and long-term demographic patterns. In general, employment uncertainty broadly encompasses fixed-term, part-time, informal, and other forms of precarious employment. I demonstrate that experiences of these employment conditions influence not just subsequent income or career prospects but also demographic decisions (e.g., fertility).

Chapter 1 revisits existing typologies of “employment uncertainty”, refining the concept and its operationalization within demographic research. This foundational discussion delineates how various indicators—ranging from unemployment to vulnerable self-employment—intersect with broader socio-economic conditions. By employing dynamic panel models at the macro-level, this chapter also presents updated estimates of how measures of employment uncertainty relate to aggregate fertility trends.

Chapter 2 shifts the focus to the gendered informalization of employment brought about by extreme lockdowns. Drawing on regional differences in the severity of COVID-19 restrictions in the Philippines, this chapter uses a difference-in-differences approach on pooled Labor Force Surveys and finds that stringent lockdown policies significantly increased the probability of informal employment, especially among women (e.g., mothers with young children). This finding underscores the dual role that women play amidst crises – as workers and carers of first resort.

In Chapter 3, the dissertation turns to the question of how initial employment conditions—at the micro and macro-level—influence subsequent fertility behavior. Using data from the German Socio-Economic Panel, the analysis examines the first decade following young adults’ labor market entry. The paper finds that entering the labor market with a fixed-term contract is negatively associated with first birth timing for women, whilst recession entry is negatively associated with first birth timing for men. The paper employs a two-step estimation procedure with a non-parametric matching step and an event history analysis step to partly address selection.

Chapter 4 explores whether socioeconomic class influences the transition to having a second child. Drawing again on data from the German Socio-Economic Panel, this chapter finds that class matters: individuals in certain service-based occupations and those who experience upward mobility after their first child are more likely to have a second child. Finally, Chapter 5 employs a factorial survey experiment within the German Socio-Economic Panel where respondents were presented with hypothetical scenarios involving couples who face varying levels of future employment risk and caregiving burdens. The findings show that when couples perceive fewer future caregiving responsibilities and lower employment-related worries, their expected childbearing behavior tends to be higher.

By integrating macro-level indicators, natural experiments, longitudinal survey data, and factorial survey experiments, this dissertation project hopefully contributes to the literature on the demographic repercussions of employment uncertainty.



At Vincent's Dissertation Defense (from left to right): Anna Matysiak, Mark Hallerberg, Vincent Ramos, Daniele Vignoli (present virtually), Michaela Kreyenfeld and DYNAMICS Alumna Tabea Naujoks.

Dr. EMILY FRANK:

Bureaucracy as Borders: Refugees' Experiences of Citizenship at Government Offices

Before starting my PhD, I worked as a legal representative for people having issues with their social benefits. During that time, I became especially focused on immigrants' cases, as I noticed that they faced an entire unique set of issues in their experiences accessing social benefits that other groups of people did not. This experience led me to become especially interested in immigrants' encounters with local government agencies.

My dissertation was mixed methods, which meant that I used both quantitative and qualitative approaches, first conducting interviews with refugees about their experiences with labor and welfare policies and agencies, and then using my findings to inform a quantitative study with survey data. Overall, I found that social policies and their administration play a crucial role in shaping refugees' experiences of themselves and constituents as citizens, most notably for those with less secure legal statuses and fewer rights. These social policies, which institute a hierarchy of access to rights according to legal status, also create a hierarchy of belonging and citizenship.

My first empirical chapter demonstrated how labor market policies affect refugees' experiences of belonging. Those with more precarious legal statuses – such as asylum seekers and tolerated stay holders – tend to be subjected to more restricted labor market entitlements. For example, tolerated stay holders are often not allowed to work, excluding them from a crucial sphere of society and relegating some to spend a good portion of their time waiting in the refugee residence facility, itself a frequently isolated space. Overall, the hierarchy of entitlements we see in the German welfare state, with more rights granted to refugees with more secure legal statuses, also shapes their daily experiences of (non-)belonging.

