

BIGSSSS 2021

Annual Report

20
Years of BIGSSS

2
Universities

BIGSSSS 2021 Annual Report

Jan	The Volkswagen Foundation awarded funding for two projects on Corona Research involving BIGSSSS faculty Franziska Deutsch, Ulrich Kühnen and Klaus Boehnke as well as BIGSSSS dean Patrick Sachweh.	
Feb	The spring 2021 cohort started with ten Affiliated and Adjunct PhD fellows.	
Mar	The DFG awarded BIGSSSS Affiliated Postdoc and former PhD fellow Dora Simunovic funding for her Postdoc position and a 30-month research project "Minority v. Majority" which originates from her dissertation research project.	
Apr		
May	The BIGSSSS Best Paper Awards went to Janosch Neil Kullenberg & Vladimir Ponizovskiy. Achim Schlüter, Torben Klarl and Nikolas Dörr joined the BIGSSSS faculty.	
Jun	Fellows presented their work jointly with other Bremen Social Sciences institutions at the University of Bremen Open Campus.	
Jul		
Aug		
Sep	The fall 2021 cohort started with 13 new Regular, Affiliated, and Adjunct PhD fellows.	The start of the RTG SELF was marked by an official Opening Ceremony.
Oct	BIGSSSS kicked-off the new academic year with its traditional Welcome (back)-BBQ.	Faculty member Heiko Pleines received the Award for Outstanding Doctoral Supervision.
Nov	PhD fellow Yulia Khalikova received the ECPR's Standing Group on Law & Court's Best Conference Paper Award. Affiliated postdoc Sonja Bastin won the Pairfam Best Publication Award 2021.	
Dec	BIGSSSS faculty member Klaus Boehnke was honoured with the APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology	

BIGSSSS is an interuniversity cooperation between



About BIGSSS

The Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS) is one of Germany's leading schools of doctoral training in the social sciences. Having started with just a handful of fellows in 2002, our school hosts more than 70 international PhD fellows today.

BIGSSS' PhD program, in a nutshell, provides close supervision of dissertation work accompanied by demand-tailored education. A large network of research institutions located at the public University of Bremen and the private Jacobs University Bremen provides us with the means to support our fellows academically, financially, and logistically.

BIGSSS consolidates different doctoral training programs underneath the same roof. The Regular program is a full-time PhD program in which fellows commit themselves to their own dissertation projects and the whole academic program of the BIGSSS curriculum. Our Regular PhD fellows receive demand-tailored theoretical and methodological training, acquire teaching experience in small seminars, and complete their top-notch dissertations in a timely manner.

The availability of the Regular PhD program depends primarily on the help of third-party funding agencies (DFG, DAAD, EU MSCA, etc.). BIGSSS was acknowledged twice by an international board of reviewers in the German Excellence Initiative in 2007 and 2012 respectively and by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation COFUND Program. Currently, BIGSSS hosts a DAAD fellowship program, and the DFG funded Research Training Group "Social Dynamics of the Self".

In addition, BIGSSS has an Affiliated and an Adjunct PhD Program. At different levels of institutional integration, both programs offer doctoral candidates working in the Social Sciences at the University of Bremen or Jacobs University the chance to benefit from structured PhD education including a wide range of excellent seminars and workshops. The programs adhere to the BIGSSS' doctoral education standards and quality principles.

"I joined BIGSSS because of the community character that one can experience here. Those who actively inquire receive the support of an interdisciplinary field of experts. So far, my expectations have been fully met."

Carina-Carolyn Hartz, RTG SELF PhD fellow

Acknowledgements

Dr. Christian Peters, March 2022

Sad but true: The pandemic deprived BIGSSS of the chance to celebrate an important anniversary. On December 12, 2001, the Academic Senate of the University of Bremen adopted the statutes of the Graduate School of Social Sciences (GSS), thus giving structured social science graduate education in Bremen a firm institutional form. Starting in 2002, outstanding young scholars were invited to apply for one of the fellowships funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. In other words, BIGSSS recently (and very quietly) celebrated its twentieth birthday. That should be reason enough to celebrate, shouldn't it?

To mark the occasion, we, the team of the Graduate School, have decided to publish our first annual BIGSSS report. It is designed with the intention of regularly informing the community of social scientists in Bremen about our scientific output, our arrivals and departures, and more generally to update you all about important developments and activities at BIGSSS during the past calendar year.

The report should connect and build bridges. It will show how the scientific focus of Bremen's junior researchers is changing over time and is designed to point out future and present opportunities to cooperate with 'the next generation'. It will refer to knowledge produced at BIGSSS and, above all, it will focus on those people around whom everything ultimately revolves in the graduate school: our newly arrived fellows, those working in their projects and those who have graduated. They are the future of our two universities. This report is also a token of our appreciation for their remarkable decision to focus on knowledge growth, innovation, and critical thinking in uncertain times.

I would like to thank all the colleagues who helped in creating this report. A big thank you goes to the young graphic design team Bas & Aer from Bremen, whose extraordinary and beautiful ideas helped us to produce what you are looking at right now. The biggest thanks, however, goes to Arline Rave, without whose tireless editorial work and ingenuity the idea of an annual report would never have materialized into such a wonderful little booklet.

Dr. Christian Peters, BIGSSS Managing Director



Foreword by the Deans

Prof. Dr. Patrick Sachweh & Prof. Dr. Adalbert Wilhelm, March 2022

The position of BIGSSS within the Bremen Social Science research landscape

From its beginning in 2008 onward, BIGSSS has been an integral and integrating part of the landscape of the Bremen Social Sciences (BSS), making use of the complementary potentials for graduate education and research at the University of Bremen and Jacobs University Bremen. Over the past years, this institutional landscape has undergone important structural developments, and BIGSSS has always played a vital and important role sharpening the profile of the BSS.

A true characteristic of Bremen research is the decisively collaborative nature of its efforts and activities, as documented by having three DFG-funded Collaborative Research Centres (CRCs) in a row: the CRC 186 “Status Passages and Risks in the Life Course” (1988–2002), the CRC 597 “Transformations of the State” (2002–2014) and the current CRC 1342 “Global Dynamics of Social Policy” (since 2018), with the latter two CRCs integrating researchers from both the University of Bremen and Jacobs University Bremen.

Most recently, the University of Bremen, together with ten other universities across Germany, received substantive funding from the German Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) for setting up a “Research Institute Social Cohesion” (RISC). The institute started its activities in the middle of 2020. RISC is a trans-regional, decentralized, and multi-disciplinary institution addressing current challenges of social cohesion due to social inequalities, political conflicts, global migration, and technological change. It is unique in its efforts to combine innovative research with principles of public science.

Furthermore, the University of Bremen has – together with the University of Duisburg-Essen – been entitled to set up the German Institute for Social Policy Research (Deutsches Institut für Sozialpolitikforschung – DIFIS). Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, DIFIS aims to serve as a think tank and service institution for research, teaching and policy advice relating to social policy expertise in Germany.

In all these collaborative large-scale research endeavors, BIGSSS plays a pivotal role in providing doctoral education for the respective early career researchers, who work at BIGSSS as Affiliated fellows. In the CRC 1342, for example, we take responsibility for most of the structured doctoral training program.

The realignment (or enlargement) of the research landscape essentially tracks the path taken by social science reflection in general. While the so-called “post-war social settlement” of organized democratic welfare capitalism provided the solution to problems of social and political integration throughout the Western world for much of the 20th century, this model faces major challenges at the beginning of the 21st century. Economic globalization, growing inequality, population aging, multiple forms of migration manifesting in new types of social and cultural heterogeneity, and, most recently, the resurgence of interstate military conflict are challenging the economic, political, and cultural foundations on which the integrative power of Western democratic welfare capitalism rested. In countries within and beyond the Western hemisphere, populist political leaders challenge the model of liberal democracy as the prevailing mode of political conflict resolution, while processes of welfare state retrenchment and rising economic disparities cast sharp relief on the disintegrative tendencies of a market-based economic system.

Given the complex intertwining of multiple inequalities, new political cleavages, technological changes, and environmental challenges, most of which are being addressed in the projects just mentioned, “The Challenges of Social and Political Integration” might serve as an appropriate overarching title for working at BIGSSS. Our academic program aims to investigate the responses of individual and collective actors to these challenges and the manifold crises of social and political integration. In doing so, we seek not only to complement, but also to integrate and further develop the research agendas that are being pursued in Bremen, thereby serving as a focal point where new perspectives can be explored.

In this spirit, BIGSSS has launched a small doctoral program funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) directed at early-stage researchers from the Global South. With its thematic focus on “Global Inequality, the Middle Classes and the Welfare State” (GloWel), the program aims to strengthen synergies between the CRC “Global Dynamics of Social Policy” and RISC, involving faculty from both institutes in the supervision of our students.

Recent Organizational Developments

After the funding by the German Excellence Initiative ended in 2019, several important steps have been taken to adapt our graduate school to the new situation. As a result of a workshop of staff and faculty held in March 2021, we have identified three development tasks for the mid-term future of BIGSSS: a) securing funding and the steady integration of the graduate school in the Bremen Social Sciences, b) adapting our curriculum and training program to needs and changes in BSS, and c) strengthening faculty engagement. In each of these three fields a working group was formed with the task of finding concrete proposals and measures for immediate and mid-term implementation.



Patrick Sachweh: “The past years have also been marked by changes in BIGSSS’ deanery, with me following Olaf Groh-Samberg as dean, and Sonja Drobnic ending her term as vice dean. While being an alumnus of BIGSSS myself, I feel lucky to have been able to rely on the experience and institutional expertise of Adalbert Wilhelm as vice dean. Adi’s – and the whole executive team’s – support during these past two years have indeed been crucial for me in managing the transition into this new and demanding position. Thanks to the enthusiasm and professionalism with which all the in-house faculty and staff members run BIGSSS, the respect with which I took over the position soon was accompanied by a genuine fun of being part of such a dynamic and vibrant institution, and a feeling of privilege about being able to contribute to shaping its future.”

