

Curriculum Vitae

Gundi Knies (gundi.knies@thuenen.de)

orcid.org/0000-0002-0251-2865

H-index: 19

Institute for Rural Studies, Thünen-Institute, Bundesallee 64, 38116 Braunschweig, Germany

Areas of research

Quality of life research (income, deprivation and life satisfaction)

Neighbourhood effects

Survey methods (particularly administrative and geographical data linkage)

Eurocohort / Growing Up in Digital Europe (GUIDE)

Qualifications

2007 PhD in Economics (University of Bristol)

2002 M.Sc. in Social Policy and Planning (London School of Economics)

2001 BA equivalent in Sociology (Free University of Berlin)

Stipends

2004- 2007 PhD scholarship CMPO, University of Bristol

2004–2006 PhD scholarship DIW Berlin

1999- 2003 University scholarship Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Professional history

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| 2021- | Senior Social Scientist, Thünen-Institute |
| 2013-2021 | Research Fellow, ISER University of Essex |
| 2007-2013 | Senior Research Officer, ISER University of Essex |
| 2007 | Researcher, DIW Berlin, SOEP, and University of Bristol, Centre for Market and Public Organisation. |
| 2002 | Research Assistant, London School of Economics, Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion, London |
| 2000-2007 | Researcher, DIW Berlin, SOEP |
| 1999-2000 | PA to Member of Parliament, Dagmar Freitag, MdB |

Research projects (present and past)

“COhort cOMmunity Research and Development Infrastructure Network for Access Throughout Europe (COORDINATE)”, including [Eurocohort](#) pilot study. ERC H2020. Principal Investigator (PI)-Essex, (PI: Prof Gary Pollock). 04/2021-03/2025. €4.9m.

“Evaluation - Local Delivery Pilot for Sport England”. Essex County Council/ Sport England. Consultant for Survey Methods and Analysis (Principal Investigator, PI: Dr. Valerie Gladwell). 07/2019-12/2022. £687,160.

“Investigating People-Place Effects in the UK using Linked Longitudinal Survey and Administrative Data“. Nuffield Foundation. (PI). 01/2018-03/2021. £189k.

“Understanding Society: The UK Household Longitudinal Study“. ESRC. Named researcher and Topic Champion for Neighbourhoods (since 2017) (PI Prof Michaela Benzeval). 2019-2022. £50m.

“European Cohort Development Programme“. Horizon 2020. Researcher (PI Essex: Prof Peter Lynn). 01/2018-12/2019. €2,048.880.

“Understanding Society: The UK Household Longitudinal Study“. ESRC. Named researcher. Topic Champion for Neighbourhoods (since 2017) (PI Prof Michaela Benzeval). 2016-2019. £27,4m.

“Understanding Non-response on Understanding Society“. NCRM Methodological Innovation Project. Co-investigator. 04/2013-09/2014. £140k

“Life Transitions and Transport Behaviour“, ESRC Secondary Data Analysis Initiative. Co-I. 11/2012-04/2014. £153k.

“Understanding Society“, “UK Longitudinal Studies Centre“, und “Creating bio-social survey within Understanding Society“ (ESRC, 2007-2015)

“Migrant Diversity and Regional Disparity in Europe“(NORFACE, 2012-2013);

“Cohort & Longitudinal Studies Enhancement Resources (CLOSER), WP7: Health Data Linkage“(ESRC, 2013-2015)

“Centre for Micro-Social Change“(ESRC, 2015-2017).

Scientific roles and posts

Scientific advisor in the Polish National Science Centre –funded project “The dynamics of youth employment precarity: drivers, trajectories, and outcomes in a cross-national perspective (CNB-Young)”. (PI: Dr Anna Kiersztyn, University of Warsaw) (since 2019).

Chair of the research collaboration and scientific advisory group of the Nuffield-funded projects „Immigration and Well-being“ (PI: Peter Howley, University of Leeds), „The Impact of Ethnic Diversity on Well-being and Health“ (PI: Miles Hewstone, University of Oxford) und „Investigating people-place effects in the UK“ (PI, University of Essex). (2018-2019).

