Individual consequences of migration in a life course perspective: Introducing the German Emigration and Remigration Panel Study (GERPS)

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Jean Philippe Pierre Décieux¹, Nils Witte², Andreas Ette², Marcel Erlinghagen¹, Jean Guedes Auditor², Nikola Sander² & Norbert F. Schneider²

¹ University of Duisburg-Essen  
² Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB)
“Progress has been made in understanding drivers of migration, and we have relatively good data on immigrant populations, but we lack information on how many people leave their country each year to settle elsewhere and who these emigrants are. *The impact of migration on the individual [...] is only partly understood.*”

*(Willekens et al. 2016 in Science: 897)*

→ **GERPS = Aim:** to gather information on individuals leaving their (home-) country  
   = **Focus:** 2 Subsamples:  
   a. Individuals leaving Germany (Emigrant Sample)  
   b. Individuals that left Germany and currently returned to Germany (Remigrant Sample)  
   = **Innovative Design:** register-based sample combined with Push-to-Web Approach
GERPS aims to...

... determine the **individual consequences of migration** for other life course domains

... study migration between countries from **different perspectives**

... collect a **novel panel dataset** on emigrants and remigrants
Consequences of international migration for...

- Employment and Income
- Well-being and Health
- Partnership and Family
- Social Relations and Participation
GERPS aims to...

... determine the **individual consequences of migration** for other life course domains

... study migration between countries from **different perspectives**

... collect a **novel panel dataset** on emigrants and remigrants
Adopting a multi-sited approach (Beauchemin, Hugo 2014)

The DOM-Approach of GERPS (Erlinghagen et al., 2019)

1) Destination (comparison with host population)

2) Origin (comparison with German population - SOEP)

3) (Individual) Migrant trajectories or patterns
... determine the **individual consequences of migration** for other life course domains

... study migration between countries from **different** perspective

... collect a **novel panel dataset** on emigrants and remigrants

  -> at least 4 waves between 2018 and 2020, financing of further waves pending
Design and approach...
The sampling frame

Population Register
German citizens, Age 20-70
81 Municipalities, N = 34,102

Remigrants
Abroad -> Germany
Jul 2017- Jun 2018
New address in Germany
N = 17,598

Emigrants
Germany -> abroad
Jul 2017- Jun 2018

Last address in Germany
N = 8,520
New address abroad
N = 7,954
Mail-Recruited Online questionnaire on...

- Postal recruitment (Wave 1)
- Online Participation
- Median Duration: 24 min.
- On...
  - Situation before the move (income, hh structure, etc.)
  - Reasons for moving, role of partner in decision for moving
  - Intentions for staying/returning (e.g. intended length of stay)
  - Previous migrations
  - Situation after the move (income, hh structure, social contact)
  - Socio-demographic characteristics, language skills, personality
  - …

- Contact data

- Paradata
Actual and forthcoming Wave

• 2\textsuperscript{nd} wave with focus on employment (field time until end of July 2019)
  • Current Employment
  • Employment history
  • Intergenerational Transmission...

• 3\textsuperscript{rd} wave on family and social relations (field time starting in October 2019)
  • Structure, relationships and contact to Family members
  • Neighborhood
  • Structure, relationships and contact to friends
  • Intergenerational Transmission...

• 4\textsuperscript{th} wave with an open module (field time starting in October 2020)
  • Application will be welcome in the end of 2019!
Some first results...
## Response rates exceeded our expectations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>valid addresses</th>
<th>completed interviews</th>
<th>response rate in %</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>34,102</td>
<td>12,059</td>
<td>35.4</td>
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<td><strong>Emigrants</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16,896</td>
<td>5,062</td>
<td>30.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>New address abroad</td>
<td>7,984</td>
<td>3,319</td>
<td>41.6</td>
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<td>Last address in Germany</td>
<td>8,520</td>
<td>1,743</td>
<td>20.5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Remigrants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17,598</td>
<td>6,997</td>
<td>39.8</td>
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</table>
GERPS contains information on emigrants in 130 countries and on returnees from 160 countries.
Device Usage (%)

- Emigrants: 70% (Mobile Device) - 30% (Desktop Device)
- Remigrants: 71% (Mobile Device) - 29% (Desktop Device)
Classic reasons for moving (+Brexit) (% saying it’s important/very important)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Emigrants</th>
<th>Remigrants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>57.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>48.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Style</td>
<td>50.8</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recent Political</td>
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<td>16.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developments</td>
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</table>
Household size among emigrants: from single to couple

Mainly women following their partners as „tied mover“
Consent to panel participation

Percentage of respondents willing to participate in the next waves by study group

![Graph showing consent rates](image)
Actual Participations in Wave 2

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<td>10,333</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valid addresses</td>
<td>10,243</td>
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Completed interviews (17th July 2019)

<p>| | |</p>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>6949</td>
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<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>67.84</td>
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Partial Completed (17th July 2019)

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>5.07</td>
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→ Response rates of wave 2 are as well satisfactory
→ First step for organizing GERPS mainly as „Online Only Survey“
Summary:

German Emigration and Remigration Panel Study

- Innovative study design using a multi-sited approach
- Stepwise push to web approach
- Unique panel data on international migration
- A SOEP-related study
- Scientific website will be launched (currently: [https://www.bib.bund.de](https://www.bib.bund.de))
- Scientific use file (wave 1) available in spring 2020
- Collaborations and projects using GERPS data are very welcome!
- Opportunity for an application for an open question module in Wave 4
Thank you!

Contact: 
jean.decieux@uni-due.de