

HumVIB

Cross-National and Multi-Level Analysis
of Human Values, Institutions and Behaviour



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The underlying principle of the EUROCORES programme 'HumVIB' is the realisation of the idea of Europe as a natural laboratory for the social sciences. HumVIB researchers will use the diversity of institutions, practices, histories, and resources in Europe to analyse how human values, attitudes and behaviour are affected by the characteristics of the multi-level systems or contexts in which they occur.

Earlier efforts in the mid-twentieth century to lay the groundwork for a genuinely comparative European social science were hampered by the division of Europe, by the lack of individual-level and aggregate-level data and by problems of statistical method, particularly in the area of cross-level inference. These obstacles have since then either been swept aside by history or largely overcome by progress in data collection and management and in statistical methods. Major scientific breakthroughs have, however, been held back by the absence of a coordinated European programme allowing a critical mass of researchers in the relevant areas and disciplines to come together to tackle the

research problems head-on. HumVIB is designed to realise the ambition of a concerted, pan-European, interdisciplinary programme, in combining:

- The unprecedented individual-level data resources now available in Europe and typified by the European Social Survey (ESS);
- Comprehensive system-level and contextual data;
- Appropriate new methods of multi-level analysis, and;
- The testing of carefully elaborated theories of the effects of institutions and structures or, more generally, contextual factors on individual attitudes and behaviour.

The HumVIB programme will thus exploit the diversity of Europe as well as advances in data collection and analysis to arrive at a better understanding of how a wide range of human values and behaviour are influenced by the characteristics of the states we live in.

The research phase of the HumVIB programme, which runs for three years, was formally launched in October 2008.

List of funded Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs)

Gender Inequality in a Comparative Perspective (EQUALITY)

(DFG, NSF, NWO, OTKA)

Sustainable participation in society for both men and women is a pressing challenge. Despite dramatic changes, gender inequality persists. Women are underrepresented in management, assume most domestic responsibilities, have higher poverty rates, are as engaged as men in voluntary associations but belong to different types of associations, and are more deeply embedded in informal social networks. These 'gender gaps' differ between countries, for example, between welfare regimes. However, we lack sufficient knowledge about which societal factors at the macro and meso level – cultural, economic, political institutions – influence the lives of men and women and how they do so. EQUALITY is an innovative research project that aims to increase understanding of the persistent gender inequality at different levels and in different spheres of life in Europe and the US.

Project Leader:

Professor Tanja van der Lippe

Utrecht University, Netherlands

Principal Investigators:

Professor Sonja Drobnic

University of Hamburg, Germany

Dr. Eva Fodor

Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

Dr. Ineke Maas

Utrecht University, Netherlands

Professor Judith Treas

University of California, Irvine, United States

Welfare Attitudes in a Changing Europe (WAE)

(AKA, DFG, FAS, MICINN, NSF, NWO, SNF)

The project aims to set up a comprehensive research programme on citizens' attitudes towards welfare policies across European countries. The research will focus on the interactions between individual welfare attitudes and behaviour, institutional contexts and structural variables. The project is expected to provide essential input to the interdisciplinary field of comparative studies of welfare state attitudes and to offer critical insights for the public legitimacy of welfare state reform. The project is mainly, but by no means exclusively, based on data from a new module for the European Social Survey 2008, "Welfare Attitudes in a Changing Europe". The data provided by this new module will make possible rigorous cross-national and multi-level analyses of the impact of structural and institutional variation on attitudes towards welfare provision and financing.

Project Leader:

Professor Stefan Svallfors

Umea University, Sweden

Principal Investigators:

Professor Helena Blomberg

University of Helsinki, Finland

Professor Clem Brooks

Indiana University, Bloomington, United States

Professor Olli E. Kangas

KELA (The Social Insurance Institution of Finland), Finland

Dr. Ruud Luijkx

Tilburg University, Netherlands

Professor Steffen Mau

University of Bremen, Germany

Professor Luis Moreno

Council for Scientific Research (CSIC), Madrid, Spain

Dr. Christian Staerklé

University of Geneva, Switzerland

Professor Wim Van Oorschot

Tilburg University, Netherlands

**Voter Turnout and Abstention
in Context: A multi-level analysis
of the factors affecting voter
turnout and abstention in systems
of multi-level governance (VTAC)**
(IRCHSS, MICINN, NSF)

This project tackles the persistent problem of low/declining turnout. The fact that a handful of countries have managed to evade the problem, or that a certain country may occasionally experience a sudden rise in turnout, only serves to sharpen the analytical puzzle and the policy conundrum. Building on the achievements of and confronting the problems in the existing literature, the project will focus on the application of multi-level modelling to the analysis of turnout in systems of multi-level governance. Using a common conceptual framework, the project will analyse the effects on turnout, and on the individual-level determinants of turnout, of varying institutional configurations, social structures, and political cultures with specific reference to aspects of community cohesion, civic duty, political knowledge, and poverty and social exclusion.