Scientific lead for neighbourhoods in the longitudinal household panel study Understanding Society (since 2017)

Scientific adviser to the ESRC projects ‘Anti-Social Behaviour: who experiences it and in what context?’ (PI: Dr Becky Thompson, Nottingham Trent University) (2017-2019).

Associate editor of ‘Sociology’ – the journal of the British Sociological Association (2016-2019)

Deputy lead of the Understanding Society data training programme (2014-2021)

Other roles and posts

Mentor for ArbeiterKind.de (since 2008)

Mentor for FES-Ehemalige e.V. (since 2004)

Reviewer activities (ad hoc)

Journals: British Journal of Sociology, European Sociological Review, Social Science

Research, Social Indicators Research, Journal of Happiness Research, Journal of Adolescence, Review of Income and Wealth, Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Official Statistics, Survey Research Methods, Public Opinion Quarterly, Oxford Economic Review, German Economic Review.

Research funders: Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Wellcome Trust, The Nuffield Foundation.

Academic administrative roles

Member of the University of Essex Global Forum (2015-2021)

Member of the Understanding Society Data access committee (2015-2021)

Chair of the early career researcher committee ISER University of Essex (2012-2013)

Organiser ISER external speaker seminar series (2007-2008)

Organiser ISER-SOEP Junior Researcher Exchange Programme (2007-2014)

Memberships in professional associations

British Sociological Association (BSA), European Survey Research Association (ESRA), International Society for Child Indicators Research (ISCI)

Professional development (since 2010)

Courses of 1 or more days completed: Management Essentials; Springboard (Personal Development for Women); How to be a good PI; Media training; Research grant writing workshop; Writing clinic; Using active listening skills to enhance learning; Supervising to completion; Awareness of Psychological type in teaching and supporting; Examining doctoral students;

Half-day workshops: Developing student motivation through active feedback; Supervising masters' dissertations and projects; Supervising international research students.

Knowledge Transfer experience

SC968 “Longitudinal Data Analysis for Sociologists”, part of MSc in Sociology at University of Essex (jointly with P Clarke et al.)

SC970 “Survey Methodology I”, part of MSc in Survey Methodology at University of Essex (jointly with J Burton et al.)

0.5-day workshop(s): “Introduction to Understanding Society”,

2-days hands-on workshop(s): “Introduction to Understanding Society Using Stata”.

2-days hands-on workshop(s): Cross-national comparative research using panel data (4th SERISS training course, February 2019)

2-days hands-on workshop(s): Neighbourhood research using Understanding Society.

2-days hands-on workshop(s): “Introduction to Understanding Society for Transport Analysts”,

2-days hands-on workshop(s): “Introduction to the BHPS and Panel Data Analysis Using Stata”, “Introduction to the BHPS Using Stata” (jointly with A Nandi et al.)

Publications

Journal articles (peer-reviewed)

