

## EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues,

Our lives have changed fundamentally more than a year ago. The COVID19-pandemic affected all of us in manifold ways, and we will probably still deal with its fallout for years. As a bittersweet side-effect, the pandemic also showed how important quantitative methods and high quality data are. These methods and data help us to better understand the progression of the pandemic and to make decisions on how to react. The RN21 joined the global academic community in helping to better understand and react to the pandemic. We contributed two articles with quantitative perspectives to the European Sociologist, dedicated conference sessions to the topic of the COVID19-pandemic, and even set up an emergency fund that helps quantitative researchers whose funding is affected by the pandemic. This first issue of our new RN21 newsletter documents many of these activities and reports on further topics that may be relevant to you, such as our upcoming business meeting and sessions at the ESA conference 2021. We hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter and wish you a good and healthy summer,

*Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen & Jochen Mayerl*

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# REPORT FROM THE RN21 MID-TERM CONFERENCE 2020 IN LUCERNE

By Alrik Thiem

Over the last decade, Europe has witnessed deep impacts of the economic crisis as well as ongoing challenges concerning refugees and migrant integration. In addition, new challenges are connected with climate change, labour market developments, processes of digitalization, the rise of populism, demographic changes and unknown consequences of Brexit. Suddenly, at the beginning of 2020, the Corona Crisis had to be added to this list as well.

Against this background, RN21 held its biannual midterm conference, titled “Quantitative Approaches to Analysing Social Change”, from 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Originally, the conference was supposed to take place in the picturesque city of Lucerne, Switzerland. However, the pandemic also disrupted the planning of this event, as with many others last year. Yet, new online-solutions to sudden offline-problems also create positive side-effects. With the strong Swiss Franc no obstacle to participating anymore, RN21’s midterm conference attracted more than 100 researchers. Over the course of two days, 31 presentations were delivered across 9 sessions.

For the first time, the midterm conference also featured a Best Paper Young Researcher Award. The award was shared between

Andrea Vega-Tinoco from the University of Zaragoza with a paper on active aging in Europe and Christoph Zangger from the University of Zurich with a presentation on improving survey weights for non-response.

Last, but not least, four high-calibre keynote talks enriched the midterm conference by giving exciting insights and by raising thought-provoking questions at the intersection of different fields of science. For example, Matthias Egger, President of the Swiss National Research Council and an epidemiologist by training, gave the opening talk on the untapped potential of the social sciences in understanding the political and societal aspects of the Corona crisis.



*Image: Chapel bridge in Lucerne,  
by suju-foto on pixabay*

# YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD

By Jochen Mayerl



*Images: Christoph Zangger, picture from Researchgate  
Aggeliki Yfanti, picture from ACADEMIA*

At our 2020 conference hosted by University of Lucerne, we were proud to celebrate our first "Young Researcher Award" for the best paper of young researchers at mid-term conference of the Research Network 21. After an intensive discussion of the methodological and innovative contribution, the Award Committee (Jochen Mayerl, Wolfgang Aschauer, Jolanta Perek-Biafas and Ildikó Barna) decided to split the price for two outstanding papers. The prize was given to Christoph Zangger (University of Zurich, Switzerland) for his contribution "The

geography of nonresponse. Can spatial econometric techniques improve survey weights for nonresponse?" and Aggeliki Yfanti (Panteion University Athens, Greece) for her contribution "The implications of applying alternative-supplementary measures of the unemployment rate to subpopulations and regions: Evidence from the European Union Labour Force Survey for Southern Europe, 2008-2015". We want to congratulate again and hope that the price will be a highlight at future mid-term conferences of our Research Network!

# THE GLOBAL CENTER OF SPATIAL METHODS FOR URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

By Wolfgang Aschauer

ESA RN21 is cooperation partner of the Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (GCSMUS) (see here: <https://gcsmus.org/>). GCSMUS was established in the context of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and focuses on SDG #11, which aims to 'make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. One of the core aim of the project is to combine social science research methodologies with urban planning to foster a more holistic and trans-disciplinary approach to the study of urban sustainability.