Prof. Dr. Patrick Sachweh, Dean BIGSSS,
University of Bremen



Adalbert Wilhelm: “During my first years as vice dean, the clear priority was to secure the existence of BIGSSS as an inter-university institution. The continued commitment and hard work of Olaf, Sonja and all BIGSSS members enabled the Deanery to reap existential success. Now, with Patrick in charge, we want to further develop BIGSSS not only institutionally, but also in terms of content. We are looking forward to engaging discussions and exciting ideas to demonstrate the intellectual capacity of Bremen’s social sciences.”

Prof. Dr. Adalbert Wilhelm, Vice Dean BIGSSS,
Jacobs University

a.) In terms of securing further funding, BIGSSS has submitted several promising funding proposals, including an extension proposal for the successful DAAD Fellowship Program. Moreover, our joint Research Training Group “Social Dynamics of the Self” has promoted the institutional anchoring of BIGSSS at Jacobs University. The current strategic realignment and the associated changes in management offer the opportunity to position BIGSSS in empirical social science research even more clearly in the university’s data-oriented academic profile.

b.) With regard to curriculum development, we are working on adapting our educational program to an increasingly diverse set of doctoral students while upholding established academic standards. For example, BIGSSS has incorporated a workshop on data management in its training program and intends to deepen its expertise in the field of computational social sciences.

c.) Finally, we conducted our first survey to deepen the collaboration with our faculty members, on whose enthusiasm, commitment, and support we heavily depend on. The questionnaire was specifically designed to find out how our faculty view the benefits of the BIGSSS training program for those doctoral students

with whom they work closely, and whether and where they might see room for improvement. First findings were presented at the BIGSSS Forum held at Jacobs University in November 2021.

BIGSSS also saw some important transitions in staff: In March 2021, we welcomed Arline Rave as new Senior Coordinator of the Dean's Office. In November 2021, Patricia Abicht returned from parental leave to her position as Admissions and Administration Officer, before transitioning to Coordination Officer for the RTG SELF Program. In October, our long-term Director of Studies, Mandy Boehnke, took a leave of absence to take over the office of the Dean of Studies at UB's faculty of social sciences. On a happier note, in March 2022, Regina Arant, who is a former BIGSSS fellow, joined our graduate school filling Mandy's temporarily vacant position. Finally, in November 2021, Steffen Bandlow-Raffalski (Academic Coordinator) left BIGSSS for heading an institution that promotes civic political education.

Challenges

As for universities everywhere, the biggest challenge for BIGSSS over the past two years has certainly been the Corona pandemic. COVID-19 has not only thrown off the research plans of our doctoral fellows in many ways – for example, by restricting access to offices and libraries, limiting (or outright making impossible) field research, or making it difficult to balance family care responsibilities and research efforts due to kindergarten or school closures. Unfortunately, the pandemic also posed an enormous psychological burden, resulting in part from a combination of concerns about one's own health and the safety of loved ones with uncertainty about future job prospects and severe social restrictions.

We did our best to continue research during this time. All in all, this worked well and, from a digital point of view, certainly moved us forward. Nevertheless, we were very happy to start the 2021 winter semester with a welcome BBQ and to be able to hold a number of face-to-face events – workshops, colloquia, the BIGSSS Forum, etc., before having to return to online mode in December 2021. As it stands, normalcy is slowly returning. In the spring of 2022, both universities have returned to regular face-to-face operations. We look forward to bringing back the interpersonal academic and intellectual life that characterizes BIGSSS and is essential to maintaining a vibrant and inspiring atmosphere in which new ideas can be developed.

BIGSSS People

New Affiliated & Adjunct Fellows in Spring 2021

The spring 2021 cohort starts with nine Affiliated PhD fellows and one Adjunct fellow.

The BIGSSS' Affiliated PhD Program addresses doctoral candidates who already work in third-party funded or professorial research projects in the social sciences at the University of Bremen or Jacobs University. Affiliated fellows benefit from the structured BIGSSS curriculum in which they take part and complete several milestones on their way towards a PhD degree.

BIGSSS' Adjunct PhD Program addresses doctoral candidates who are supervised by BIGSSS faculty members, but who only selectively follow our courses and academic events. As an excellent Graduate School of the Social Sciences, it is our vital interest to ensure a high-quality doctoral training program for all of our fellows. Accordingly, the principles of close supervision as developed at BIGSSS also pertain to Adjunct fellows.

New PhD Fellows

New Adjunct Fellows

Ekaterina Vorobeva

Affiliated PhD fellow,
Cohort Spring 2021

Research Centre for
East European Studies,
University of Bremen.

**Dissertation working
title:** Central Asian
Migrant Entrepreneurs
in Russia: Transnational
Networks and Local
Opportunity Structure

Supervisor:
Prof. Dr. Heiko Pleines

Ekaterina is a researcher in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network MARKETS at the Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen. Her current research interests include social and economic integration of immigrants, migrant and minority entrepreneurship, transnationalism, and postnationalism.

Ekaterina did her BA in Cultural Anthropology at the Herzen State Pedagogical University in Saint Petersburg, Russia, and her MA in Baltic Sea Region Studies at the University of Turku, Finland. She previously worked in several research projects on forced migration, international migration, and migrant entrepreneurship in Finland and Malta. Ekaterina co-authored scientific articles and book chapters published by International Migration, GeoJournal, Palgrave Macmillan and Springer.

In her free time, she does yoga, enjoys volleyball, plays piano, travels and reads.



Henriette Bering

Affiliated PhD fellow,
Cohort Spring 2021

SOCIUM Research
Center on Inequality
and Social Policy,
University of Bremen

**Dissertation working
title:** Children's Extra-
curricular Activities
and Educational and
Occupational Attain-
ment over the Life
Course

Supervisors:
Prof. Dr. Wiebke Schulz,
Prof. Dr. Michael Windzio

Henriette studies children's extracurricular activities, such as music and sports, and how they might contribute to inequalities between children from different socioeconomic backgrounds. By using data from large panel studies such as GSOEP and by applying quantitative methods, she investigates the relation between the unequal participation of children in extracurricular activities and the continually high levels of stratification in cognitive skills and educational attainment. Her research is connected to larger sociological questions about the intergenerational reproduction of inequality from a life course perspective, particularly investigating how social structures and institutions outside the school system reinforce or compensate existing educational inequalities between children.

Moving to Bremen from Berlin via Sweden, Henriette now enjoys Bremen's harbor-city vibes and its bike-friendliness. When she is not working on her PhD, you can find her sipping coffee in the sun or playing basketball on an outdoor court.

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Anne Speer

Affiliated PhD fellow,
Cohort Spring 2022

Research Institute
Social Cohesion (RISC),
SOCIUM Research
Center on Inequality
and Social Policy,
University of Bremen

**Dissertation working
title:** How Characteris-
tics of Social Groups
shape Intergroup
Relations in Contexts
of Inequality

Supervisors:
Prof. Dr. Olaf Groh-
Samberg, Prof. Dr.
Patrick Sachweh

Anne's dissertation project builds on the notion that social groups differ in their socioeconomic positions, and in their values, beliefs, and ideologies. This has an impact on how these groups perceive and behave towards other social groups: it might lead to cooperation and solidarity, or to manipulation and conflict. Her research project aims at shedding light onto how these intergroup relations depend on underlying characteristics, and how this is causally being affected by economic inequalities. Thereby, it aims to add to the study of intergroup relations and social integration between social groups.

Before coming to BIGSSS, Anne studied Psychology (B.Sc.) at the Utrecht University, and intercultural Psychology (M.Sc.) at the University of Osnabrück and at the University of Granada (student exchange and research internship). During her studies, she conducted research on the reaction to cultural worldview threats, on the role of multicultural ideology for prejudice against Roma people, and on the measurement of daily fluctuations of prejudice-relevant ideologies.

Anne is currently volunteering as a Fellow Representative at BIGSSS.

Christof Wittmaack

Affiliated PhD fellow,
Cohort Spring 2021

SOCIUM Research
Center on Inequality
and Social Policy,
University of Bremen

**Dissertation working
title:** Public Opinion and
the Development of the
Activating Welfare State

Supervisors:
Prof. Dr. Herbert
Obinger,
Dr. Nikolas Dörr

In his PhD project, Christof examines the development of public opinion on labor market policy in Germany in the period from 1998 to 2017. To improve understanding of welfare state transformation, he pays particular attention to public opinion in the historical context of political decision-making processes. He analyzes when and how public opinion has been surveyed in media opinion polls and how public preferences have changed. In addition, he explores the perception of public opinion by policy makers. Prior to joining BIGSSS, he studied social policy, social sciences and economics in Bremen, Dublin, Erfurt and Ghent.

Since November of 2021, Christoph is part of the Fellow Representative team.





Hudu Banikoi

Affiliated PhD fellow,
Cohort Spring 2021

Leibniz Centre for
Tropical Marine Re-
search (ZMT) Bremen

**Dissertation working
title:** Diagnosing Institu-
tional Change in Coastal
Resource Governance
in Ghana

Supervisor:
Prof. Dr. Achim Schlüter

Hudu is an environmental social scientist with re-
search experience spanning environmental govern-
ance, human-environment interactions, resource
management and sustainability planning. His cur-
rent research is focused on institutional change in
coastal resource governance. He particularly fo-
cuses on the emergence and challenges of sustain-
ing institutional arrangements for co-management
in coastal fisheries in Ghana. Hudu uses a broad
range of theories of institutional change, mostly
from the perspective of institutional economics, to
understand the challenges of institutional develop-
ment for the sustainable use and management of
coastal fisheries in Ghana.

Hudu works with Achim Schlüter in the working
group on Institutional and Behavioural Economics
at the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research
(ZMT). He holds a Master's degree in Environmental
Governance from the University of Freiburg and
likes to watch and play football.

