

The German Graduate Studies

Hannover, October 15, 2015
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Design of the DZHW graduate surveys

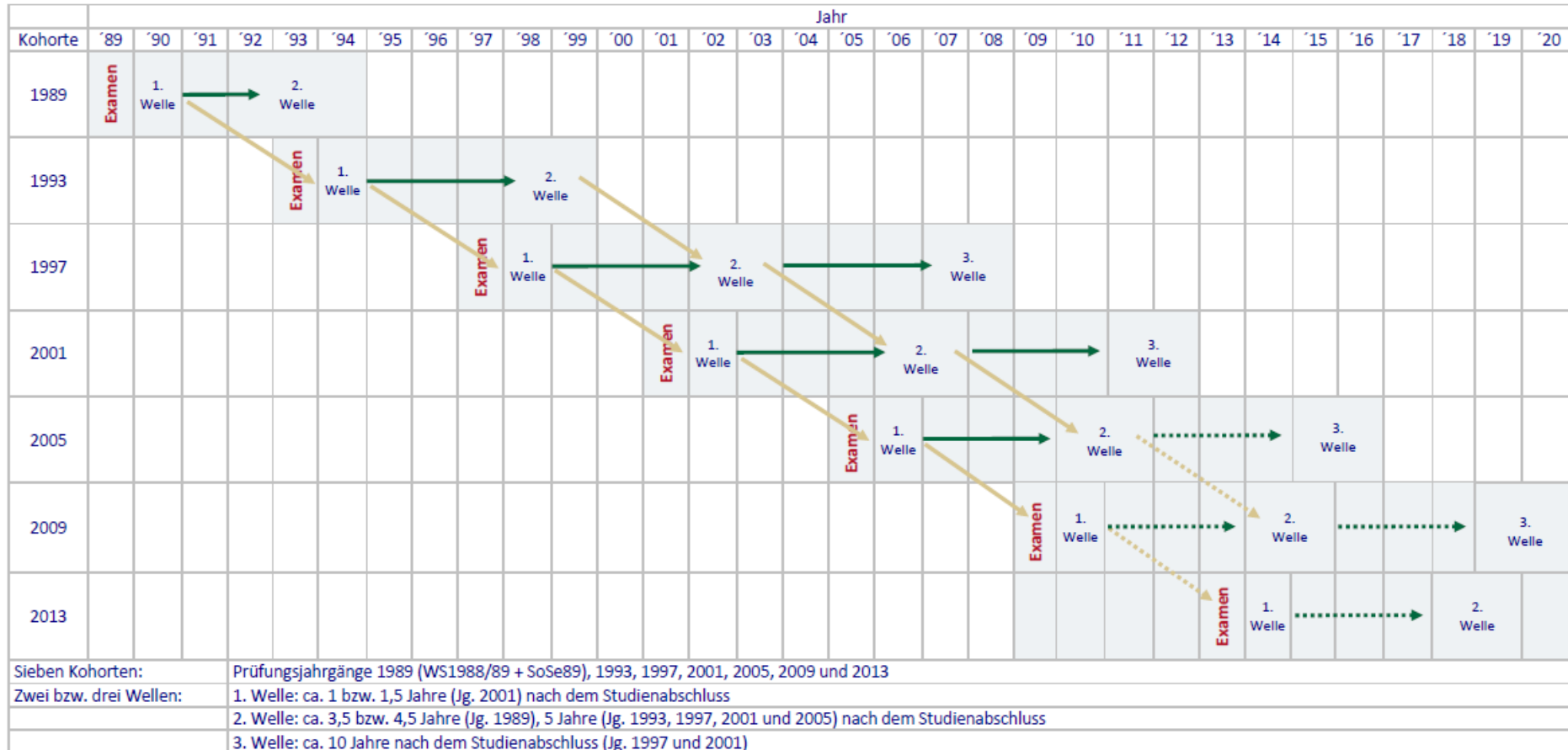
➤ Panel and cohort design:


- several cohorts of higher education graduates included: until now, graduates of the academic years 1989, 1993, 1997, 2001, 2005, 2009, and 2013
- up to three panel waves that cover an observation window of approximately ten years after graduation
- possibility to do intra- and inter-cohort analyses

➤ Target population

- all German and non-German higher education graduates who successfully completed their first degree course (2009 also master courses)
- entire range of subjects
- nearly all types of higher education institutions (HEI with special features are excluded; they only comprise a small proportion of the population)

Design of the DZHW graduate surveys



 Längsschnittanalyse realisiert
  Trendanalyse realisiert
 Längsschnittanalyse geplant
  Trendanalyse geplant

Design of the DZHW graduate surveys

➤ Aims:

- Analysing the relationship of higher education and employment (also regarding the changes over time)
- Delivering representative data on a national level for all players in the education system
- Having a data basis for national reporting systems (e. g. the national report on education, the federal report on young academics, the report on research, innovation and technical performance in Germany)
- Enabling estimation models (mobility, drop-out rates)
- Facilitating research on graduates for other researchers

Design of the DZHW graduate surveys

➤ Survey programme:

- educational strategies, experiences, and outcomes, e.g., course of studies, academic achievement, further academic qualifications
- occupational careers, experiences, and prospects, e. g., job history (using an event-history design), job search strategies, characteristics of the jobs
- socio-biographic data and educational background prior to study
- further education, outcomes of further academic qualifications, starting a family & careers (of women), mobility, self-employment & foundations

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➤ Way of data collection:

- Based on a stratified random cluster sample, incl. all HEI approved by the state (HEI with special features are excluded)
- In former times: mainly postal questionnaires
- supplemented by short online surveys on particular topics (e.g., doctor-al studies)
- now switching to exclusively online surveys
- Graduates are contacted by the HEI and get the questionnaire from the institution (due to legal constraints)

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Further Studies:

- Regional studies in federal states
(e.g. Bavaria, Saxony, Rhineland Palatinate – funded by the federal states)
- KOAB study
(convenience sample, established due to QA requirements and reaccreditation, questionnaire tailored for the individual needs of the HEI – funded by the individual HEI)

Resulting problems:

Parallel surveys → HEI refuse to participate in both studies

Solution(s):

- Surveys with different cohorts
- Harmonization of studies

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KOAB-approach

(started in 2007 with 37.500 cases, 2014: 50.000 cases)

- combination of institutional development and research → institutional graduate surveys in a network approach
- benchmarking without ranking
- multipurpose surveys (broad scope; about 500 variables)
- core questionnaire + special/individual questions for each HEI
- every year one cohort
- 1.5 year after graduation + 4.5 years after graduation
- all kind of degrees (BA + MA + trad. + PhD)
- all graduates of each HEI, no sampling
- standardized online + paper questionnaire (mainly online)
- complete field phase organised by HEI (address collection + contacts) → response rate 44-50 %

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Current development:

- Harmonization of studies
- Cooperation of two institutions, involving other participants
- Integration of the nationwide and the institutional approach
- Project with funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Description:

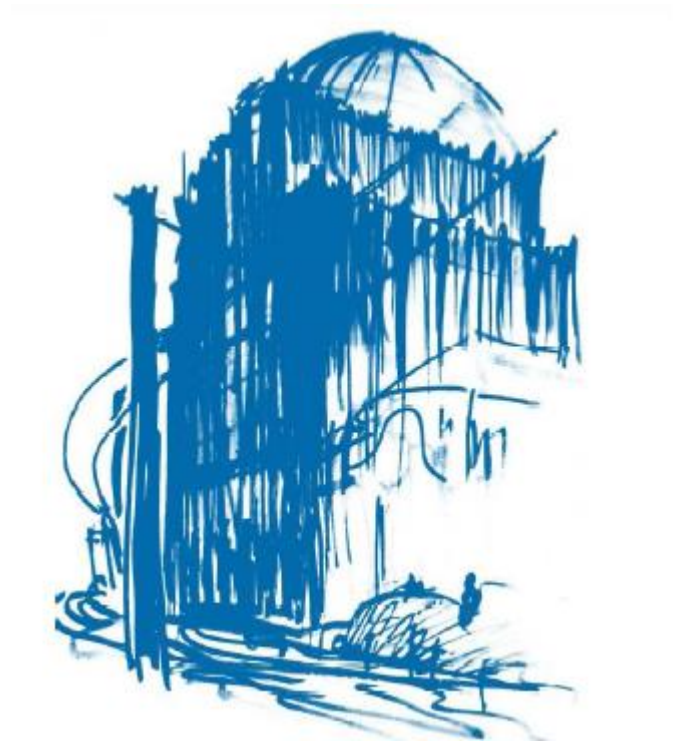
- Innovative way of sampling (combination of convenience sample and representative random sample)
- Numerous workshops dealing with methodological questions, indicators, questionnaire, context data,
- Aim: start of an integrated graduate study with the cohort of 2017

Thank you for your attention!