The project also intends to increase cooperation in a global team of 48 partners from eight world regions. We are especially happy to announce the "1st International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods" ("SMUS Conference") from Thursday 23.09 – Sunday 26.09.2021, hosted by the University of Botswana. Due to the pandemic the conference has to take place online. There are various important sessions about establishing a methodological dialogue with the global south:  
<https://gcsmus.org/conferences/botswana/>



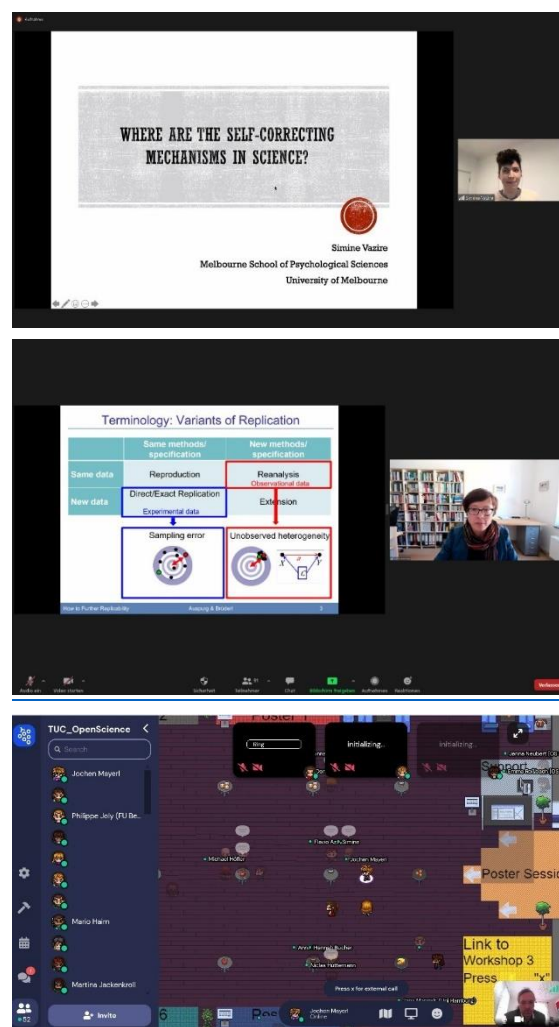
*Image: Okavango Delta in Botswana, Image by mharward1 on Freepress*

# ONLINE CONFERENCE „OPEN SCIENCE AND REPLICABILITY IN THE BEHAVIOURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES“, 2021

By Jochen Mayerl

RN21 was partner of a one-day interdisciplinary online conference "Open Science and Replicability in the Behavioural and Social Sciences" of the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences at Chemnitz University of Technology on April 30 2021. The conference was dedicated to the increasing importance of Open Science scientific practice in the course of a new digital scientific culture and its impact on the scientific community. A total of 218 participants were registered, of which 55 were contributors, which we consider great success and further proof of the importance of the topic. The participants were an interdisciplinary and international audience from Australia, Germany, France, the Caribbean, Namibia, the Netherlands, Austria, Pakistan, Russia, Switzerland, Spain, the United Kingdom and the USA. A total of 8 posters and 15 talks were presented in 5 sessions and 3 workshops (see the programme at the conference website). The programme was framed by two prominent keynotes by Prof. Simine Vazire, PhD ("Where are the self-correcting mechanisms in science?") and Prof. Dr. Katrin Auspurg ("How to Further Replicability in Social Research Using Observational Data") and ended with closing remarks by Prof. Dr. Mario Gollwitzer. The keynotes were recorded and are still online,

see <https://www.tu-chemnitz.de/hsw/mkz/OpenScienceCon.php>



*Images: Keynote by Simine Vazire, Keynote by Katrin Auspurg, Coffee break and Poster Session in gather.town*



# RN21 SESSIONS AT THE ESA CONFERENCE 2021

By Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen

The European Sociological Association is organizing its biannual conference on the theme of “Sociological knowledges for alternative futures” August 31-September 03, 2021. Because of the COVID19-pandemic, the conference will be online. Our Research Network will organize numerous sessions at this conference. In total, we receive almost 90 abstracts for this conference. The presentations will take place in sessions that we organize and in a series of joint sessions, organized together with the Research Networks on Ageing in Europe (RN01),

Economic Sociology (RN09), Environment & Society (RN12), Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives (RN13), Qualitative Methods (RN20), Ethnic Relations, Racism and Antisemitism (RN31). The conference programme and more information on our sessions will be available on <https://www.europeansociology.org/esa-conference-2021-in-barcelona> before the conference. We are looking forward to inspiring presentations and critical discussions at the conference and hope that many of our members will attend this event.