Jessica Nuske

Affiliated PhD fellow,
Cohort Spring 2021

Research Institute
Social Cohesion (RISCO)
& Institute for Labour
and Economy (iaw),
University of Bremen

**Dissertation working
title:** The Transfer of
Scientific Knowledge:
Approaching an
Unclear Technology
from Multiple Angles.

Supervisor(s): tbd

Jessica is interested in how socio-scientific knowl-
edge becomes relevant to society. More specific-
ly, she deals with a fundamental question of social
sciences: "Can and should social scientists and their
research matter in addressing and solving societal
problems? How can social science knowledge be-
come more useful to society without jeopardizing its
unique quality?"

One specific form of knowledge transfer is trans-
disciplinary research. This approach advocates a
close and substantial collaboration with social ac-
tors throughout the whole research process. Jes-
sica's dissertation project explores this 'new mode'
of knowledge production, its hurdles, pitfalls, and
potentials.

"I expect fruitful and stimulating inter-
disciplinary exchange, lively discus-
sions as well as helpful support from
my peers from all over the world."

Jessica Nuske



Meika Sternkopf

Affiliated PhD fellow,
Cohort Spring 2021

SOCIUM Research
Center on Inequality
and Social Policy,
University of Bremen

**Dissertation working
title:** Vertical Inter-
dependencies in
Latin American Long-
Term Care Policies

Supervisors:

Prof. Dr. Heinz Roth-
gang, Prof. Dr. Simone
Leiber (University
of Duisburg-Essen)

Meika is a doctoral researcher at the Collaborative Research Centre (CRC 1342) Global Dynamics of Social Policy in the project Global Dynamics of Long-Term Care Policy at the SOCIUM. She studied Socioeconomics at Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU Wien) and European Studies in Passau. Her research interests are comparative welfare state and social policy research, with a focus on long-term care and the role of global actors. In her dissertation she examines the involvement of international organizations in Latin American long-term care policy, using Uruguay as a case study to analyze the role they have played in the introduction and implementation of the long-term care system. For this purpose, she applies qualitative methods such as document analysis and expert interviews.



Michael Martin Richter

Affiliated PhD fellow,
Cohort Spring 2021

Research Centre for
East European Studies,
University of Bremen

**Dissertation working
title:** Rent-seeking
Processes and the
Impact of Political and
Economic Shocks:
A comparative Study
of Belarus, Russia,
and Ukraine

Supervisors:

Prof. Dr. Michael
Rochlitz,
Prof. Dr. Heiko Pleines

Due to his German-Polish background, the connection of Western and Central-Eastern Europe has been an inherent passion of Michael since his childhood. In addition to that, he is fascinated by and interested in the interplay of politics and economics. Both these features are clearly visible in his research focus at BIGSSS. Within the framework of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network MARKETS, he investigates the impact of political and economic shocks on rent-seeking processes in Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia. Focusing particularly on Ukraine, he assesses how Kyiv's international partners, such as the EU, affected the political economic system in Ukraine after the 2014 Revolution of Dignity.

His passion for these topics is also visible in his earlier path. As such, he obtained master's degrees in the political economy field from the College of Europe, HSE in Moscow, and the University College in London. He also finished his bachelor's degree at the ESB Business School in Reutlingen and the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, highlighting his pan-European perspective. He previously published his work, for example in *New Eastern Europe*, *Riddle*, *Ukraineanalysen*, *Russlandanalysen*, *WeltTrends*, and *Polenanalysen*.

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Wanda Schwarze-Wippenn

Affiliated PhD fellow,
Field B, Cohort Spring
2021

SOCIUM Research
Center on Inequality
and Social Policy,
University of Bremen

**Dissertation working
title:** Mass Media and
the Development of
the Activating Welfare
State

Supervisors:

Dr. Nikolas Dörr,
Prof. Dr. Frank Nullmeier

Wanda is a doctoral researcher in the working group 'The 'Activating Welfare State' –a Political and Social History of German Social Policy, 1979–2017' at the SOCIUM. In her doctoral project, Wanda examines the role of mass media in the development of the activating welfare state in Germany. Considering mass media as a political actor, she analyzes newspaper commentaries on the Hartz reforms. Wanda focuses on frames and narratives to discern how media pre-structures the formation of public opinion in this context. She considers differences between newspapers and analyzes how comments change over time. Wanda is particularly interested in analyzing the latent meaning of political and mediated language and how this relates to the policy process.

“At BIGSSS, I find practical guidance for my research project and a friendly and constructive network of senior researchers and fellow PhD students.”

Wanda Schwarze-Wippenn

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New PhD Fellows in Fall 2021

In September 2021, 13 PhD fellows from ten different countries began their doctoral studies. While six of them are Regular PhD fellows in the newly established Research Training Group “SELF”, two work in the joint DAAD-BIGSSS Graduate School Scholarship Program “GloWel”. They are complemented by four Affiliated fellows and one Adjunct fellow.

BIGSSS welcomed the new fellows and kicked-off the new academic year with its traditional Welcome (Back)-BBQ on September 3, 2021. Outside on the Jacobs University campus, many BIGSSS members – faculty, fellows, and staff – took the opportunity to welcome new fellows and personally meet for the first time in a long period (due to COVID).

“From my affiliation to BIGSSS, I expect interdisciplinary involvement and discussion, methodological training, and that it makes the dissertation process more social and fun.”

Anne Speer, Affiliated PhD fellow



Catalina Ganga León

PhD fellow, Cohort Fall 2021

BIGSSS-DAAD program
GloWel

Dissertation working title: Emotion Work of Caregivers for the Elderly: Tensions in Care Regimes from Latin American and European Societies

Supervisor:
Prof. Dr. Simone Schenger

Catalina [she/her] is a Psychologist (University of Chile) and a MSc in Social Policy and Public Health (Utrecht University). Her PhD project focuses on the emotional labor of caregivers of the elderly in the domestic sphere, addressing gender and class differences, along with drawing distinctions between societies of the Global South and the Global North. Her theoretical proposal is based on Arlie Russell Hochschild's work. Her research is qualitative in nature and based on life narratives and interpretations of the emotions of caregivers.

Her research interests have focused on care work, gender inequalities in paid and unpaid work, and old age. She has specialized in qualitative research methodologies and has experience participating in academic research projects, public agencies, and civil society organizations. Furthermore, she actively contributes to the production of knowledge from the social sciences of the South, collaborating with the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) through book chapters regarding the Chilean dictatorship period. Currently, she is writing about the artistic and cultural manifestations of international solidarity in Germany and the Netherlands during the Chilean dictatorship.

Catalina also serves as Equal Opportunities Officer at BIGSSS since December 2021.

Gonzalo Anévalo Iglesias

PhD fellow, Cohort Fall 2021

BIGSSS-DAAD program
GloWel

Dissertation working title: Family Support and Welfare Policy Preferences

Supervisors:
Prof. Dr. Patrick Sachweh,
Dr. Nate Breznau

Gonzalo's research is focused on how mechanisms of family support against financial shocks affect the structure of incentives that shape social policy preferences. His interest in this topic derives from his personal background, coming from a Mediterranean country like Spain where high rates of youth unemployment and low levels of job security are countered by strong networks of family support.

The theoretical foundation of Gonzalo's project draws on both rationalist and value-based theories on welfare preference formation, as well as on the literature on dualization and intergenerational support. On this basis, he intends to conduct cross-national comparative analyses both in Europe and Latin America, using multilevel models and secondary data from international surveys.

Gonzalo graduated in Political Science from the University of Santiago de Compostela, and earned a Master's degree in Statistics and Operational Research in the Universities of Santiago de Compostela, Vigo, and A Coruña.

Gonzalo is currently part of the teams of Fellow Representatives and Equal Opportunity Officers.



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Carina-Carolyn Hartz

PhD fellow, Cohort Fall 2021

Research Training Group SELF

Dissertation working title: General Worldviews and Social Cohesion: Understanding Cohesive Entities in Europe

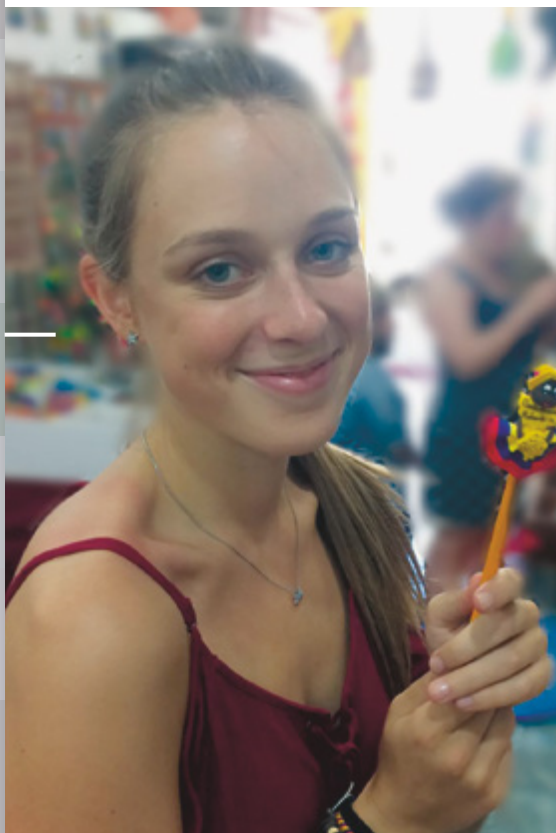
Supervisors:

Prof. Dr. Klaus Boehnke, Dr. Franziska Deutsch

Carina wants to study social cohesion and worldviews in Europe. She is interested in how worldviews can contribute to understanding social cohesion in a society. With this in mind, she will develop a new wave of the Social Cohesion Radar using a quantitative research approach.

Carina is a trained sociologist and psychologist. Apart from her professional interests, she enjoys travelling. Her favorite country is Colombia, which she has visited several times to learn more about the language and culture.