- Knies, Melo, Zhang (in print). Neighborhood Deprivation, Life Satisfaction, and Earnings: Comparative Analyses of Neighborhood Effects at Bespoke Scales, *Urban Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098020956930>
- Platt, Knies, Luthra, Nandi & Benzeval (in print). Understanding Society at 10 Years, *European Sociological Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcaa031>
- Plum, A & Knies, G (2019): Local unemployment changes the springboard effect of low pay: Evidence from England. *PLOS One*. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0224290>.
- Knies, G (2017): Exploring the value of Understanding Society for analyses of neighbourhood effects. *Research Data Journal for the Humanities and Social Sciences*. <http://doi.org/10.1163/2452366601000006>.
- Sandercock, GRH et al. (2016): The relationships between socioeconomic status, family income and measures of muscular and cardiorespiratory fitness in Colombian schoolchildren, *Journal of Paediatrics*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2016.12.058>.
- Knies, G, Nandi, A & Platt, L (2016): Life Satisfaction, Ethnicity and Neighbourhoods: Is There an Effect of Neighbourhood Ethnic Composition on Life Satisfaction? *Social Science Research*. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0049089X16302095>.
- Knies, G & Burton, J (2014): Analysis of four studies in a comparative framework reveals: health linkage consent rates on British cohort studies higher than on UK household panel surveys. *BMC Medical Research Methodology* 14:125. <https://bmcmedresmethodol.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2288-14-125>.
- Sala, E, Knies, G & Burton, J (2014): Propensity to consent to data linkage: experimental evidence on the role of three survey design features, *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* 17(5), pp.455-473. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13645579.2014.899101>.
- Clark, B, Chatterjee, K, Melia, S, Knies, G & Laurie, H (2014): Life Events and Travel Behaviour: Exploring the Inter-Relationship Using the UK Household Longitudinal Study, *Transportation Research Record* 2413(2), pp.54-64. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.3141/2413-06>.
- Knies, G. (2013): Neighbourhood social ties: How much do residential, physical and virtual mobility matter? *British Journal of Sociology* 64(3), pp.425-452. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1468-4446.12026>.
- Sala, E, Terraneo, M, Lucchini, M & Knies, G (2013): Exploring the impact of male and female facial attractiveness on occupational prestige, *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 31, pp.6981. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S027656241200056X>.
- Sala, E., Burton, J and Knies, G (2012): Correlates of Obtaining Informed Consent: Respondent, Interview and Interviewer Characteristics. *Sociological Methods & Research* 41(3), pp. 414-439. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0049124112457330>.
- Knies, G., Sala, E., Burton, J. (2012): Consenting to Health Record Linkage: Evidence from a Multipurpose Longitudinal Survey of a General Population. *BMC Health Services Research* 12:52, pp.1-12. <https://bmchealthservres.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1472-6963-12-52>.

Knies, G. (2012): Income Comparisons among Neighbours and Satisfaction in East and West Germany, *Social Indicators Research* 106(3), pp.471-489.
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11205-011-9818-5>.

Knies, G, Burgess, S and Propper, C (2008): Keeping Up with the Schmidts: An Empirical Test of Relative Deprivation Theory in the Neighbourhood Context, *Schmollers Jahrbuch: Journal of Applied Social Science Studies*, 128, pp. 75-108.

Data papers

Knies, G (2018): The Understanding Society Waves 1-8 User Guide. Colchester: University of Essex. (annually 2014-2018)

Fumagalli, L, Knies, G and Buck, N (2017): The Understanding Society Harmonised British Household Panel Survey User Guide. Colchester: University of Essex.

Lynn, P & Knies, G (2015): The Understanding Society Quality Profile, Wave 1-5. Colchester: University of Essex.

Burton, J, Knies, G, & Al Baghal, T (2015): The Understanding Society Interviewer Survey 2014 User Guide. Colchester: University of Essex.

Knies, G & Menon, S (2014): Understanding Society: Waves 1-3, 2009-2012: Special Licence Access, Geographical Accessibility, User Guide. Colchester: University of Essex.

Knies, G & Spiess, CK (2007): Regional Data in the German Socio-economic Panel Study (SOEP), DIW Berlin, *Data Documentation* 17, pp. 277-281.

Data

Knies G, Melo P, & Zhang, M (2020) Neighbourhood Effect Studies of Subjective and Objective Wellbeing (2002-2018), Mendeley Data, v1, DOI: 10.17632/nkf79rtfk8.1

University of Essex. Institute for Social and Economic Research and National Centre for Social Research (2019): *Understanding Society: Waves 1-9, 2009-2019* and British Household Panel Survey, Wave 1-18 [computer file]. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive [distributor], November 2019. SN: 6614. *Updated annually*.

University of Essex. Institute for Social and Economic Research and National Centre for Social Research (2019). *Understanding Society: Innovation Panel, Waves 1-11, 2008-2019* [computer file]. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive [distributor], July 2019. SN: 6849. *Updated annually*.

University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2015). *Understanding Society: Interviewer Survey, 2014* [computer file]. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive [distributor], SN: 7615, <http://dx.doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-7615-2>.