# RN21 EMERGENCY FUND: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

By Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen

The COVID19-pandemic affected researcher across the world, in terms of their activities and their funding. To support our members during the pandemic, we launched an RN21 Emergency Fund for this conference. This fund will cover the ESA 2021 conference participation fees for those in need.

Who is eligible: All RN21 members in good standing who present a paper in an RN21 (joint) session at the ESA 2021 conference.

To apply: Send an informal email to [info@esa-quantitative-methods.org](mailto:info@esa-quantitative-methods.org) by August 30, 2021.

# INVITATION TO THE RN21 BUSINESS MEETING

By Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen

**Thursday, September 02, 2021 (12:30-13:30 CEST)**

Our biannual RN21 business meeting will take place on Thursday, September 02, 2021, at 12:30-13:30 CEST.

The business meeting is part of the ESA conference 2021, and online access to the meeting is available via the conference. At the meeting, we will report on our activities during the last two years, plan activities for

the next two years, and elect a new board. If you are interested in hosting the next RN21 mid-term conference or running for the board, then send us an email via [info@esa-quantitative-methods.org](mailto:info@esa-quantitative-methods.org). We are currently especially looking for a newsletter editor.

We hope to see you at the business meeting!

## RN21 ON TWITTER

By Thomas Gummer

ESA RN 21 is now on Twitter. Follow our Account @EsaRN21 for conference calls in the field of quantitative methods and research, workshops in same area, and news regarding data collection projects as well as new data releases.



## RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF OUR MEMBERS

### LEARNING FACTS ABOUT MIGRATION: POLITICALLY MOTIVATED LEARNING OF POLARIZING INFORMATION ABOUT REFUGEES

Glinitzer, K., Gummer, T., & Wagner, M.  
(2021). *Political Psychology*, online first.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/pops.12734>.

### RISK OF NONRESPONSE- BIAS AND THE LENGTH OF THE FIELD PERIOD IN A MIXED-MODE GENERAL POPULATION PANEL

Struminskaya, B. & Gummer, T.  
(2021). *Journal of Survey Statistics and  
Methodology*, online first.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/jssam/smab011>.

### THE EFFECTS OF QUESTION RESPONDENT AND INTERVIEWER CHARACTERISTICS ON TWO TYPES OF ITEM NONRESPONSE

Silber, H., Roßmann, J., Gummer, T., Zins, S., &  
Weyandt, K.W. (2021). The effects of  
question, respondent, and interviewer  
characteristics on two types of item  
nonresponse. *Journal of the Royal Statistical  
Society Series A (Statistics in Society)*, online  
first.  
Doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/rssa.12703>.

### THE EUROPEAN VALUES STUDY 2017: ON THE WAY TO THE FUTURE USING MIXED-MODES

Luijckx, R., Jonsdottir, G., Gummer, T., Staehli,  
M.E., Frederiksen, M., Ketola, K., Reeskens, T.,  
Brislinger, E., Christmann, P., Gunnarsson, S.,  
Hjaltason, A.B., Joye, D., Lomazzi, V., Maineri,  
A., Milbert, P., Ochsner, M., Pollien, A., Sapin,  
M., Solanes, I., Verhoeven, A. & Wolf, C.  
(2021). The European Values Study  
2017: *European Sociological Review*, 37(2):  
330–346.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcaa049>.

### THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESPONSE PROBABILITIES AND DATA QUALITY IN GRID QUESTIONS

Gummer, T., Bach, R., Daikeler, J., & Eckman,  
S. (2021). *Survey Research Methods*, 15(1):  
65–77.

### USING INSTRUCTED RESPONSE ITEMS AS ATTENTION CHECKS IN WEB SURVEYS: PROPERTIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

Gummer, T., Roßmann, J. & Silber, H. (2021).  
Using instructed response items as attention  
checks in web surveys: Properties and  
implementation. *Sociological Methods &  
Research*, 50(1): 238–264.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0049124118769083>.





Newsletter of the Research Network on

# QUANTITATIVE METHODS

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**RN21 of the European Sociological Association**

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