My second qualitative empirical chapter looked at the administration of welfare benefits. One aspect of state-citizen encounters that really interested me from the start was administrative burden, a concept in the public administration literature that essentially captures how onerous it is to acquire a government service or benefit. In my interviews, I found that people with precarious legal statuses also experienced greater administrative burdens in accessing welfare state support. These administrative burdens include visiting the welfare office in person each month, receiving their benefits as cash instead of direct deposit, and waiting several hours at these appointments, and can have significant implications for their well-being. The study demonstrates the role of social welfare administration in creating hierarchies of access to rights.

In my third and final empirical chapter, I used my qualitative findings on differential inclusion to inform the design of a quantitative study with survey data. In this study, I found that refugees still waiting for an asylum decision or who have received a tolerated stay are more likely to report negative experiences with government agencies. While much of this issue may be attributed to their legal status, government employees on the ground can play a role as well. I found that when respondents reported better experiences with the government employee who served them – that is, when the employee treated them with respect and provided sufficient information to understand the situation – some of these negative effects of precarious legal status were mitigated. This has some clear implications for policy: particular attention should be devoted to providing quality government services for refugees with precarious legal statuses, such as asylum applicants and tolerated stay holders. This article has been published in *Public Administration Review*.

What was important to me in this dissertation was to look at a link – somewhat missing in the literature – between social policy administration and experiences of belonging and citizenship. To study that link, it was especially relevant to capture migrants' own perspectives and perceptions. I hope these findings contribute to a greater understanding of the key role of encounters with the state in shaping migrants' well-being.



Emily Frank at her Dissertation Defense

DYNAMICS TESTIMONIALS: INSIGHTS AND EXPERIENCES FROM VISITING RESEARCHERS

MILAN THIES
from European University
Institute (EUI) Florence:

„DYNAMICS is more than just a Research Training Group. In 2023 and 2024, I had the privilege of experiencing what DYNAMICS truly represents. To me, it's not simply a place to work, but a workplace you genuinely look forward to being in every day. It's a place filled with kind and interesting people—not only among the PhD students but also among the administrators. DYNAMICS stands for first class research and great academic discussions, but also joint puzzling over what the Mensa has to offer. It is a dynamic place where you meet different people every time you visit just as much as those you met on your first day. Thank you for the fantastic experience, and I look forward to staying in touch!“

ELENA BASTIANELLI, PhD
from Bocconi University,
Milan:

„I spent three months at DYNAMICS in the fall of 2024 as a postdoctoral research visitor. The experience was academically enriching, with numerous opportunities to attend talks and meetings. The office is located on a beautiful campus, but what really makes the place special is the friendly and welcoming atmosphere. The interdisciplinary group of researchers and the incredibly friendly staff made me feel very welcome and part of the team from day one. Every day, there was a group for lunch at Mensa, which provided many chances to connect and share ideas. Thank you for the great time!“

Dr. MIRKO WEGEMANN
from Universität Münster:

„During my PhD, I had the privilege of visiting the DYNAMICS Research Training Group for a research stay, which turned out to be a truly enriching chapter of my academic journey. During my visit in the Academic Year 2023/2024, I was struck not only by the quality of the research being conducted but also by the warmth of everyone I met. I had the chance to engage with inspiring work from junior scholars and received invaluable feedback on my own projects. The colloquia, reading series, and lively discussions over lunch and coffee breaks provided me with new academic perspectives and played a substantial role in the finalization of my thesis. I carry with me lovely memories of my time there and look forward to reconnecting with familiar faces at international conferences and workshops!“

REPORTS FROM ABROAD: WHAT OUR DOCTORAL STUDENTS TELL US ABOUT THEIR RESEARCH STAYS



Our doctoral students (from left to right) Jan Einhoff, Juliette Corbi, Ana Karalashvili and DYNAMICS Alumnus Vincent Ramos met at Oxford.

STEFANIA MOLINA:
Centre for Demographic Studies (CED), Barcelona

I spent January and February of this year visiting the Centre for Demographic Studies (CED) in Barcelona hosted by Prof. Albert Esteve. The CED is an institution founded in 1984 and offers research and training in demography. It is located on the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) campus, surrounded by beautiful nature. I mainly worked with the 'CORESIDENCE' group, part of the larger group 'Families, Inequality and Social Change'. I chose to visit CED because of its research on family formation, household structure, and social stratification worldwide.

