Perspectives for research data on young academics and early career researchers

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Situation

Demand for data

Multitude of studies but lack of representative and longitudinal data on the situation of young academics, careers of researchers and PhD-holders

- Similar questions and topics are placed in several surveys

→ Benefit of this data would increase with coordination

Expertise and data inquiry at DZHW

- WiNbus (since 2008)
- ProFile – Doctorate candidates Panel (since 2009)
- “Karrieren Promovierter” Panel of PhD-holders (since 2014)
- Graduate surveys
ProFile

Research design

- Long-term cooperation with HEIs + other stakeholders for access to contact data
- Current (cluster) sample: 8 HEIs, 3 graduate schools, 3 foundations
- Multi cohort online panel survey
- 3 main survey + intermediates

1st – Initial survey

Beginning of PhD: Information on research conditions (access to supervision, evaluation of coursework, resources available)

2nd – At conferral of doctorate

End of PhD: Information on quality of doctoral training, career plans

3rd – 4 years after conferral

Four years after PhD: transition into labor market, career development (in and out of academia), international mobility
Panel of PhD-holders

Research design

- Complete survey of all PhD-holders obtaining their degree in 2014
- Survey with two waves (end of 2014/beginning of 2015 & spring 2016)
- Further waves planned

1\textsuperscript{st} – Survey shortly after graduation

End of PhD: Information on conditions of research, learning environments, scientific activities, aspirations, networks, financing, practical experiences

2\textsuperscript{nd} – One year after

One year after PhD: Information on occupational development, scientific activities, aims in life, further qualification

Every single (further) year after PhD: Information on occupational career and life course, scientific activities, ...
Vision

Panel-study about young academics and early career researchers in Germany

Objectives

- Generate representative data for national and international level reporting about early career researchers (BuWiN)
- Provision of data for scientific community (SUFs)
- Monitoring and benchmarking for HEIs and stakeholders in HE and science policy

Features

- Coordinated data collection
- Concerted questionnaires
- Integrated panel design
### Idea for an integrated Design

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>During PhD</th>
<th>Completion</th>
<th>After completion of PhD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Initial survey</td>
<td></td>
<td>Extension of sample integrating all new doctorate holders (class of 2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Initial survey</td>
<td>Interim survey</td>
<td>Cohort 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Initial survey</td>
<td>Interim survey</td>
<td>Cohort 2018</td>
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<td>2019</td>
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<td>2020</td>
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<td>2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>Initial survey</td>
<td>Interim survey</td>
<td>Cohort 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Notes:**
- PhD candidates
- Cohort years
- Survey phases: Initial, Interim, Graduation
- Wave cohorts: 2nd wave cohort, 3rd wave cohort, 4th wave cohort
Tasks & Challenges

Collaboration with HEIs as prerequisite for sampling + data inquiry

- Decreasing willingness of HEI to participate (personnel effort, multitude of parallel studies, unclear benefit of participation)
- Time-consuming negotiation procedures
- No or insufficient registration of doctoral students: lack of information about population of doctoral students at HEIs/in Germany

Task 1: Think about links between studies
Task 2: Rethink design of studies
Task 3: Harmonize/revise of questionnaires (contents, single questions)
Task 4: Improve visibility of study outcomes
Task 5: Call for political commitment
Task 6: Provide incentives for HEI participation (e.g. in conjunction with establishment of registration of doctoral students)
Thank you for your attention!

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