She enjoys being involved as a Fellow Representative and Equal Opportunity Officer.



Dariya Koleva

PhD fellow, Cohort Fall 2021

Research Training Group SELF

Dissertation working title: Rethinking Resistance: A Mixed Methods Study of Discourse and Solidarity in Online Communities.

Supervisors:

Dr. Franziska Deutsch, PD Dr. Jan Lorenz

Dariya's research focuses on online spaces and explores how communities engage in different forms of resistance online. This phenomenon is examined in relation to the interplay between the discourses and narratives in online communities on the forum platform Reddit, and the solidarity group members demonstrate with one another.

A central theory in this project is the concept of "weapons of the weak" – everyday modes of opposition and obstruction. It was developed in the field of anthropology, and it has largely been applied to small-scale indigenous societies. Dariya is hoping to contribute to this topic by investigating these mechanisms from a contemporary perspective – namely by further highlighting these mechanisms in the online sphere, and by utilizing a combination of qualitative and computational methods.

The online social sphere is of particular interest to Dariya, as she previously completed her MA thesis on the use of fake news by online alt-right groups based in the USA.

Before joining BIGSSS in September 2021, Dariya worked in the non-profit sector in Scotland and Bulgaria for a brief period, after having completed her MA degree in Politics and International Relations at the University of Aberdeen in June 2019.



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Debing Lian

PhD fellow, Cohort Fall 2021

Research Training Group SELF

Dissertation working title: The Impact of Cosmopolitan and National Identities on Social Solidarity

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Klaus Boehnke, Prof. Dr. Simone Schengen, Prof. Dr. Patrick Sachweh

Debing’s research intends to examine the impact of cosmopolitan identity and national identity on (national or transnational) social solidarity. Following Craig Calhoun, she assumes that cosmopolitan and national identities are as ascriptive as other identities. Interactions of socio-economic factors at the individual level and at the macro level may have impact on cosmopolitan and national identity, which will in turn influence national and transnational social solidarity.

Debing has been interested in nationalism and cosmopolitanism since her master studies. She argues that “currently, global risks such as environmental issues or the pandemic unite humanity and may generate cosmopolitan ideologies. While globalization is a process that is widely accepted by social scientists, paradoxically nationalism does not seem to decline. This deserves further attention.”

Debing studied German literature at Zhengzhou University in the People’s Republic of China before she came to Germany. At the University of Göttingen, she pursued a master’s program in sociology and worked part-time at the Deutsche Bahn.

Tanya Keni

PhD fellow, Cohort Fall 2021

Research Training Group SELF

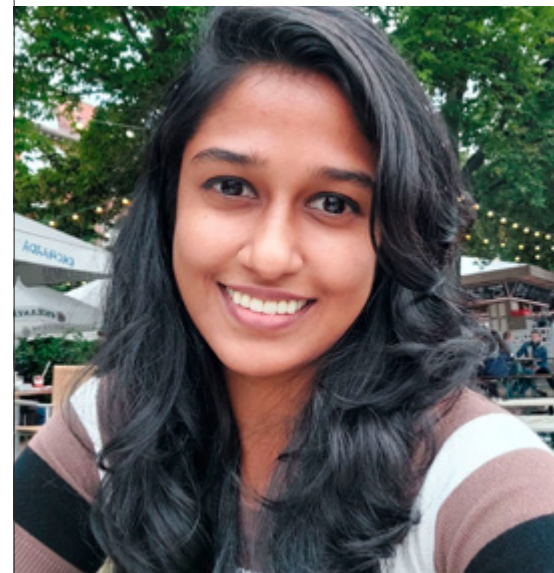
Dissertation working title: Migration and Value Differences in the context of Honor and Dignity Cultures

Supervisors: Dr. Mandy Boehnke, Prof. Dr. Ulrich Kühnen

For her PhD research, Tanya studies people who migrate from honor to dignity cultures and the changes they consequently undergo. People in honor cultures have a vulnerable basis of self-worth which is influenced by external factors. On the other hand, people in dignity cultures possess a stable basis of self-worth that is intrinsic and dispositional. What happens when people migrate? Do they experience a shift in their sense of self-worth? Does it also accompany simultaneous value changes? Tanya wants to answer questions like these through her study.

Culture is a concept that has always fascinated Tanya. “It is a part of us that, I feel, unconsciously shapes the conscious part of ourselves”, she says. Before coming to BIGSSS, Tanya completed her master in psychology at the University of Mumbai where she specialized in Cross-Cultural Psychology and further worked as an assistant professor in Goa where she got a chance to explore teaching some concepts of this field.

Tanya currently serves as a Fellow Representative and the Community Fund Manager as part of her voluntary engagement at BIGSSS.



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Pay Laurin Jessen

PhD fellow, Cohort Fall 2021

Research Training Group SELF

Dissertation working title: Variances in Human Morality from a Cross-Cultural Perspective – An Inquiry on the Role of Self-Construal and Social Interaction Situations

Supervisors:
Prof. Dr. Johannes Huinink,
Prof. Dr. Ulrich Kühnen

Food waste and environmental littering, child work and blood donations, obeying authorities, and fair shares after cooperative work, these are just a few examples of social attitudes and behaviors that are governed by social morality. Precisely how we judge, i.e., condemn or promote certain domains of social behavior, is governed, and guided by the moral standards that are prevalent in the society we are socialized and embedded in. Hence, researchers argue that the basic function of morality is to suppress selfishness, which opens the doors for humans to reap benefits of coordinated social action and cooperative endeavors.

Cultures vary in many social dimensions – for instance in customs, institutions, or the strength with which norms must be followed. Furthermore, as cultures vary so does the way we construct our sense of self. These variances in self-construal render our evolved universal psychology in accordance with our socio-cultural surrounding, promoting either the relative importance of relatedness to other people or the autonomy of the person.

The interplay between self-construal, moral domain endorsement and moral behavior lies in the center Pay’s PhD-project, which will explore morality from a cross-cultural perspective using survey and experimental methods in the empirical design.



Gamze Ipek

PhD fellow, Cohort Fall 2021

Research Training Group SELF

Dissertation working title: Life Goals and Well-Being: The Role of Work-Family Conflict

Supervisors:
Prof. Dr. Sonia Lippke,
Prof. Dr. Sonja Drobnič

Gamze works on the relationship between goal pursuit and well-being. She wants to explain the role of work-family conflict in this relationship. She is interested in this topic because she realized that while working from home during the recent Covid-pandemic, some people adhere to their working hours, while others continue to work, even if work conditions do not require it. Accordingly, she thought that people who prioritized agentic (i.e., more work-oriented) goals over other goals gave more energy to this area and could not regulate the energy they would allocate to family areas, which created a stress factor in their lives. Based on this, she decided to use the theories of self-regulation and conservation of resources in her research. She will explain the relationship between these concepts using multilevel analysis techniques.

Before coming to BIGSSS, Gamze was working as a human resources specialist. She enjoys reading books, traveling, discovering, and photographing new places and tastes. And of course, she really likes to meet her friends from the same cohort in this city where she has just started living.

Gamze volunteers as Fellow Representative and Equal Opportunity Officer. In this way, she wants to improve her social skills and help people inside and outside BIGSSS.

Adio-Adet Tichafara Dinika

Affiliated PhD fellow,
Cohort Fall 2021

Center for Labour and
Politics (ZAP), University
of Bremen

**Dissertation working
title:** The Future of
Work and the Global
Economy: Impact of
Digitalisation on Youth
Labour Markets in
Sub-Saharan Africa

Supervisors:

Prof. Dr. Andreas Klee,
Prof. Dr. Klaus Schlichte

Adio's research revolves around the future of work, specifically he is investigating how digitalization is affecting labor markets for the youth in Sub-Saharan Africa (with Rwanda, South Africa and Zimbabwe as focus countries). His interest in this topic stems from the realization that technology is changing the nature and type of jobs and it is therefore critical for researchers and policy makers to understand how technology is changing jobs and how those changes are affecting people and societies. Adio employs an embedded case study method focusing on the Sub-Saharan African countries Rwanda, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. He uses a mixed method approach in his research, with an emphasis on qualitative methods.

Outside academia, Adio is a writer with his first (unpublished) novel being long listed for the James Currey Prize for African Literature. His travel articles and opinion pieces have been published in various online and print media. Besides, Adio enjoys watching and playing football and is an avid martial artist. Prior to joining BIGSSS, Adio ran a small research and capacity development consultancy in Zimbabwe.

Adio currently serves as a Fellow Representative and volunteers in the Career Development Team.



Pia Gebbing

Affiliated PhD fellow,
Cohort Fall 2021

Business & Economics,
Jacobs University

**Dissertation working
title:** Designing
for Creative Virtual
Collaboration

Supervisors:

Prof. Dr. Christoph
Lattemann,
Prof. Dr. Tilo Halaszovic

Many people spend more time at work than at home and see their colleagues more often than their family and friends. This is what motivates Pia, as a social and organizational psychologist, to create people-oriented work environments. In the context of the pandemic, she decided to investigate the effects of remote work on the working population and how to create the right conditions to thrive in times of virtual collaboration. More precisely, Pia's research focuses on creative collaboration in virtual teams in the context of innovation management and design thinking.

Pia's PhD project is anchored in her work as a research associate in the Department of Business Administration and Information Management at Jacobs University Bremen. She has a master's degree in psychology and interdisciplinary knowledge in social and organizational psychology, business and management, and information systems.

Constantin Huber

Affiliated PhD fellow,
cohort Fall 2021

SOCIUM Research
Center on Inequality
and Social Policy,
University of Bremen

**Dissertation working
title:** The Effects of
Populism on European
Democracies – A
comparative Analysis

Supervisors:
Prof. Dr. Philip Manow,
Prof. Dr. Arndt Wonka

Constantin is a Research fellow in the working group “Comparative Political Economy” at the SOCIUM and as a PhD-student he’s also associated with the Research Institute Social Cohesion RISC. He studied Political Science (MA) at the University of Bamberg and International Relations (MSc) at the University of Essex in a Double Master’s Program. His research interests include populism, extremism, and social inequality.

