



UNIVERSITÄT  
DUISBURG  
ESSEN

*Open-Minded*

***Experiences from 50 (40) Years of the Cologne  
High School Panel: (CHiSP: 1969, 1985, 1997,  
2010, 2019 – from age 15 to age 65)***

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# Overview

- The data of the Cologne High School Panel (CHiSP)
- Nonresponse / attrition
- Bias?

# Initial Survey 1969: Structur Analysis of German High Schools (,Gymnasium‘)

## Students (age 16)

Survey within classes, n = 3240 students, 121 classes, 68 high schools (Gymnasium) in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Questions: achievements, interests, aspirations and life plans, family, relationship to parents, attitudes, activities, sociometric inventory.

Additional: Intelligence-Structure-Test (4 subscales of Amthauer's IST)

## Parents

n = 2646

SES, formal education, style of raising children, aspirations for children, attitudes.

## Teachers

n = 2680

pedagogical principles, socio-demographic characteristics, evaluation of students' abilities

## Directors

n=68

school characteristics and regional contexts

Principal investigators: Hans-Joachim Hummell, Michael Klein, Maria Wieken-Mayser, Rolf Ziegler (University of Cologne, Research Institute for Sociology),

Data available at GESIS Data Archive: ZA600, ZA0942, ZA0639, ZA640, ZA0996

# Four follow-ups: 1985, 1997, 2010, 2019

## Age 30 (1985)

n=1987 (61.3%)

Face-to-Face (Field Work: GETAS)

### **Transition from youth to adulthood.**

#### **Retrospective survey of life courses:**

detailed inventory educational and occupational career,  
inventory of family foundation process:  
partner, children.

#### **Additional questions concerning:**

biographical self-definition,  
centrality of life spheres,  
goals and contentment,  
attitudes (e.g. politics, religion)

Hans-Joachim Hummell, Heiner Meulemann, Maria Wieken-Mayser, Rolf Ziegler and Wilhelm Wiese  
Data: ZA1441

## Age 43 (1997)

n=1596 (49.3%)

CATI (Field Work: Students at the CATI-Lab of  
University of Cologne)

### **Identity maintenance during adulthood.**

#### **Life courses:**

Continuation of occupational career and  
private life course from 1985.

#### **Additional questions concerning:**

Social self-identification, coping strategies,  
attitudes: replication of most questions from  
first follow-up at age 30.

Heiner Meulemann, Klaus Birkelbach, Otto Hellwig, Werner Hemsing  
Data: ZA4228 (cumulative data set)

# Four follow-ups: 1985, 1997, 2010, 2019

**Age 56 (2010)**  
**n= 1301 (40.2%)**

CATI (Field Work: Students at the CATI-Lab of University of Cologne)

**Prospective aging study.**

**Life courses:**

Continuation of occupational career and private life course;

**planning for retirement, empty nest and old age;**

**Additional questions concerning:**

Social self-identification, health, financial situation, leisure activities, volunteer work,

attitudes: replication of most questions from former follow-ups.

University of Essen: Klaus Birkelbach, Christiane Reinelt (v.d.Kuil), Anne Weber;  
University of Cologne: Heiner Meulemann, Sebastian Neumeyer, Barbara Wawrzyniak  
Data: ZA5658 (cumulative data set)

**Age 65 (2019)**

**Start of field work: July**

**CATI** (Field Work: Students at the CATI-Lab of the ISS, University of Cologne)

**Transition to retirement.**

**Life courses:**

Continuation of occupational career and private life course, **pathways into retirement;**

Additional questions concerning: Social self-identification, health, financial situation, leisure activities, volunteer work, vocational continuities,

**realization of plans for retirement,**

attitudes: replication of most questions.