University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research and NatCen Social Research (2014). *Understanding Society: Waves 1-3, 2009-2012: Special Licence Access, Geographical Accessibility* [computer file]. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive [distributor], July 2014. SN: 7533, <http://dx.doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-7533-1>

Other publications

Melo, P., Knies, G. & Patel, R. (2021): Location, location, location: will place-based initiatives improve people's quality of life?, Wellbeing and Place Blog Series, <https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/news/opinion/will-place-based-initiatives-improve-quality-of-life>

- Plum, A. and Knies, G. (2015): Does neighbourhood unemployment affect the springboard effect of low pay?, *ISER Working Paper*, 2015-20.
- Knies, G (2015): Are we looking for happiness in the wrong place: An academic's role in 'The Happiness Project' by the Roundhouse, ESRC Impact Blog, see <https://blog.esrc.ac.uk/2015/10/16/are-we-looking-for-happiness-in-all-the-wrong-places-an-academics-role-in-the-happiness-project-by-the-roundhouse/>.
- Al Baghal, T, Knies, G & Burton, J (2014): Linking Administrative Records to Surveys: Differences in the Correlates to Consent Decisions, Understanding Society Working Paper series no 2014-09.
- Knies, G (2014): Life satisfaction and ethnicity, [audio file], Understanding Society podcast series 2014-01.
- Sala, E and Knies, G (2013): People with more attractive faces tend to have higher occupational prestige, LSE Politics and Policy blog, see bit.ly/1PjBNLo
- Knies, G (2012): Life Satisfaction and Material Well-Being of Children in the UK, *ISER Working Paper*, 2012-15.
- Lynn, P et al. (2012): An Initial Look at Non-response and Attrition in *Understanding Society*", Understanding Society Working Paper, No. 2012-02, January 2012.
- Knies, G (2011): Life Satisfaction and Material Well-being of Young People in the UK, in: *Understanding Society: Early Findings from the First Wave of the UK's Household Longitudinal Study*, Ch.3, Colchester: ISER University of Essex.
- Knies, G (2007): Neighbourhood Effects in Germany, PhD thesis Department of Economics, University of Bristol.
- Knies, G & Krause, Peter (2006): Armut und Alter ('The Incidence of Poverty Among People of Different Age Groups in Germany', Considering Regional Differences), in: *Nationalatlas Bundesrepublik Deutschland- Arbeit und Lebensstandard*, Faßmann, H. et al (eds.), Vol. 7, Leipzig: Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde, pp. 118–119.
- Knies, G & Spiess, CK (2003): Fast ein Viertel der privaten Haushalte in Deutschland mit Konsumentenkreditverpflichtungen ('About a Quarter of Private Households in Germany Draw on Consumer Credit'), *DIW Wochenbericht*, no. 17.

Invited talks (selection)

- Geography of Health Inequalities Working Group of the Royal Geographical Society (2019). Expert panel 'Geocoded data for researching inequalities in subjective wellbeing and mental health'. Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference, 8 August 2019.
- Presentations in interdisciplinary research seminar series: University of Manchester (June 2019), University College of London - Institute of Education (May 2019), University of Bristol (July 2019): "Neighbourhood effects on wellbeing".
- University of Bielefeld Faculty of Sociology (December 2017): "Ohne Knete keine Fete – Längsschnittanalysen zum Zusammenhang von Familieneinkommen und Kinderzufriedenheit".
- CLOSER Longitudinal Methodology Seminar VI, 28 January 2016, UCL, London: "The role of interviewers in gaining consent to record linkage: Evidence from the UK longitudinal studies"

BBC 100 Women, 1 December 2015, Live, Broadcasting House, London: “Are looks important for women’s success?”.

Roundhouse London, October 2013, The Happiness Project, “How important is money for children’s happiness?.

Neighbourhood Effects Workshop, RWI Germany, 5-6 June 2014: Exploiting Understanding Society and BHPS for Neighbourhood Effects Research”.

Human Geography Seminar Series University of Bristol, 30 May 2013: “Life satisfaction, ethnicity and neighbourhoods: Is there an effect of neighbourhood ethnic composition on life satisfaction?”