Various developments are increasingly challenging social cohesion, such as anthropogenic climate change, globalization, or populism. In particular, the nature of the latter, including its effects on European democracies, has become the focus of his research interest in recent years. Therefore, he is working on a project that investigates the responses and changes of democracies when they are confronted with different degrees of populism.



Juma Kalyegira

Affiliated PhD fellow,
Cohort Fall 2021

Counseling & Interna-
tional Services,
Jacobs University

**Dissertation working
title:** The Role of Basic
Psychological Needs
Satisfaction for the
Psychological Well-being
of Refugees in Rhino
Camp Refugee Settle-
ment, Uganda

Supervisors:
Prof. Dr. Klaus Boehnke,
Prof. Dr. Ulrich Kühnen

Juma’s study seeks to address a gap in psychology literature about the relevance of Basic Psychological Needs Satisfaction (BPNS) among refugees in Sub-Saharan African contexts. The main objective of his study is to identify the relationship between psychological needs satisfaction (autonomy, competence, and relatedness) to the Psychological Well-being (PWB) and Social-Cultural Integration (SCI) of refugees.

He uses a mixed-methods study design, collecting qualitative data through focus group discussions and quantitative data through structured questionnaires. Using thematic analysis, Juma wants to understand what factors contribute to the psychological well-being/frustration of refugees in Uganda. Subsequently, he tests basic psychological needs satisfaction for being a predictor of psychological well-being among refugees by means of regression analysis.

Before joining BIGSSS, Juma worked as a counselor at Makerere University and other Non-Governmental Organizations. He also served in various refugee settlements in Uganda as a Clinical Psychologist and at Butabika National Referral Mental Hospital. Juma likes observing nature. In his leisure time, he goes for walks in forests and by waters.



New Postdoctoral Fellows

These PhD fellows have also started their research at BIGSSS in 2021:

Olga Masyutina

Adjunct fellow, Cohort Spring 2021

Faculty of Business Studies and Economics, University of Bremen

Dissertation working title:
Papers on the Political Economy of Authoritarianism

Oghenekome Umuerrri

Adjunct fellow, Cohort Fall 2021

Business & Economics, Jacobs University

Dissertation working title: Decision-Making Behavior in Financing African Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises – Empirical Analysis of Loan Application Decisions on Financing MSMEs in Ghana.

Dr. Dennis Redeker

Affiliated postdoctoral fellow (since October 2021)

Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research (ZeMKI), University of Bremen

Dennis is a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research (ZeMKI) where he is affiliated with the “Platform Governance, Media and Technology” lab (Prof. Katzenbach). His research focus is on questions of global governance of the Internet, of platforms and of artificial intelligence. Dennis is a founding member of the interdisciplinary Digital Constitutionalism Network (since 2019), which examines the role of human rights in the digital age and the increasing constitutionalization of digital technologies. Between April 2017 and November 2021, Dennis was a research fellow at the SOCIUM at the University of Bremen and a fellow at BIGSSS.

During his doctoral phase, Dennis completed research stays at New York University (Center for European and Mediterranean Studies) and Harvard University (Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society). He previously studied international relations, comparative law, political philosophy and economics in Maastricht, Bremen and at the University of Connecticut.



New Faculty

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Prof. Dr. Achim Schlüter

Professor of Social Systems and Ecological Economics, Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) & Jacobs University

Achim is an environmental institutional economist, who has worked on various resource systems like agriculture, forestry and the marine environment. He is particularly interested in collective dilemmas often associated with the use of those systems. The focus of his research group is on property rights, institutional change and marine governance in different sectors like aquaculture, fisheries, blue carbon or sea level rise.

With a problem driven and broad research orientation, the working group can largely profit from the theoretical and methodological expertise of BIGSSS. BIGSSS builds a nice bridge between Jacobs and Bremen University and ZMT, which finds itself at the University of Bremen campus.



Prof. Dr. Torben Klarl

Professor of Macroeconomics, Faculty of Business Studies and Economic, University of Bremen

Torben is a quantitative macroeconomist with a current (empirical) research focus on economics of digitization and automation, political economy and authoritarian regimes, climate change and sustainability, housing and health economics. He is also particularly interested in research topics related to inequality issues such as human capital, health or wealth. He regularly employs computational methods that include data science methods as well. Torben publishes his work in top-field macroeconomic and environmental economics journals as well as in general interest journals.

At BIGSSS he supervises theoretical grounded applications that focus on the social and economic consequences of income and wealth inequality both with a subnational and national perspective. Torben is part of the DAAD GloWel PhD Program faculty at BIGSSS.

For years, Torben has been a passionate (mountain) runner and a supporter of Bavarian Swabia football club FC Augsburg. He has also a keen interest reading (economic) history literature.

Visiting Fellows



Dr. Nikolas Dörr

SOCIUM Research
Center on Inequality
and Social Policy,
University of Bremen

Nikolas is principal investigator of the junior research group “The ‘Activating Welfare State’ – a Political and Social History of German Social Policy, 1979–2017” at the SOCIUM. As part of the research group, he supervises two PhD students of BIGSSS’ 2021 cohort. BIGSSS’ international scope and interdisciplinarity in the humanities and social sciences correspond well with his academic work which is situated between history and political science. Nikolas’ research focuses on historical and comparative welfare state research as well as the history of international relations and security policy (in particular the Cold War).

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Kaitlin Alper

Visiting PhD fellow
October to December 2021

University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill,
USA

Kaitlin's research focuses on the intersection of decentralization/federalism and income inequality, especially in France and Germany. While based at BIGSSS, she worked with Prof. Dr. Herbert Obinger, who is also serving on her dissertation committee.



Shepherd Mutsvara

Visiting PhD fellow
November 2021 to April 2022

Pedagogical University
of Kraków, Poland

Shepherd's main research fields are refugee policy and protection, asylum procedures, and border externalization. Drawing on different disciplinary and methodological perspectives, he focuses on the complex topic of economic migration.

At BIGSSS, Shepherd uses his time to get in touch with institutional representatives of the refugee policies in Bremen for interviews. Beyond that, Shepherd is also Teaching Assistant to Dr. Jacob Fruchtmann at Jacobs University.



Dr. Francesco Laruffa

Visiting postdoc fellow
October 2021 to September 2022

University of Geneva,
Switzerland

Francesco's research is centered on neoliberalism, welfare reform and social justice. During his stay, he closely collaborates with Frank Nullmeier, primarily on the social policy implications of the ecological transition. His work appears in Journals such as New Political Economy; European Journal of Sociology; Constellations; Critical Social Policy; Policy & Politics; Social Policy and Society; Ethics and Social Welfare; Journal of Human Development and Capabilities; Critical Sociology; and Journal of Common Market Studies among others.



Markus Wienbreyer

Visiting PhD fellow
November 2021 to August 2022

University of Valencia,
Spain

Markus Wienbreyer's main research fields are the influence of culture and religion on financial decision makings, especially the capital structure of pan European SME. At BIGSSS he focuses on the further development and evaluation of his data with a structural equation model.



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New Staff





Arline Rave

Senior Coordinator
of the Deans' Office

Arline started working as Senior Coordinator of the Deans' Office at BIGSSS in March 2021. Being a PhD fellow at BIGSSS conducting research on health inequalities from a comparative perspective, she is quite familiar with the graduate school. During her time as a Regular fellow at BIGSSS, she repeatedly volunteered as a Fellow Representative and was twice a member of the organizing team of the BIGSSS computational summer schools. After a short excursion into community management in the Bremer Überseestadt, she returned to BIGSSS in her new position.

At BIGSSS, Arline covers the tasks of the Senior Coordinator of the Deans' Office. This includes internal and external communication projects such as this Annual Report, the BIGSSS website and social media, organizing events such the Graduation Day, and managing various internal processes. If you have questions about BIGSSS, Arline can almost always help you, or at least she knows whom to ask. With her previous work experience in both academic and non-academic settings and given her familiarity with BIGSSS, she feels well prepared for her new responsibilities.



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BIGSSS Research

DAAD Graduate School Scholarship Program “GloWel”

GloWel, short for “Global Inequality, the Middle Classes and the Welfare State”, is a Regular PhD program at BIGSSS in cooperation with the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Graduate School Scholarship Program. GloWel hosts four international PhD students. The first two PhD fellows started in September 2021, two more will join us in September 2022.

GloWel focuses on the interrelation between global inequalities, global social policies, and the role of the emerging middle classes for social and political integration. The program is particularly interested in comparative perspectives on the Global South and North and has strong ties to Bremen’s CRC 1342 “Global Dynamics of Social Policy” and the national Research Centre for Social Cohesion RISC.

“I expect BIGSSS to provide me with an ideal environment to develop my research, enhance my competencies in all areas of social science, and network with other young and established researchers in the field. So far, I am happy to say that the institution has met and even topped my expectations.”

Gonzalo Arévalo Iglesias, DAAD GloWel PhD fellow

DAAD GloWel PhD fellows
Gonzalo Arévalo Iglesias and Catalina Ganga León



Research Training Group “SELF”

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Kühnen, February 2022

On September 1, 2021, the new DFG Research Training Group (Graduiertenkolleg) Social Dynamics of the Self (SELF) officially started. SELF emerged from the former BIGSSS Thematic Field C (“Changing Lives in Changing Socio-Cultural Contexts”) as a joint interdisciplinary project of psychologists, sociologists, and political scientists from both Jacobs University (JU) and University of Bremen (UB). Specifically, the list of PIs includes the following faculty members: Ulrich Kühnen (Psychology, JU, RTG spokesperson), Sonja Drobnic (Sociology, UB, RTG deputy spokesperson), Klaus Boehnke (Psychology, JU), Mandy Boehnke (Sociology, UB), Franziska Deutsch (Political Science, JU), Johannes Huinink (Sociology, UB), Sonia Lippke (Psychology, JU), Jan Lorenz (Computational Social Sciences, JU), and Simone Scherger (Sociology, UB).