German Centre for Higher Education and
Science Studies

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Sample size

	1 st wave	2 nd wave	3 rd wave
Cohort 1989	12,164	8,163	no 3 rd wave
Cohort 1993	11,167	6,734	no 3 rd wave
Cohort 1997	9,586	6,220	5,477
Cohort 2001	8,130	5,426	4,734
Cohort 2005	11,786	6,459	no 3 rd wave?
Cohort 2009	10,173	running	–
Cohort 2013	running	–	–

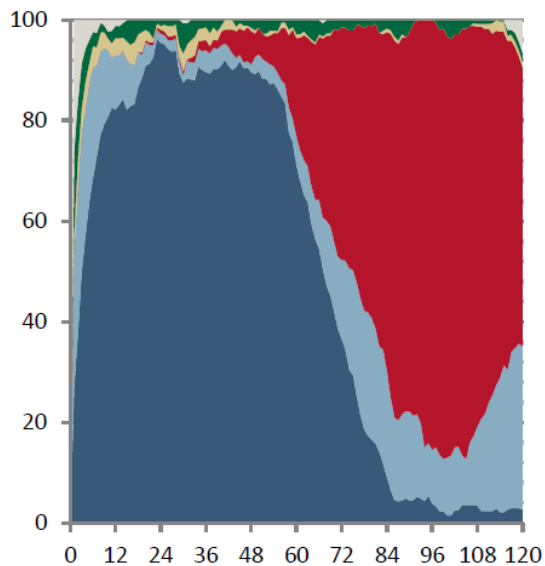
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Event-history calendar for employment spells

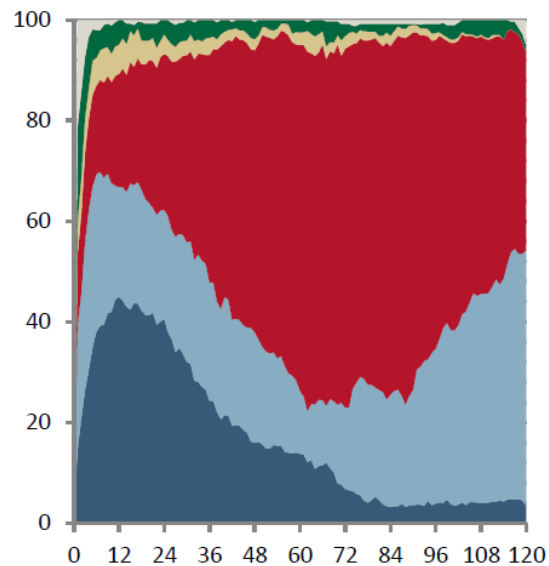
Period (month/year)	Type of work- ing contract	Working hours	Occupation- al position	Place of work
Begin: ____/20____ End: ____/20____ <input type="radio"/> Ongoing	____ (codes below)	1 <input type="radio"/> Full time 2 <input type="radio"/> Part time with ____ hours per week 3 <input type="radio"/> Undetermined working hours with roughly ____ hours per week	____ (codes below)	Federal state or country (if abroad): _____ Town: _____ (first 3 digits of postal code)
Begin: ____/20____ End: ____/20____ <input type="radio"/> Ongoing	____ (codes below)	1 <input type="radio"/> Full time 2 <input type="radio"/> Part time with ____ hours per week 3 <input type="radio"/> Undetermined working hours with roughly ____ hours per week	____ (codes below)	Federal state or country (if abroad): _____ Town: _____ (first 3 digits of postal code)
Type of contract ↓ ↓		Occupational position ↓ ↓		
1 = Permanent 2 = Temporary etc. 6 = Self-employed 7 = Other		01 = Chief executive 02 = Academic staff with managerial tasks etc. 06 = Free professional 07 = Entrepreneur etc. 09 = Civil servant (senior official) etc. 13 = Untrained worker 14 = Contributing family worker		

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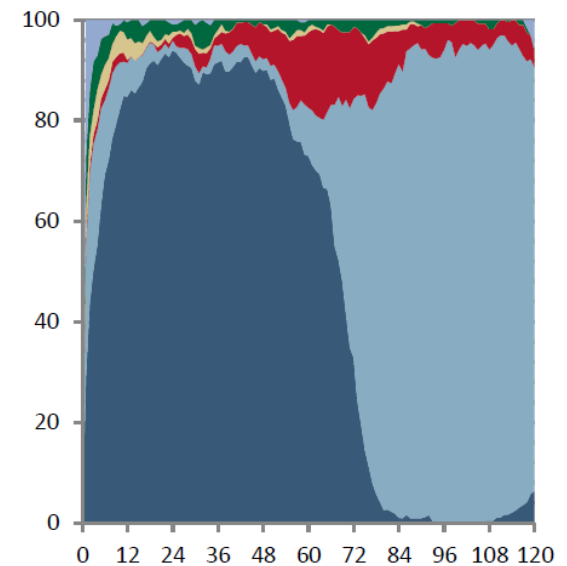
Leaving full time
employment



Permanent family
work



Leaving full time
employment,
entering part
time employment



Source: Brandt (2012): Vereinbarkeit von Familie und Beruf bei Hochschulabsolvent(inn)en