



Call for Abstracts/Session Proposals

European Sociological Association - Midterm Conference of RN 21- Quantitative Methods
9th - 10th of October, 2020, Lucerne, Switzerland

Quantitative Approaches to Analyzing Social Change

Important Dates:

Abstract/session proposal submission:	February 6th, 2020 – March 31st, 2020
Information about accepted papers/sessions:	End of April 2020
Full paper submission for Young Researcher Award:	August 31st, 2020
Conference:	October 9th – 10th, 2020
Welcome Reception:	October 8th, 2020
Venue:	University of Lucerne, Switzerland,

Organizer: ESA RN 21 Quantitative Methods

Chair: Jochen Mayerl | Vice-Chair: Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen

Local Organizer: Alrik Thiem, University of Lucerne, Switzerland (esarn21midterm@unilu.ch)

Web: www.unilu.ch/esarn21midterm

Quantitative Approaches to Analyzing Social Change

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 the Brexit. Are such social problems and conflicts connected with long-lasting societal changes? How and why do societies change in cultural, economic or political respect? What are the driving forces of social change? Is it possible to identify causal mechanisms to explain these changes?

In short, the analysis and explanation of social change is still one of the main goals of Sociology. The main aim of our mid-term conference is to learn and to exchange ideas how **quantitative methods** can contribute to improve the empirical analysis of social changes. The need for an **empirical foundation** of the analysis of social change is connected with several methodological challenges when it comes to quantitative approaches to describe and explain societal change.

Consequently, this mid-term conference aims to raise the methodological potentials and challenges of quantitative research of social change. We welcome **papers** and **sessions** about the following topics, which are of course by no means exhaustive:

1. Data collection: Problems and solutions of longitudinal data collection to analyze social change;
2. Statistical approaches: Comparison of methodological boundaries, pros and cons of different statistical methods for longitudinal data to identify and explain social change (e.g. fixed effects panel regression, latent growth curve models, multilevel models, cross-lagged models, continuous time models etc.);
3. Experimental and quasi-experimental designs to analyze social change;
4. Big Data methods: Possibilities and problems of the application of new emerging digital methods to analyze social change;
5. Computer simulation and modeling of social change;
6. Cross-national studies: How can we make use of cross-national surveys to analyze social change in Europe and how do we define adequate units of analysis? This session will be organized in cooperation with ESS and EVS (see information below)
7. Substantive contributions to the analysis of social change in different fields of Sociology (e.g. environmental sociology, ethnocentrism and populism research, quality of life, social indicators, political and social trust, etc.);
8. „Award session“: Best Paper Young Researcher Award (see information below)
9. General session on various methodological topics

Confirmed Joint Session: „European Surveys Panel“

Organized together with European Values Study (EVS) and European Social Survey (ESS). Please consider to submit your papers using ESS and/or EVS data!

Confirmed keynote speakers:

- Prof. Dr. Matthias Egger, University of Bern, President of the Swiss National Science Foundation
- Prof. Dr. Manuel Völkle, Humboldt University of Berlin
- Prof. Dr. Rory Fitzgerald, City University, Director of ESS ERIC
- Associate Prof. Dr. Vera Lomazzi, GESIS, Communication Officer of the European Values Study

Best Paper Young Researcher Award:

We invite young researchers (PhD students and post-docs no longer than 4 years after the dissertation) to participate in our new **Young Researcher Award Challenge**. The winning paper will be announced during the conference and awarded a **prize of 200 €**. If you want to take part in the challenge:

1. Please submit an abstract between February 10th, 2020 – March 31st, 2020 and explicitly indicate that you want to take part in the Award Challenge;
2. Please submit a full paper (manuscript, under review or published) till 31st August (via email to esarn21midterm@unilu.ch);
3. The candidates will present their work in a special „award session“;
4. Submissions will be judged by a committee of RN21 board members;
5. Selection criteria are innovation and methodological contribution;
6. In case of co-authorship with a supervisor: the Young Researcher must be the first author, and only the Young Researcher can receive the award.

Conference Fees:

- 40 € for junior ESA members (including PhD students)
- 60 € for non-junior ESA members
- 60 € for junior non-members (including PhD students)
- 80 € for non-members
- Fees include: welcome reception, coffee breaks, lunches and guided city-tour.

All further information about the conference (program etc.) will be available in February 2020 on the special web page of this event: www.unilu.ch/esarn21midterm

Instructions for Authors:

Please submit no later than 31st of March:

- For individual presentation: abstract of up to 300 words plus 3-5 keywords
- For session proposals: description of the session (ca. 300 words) plus an abstract with up to 300 words from at least three panelists

Please submit your paper/session proposals to: esarn21midterm@unilu.ch

Participants will be notified regarding the acceptance of their submissions at the latest by the end of April, 2020.