



## **Biennial Report 2015/17 of RN 21**

### **Network coordination**

#### **Coordinator: (re-elected at ESA RN 21 business meeting in Athens, 2017)**

Wolfgang Aschauer (Department of Political Science and Sociology, University of Salzburg, Austria (email: [wolfgang.aschauer@sbg.ac.at](mailto:wolfgang.aschauer@sbg.ac.at)).

#### **Vice chair: (re-elected at ESA RN 21 business meeting in Athens, 2017)**

Jolanta Perek-Bialas, Warsaw School of Economics and Institute of Sociology, University of Cracow, Poland (email: [jolanta.perek-bialas@uj.edu.pl](mailto:jolanta.perek-bialas@uj.edu.pl))

#### **Board members with specific functions: (elected at ESA RN 21 business meeting in Athens, 2017)**

Georg Müller (Switzerland) – Scientific program advisor  
Iasonas Lamprianou (Cyprus) – Conference Organization  
Henning Best (Germany) – Treasurer  
Tobias Gummer (Germany) – Webmaster

#### **Further board members: (elected at ESA RN 21 business meeting in Athens, 2017)**

Modesto Escobar (Spain)  
Jochen Mayerl (Germany)  
Inna Deviatko (Russia)  
Anna Domaranska (Ukraine)

#### *Chair (2011-2015):*

Henning Best, GESIS – Leibniz-Institute for the Social Sciences, Germany  
Mail: [henning.best@gesis.org](mailto:henning.best@gesis.org)

#### *Vice chair (since 2011-2015):*

Valentina Hlebec, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia  
Mail: [valentina.hlebec@fdv.uni-lj.si](mailto:valentina.hlebec@fdv.uni-lj.si)

#### *Past chairs:*

Jürgen Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, GESIS – Leibniz-Institute for the Social Sciences, Germany  
Mail: [juergen.hoffmeyer-zlotnik@gesis.org](mailto:juergen.hoffmeyer-zlotnik@gesis.org)  
Peter Mohler, Germany

## **Activities**

The two major tasks of the Research Network 21 “Quantitative methods” in the past two years were the organization of the midterm conference on “Data quality in quantitative Research” from the 13<sup>rd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 in Nicosia, Cyprus (<http://www.easyconferences.eu/rn21/>) and the organization of the RN21 sessions at the last ESA-conference in Athens (see appendix).

### ***a) Midterm-Conference (see special report for further information)***

Our mission of the midterm-conference was dedicated to the motto “get the most out of low costs”. We managed to have two important keynote speeches (given by Eldad Davidov on comparability issues and by Jörg Blasius on data quality and interviewer effects), we had very low conference fees (80€ for non-members, 50€ for members and 30€ for PhDs), we combined the scientific program (with more than 80 conference participants) with a lot of social events and we were also able to organize a fruitful workshop on structural equation modelling given by Jochen Mayerl (especially an offer for young researchers). The conference was organized by Iasonas Lamprinou together with EASY-Conferences (a company from Cyprus), making the conference a big success. Iasonas will also be engaged in further conference organizations of our RN. Our program and all activities are still visible at the conference page of EASY-Conferences: <http://www.easyconferences.eu/rn21/>.

### ***b) Organization of the ESA RN 21 sessions at the ESA conference in Athens***

We arranged an attractive program for the 13<sup>th</sup> ESA conference “(Un)Making Europe: Capitalism, Solidarities, Subjectivities” from the 29<sup>th</sup> of Aug till the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2017 in Athens. An official evaluation of the abstracts was automatically organized by ConfTool, in total 12 reviewers were ready to support us. We had 83 submissions for the conference, due to the evaluation process and due to a few cancellations the number of speakers was reduced to 55. Our general CfP was on the one hand dedicated to the conference theme but on the other hand tried to specifically address our quantitative methodology group. This strategy was quite successful, we managed to have a good mixture of purely methodological sessions and sessions more directed to the conference theme (although with slightly less participants). We also decided to organize a keynote session for the first time (Keynote speaker: Andreas

Diekmann, Discussant: Raphael Wittek) attracting a large audience (up to 80 people). In general we organized 14 sessions with three to four speakers for every time slot and plenty of time for discussion (see our program in the appendix).

***c) Informing our members of recent activities***

We regularly inform our members of all our activities. Till now, we have not established a newsletter but we are planning to do so in the future, depending on the number of participants in our network. In the course of the last periods we continuously increased the number of members of our RN. Currently we have 72 members, which is an all-time record.

***d) Website of our RN***

The new website of ESA was relaunched 2017 and we plan to use the new platform for communicating our initiatives. We have also installed a new webmaster (Tobias Gummer) at the last business meeting. Tobias will be responsible together with the coordinator and vice-coordinator to keep the website up to date.

***e) Publications related to RN sessions and/or midterm meetings***

The vice-coordinator Jolanta Perek-Bialas, who is involved in the ASK Journal (<https://askresearchandmethods.org/>) regularly motivates our participants to submit articles. Some articles of the last issues were from the members of our networks and based on conference presentations.

***f) Action to be taken to improve participation of PhD students and early career researchers***

We are committed to attract young researchers at the early stage of their carrier. This is done by very low conference fees for PhD students (at least with regard to our midterm-conferences) and various offers which are especially for them (e.g. workshops at midterm-conferences). Based on the number of submissions from PhD candidates we plan to increase our activities (paper awards, possibilities for publication etc.).