German Ministry of Social Affairs, Expert Workshop, May 2010: Wohnumfeld und Kontexteffekte: “Nachbarschaftskontexteffekte in UK- Forschungsergebnisse und politische Maßnahmen“ (Neighbourhood context effects in UK: Empirical results and policy responses)

Presentations at international conferences and seminars (selection)

SLLS International conference 2015, 18-21 October 2015, Dublin: “Interviewer effects on consent to data linkage: Evidence from the UK longitudinal studies”.

XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology, 13-19 July 2014, Yokohama (Japan):

- (1) RC28: “Life satisfaction, ethnicity and neighbourhoods: Is there an effect of neighbourhood ethnic composition on life satisfaction?” (joint with L. Platt and A. Nandi);
- (2) RC33: “Consent to Data Linkage: A Focus on the Interviewer Respondent Interaction” (joint with J. Burton & T. Al Baghal

Neighbourhood Effects Workshop, RWI Germany, 5-6 June 2014: Exploiting Understanding Society and BHPS for Neighbourhood Effects Research”.

Human Geography Seminar Series University of Bristol, 30 May 2013 & 4th NORFACE Conference on Migration: Global Development, New Frontiers, 10-13 April 2013, UCL & Understanding Society Research Conference, 24-26 July 2013, University of Essex: “Life satisfaction, ethnicity and neighbourhoods: Is there an effect of neighbourhood ethnic composition on life satisfaction?” (joint with L. Platt and A. Nandi)

European Survey Research Association Conference, 15-19 July **2013**, Ljubljana:

- (1) “Consent to health record linkage on longitudinal studies: commonalities and differences across UK cohort and household panel studies” (joint with J. Burton)
- (2) “Enhancing the current knowledge on linking survey data to administrative records. Evidence from the Innovation Panel of the UK Household Longitudinal Study” (joint with E. Sala and J. Burton)
- (3) Organiser and chair of two sessions on “Selectivity in Consent to Data Linkage” (joint w J. Korbmacher and J. Sakshaug)

SLLS International Conference 2011, 26-28 September 2011, Bielefeld:

- (1) “Material and subjective wellbeing of youths in the UK”
- (2) “Understanding Society as a multidisciplinary tool to study life courses”

Population Association of America 2011, 3-5 May 2011, San Francisco:

(1) “Income Comparisons among Neighbors and Satisfaction in East and West Germany”

(2) “Life Satisfaction and Material Well-Being of Children in the UK”

International Association for Research in Income and Wealth, 31st General Conference 2010, St Gallen: “Correlates of Obtaining Informed Consent: Respondent, Interview and Interviewer Characteristics” (joint with E. Sala and J. Burton)

Health. Happiness. Inequality Conference 2010, TU Darmstadt: “Income Comparisons Among Neighbours and Life Satisfaction”

German Ministry of Social Affairs, Expert Workshop, May 2010: Wohnumfeld und Kontexteffekte: “Nachbarschaftskontexteffekte in UK- Forschungsergebnisse und politische Maßnahmen“ (Neighbourhood context effects in UK: Empirical results and policy responses)

Priority Programme Survey Methodology (PPSM) Conference 2009, University of Bremen: “Consenting to Health Record Linkage on the British Household Panel Survey”

International Society for Quality of Life Studies Annual Conference 2007, Housing/ Neighbourhood Well-being, December 6-9 2007, San Diego: “The Effects of Mobility on Neighbourhood Social Ties” and “Keeping up with the Schmidts” (joint with Simon Burgess and Carol Propper)

Humboldt University Berlin/CMPO/SOEP, joint conference on “Neighbourhood Effects Studies on the Basis of European Micro-data”, March 29-30 2007, Berlin: “Broadening the Scope: The Effects of Living in Better-off Neighbourhoods”.

German Sociological Association, Spring-term conference of the Section Methods of Empirical Research, “Individuals and Contexts”, 2006, Duisburg: “Keeping up with the Schmidts: Do better off neighbours cause unhappiness?”.

SOEP Workshop “Die Verknüpfung von Microm-Daten mit dem SOEP”, 2005: “Keeping up with the Schmidts: Eine Analyse auf Basis des SOEP und mikro-geographischen Daten”

Date updated: 2021-05-25

Gundi Knies