Asking for a photograph age 18

University of Cologne: Heiner Meulemann, Veronika Witt;  
University of Essen: Klaus Birkelbach, Christian Sondergeld.  
Cumulative data set will be available in 2012 at the GESIS Data Archive

# Overview: Panel attrition from the initial survey 1969/70 until today

	n	1969	1985	1997	2010
<b>1969 Initial Survey of students (age 16)</b>	<b>3240</b>	<b>100%</b>			
No address	241	7.4			
No interview (different causes)	1012	31.2			
<b>1985 Respondents (age 30)</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>61.3</b>	100%		
0 Refusal address storage (1985)	142	4.4	7.1		
1 Lost (technical reasons)	1	0.0	0.1		
2 Deceased (n=26), unable to answer (n=4)	30	0.9	1.5		
3 No address	39	1.2	2.0		
4 No telephone number (despite lettres)	69	2.1	3.5		
5 Passive refusal (no interview during 6 months fieldwork)	23	0.7	1.2		
6 Active refusal	88	2.7	4.4		
<b>1997 Respondents (age 43)</b>	<b>1595</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>80.3</b>	<b>100%</b>	
0 Refusal address storage (1997)	8	0.2	0.4	0.5	
2 Deceased (n=43), ill: unable to answer (n=3)	46	1.4	2.4	2.9	
3 No address	21	0.6	1.1	1.3	
4 No telephone number (despite lettres)	64	2.0	3.2	4.0	
5 Passive refusal (no interview during 6 months fieldwork)	63	1.9	3.2	4.0	
6 Active Refusal	92	2.8	4.6	5.8	
<b>2010 Respondents (age 56)</b>	<b>1301</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>65.5</b>	<b>81.6</b>	
0 Refusal address storage (2010)	6	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
<b>2019 Adresses and telephone numbers (age 65) so far</b>	<b>(1143+)</b>	<b>(35.2+)</b>	<b>(57.5+)</b>	<b>(71.7+)</b>	<b>(87.6+)</b>

# Active refusal during field 1997 & 2010

Variables measured during previous survey	Odds Ratio	
	1997	2010
Interest in topic of survey (biographical self-reflection)	.88	.90
Cooperation (count of item-nonresponse attitudes)	1.11 **	.89
Political value claims (high value of data privacy)	.89	1.45 *
Educational success (successfully finished university)	.61 *	.44 ***
Working	.70	1.23
Lives with partner	.88	1.23
Children	.86	.65
Gender: Male	.80	.86
Number of obs =	1666	1391
LR chi2(8) =	21.36 **	25.81 **
Pseudo R2 =	0.03	0.04
active refusals	88	92