RTG SELF PhD fellows: Gamze Ipek, Pay Laurin Jessen, Dariya Koleva, Carina-Carolyn Hartz, Debing Lian (left to right)



RTG SELF Opening Ceremony

With a budget of roughly three million Euros for four and a half years, SELF will continue to be an important element of BIGSSS for the years to come. Two cohorts of PhD fellows will be hired, the first one with six PhD candidates started on September 1st. On the occasion of the official opening ceremony Dr. Roy Baumeister (Florida State University) gave the keynote speech on “Political Bias and Partisan Hostility: A Cultural Animal Theory about Modern Ideological Conflict”. Baumeister is Mercator Fellow of SELF and will return to the RTG for several research stays in the next couple of years.

Within the context of this RTG doctoral researchers study the interactions between individuals and their social environment. Whether culture, gender, social class or family: all human beings are exposed to systematic influences that shape them and their actions. They also shape how individuals construe their self. The self is thus socially embedded and shaped by the various cultures to which we belong. Yet, the complexity of the self is also structured around two major important themes or categories of self-definition. One way of thinking about the self is in terms of independence from others and by stressing special and unique features. Another way is by connecting the self to others in terms of interdependence with them.

Understanding better how our "cultural cocktail" affects the relative importance of independence and interdependence is one important goal of the RTG. The second goal concerns the consequences of these differences in the way the self is construed. The self is not only shaped by our social context, but it in turn shapes what we do, and how we interact with others. And that obviously has consequences beyond ourselves. These consequences have an impact on the social relationships and conditions in which everyone moves, and will in the long-term lead to social changes on the large scale. Hence, the central theme of research conducted within the RTG SELF is the dynamic interactions of the self and society – their mutual constitution.

The RTG SELF also includes a structured curriculum as part of its educational program. This curriculum includes core theory seminars, methods classes, as well as demand-tailored workshops and classes.



Prof. Dr. Ulrich Kühnen, spokesperson RTG SELF



The BIGSSS Best Paper Awards 2021

... and the winners are Janosch Neil Kullenberg and Vladimir Ponizovski

Their work was honored in laudations during the Meeting of Members on May 5, 2021 and awarded the BIGSSS Best Paper Awards in the single-authored and co-authored category each worth 500 Euro.

Single-authored Best Paper Award:

Janosch Neil Kullenberg (2021): Overlapping Agendas and Peacekeepers' Ability to Protect. In *International Peacekeeping* 28 (4), pp. 661–688.



Co-authored Best Paper Award:

Vladimir Ponizovski, Munat Andag, Lusine Grigoryan, Ryan Boyd, Henrik Dobewall, Peter Holtz (2020): Development and Validation of the Personal Values Dictionary: A Theory-Driven Tool for Investigating References to Basic Human Values in Text. In *European Journal of Personality* 34(5), pp. 885–902.



23 PhD fellows have successfully defended their PhD theses in 2021. Congratulations!

Regina Becker

Feb 18

Disentangling Migration and Incorporation Experiences. A Mixed-methods Study among EU Physicians in Germany (Sociology)

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Céline Teney, Prof. Dr. Steffen Mau

Dennis Redeker

Mar 26

Digital Constitutionalism: Transnational Advocacy Networks and the Struggle for Human Rights in the Digital Age (Political Science)

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Kerstin Martens, Prof. Dr. Peter Mayer

Olga Poluektova

Apr 29

A Social-Cognitive Approach to the Socioeconomic Gap in Achievement: The Effects of Growing up in Economically Challenging Environment on Self-Efficacy, Problem-Focused Coping Potential and Attribution of Success and Failure (Psychology)

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Arvid Kappas, Prof. Sonja Drobnič

Vladimir Ponizovskiy

May 4

Value-Instantiating Beliefs (Psychology)

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Klaus Boehnke, Prof. Dr. Ulrich Kühnen

Markus Klingel

May 19

Negotiating the Life Course. Dyadic Life Course Decisions, Individualization and the Limits of Agency (Sociology)

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Johannes Huinink, Prof. Dr. Martin Kohli

Alexander Meland

Jun 19

Outsourcing Institutional Entrepreneurship to the World Economic Forum: Mono-glocalizing 'Water Security' with the World Bank Group & Government' (International Relations)

Supervisors: Dr. Sebastian Botzem, Prof. Dr. Sebastian Haunss

Gulnaz Isabekova

Jun 28

The Impact of Donor-State-Civil Society Interaction on the Sustainability of Health Aid. Case Studies of Projects combatting Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan (Political Science)

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Heiko Pleines, Dr. Monika Ewa Kaminska

Matthias Pohlig

Jun 28

Why do Working Lives become unequal? Studies on Unemployment, Careers and Work Inequalities (Sociology)

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Olaf Groh-Samberg, PD Irene Dingeldey

Alyona Khaptsova

Jun 28

Individual Values as a Basis for Selective Media Exposure (Sociology)

Supervisors: Dr. Jakob Fruchtmann, Prof. Dr. Margrit Schreier

Eloisa Harris

Sep 17

The Partisan Politics of the Immigration-Welfare Tension: Voter Demand, Electoral Strategies and Partisan Effects Revisited (Political Science)

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Philip Manow, Prof. Dr. Arndt Wonka

Alex Nadège Ouedraogo

Sep 27

The Food Question – Internationalised Welfare in Senegal (Political Science)

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Klaus Schlichte, Dr. Alexander Veit, Prof. Jimi Adesina

Jan	BIGSSS Research	Defenses	66
Feb	Hawa Noor Zitzmann Sep 28	Micro-Mobilization to Islamist Militancy. Interpreting Motivations with Former Kenyan Participants in al-Shabaab (Political Science) Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Klaus Schlichte, PD Dr. Ulrich Franke	
Mar			
Apr	Fabian Besche-Truthe Oct 4	Global Transformation of Education Systems, Investigating Domestic, Relational and Transnational levels of Policy Drivers (Social Science) Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Michael Windzio, Prof. Dr. Kerstin Martens	
May			
Jun	Helen Seitzer Oct 7	Conceptualizing the Transnational Education Policy-making Process from a Relation Perspective (Social Science) Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Michael Windzio, Prof. Dr. Kerstin Martens	
Jul	Keonhi Son Oct 15	Influence of the ILO Maternity Protection Conventions on the Historical Development of Paid Maternity Leave in the World (Political Science) Supervisors: Prof. Sonja Drobnič, Ph.D., Prof. Dr. Peter Mayer	
Aug			
Sep	Dafna Jasmine Burema Oct 26	Engineering Elder Care: An Analysis of Conceptual Premises and Biases of Social Robots in Elder Care (Sociology) Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Andreas Breiter, Prof. Dr. Heinz Rothgang	
Oct			
Nov	Gabriela de Carvalho Nov 5	The Role of Global Actors in Shaping Healthcare Systems: Advancing Analytical Frameworks to better Portray the Empirical Reality of Global South Countries (Social Science) Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Heinz Rothgang, Prof. Dr. Armando Barrantos	
Dec			

Jan	BIGSSS Research	Defenses	67
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Nov	Jakob Henninger Nov 5	The Politics of Immigration and Social Protection in Electoral-Authoritarian Regimes (Political Science) Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Susanne K. Schmidt, Prof. Dr. Christian Joppke	
Dec	Johanna Fischer Nov 16	The Emergence of Social Policy in the Field of Long-Term Care. A Comparative Analysis of the Introduction and Types of Long-Term Care Systems in Global Perspective (Social Science) Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Heinz Rothgang, Prof. Dr. Simone Leiber	
	Daria Ukhova Dec 3	How Class shapes Gender Inequality at Home: Three Essays on the Gender Division of Unpaid Work in Post-Socialist Contexts (Sociology) Supervisors: Prof. Sonja Drobnič, Ph.D., Prof. Dr. Olaf Groh-Samberg	
	Leslie Gauditz Dec 6	Solidarity Relationships in the No Borders Movement in Europe (Sociology) Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Sebastian Haunss, Prof. Dr. Priska Daphi	
	Yulia Khalikova Dec 16	Constitutional Review and Judicial Behavior under Authoritarianism: Evidence from Russia (Political Science) Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Susanne K. Schmidt, Prof. Dr. Heiko Pleines	
	Ajita Srivastava Dec 16	More on Enough: Maximizing and Satisficing in Different Socio-Ecological Contexts (Psychology) Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Ulrich Kühnen, Prof. Dr. Klaus Boehnke	

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“Through being a fellow at BIGSSS, I expect to become an expert in my study area, as well as gain critical skills such as problem solving, academic writing and collaboration with other researchers.”