The CED is a really friendly place to visit and full of activities. I had the opportunity to meet several PhD students doing exciting work in the field of demography. I attended colloquiums every week on a diverse set of topics. Luckily, the centre's 40th anniversary was in February, and there were several celebration activities, including a presentation by researchers on 'Families in the 21st Century' and a lovely *Calçotada* (top picture at the right). The *Calçotada* is a Catalan tradition that brings people together to eat *calçots*, which are large green onions similar to spring onions. Aside from the CED and those working there, the city of Barcelona is beautiful. I had a great time going to several museums, walking on the beach, and exploring the beautiful buildings around the city. One of the highlights was discovering the public library *Biblioteca Gabriel García Márquez* (middle picture at the right).

Overall, I could only recommend a research stay at CED. It was an opportunity to advance my work and also meet incredible people.



ELENA SCHULZ-RUHTENBERG:
Harvard University, Boston USA

In the fall semester of 2024, I was a Fulbright Scholar at Harvard University's Department of Government. The timing could not have been better for someone studying electoral behavior, as I was able to observe the historic election unfold. I participated in numerous lunchtime seminars and election-related events, including the Vice-Presidential Debate Watch Party (see picture). The academic community at Harvard was collegial and encouraged open feedback and curiosity, while also being characterized by a strong focus on American politics, which made me quickly feel like a spokesperson for European politics. During my stay, I had the chance to explore different places around Boston, from New York and New Haven to rural, formerly industrial areas in Maine and Vermont, where one can sense why the economy played such a significant role for voters. Yet nowhere I found evidence of the (at that time) upcoming election: no protests, no posters, no hint of grassroots activism outside of the decisive swing-states. Only campaign signs in certain front yards bore witness to the deep polarization cutting through even the smallest neighborhoods (see picture). In my Democratic-leaning bubble, the post-election shock was met with calm acceptance and pragmatism rather than emotionalization and frustration. Among researchers we analyzed why many predictions have again been so misleading and concluded that the models relied too much on opinion poll averages, massively undervaluing the impact of issue-based voting. As the end of my stay is approaching, I am increasingly getting tired of 8-dollar coffees, car-centric infrastructure, and over-sugared sweets. The surge of consumerism around Black Friday and Christmas in the U.S. is simply intense and relentless. But overall, my experience here was academically enriching and provided me with a better understanding of American politics and society.



EVENTS

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EVENTS OF 2024

WORKSHOP - FAMILY DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY:

On **July 3 and 4, 2024**, our PhD researchers **Stefania Molina** and **Sarahí Resendez**, organised the Workshop „Family Diversity and Social Inequality: A Global Perspective“. This workshop was organised with the support of faculty members of universities from the CIVICA network: Michaela Kreyenfeld (Hertie School), Juho Härkönen (EUI), Zachary van Winkle (Sciences Po), Lucinda Platt (LSE), Arnstein Aassve and Letizia Mencarini (Bocconi University).

The workshop provided a platform for discussion and insights about family diversity and social inequality. Teresa CastroMartín (Research Professor at the CSIC) was the keynote speaker and presented some of her studies on Latin America. Additionally, the workshop featured insightful sessions with thought-provoking presentations by PhD and post-doctoral researchers from diverse institutions on the topics of partnership status and within-Couple dynamics, life transitions and parenting, the role of socioeconomic status in family life, and family dynamics, children and intergenerational relationships.



DYNAMICS WORKSHOP - NEW APPROACHES IN CAUSAL INFERENCE:

From **July 15 to 17, 2024**, we, the DYNAMICS research training group, had the pleasure of hosting Prof. **Ryan T. Moore**, PhD from the American University in Washington, DC, for a workshop on New Approaches in Causal Inference. Aimed at PhD students, the workshop brought together participants eager to deepen their understanding of causal inference through a mix of lectures and hands-on sessions.

The idea to invite Ryan came about after two of our members, **Tim Wappenhans** and **Freddy Thieme**, attended his course on experiments and causal inference at the Essex Summer School. What started as an idea over drinks in a Colchester bar turned into a three-day workshop here in Berlin. Ryan specializes in causal inference and statistical methods with applications in social policy. His teaching and research background made him an ideal fit for our group's interests.