# Passive refusal 1997 and 2010

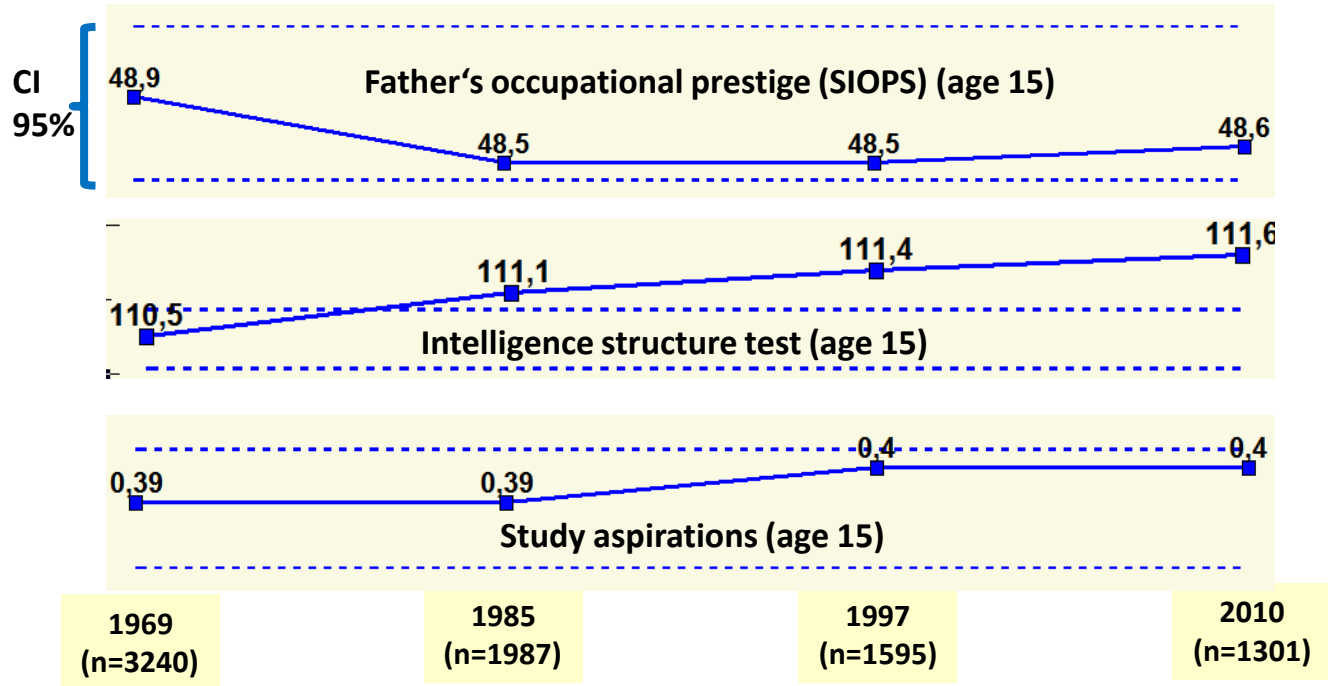
Variables measured during previous survey	Odds Ratio	
	1997	2010
Interest in topic of survey (biographical self-reflection)	.95	1.07
Cooperation (count of item-nonresponse attitudes)	1.03	1.12**
Political value claims (high value of data privacy)	1.06	1.31
Educational success (successfully finished university)	.56*	.43***
Working	.71	1.29
Lives with partner	.54*	.53*
Children	.98	.75
Gender: Male	1.06	1.43
	Number of obs =	1668
	LR chi2(8) =	17.46*
	Pseudo R2 =	0.03
passive refusal (no telephone number despite letter or no interview during field phase)	92	127