Adio-Adet Tichafara Dinika, Affiliated PhD fellow

Selected Publications by BIGSSS PhD Fellows

- Belic, J.**; Djordjevic, A.; Nikitović, T.; **Khaptsova, A.** (2021): The Diversity of Value Construal: A Constructivist Approach to the Schwartz Theory of Basic Values. In *Journal of Constructivist Psychology*, pp. 1–25.
- Burema, D.** (2021): A critical analysis of the representations of older adults in the field of human–robot interaction. In *AI & SOCIETY*, pp. 1–11.
- Carvalho, G. de; Polte, A.**; Scherf, K.; Mohamed, M.; Frisina Doetter, L. (2021): Trends in time. Identifying health care system introductions worldwide (SOCIUM SFB 1342 WorkingPapers, No. 16). Bremen: CRC 1342.
- Carvalho, G. de; Schmid, A.; Fischer, J.** (2021): Classifications of health care systems. Do existing typologies reflect the particularities of the Global South? In *Global Social Policy* 21 (2), pp. 278–300.
- Dana, L.-P.; **Vorobeva, E.** (2021): Understanding the Term 'Minority Entrepreneurship'. In: T. M. Cooney (Ed.): *The Palgrave Handbook of Minority Entrepreneurship*, vol. 12. Cham: Springer, pp. 15–32.
- Druga, E.** (2021): The Health Care System in Albania (CRC 1342 Social Policy Country Briefs, No. 8 Albania). Bremen: CRC 1342.
- Frisina Doetter, L.; Schmid, A.; **Carvalho, G. de**; Rothgang, H. (2021): Comparing apples to oranges? Minimizing typological biases to better classify healthcare systems globally. In *Health Policy OPEN* 2, pp. 1–8.
- Heinrich, A.; **Isabekova, G.**; Müller, A.; Pleines, H.; Brink, T. ten (2021): The Agency of Recipient Countries in Transnational Policy-Related Knowledge Transfer. In *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 54 (3), pp. 51–72.
- Jauhainen, J. S.; **Vorobeva, E.** (2021): Syrian refugees and other Syrian forced migrants in Jordan: forms of capital approach. In *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, pp. 1–19.
- Kaminska, M. E.; **Druga, E.**; **Stupele, L.**; **Malinar, A.** (2021): Changing the healthcare financing paradigm: Domestic actors and international organizations in the agenda setting for diffusion of social health insurance in post-communist Central and Eastern Europe. In *Social Policy & Administration* 55 (6), pp. 1066–1081.
- Khalikova, Y.**; Kazun, A. (2021): Should I stay, or should I go? self-legitimacy of attorneys in an authoritarian state. In *Crime, Law and Social Change* 75 (4), pp. 373–395.

- Kullenberg, J. N.** (2021): Overlapping Agendas and Peacekeepers' Ability to Protect. In *International Peacekeeping* 28 (4), pp. 661–688.
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Brink, T. ten; **Müller, A.;** Liu, T. (2021): The introduction of pension, accident and health insurance in urban China. In: J. Kuhlmann, F. Nullmeier (Eds.): *Causal Mechanisms in the Global Development of Social Policies*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.

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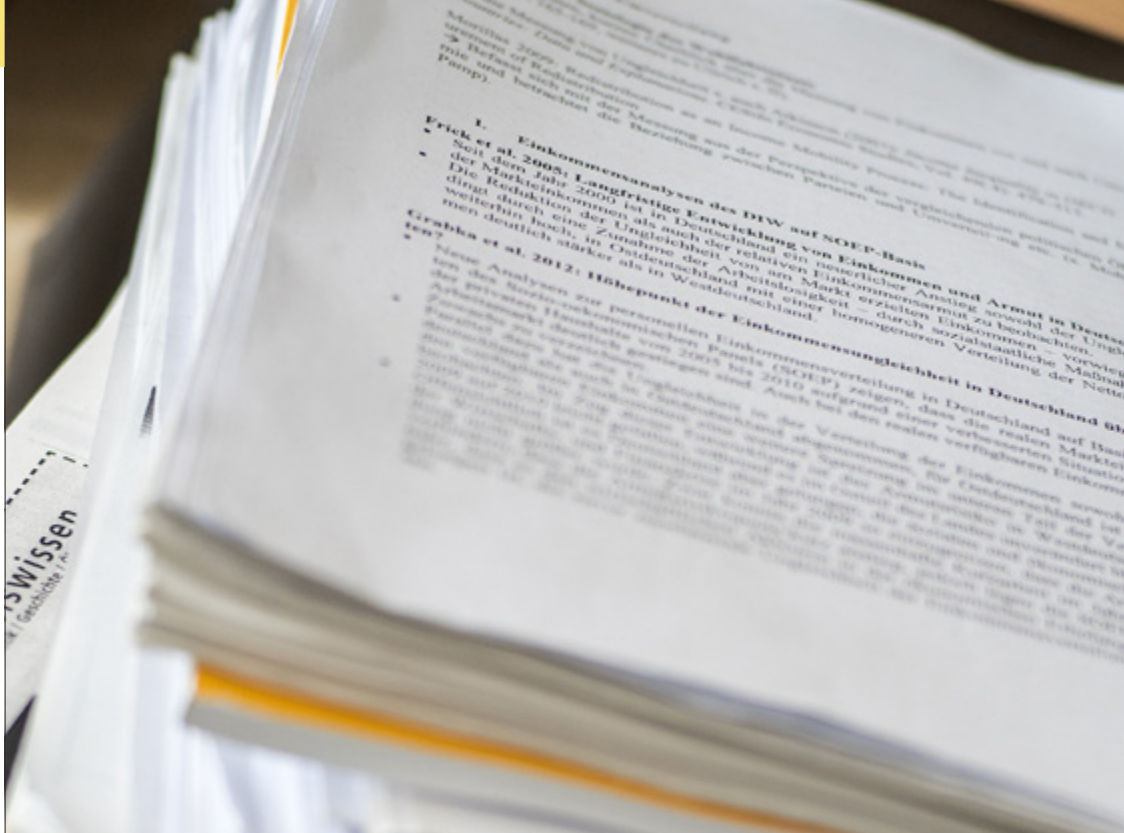
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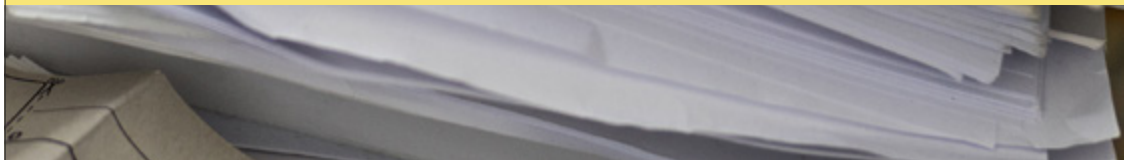
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- Jan
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“BIGSSS offers on the one hand the opportunity to dive deeper into the broad array of the disciplines under the umbrella of the social sciences, while on the other hand it also gives the possibility to specialize thematically on certain research topics.”

Pay Laurin Jessen, RTG SELF PhD fellow



Jan	BIGSSS Research	Publications	76
Feb		Hannieder, T. (2021): Die Sorge um die Sorgewirtschaft im Globalen Britanniens. In <i>Deutsche Zeitschrift für europäisches Denken</i> 75 (867), pp. 67–74.	
Mar		Hannieder, T. ; Galesne, C. (2021): Domestic humanitarianism. The Mission France of Médecins Sans Frontières and Médecins du Monde. In <i>Third World Quarterly</i> 42 (8), pp. 1715–1732.	
Apr		Hannieder, T. ; Maray, E. M. (2021): Digitalizing community health work. A struggle over the values of global health policy. In <i>Historical Social Research</i> 46 (1), pp. 136–159.	
May		Hesse, F. W.; Kobsda, C.; Leiser, A. (2021): Digital Transformation of Higher Education – Global Learning Report 2021. SSOAR, 10.21241/ssoar.73580.	
Jun		Jewett, R. L.; Mah, S. M.; Howell, N.; Larsen, M. (2021): Social Cohesion and Community Resilience During COVID-19 and Pandemics: A Rapid Scoping Review to Inform the United Nations Research Roadmap for COVID-19 Recovery. In <i>International journal of health services : planning, administration, evaluation</i> 51 (3), pp. 325–336.	
Jul		Klebe, L.; Felfe, J.; Klug, K. (2021): Healthy Leadership in Turbulent Times: The Effectiveness of Health-Oriented Leadership in Crisis. In <i>British Journal of Management</i> 32 (4), pp. 1203–1218.	
Aug		Klebe, L.; Felfe, J.; Klug, K. (2021): Mission impossible? Effects of crisis, leader and follower strain on health-oriented leadership. In <i>European Management Journal</i> 17 (4), p. 351.	
Sep		Klebe, L.; Klug, K. ; Felfe, J. (2021): The Show Must Go On. In <i>Zeitschrift für Arbeits- und Organisationspsychologie A&O</i> 65 (4), pp. 231–243.	
Oct		Klug, K. ; Selenko, E.; Gerlitz, J.-Y. (2021): Working, but not for a living: a longitudinal study on the psychological consequences of economic vulnerability among German employees. In <i>European Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology</i> 30 (6), pp. 790–807.	
Nov		Kneuer, M.; Corsten, M.; Schammann, H.; Kahle, P.; Wallaschek, S. ; Ziegler, F. (2021): Claiming solidarity. A multilevel discursive reconstruction of solidarity. In <i>European Journal of Social Theory</i> , online first, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1177%2F13684310211045794 .	
Dec		Köppe, S. : The Role of Evidence and Commissions in the Dynamics of German and Swedish Pension Markets. In: C. Ledoux, F. van Hooren, K. Shire (Eds.): <i>The Dynamics of Welfare Markets: Private Pensions and Domestic/Care Services in Europe</i> . Houndsmills: Palgrave, pp. 163–188.	
		Krachler, N.; Auffenberg, J. ; Wolf, L. (2021): The Role of Organizational Factors in Mobilizing Professionals. Evidence from Nurse Unions in the United States and Germany. In <i>British Journal of Industrial Relations</i> . 59 (3), pp. 643–668.	