Project Leader:

Professor Richard Sinnott

University College Dublin, Ireland

Principal Investigators:

Professor Eva Anduiza-Perea

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

Professor Karen Jusko

Stanford University, United States



Associated Partners:

Professor André Blais

University of Montreal, Canada

Professor Soren Thomsen

University of Aarhus, Denmark

**Representation in Europe:
Policy congruence between
citizens and elites (REPCONG)**

(DFG, FWF, IRCHSS, SNF)

In real-world representative democracy, policy congruence between citizens and those elected to represent them is partial, for various reasons: representatives may deviate from what they originally promised when electoral sanction is unlikely, parties have informational advantages, or the nature of party competition in mass elections distorts the multi-dimensional character of citizen and party preferences.

Yet, we know very little about the actual extent, the determinants and consequences of policy congruence between citizens and elites in Europe, at the national or European Union levels. The project will investigate these issues by focussing on: (1) the determinants of policy congruence and the impact of political institutions and direct democracy, in particular; (2) how policy congruence impacts on the people's perception of representation and their satisfaction with democracy as well as the perception of specific representative institutions, such as national parliaments/ governments and European institutions.

Project Leader:

Professor Sylvia Kritzinger

University of Vienna, Austria

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Thomas Bräuninger

University of Konstanz, Germany

Dr. Georg Lutz

University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Dr. Gail McElroy

Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

The Timing of Life: Understanding cross-national differences in the organisation of the life course in Europe (LIFETIMING)

(OTKA, NWO, RCN)

The general objective of the Timing of Life project is to explain variations in the views of European men and women on the organisation of the life course. To do so, three main research questions will be answered:

1. To what extent is the life course perceived as a structured sequence of life stages, and which events mark the transition from one stage to another?
2. Do social norms concerning the life course exist, and if so, to what extent are these norms backed by sanctions?

3. To what extent and in what ways do individuals engage in active life planning? These questions will be answered in a comparative perspective and making use of data from the Timing of Life module in the 2006 wave of the European Social Survey.

Project Leader:

Professor Aart C. Liefbroer

Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI), The Hague, Netherlands

Principal Investigators:

Professor Gunhild Hagestad

Agder University College, Kristiansand, Norway

Dr. Zsolt Spéder

Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Budapest, Hungary

Associated Partners:

Professor Arnstein Aassve

Bocconi University, Milan, Italy

Professor Francesco Billari

Bocconi University, Milan, Italy

Happiness, Political Institutions, Natural Environment and Space – A comparative analysis of the influence of environmental conditions, environmental regimes and political context on subjective well-being (HAPPINESS)

(FAS, IRCHSS, MICINN)

The overarching objective of HAPPINESS is to shed light on how multi-level heterogeneity helps explain the variation in subjective well-being across European countries and regions. The focus is on two important sources of spatial heterogeneity and their interactions; (i) environmental heterogeneity (including objective environmental conditions and environmental attitudes and policies) and (ii) institutional and political heterogeneity (including characteristics of the institutional

and political context and individual socio-political interests and orientations). The units of analysis are two: regions at a micro level and countries at a macro level. This research will investigate how systemic factors related to the environmental and institutional settings interact with and modify individual behaviour. An equally important objective of this proposal is to collate data on environmental and political attributes at the pan-European level and to make this dataset available to the international research community via a project website.

Project Leader:

Dr. Susana Ferreira

University College Dublin, Ireland

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Finbarr Brereton

University College Dublin, Ireland

Professor Juncal Cuñado

Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona, Spain

Professor Olof Johansson-Stenman

Göteborg University, Sweden

Professor Peter Martinsson

Göteborg University, Sweden

The aim of the European Collaborative Research (EUROCORES) Scheme is to enable researchers in different European countries to develop collaboration and scientific synergy in areas where European scale and scope are required to reach the critical mass necessary for top class science in a global context.

The scheme provides a flexible framework which allows national basic research funding and performing organisations to join forces to support excellent European research in and across all scientific areas.

Until the end of 2008, scientific coordination and networking was funded through the EC FP6 Programme, under contract no. ERAS-CT-2003-980409. As of 2009, the National Funding Organisations provide the funding for the scientific coordination and networking in addition to the research funding.

www.esf.org/eurocores

THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL FUNDING ORGANISATIONS SUPPORT THE HumVIB PROGRAMME:

Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF)

Austrian Science Fund, Austria

Suomen Akatemia/Finlands Akademi (AKA)

Academy of Finland, Finland

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

German Research Foundation, Germany

Országos Tudományos Kutatási

Alapprogramok (OTKA)

Hungarian Scientific Research Fund, Hungary

An Chomhairle um Thaighde sna Dána agus sna hEolaíochtaí Sóisialta (IRCHSS)

*Irish Research Council for the Humanities and
Social Sciences, Ireland*

Nederlandse Organisatie voor

Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO)

*Netherlands Organisation for Scientific
Research, Netherlands*

Norges Forskningsråd (RCN)

Research Council of Norway, Norway

Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (MICINN)

Ministry of Science and Innovation, Spain

Forskningsrådet för arbetsliv och

socialvetenskap (FAS)

*Swedish Council for Working Life and Social
Research, Sweden*

Schweizerischer Nationalfonds (SNF)

*Swiss National Science Foundation,
Switzerland*

National Science Foundation (NSF)

United States of America



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