# Panel attrition 1997 and 2010

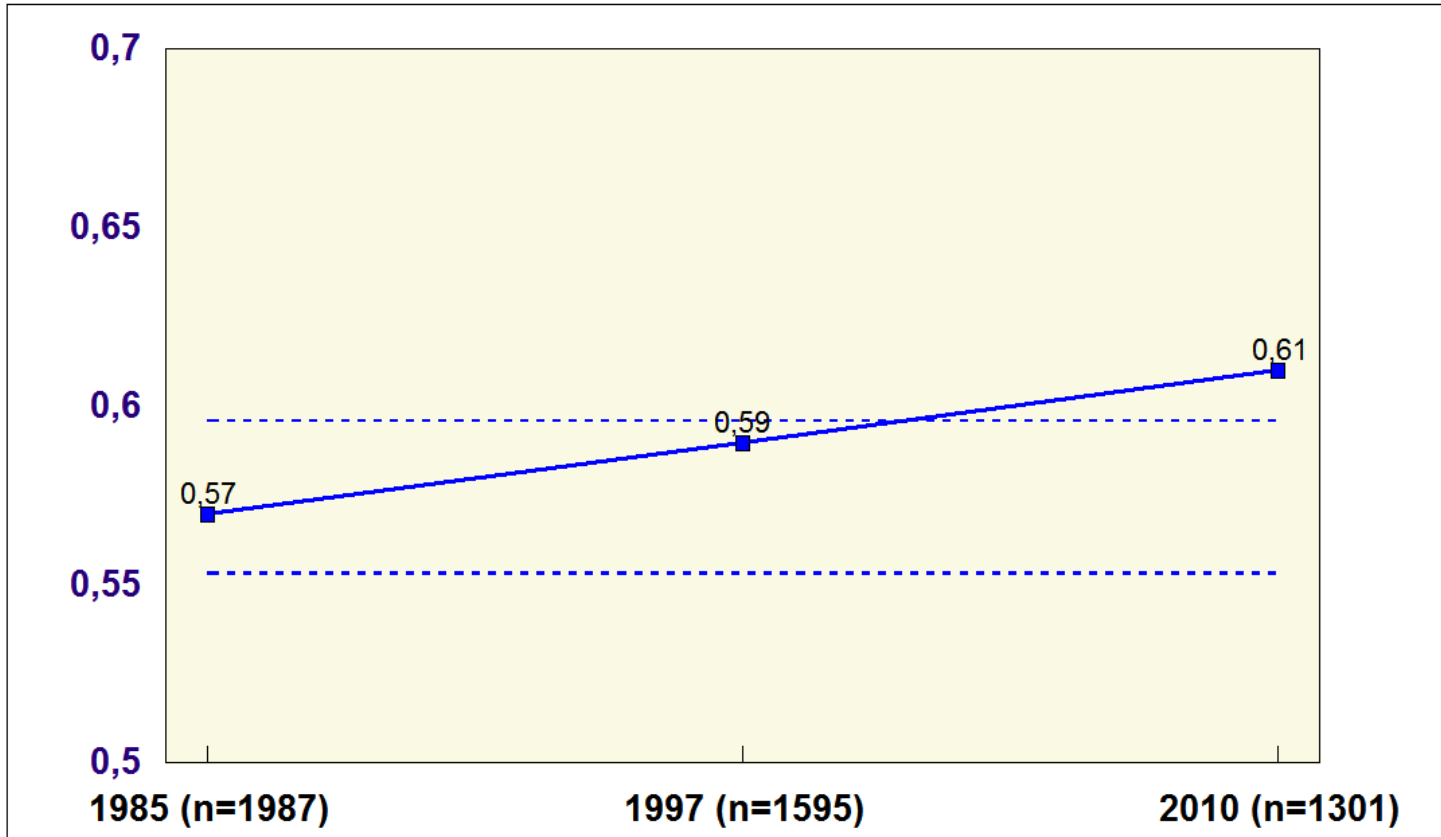
Variables measured during previous survey	Odds Ratio	
	1997	2010
Interest in topic of survey (biographical self-reflection)	.84 ***	1.00
Cooperation (count of item-nonresponse attitudes)	1.14 ***	1.06
Political value claims (high value of data privacy)	.95	1.25 *
Educational success (successfully finished university)	.66 **	.49 ***
Working	.88	1.00
Lives with partner	.89	.69 *
Children	.97	.67 *
Gender: Male	1.06	1.18
Number of obs =	1951	1586
LR chi2(8) =	81.51 ***	48.76 ***
Pseudo R2 =	0.04	0.03