***g) Action to be taken to expand membership, especially from countries with overall weaker ESA membership***

It is of utmost importance for us to promote our network in all European countries. Our board members come from various Eastern (including Ukraine and Russia) and Southern European countries (e.g. Spain). This leads to close cooperation (e.g. with the LCSR Group at the HSE Moscow: <https://lcsr.hse.ru/en/>) and is also reflected in submissions, coming from all parts of Europe, although the quality of abstracts is still an issue. In general we have to compete with other important methodological groups in Europe (e.g. ESRA, ISA RC33) and thus we consider it useful to focus more on Eastern Europe and to include also applied topics. We already established cooperation with the World Value Research Association Group (<http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSContents.jsp>) and we plan to attract participants of other important quantitative networks (e.g. ISA RC55 on social indicators) in the future.

***h) Collaboration within ESA with other RNs***

Besides our cooperation with other research associations we already established close contact to RN 1 (Sociology of Ageing) and RN 12 (Environmental Sociology). This has led to two joint sessions, which took place at the last ESA conference in Athens, namely “Advanced Quantitative Analysis in Ageing Research” (Joint Session with RN01) and “Decision Making and the Environment” (Joint Session with RN12). We plan to increase these activities at the next ESA conference establishing contact with other RNs dealing mainly with quantitative methodology (e.g. RN09: “Economic sociology” or RN24 “Science and Technology”).

***i) Actions to improve opportunities for publication of papers***

Concerning the last conferences the papers were rather heterogeneous and we were not able to publish special issues or edited volumes yet. It is planned to increase our dissemination activities in the next period. Our call for the next midterm conference 2018 on “Potentials and Limits in quantitative research” is a good opportunity to arrange a joint publication.

***j) Further important activities undertaken by your RN and future plans***

The re-elected RN chairs continue their work to increase the number of members for our network, to enhance the visibility of the research network and to nurture particularly young researchers. We try on the one hand to provide a platform for quantitative methodologists but we also intend to broaden our network to some applied topics which are particularly relevant for Europe (e.g. social indicators research, measuring social inequality, value research, anti-immigrant attitudes, analytical sociology). Our mission for the next years is to be as inclusive as possible and to attract especially methodologists from more peripheral parts of Europe. Further steps are to increase the online-promotion of our network and to develop attractive platforms for publications (which will enhance quality and will be an important added value for our network members).

## Appendix

# Conference Agenda RN 21 - 13th Conference of the European Sociological Association

### Date: Wednesday, 30/Aug/2017

- 2:00pm** RN21\_01a\_P: RN KEYNOTE SESSION: Explaining Social Cooperation. From Experimental Research to Big Data Analysis  
-  
**3:30pm** Location: [PC.3.17](#)  
Chair: **Henning Best**, University of Kaiserslautern
- 4:00pm** RN21\_02a\_P: Measuring Solidarity Potentials and Constraints in Contemporary Europe  
-  
**5:30pm** Location: [PC.3.17](#)  
Chair: **Anna Domaranska**, Institute of Sociology National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
- 5:30pm** RN21\_02b\_P: Interviewer Effects and Measurement Errors  
Location: [PC.3.18](#)  
Chair: **Tobias Gummer**, GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences
- 6:00pm** RN21\_03a\_P: Value Research in a Cross-National Perspective  
-  
**7:30pm** Location: [PC.3.17](#)  
Chair: **Christian Haerpfer**, World Values Survey Association

### Date: Thursday, 31/Aug/2017

- 9:00am** RN21\_04a\_P: Quantitative Research on Ethnocentrism and Migrant Integration  
-  
**10:30am** Location: [PC.3.17](#)  
Chair: **Jochen Mayerl**, TU Kaiserslautern
- 11:00am** RN21\_05a\_P: New Directions in Network Analysis  
-  
**12:30pm** Location: [PC.3.17](#)  
Chair: **Iasonas Lamprianou**, University of Cyprus
- 2:00pm** RN21\_06a\_H: Advances in Quantitative Methods/Data Quality  
-  
**3:30pm** Location: [HB.1.12](#)  
Chair: **Georg P. Mueller**, Univ. of Fribourg
- 4:00pm** RN21\_07a\_H: Increasing Comparability in Cross-National Research  
-  
**5:30pm** Location: [HB.1.12](#)  
Chair: **Jolanta PEREK-BIALAS**, Jagiellonian University
- 6:00pm** RN21\_08a\_H: The Transition of Quantitative Research in an Era of Digitalization  
-  
**7:30pm** Location: [HB.1.12](#)  
Chair: **Inna Deviatko**, Higher School of Economics
- 7:30pm** RN21\_BM: Business Meeting  
-  
**8:30pm** Location: [HB.1.12](#)  
Chair: **Wolfgang Aschauer**, University of Salzburg  
Chair: **Jolanta PEREK-BIALAS**, Jagiellonian University

### Date: Friday, 01/Sep/2017

- 11:00am** RN21\_09a\_P: Measuring Societal Transformations in Turbulent Times  
-  
**12:30pm** Location: [PC.3.16](#)  
Chair: **Wolfgang Aschauer**, University of Salzburg
- 2:00pm** RN21\_10a\_P: Methodological Challenges of Quality of Life Research in Europe  
-  
**3:30pm** Location: [PC.3.16](#)  
Chair: **Jolanta PEREK-BIALAS**, Jagiellonian University
- 4:00pm** RN21\_11a\_P: Measuring Enduring and Emerging Social Inequalities in Europe  
-  
**5:30pm** Location: [PC.3.16](#)  
Chair: **Georg P. Mueller**, Univ. of Fribourg