Over three days, we covered a lot of ground. The first day focused on data science methods in causal inference, including causal forests for heterogeneous treatment effects and double-LASSO for variable selection. On the second day, we explored sensitivity analyses, learning to test the robustness of causal claims to unobserved confounders and model assumptions. The final day delved into modern difference-in-differences approaches, including stepped wedge designs and the Calloway-Sant'Anna method for multiple time periods, which sparked some lively discussions.

The format was a productive blend of lectures and lab-like exercises, giving us plenty of opportunities to apply the concepts to data. Ryan's approachable teaching style made even complex methods accessible, and the collaborative atmosphere encouraged active participation. By the end, we came away with new tools and ideas to apply to our research, making the workshop a valuable experience for everyone involved.



MEET OUR NEW OFFICE MEMBER: INGA HAUDAN



Inga is the new Student Assistant at DYNAMICS since July 2024. She received her Bachelor's degree in Political science and Sociology from Heidelberg University.

Last Fall she began her Master studies in Social Science at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Over the course of her studies, she developed an interest in the field of political sociology including populism, voting behaviour and social inequality using quantitative methods. Her bachelor thesis investigated the relationship between internal efficacy, anger and voting behaviour.

DYNAMICS EVENTS

25.06.2024

DYNAMICS Summer Party

02.09.2024

DYNAMICS Welcome Day for the fifth Doctoral Cohort

DYNAMICS LECTURES

23.01.2024

Prof. Dr. Stefanie Bailer (University of Basel):
Politicians' Priorities: A comparative analysis of representatives' time allocation

06.05.2024

Felix Schaff, PhD (EUI):
Inheritance and inequality in a pre-modern growth economy

02.09.2024

Prof. Dr. Anna Matysiak (University of Warsaw):
Structural labour market change, social inequalities and fertility

19.11.2024

Prof. Jane Gringrich, PhD (University of Oxford):
Why do urban-rural Divides vary?

25.11.2024

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Vogt (LMU München):
Negotiating political participation in aging Japan:
Insights from focus group interviews with university students

WORKSHOPS

15.-17.07.2024

Prof. Ryan T. Moore, PhD (American University, Washington DC):
New Approaches in Causal Inference

16.09.2024

Dr. Saskia Kaiser (Heinrich Heine Universität Düsseldorf)
Good Scientific Practice

09.10.2024

PhD 101 with DYNAMICS Alumni

09.12.2024

Daniel Friedrich, PhD
Getting Started. The path to a successful doctorate

FEMALE CAREER TALKS

23.01.2024

Prof. Dr. Stefanie Bailer (University of Basel)

20.11.2024

Prof. Jane Gringrich, PhD (University of Oxford)

APPOINTMENTS

Franziska Veit and **Philipp Heyna** were elected as Doctoral Student Representatives.

Doctoral student representative on the selection committee will be **Frederik Thieme** this year.

Annina Hermes was elected as Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities Officer.

Prof. Dr. Hanna Schwander will continue as Ombudsperson.

PLACEMENTS

Vincent Ramos, PhD:

Postdoctoral Researcher at ESCR Centre for Population Change, University of Southampton

Dr. Emily Frank:

Postdoctoral Research Associate at Einstein Center for Population Diversity, WZB Berlin

Dr. Violeta Haas:

Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse, Toulouse School of Economic

Cornelius Erfort:

Postdoctoral Researcher at Witten/Herdecke University

DYNAMICS Alumnus António Valentim, PhD:
Assistant Professor in European Politics, LSE

AWARDS

DYNAMICS Alumna Dr. Tabea Naujoks:

Nach Nachwuchswissenschaftler:innen-Preis 2024,
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Demographie e.V.

DYNAMICS Alumna Dr. Sarah Schmauk:

Nach Nachwuchswissenschaftler:innen-Preis 2024,
Forschungsnetzwerk Alterssicherung FNA

DEFENSES

05.03.2024

Dr. Jóhanna Ýr Bjarnadóttir:

Parties' responsiveness to political protests in Western Europe

02.09.2024

Vincent Ramos, PhD:

Essays on the Causes and Demographic
Consequences of Employment Uncertainty

10.09.2024

Dr. Violeta Haas:

Illiberal Politics in Contemporary Democracies:
Electoral, Institutional, and Behavioral Consequences

19.09.2024

Dr. Emily Frank:

Bureaucracy as Borders: Refugees' Experiences of
Citizenship at Government Offices

SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT

Bethhäuser, Bastian A., Miriam Sigleitmaier, und
Anette E. Fasang. „Change and Inequality in German
Teenagers' Typical Time-Use Sequences Between
1991 and 2013“. *Journal of Time Use Research*, 9.
Oktober 2024, 42–62. <https://doi.org/10.32797/jtur-2024-3>.