# Starting conditions as measured 1969: BIAS?

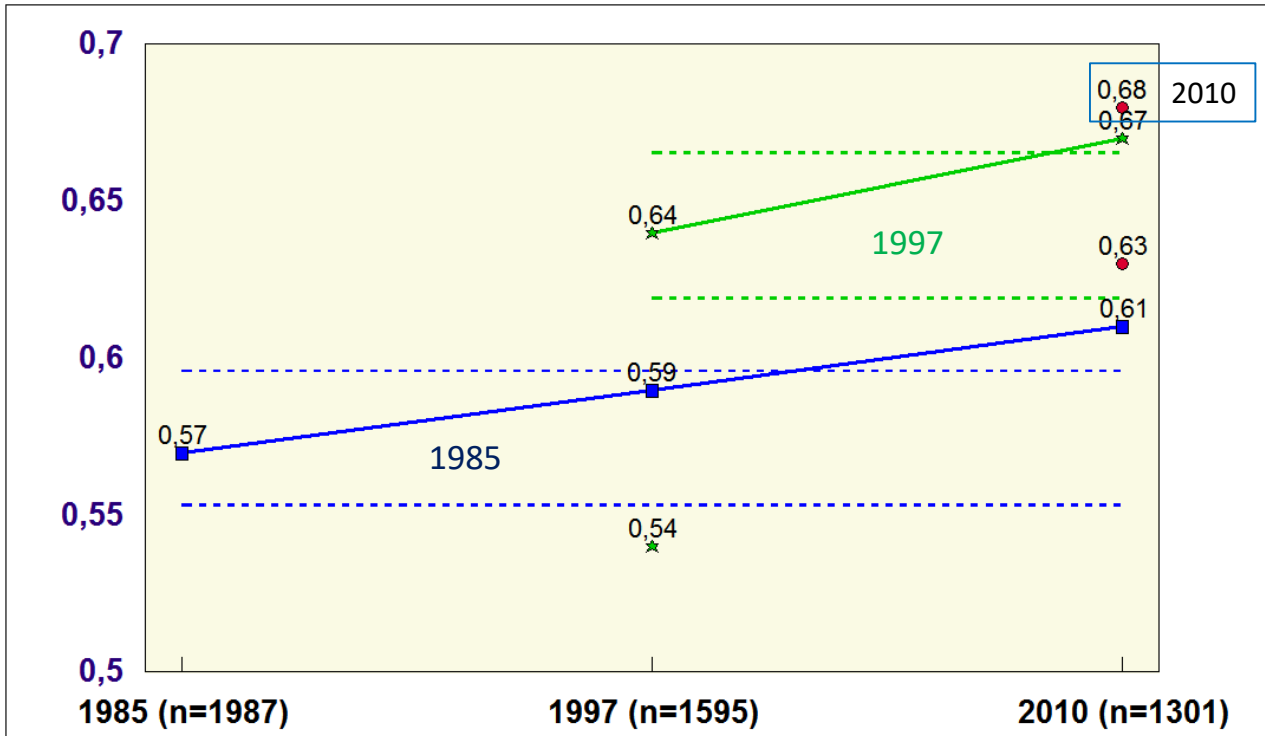


Also reviewed: average grade class 10, teacher's evaluation, gender, parents' social class : **No difference**