Jan	BIGSSS Research	Publications	77
Feb		Krick, A.; Felfe, J.; Klug, K. (2021): Building resilience: Trajectories of heart rate variability during a mindfulness-based intervention and the role of individual and social characteristics. In <i>International Journal of Stress Management</i> 28 (3), pp. 220–231.	
Mar		Kuhn, E.; Müller, S.; Teusch, C.; Tanner, G.; Schümann, M.; Baur, C. ; Bamberg, E.; Heidbrink, L.; McLennan, S.; Buyx, A. (2021): Interfaces of occupational health management and corporate social responsibility: a multi-centre qualitative study from Germany. In <i>BMC Public Health</i> 21 (1), p. 1042.	
Apr		Larsen, M. ; Boehnke, K.; Esenaliev, D.; Bruck, T. (2021): Social Cohesion, Ethnicity and Well-Being: Results from an Intervention Study in Kyrgyzstan. In <i>Cultural-Historical Psychology</i> 17 (4), pp. 46–55.	
May		Laufen, M.; Leiser, A. ; Deacon, B.; Perrin de Brichambaut, P.; Fecher, B.; Kobsda, C.; Hesse, F. (2021): Digital higher education: a divider or bridge builder? Leadership perspectives on edtech in a COVID-19 reality. In <i>International journal of educational technology in higher education</i> 18 (1), p. 51.	
Jun		Lersch, P. M. ; Baxter, J. (2021): Parental Separation during Childhood and Adult Children's Wealth. In <i>Social Forces</i> 99 (3), pp. 1176–1208.	
Jul		Lersch, P. M. ; Grabka, M. M.; Rüb, K.; Schröder, C. (2021): Wealth of Children from Single-Parent Families. Low Levels and High Inequality in Germany. In <i>Journal of European Social Policy</i> 31 (5), pp. 565–579.	
Aug		Lindner, R.; Edler, J.; Hufnagl, M.; Kimpeler, S.; Kroll, H.; Roth, F.; Wittmann, F. ; Yorulmaz, M. (2021): Missionsorientierte Innovationspolitik. Von der Ambition zur erfolgreichen Umsetzung (Policy Brief, No. 2). Karlsruhe: Frauenhofer ISI.	
Sep		Nutz, T.; Lersch, P. M. (2021): Gendered Employment Trajectories and Individual Wealth at Older Ages in Eastern and Western Germany 47. A Life Course Perspective. In <i>Advances in Life Course Research</i> 47.	
Oct		Pfeffer, F. T.; Waitkus, N. (2021): Comparing Child Wealth Inequality across Countries. In <i>The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences</i> 7 (3), pp. 28–49.	
Nov		Pfeffer, F. T.; Waitkus, N. (2021): The Wealth Inequality of Nations. In <i>American Sociological Review</i> 86 (4), pp. 567–602.	
Dec		Recchi, E.; Deutschmann, E. ; Gabrielli, L.; Kholmatova, N. (2021): The global visa cost divide: How and why the price for travel permits varies worldwide. In <i>Political Geography</i> 86 (3), p. 102350.	
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Jan	BIGSSS Research	Publications	78
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Mar	Schapper, A. (2021): Justice and Human Rights Concerns at COP26 – The Whitest and Most Exclusive Climate Negotiations in Decades? In <i>Global Cooperation Research – A Quarterly Magazine</i> (3–4).		
Apr	Schapper, A. (2021): The „Super-Network“: Fostering Interaction Between Human Rights and Climate Change Institutions. In <i>Complexity, Governance & Networks</i> 6 (1), p. 32.		
May	Schapper, A.; Urban, F. (2021): Large dams, norms and Indigenous Peoples. In <i>Development Policy Review</i> 39 (S1), p. 104.		
Jun	Schnelle, C.; Dragolov, G.; Arant, R.; Boehnke, K. (2021): Heimatverbundenheit: Konstruktion und Validierung eines Messinstruments. In <i>Journal of Political Psychology</i> 9 (1), pp. 38–57.		
Jul	Schümann, M.; Stein, M.; Tanner, G.; Baur, C.; Bamberg, E. (2021): The Spillover of Socio-Moral Climate in Organizations Onto Employees' Socially Responsible Purchase Intention: The Mediating Role of Perceived Social Impact. In <i>Frontiers in psychology</i> 12, article 668399.		
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Sep	Tanner, G.; Schümann, M.; Baur, C.; Bamberg, E. (2021): Too fatigued to consume (in)responsibly? The importance of work related fatigue and personal values for responsible consumption. In <i>International Journal of Consumer Studies</i> 45 (6), pp. 1322–1334.		
Oct	Tisch, D.; Lersch, P. M. (2021): Distributive Justice in Marriage: Experimental Evidence on Beliefs about Fair Savings Arrangements. In <i>Journal of Marriage and Family</i> 83 (2), pp. 516–533.		
Nov	Vidal, S.; Lersch, P. M. (2021): Panel Data in Research on Mobility and Migration. A Review of Recent Advances. In <i>Comparative Population Studies</i> 46.		
Dec	Wallaschek, S.: Über Parteien, soziale Bewegungen und Solidarität in Chantal Mouffes Demokratietheorie. In: M. Westphal (Ed.): <i>Agonale Demokratie und Staat</i> . Baden-Baden: Nomos, pp. 47–64.		
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	Wallaschek, S.; Ziegler, F. (2021): Making sense of the 'new normal'. The COVID-19 crisis in the communication of the prime ministers of Ireland and New Zealand. In <i>Culture, Practice & Europeanization</i> 6 (1), pp. 112–134.		

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Feb	Weiffen, B.; Gawrich, A.; Axyonova, V. (2021): Reorganizing the Neighborhood? Power Shifts and Regional Security Organizations in the Post-Soviet Space and Latin America. In <i>Journal of Global Security Studies</i> 6 (1), p. 629.		
Mar	Witte, N.; Pollak, R.; Ette, A. (2021): Social Origins of German Emigrants: Maintaining Social Status Through International Mobility? In: M. Erlinghagen, A. Ette et al. (Eds.): <i>The Global Lives of German Migrants. Consequences of International Migration Across the Life Course</i> . Cham: Springer (IMISCOE Research Series), pp. 139–153.		
Apr	Witte, N.; Auditor, J. G. (2021): Affluent Lives Beyond the Border? Individual Wage Change Through Migration. In: M. Erlinghagen, A. Ette et al. (Eds.): <i>The Global Lives of German Migrants. Consequences of International Migration Across the Life Course</i> . Cham: Springer (IMISCOE Research Series), pp. 121–138.		
May	Wittmann, F.; Hufnagl, M.; Lindner, R.; Roth, F.; Edler, J. (2021): Governing varieties of mission-oriented innovation policies: A new typology. In <i>Science and Public Policy</i> 48 (5), pp. 727–738.		
Jun	Wittmann, F.; Hufnagl, M.; Roth, F.; Yorulmaz, M.; Lindner, R. (2021): From mission definition to implementation. Conceptualizing mission-oriented policies as a multi-stage translation process (Fraunhofer ISI Discussion Papers Innovation Systems and Policy Analysis, No. 71). Karlsruhe: Fraunhofer ISI.		
Jul	Wittmann, F.; Roth, F.; Hufnagl, M.; Yorulmaz, M.; Lindner, R. (2021): Second Mission Analysis Report of the Scientific Support Action to the German Hightech Strategy 2025. Zooming in: Translating missions into policy instruments. Karlsruhe: Fraunhofer ISI.		
Aug	Wollast, R.; Riemer, A. R.; Sarah J., G. S.; Grigoryan, L.; Bernard, P.; Klein, O. (2021): How cultural orientation and self-compassion shape objectified body consciousness for women from America, Belgium, Russia, and Thailand. In <i>Self and Identity</i> 20 (7), pp. 930–950.		

Goodbyes

Dr. Christian Peters, March 2022

In 2021, in addition to our newly graduated alumni, we had to say goodbye to two people who were very important to BIGSSS:

On September 30, our long-time Director of Studies, **Mandy Boehnke**, departed to University of Bremen's Fachbereich 8, where she'll work as Dean of Studies. This is a temporary assignment and we hope to welcome her back to BIGSSS one day. Of course, it is great to work with Mandy in her new position.

Steffen Bandlow-Raffalski left BIGSSS on October 31. He worked with us as Academic Coordinator almost two years, and yet it felt much longer – in a very good sense: Steffen was there when we started the new DAAD program and managed to be always close to our fellows during difficult pandemic times. In his engaging and constructive manner, he always had an open ear to everyone and we're very grateful for that. Steffen followed his call as a political scientist and took up a position in political education in the state of Lower Saxony.

Since this document is the first BIGSSS annual report ever, we will allow ourselves a little more reminiscence at this point. In 2020, the Graduate School also had to cope with some serious departures. On May 31, our long-time Field Coordinator **Matthias Wingens** left. Matthias was what is commonly referred to as an 'institutional veteran': He knew the Graduate School from its beginnings as GSS, when it was still strongly influenced by the Collaborative Research Center 184 on Life course Social Science. As a sociologist, Matthias always remained true to this academic field and in the last year of his time at BIGSSS he published an authoritative introductory and textbook on the Life Course topic. His social science acumen, his remarkable institutional pragmatism, and his beneficial distance from the intellectual excitements and sensitivities of our graduate school will be sorely missed. He is said to be enjoying his retirement very much, and in this we wish him only the best.

At the end of July 2020, **Wolfgang Banasiewicz** left BIGSSS after eight wonderful years of collaboration, also on his way to a well-deserved retirement. Wolfgang's Westphalian wit, his enormous competence in administrative matters, his sensitive ap-

“Being a fellow at BIGSSS, I expect to expand my horizons, to improve data analysis skills, to have thought-provoking discussions and exchange of ideas with fellow scholars.”

Ekaterina Vorobeva, Affiliated PhD fellow

proach and his constructive tone among colleagues and fellows will be sorely missed. To quote him himself: "He did his very best" – and that was more than we could ever expect ...

Finally, as of October 2020, we had to say goodbye to our dear colleague **Maike Koschorreck**. For almost five years she has been instrumental in keeping BIGSSS on track: As Senior Coordinator of the Dean's Office she was a tireless advocate for the fellow perspective, constantly reminding us of what really should matter in a graduate school. She accompanied our institution in a time of great change. With foresight, empathy, and strategic and organizational talent Maike helped BIGSSS to maneuver on this adventurous path from Excellence then to an excellent now. Thank you so much for that!



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Nov

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25
New Fellows

100+
Publications

23
Defenses