Erfort, Cornelius. „Targeting voters online: How
parties' campaigns differ“. *Electoral Studies* 92 (1.
Dezember 2024): 102872. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2024.102872>.

Wappenhans, Tim, António Valentim, Heike Klüver,
und Lukas F. Stoetzer. „Extreme weather events do
not increase political parties' environmental attention“. *Nature Climate Change* 14, Nr. 7 (1. Juli 2024): 696–
99. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-024-02024-z>.

GUEST RESEARCHERS

Dr. Diego Alburez-Gutierrez (Max Planck Institute)

Prof. Hanno Hilbig (University of California, Davis)

Dr. Teresa Castro (Spanish National Research
Council)

Dr. Anat Herbst-Debby (Bar-Ilan University)

Dr. Leonardo Carella (University of Oxford)

Prof. Petra Schleiter (University of Oxford)

Elena Bastianelli, PhD (Bocconi University)

VISITING DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Marco Santacroce (Doctoral Researcher, EUI)

Kendall Curtis (Doctoral Researcher, University of
Texas at Austin)

Linda Vecgaile (Doctoral Researcher, Max Planck
Institute)

Joaquin Rozas Bugueño (Doctoral Researcher,
Pompeu Fabra University)

Marianne Joy Vital (Doctoral Researcher, University
of Oxford)

Micaela Grossmann (Doctoral Researcher, University
of Bamberg)

Paul Brument (Pre-Doctoral Fellow, ENS Paris-
Saclay)

Yulia Kuzmina (Doctoral Researcher, Yale University)

Milan Thies (Doctoral Researcher, EUI)

Dr. Mirko Wegemann (at the time Doctoral
Researcher at EUI, now University Münster)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Research Training Group 2458 „The Dynamics of Demography, Democratic Processes and Public Policy“ (DYNAMICS) invites applications for

10 Doctoral Researcher Positions

DYNAMICS provides doctoral researchers with a unique and internationally competitive three-year PhD programme in cutting-edge quantitative methods and advanced theories of demography, democracy and public policy. It is a joint endeavour of the Department of Social Sciences at **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin** and the **Hertie School** and funded by the German Research Foundation. Doctoral positions will start in September 2025 and remuneration is based on Grade E13 TVL (75%) of the German Public Salary Scale.

DYNAMICS studies how demographic changes transform democratic processes, how policy decisions are made to address demographic challenges and how public policies influence demographic developments. It also studies how transboundary crises (such as the global financial crises, forced migration, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine) have exacerbated these developments. Dissertation projects should fall into at least one of the **three Research Pillars** of the Research Training Group:

1. Demography and democratic processes
2. Demography and public policy
3. Public policy and its effect on demographic behaviour

Qualification and requirements

We invite applications by highly qualified graduates from the fields of Political Science, Sociology, Demography, Public Policy, International Relations, or other related Social Sciences who already have a high level of quantitative methods training. Candidates must hold a Master's degree (or equivalent) in one of the aforementioned subjects or be very close to completion.

What we offer

- A three-year employment contract with a competitive salary according to salary group E13 TVL (approximately 3000€/month gross), including social security and health insurance
- A comprehensive course programme with a unique combination of advanced theoretical courses, cutting-edge quantitative method skills, an interdisciplinary research seminar and an international lecture series
- Office space in the heart of Berlin, one of Europe's most exciting cities with an outstanding research environment
- Financial support for conferences, summer schools and research stays abroad
- Additional training in professional development
- Relocation and onboarding support through the DYNAMICS office

Application and further information

The deadline for the submission of your application is **07 January 2025**.

For further information about DYNAMICS, the application process and the required documents, please visit our website:

www.dynamics.hu-berlin.de