# Finished academic studies successfully 1985: Bias?

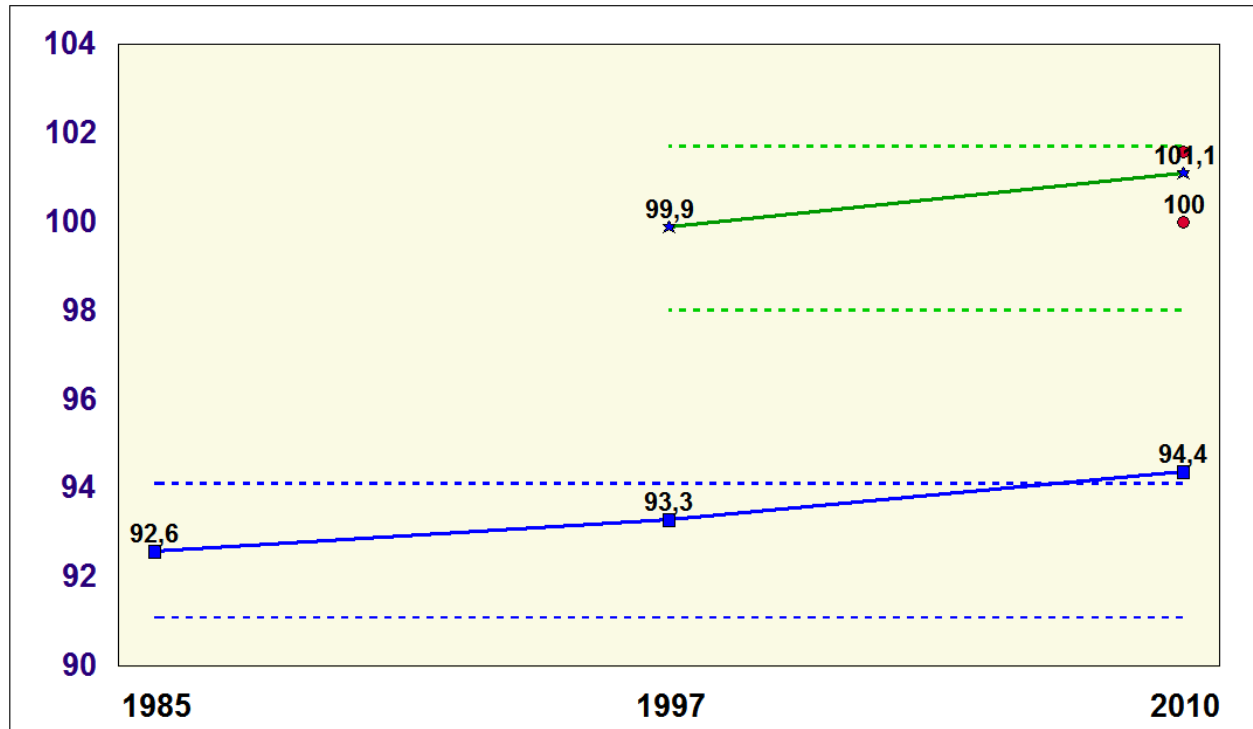


# Finished academic studies successfully 1985, 1997, 2010: Bias?

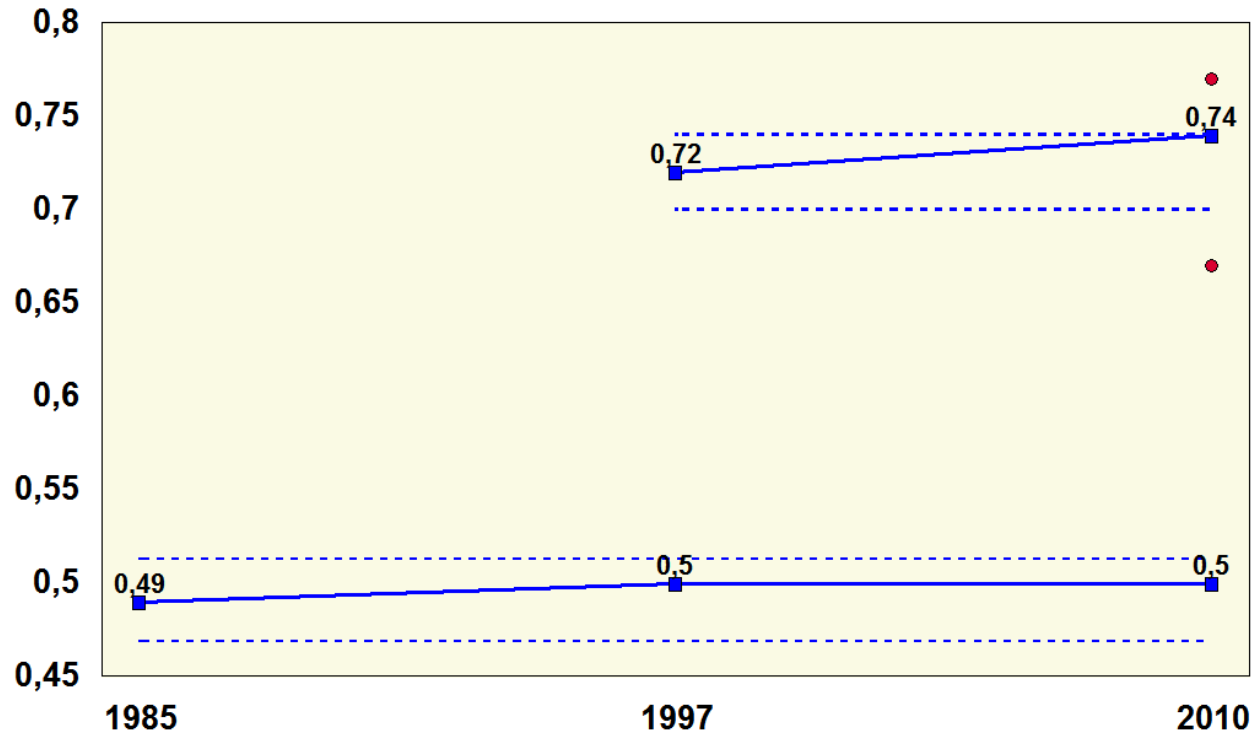


# Highest occupational prestige (MPS)

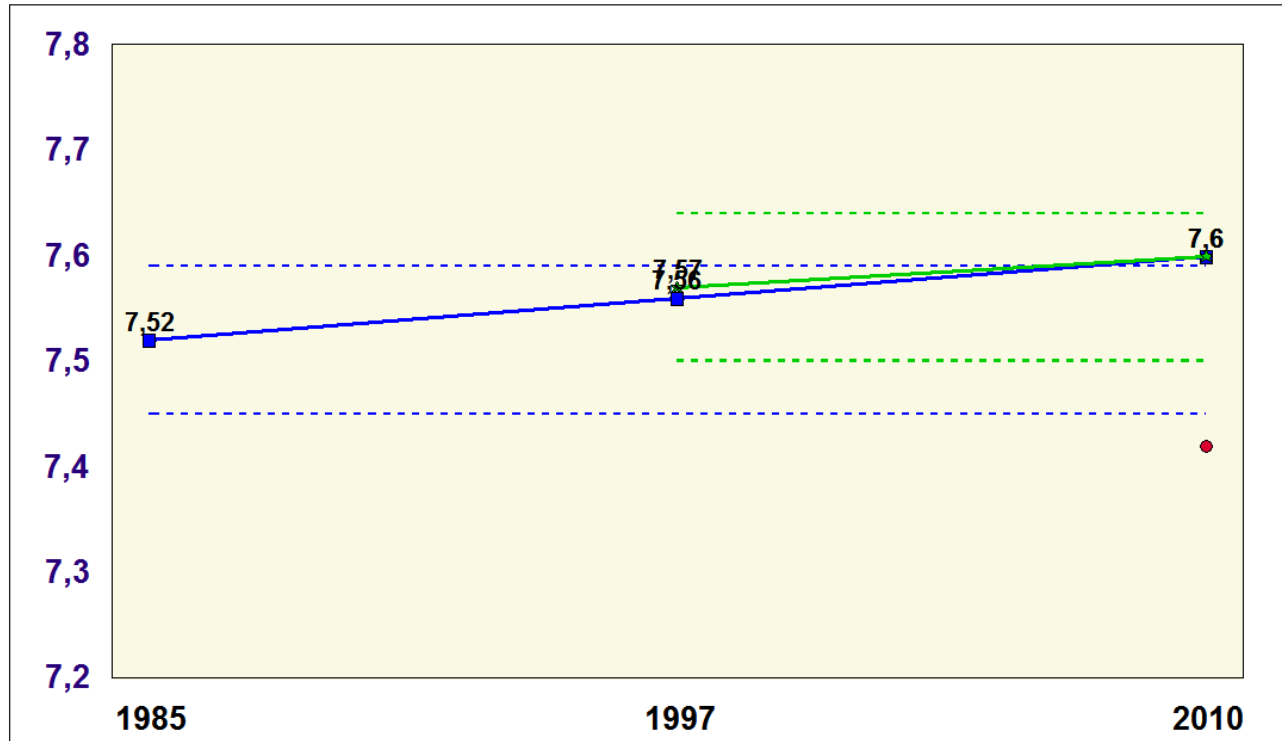
1985, 1997, 2010: Bias?



# Having Children 1985, 1997, 2010: Bias?



# Life satisfaction: 1985, 1997, 2010: Bias?



# Also checked: Almost no significant bias

- Starting conditions
  - average grade class 10
  - teacher's evaluation
  - gender
  - parents' social class
  - Grade final examination Gymnasium (Abitur)
- Success during further life course
  - working
  - months of unemployment
  - partner
- Attitudes
  - political interest
  - postmaterialism, political value claims, acknowledgment of societal constraints,
  - religious attitudes



- Over 40 years we have lost about 60 percent of the initial sample.
- This leads to a small success bias, because people like telling a success story more.
- But: From the beginning we have a selective sample.
- After 40 years the sample is just a little bit more selective and we are optimistic that will not change in the current resurvey.

# More than 100 publications based on the data: Some examples

- Meulemann, H. & K. Birkelbach. 2018. Ein Leben im öffentlichen Dienst – Zufriedenheit gegen Einkommen? S. 107–131 in: *Lebensbedingungen in Deutschland in der Längsschnittperspektive*. Ed.: M. Giesselmann, K. Golsch, H. Lohmann, & A. Schmidt-Catran. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.
- Becker, D.; Birkelbach, K. 2018. Social mobility and subjective well-being revisited: The importance of individual locus of control. *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 54, 1–20.
- Birkelbach, K. & H. Meulemann (eds.). 2017. *Lebensdeutung und Lebensplanung in der Lebensmitte. Vom Gymnasium bis zur Planung des Ruhestands*. Wiesbaden: Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden.
- Gasser, B. 2017. Hohe prognostische Validität der Mathematiknote für das spätere Berufsprestige. Eine longitudinale Analyse anhand des Kölner Gymnasiastenpanels. In: *Zeitschrift für ökonomische Bildung* (6), 62–80.
- Neumeyer, S. & H. Meulemann. 2017. Wer kommt nach ganz oben? Leistung und askriptive Merkmale beim Eintritt in Führungspositionen. S. 285-317 in: *Lebensdeutung und Lebensplanung in der Lebensmitte*. Ed.: K. Birkelbach & H. Meulemann (Hg.): Wiesbaden: Springer.
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- Wawrzyniak, B. 2015. Entry into the postparental phase of the family life cycle. *Comparative Population Studies* 40 (1), 31-48.
- Becker, D. 2013. The impact of teachers' expectations on students' educational opportunities in the life course: An empirical test of a subjective expected utility explanation. *Rationality and Society* 25 (4), 422–469.
- Birkelbach, K. & H. Meulemann. 2013. Christian Socialization during Youth and Christian Convictions from Early to Late Midlife. *Journal of Religion in Europe* 6 (4), S. 399–427.
- Birkelbach, K. 2012. Teacher Evaluations over the Life Course: Valid Prognosis or Self-fulfilling Prophecy? S. 167-187 in: *Sociology and the Unintended. Robert Merton Revisited*. Hrsg. A. Mica, A. Peisert, & J. Winczorek. Frankfurt a.M: Peter Lang.
- Meulemann, H, K. Birkelbach, & Otto Hellwig (eds.). 2001. *Ankunft im Erwachsenenleben*. Opladen: Leske+Budrich.
- Birkelbach, K. .1998. *Berufserfolg und Familiengründung. Lebensläufe zwischen institutionellen Bedingungen und individueller Konstruktion*. Wiesbaden: Westdeutscher Verlag.
- Meulemann, H. 1995. Die Geschichte einer Jugend. Lebenserfolg und Erfolgsdeutung ehemaliger Gymnasiasten zwischen dem 15. und 30. Lebensjahr. Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag.

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<https://www.iss-wiso.uni-koeln.de/de/forschung/projekte/das-koelner-gymnasiastenpanel>