TREE: Past, present and future contributions to social research in Switzerland (and beyond)

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Aging with TREE (as an academic)

- 2000: School > VET / GE
- 2005: VET > Job
- 2010: Tertiary education
- 2015: Work trajectories

Discrimination
Dropout
University access
Unemployment
Occupational orientation
Academic career
Precarious work
Family foundation

TREE: Past, present and future contributions to social research in Switzerland and beyond, 31.10.2019
TREE: Boosting social research in Switzerland

SNF* Funding (P3, approved projects)

- TREE: 12.9 Mio (SNF only)
- ‘Spin-offs’ > 5.0 Mio
- Total > 17.9 Mio

- Mainly in Sociology
- There is much more social research boosted by TREE (without SNF funding)

*) Swiss National Science Foundation
### TREE – Spin-offs (SNSF funding)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding scheme</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Disciplines</th>
<th>Amount (CHF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project funding</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project funding</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sociology (4), Psychology</td>
<td>1.5 Mio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRP 60 Gender Equality</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sociology, Educational science and Pedagogy, Economics</td>
<td>0.9 Mio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgarian-Swiss Research Programme (BSRP)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>0.3 Mio</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Career funding</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt; 2.5 Mio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Doc.CH</td>
<td>Min. 2</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Marie Heim-Voegtlin grants</td>
<td>Min. 2</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fellowships for prospective researchers</td>
<td>Min. 1</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- SNSF Professorships</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>(1.7 Mio)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SNSF-funded projects: Keywords
Main topics

- **Gender**
  - Continuity and change of *gender inequalities in educational and vocational pathways*. A mixed methods study
  - *Professional aspirations and orientations* of girls and boys towards the end of compulsory school: what determinants for more equality?
  - Career entry and *gender wage gap* - new approaches for explaining discrimination (BELODIS)
  - Anticipated parenthood and employment trajectories. The interrelation of family and career plans of young adults and their implications for *occupational gender segregation*
  - Educational Systems and *Gendered Transitions* from School into Vocational Training and Work
  - Social disparities and regional differences in school-to-work transitions in Bulgaria

- **Labour market transitions and trajectories**
  - Individual Trajectories of *Working Life* in Switzerland
  - Framing *Precarity* in Early Work Life
  - The role of vocational specificity and skill demand in explaining *long-term labour market outcomes* of people with VET
  - Effects of job offer situation on job-skills-(mis-)match

- **Wellbeing & health**
  - *Success and Wellbeing* of Young Persons in Switzerland: Capacity, Education, and Occupation
  - Multidimensional *Success and Well-Being*
  - Influence of the transition from school to work on *health promotion choices* of young people in Switzerland
Cumulative development of publications based on TREE data (Hupka-Brunner & Meyer, today)

What kind of publications?
Some 250 publications, whereof…

- approx. 10% searchable (SCOPUS, JSTOR, WEB of Science)
- 70 peer-reviewed articles
- approx. 30 book chapters
- 12 PhD theses (since 2009): Sociology (5), Economics (3), Educational Science (2), Psychology (2)
- 15 Master theses: Sociology/Social Sciences (8), Psychology (7)
- > 10 policy reports (OECD, Swiss Science Council, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences etc.)
- Short articles (newspapers, professional journals etc.)
- TREE publications (books, reports etc.)

(Source: tree.unibe.ch/ergebnisse)
Main topics of journal articles (source: titles)
70 articles, published in 42 journals

- 2019
  - European Sociological Review
  - Work and Stress
  - Quality of Life Research
  - Journal of Educational Psychology
  - Social Inclusion
- 2018
  - Emerging Adulthood
  - Journal of Organizational Behavior
  - Journal for Labour Market Research
  - Swiss Journal of Sociology
## Journals by discipline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline / topic</th>
<th>Freq.</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sociology*</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>38.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescence</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>70</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*) Whereof 16 times *Swiss Journal of Sociology* (23%)

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Unit of data collection: Individuals → micro-level analysis

- Students
- Apprentices
- Adolescents
- Young adults
- Employees
- Parents
- etc.

- Manifold educational variables
- Gainful employment
- NEET-related behavior
- Personal characteristics
- Wellbeing & health behaviour
- Critical life events
- Composite variables: trajectories
**Challenge 1: How to link individual trajectories to opportunity structures at the organizational / institutional level?**

Barbara Reskin (2003): “Organizational *practices* are the immediate causes of variation in ascriptive inequality.”

- Organisational mechanisms (e.g. gatekeeping) matter
- Policy–relevant research perspectives
- Black box educational & work organisations

What institutional data does TREE have in store?

“We only have spare information about other actors in the system, both individual and institutional (teachers, training firms, schools, parents, peers, etc.)” (Hupka-Brunner & Meyer, 31.10.2019)
Institutional & regional contexts

- **Institutional contexts**
  - School tracks (& social composition → Scharenberg, 31.10.2019)
  - Educational programme
  - Interim solutions
  - Occupational / job-level information

- **Swiss federal laboratory** (matched info at cantonal level)
  - Educational policy
    - Cantonal “supply” of general education
    - Cantonal VET “supply”
  - **Economic structure**
    - Cantonal share of SMEs
    - Regional unemployment rates
Register-based company level data (rarely used)

- Company ID
- Industry (BUR)
- Canton (BUR)
- Number of employees (BUR)
- Language (BUR)
- Company type (BUR)
- Legal form (BUR)

BUR = national register of companies
Company contexts & behavior: Subjective measures

- Working conditions (e.g. work time)
- Continuing education opportunities
- Social support
- Problems / stress at work
- Perceived gender discrimination
- Perceived ethnic discrimination
Educational organisations (schools)

- PISA (baseline survey of TREE)
  - school ID
  - school location
  - public/private
  - school size
  - school autonomy
  - social composition
    - percentage of girls
    - average social status; % students not speaking an official national language; average reading literacy (Scharenberg, 31.10.2019)
Educational organisations

- TREE1 (all follow-up survey waves)
  - (Training companies)
  - Schools: Classroom characteristics
  - Schools: Teacher characteristics
  - Quality of educational programme
  - Equal opportunity

Subjective measures
Linking individual trajectories to organizational features

- Subjective measures of organizational behaviour do not allow for robust analysis of school or company effects
- Linked employee – employer data, linked student – school data: Too expensive?
- Linking social research infrastructures, e.g. TREE with Swiss Job Market Monitor
- Mixed method design: Organisational identifiers would allow for contacting single schools / companies → linking organisational case studies to individual trajectories
Challenge 2: Boosting interdisciplinary analysis

- How to become more interdisciplinary? ( > SNF funding)

- Bringing educational scholars and labour market scholars closer together in social mobility research:

  - Linking educational research (women as “winners” of intergenerational mobility) with labour market research (women as “losers” of intragenerational mobility)

  - What are the labour market returns of different educational trajectories into and through higher education?
Challenge 3: Overcoming bi-polar measurement of gender

- Learned A LOT about gender relations in Switzerland. However, innovative gender research remains limited as long as gender categorisation is reduced to man and woman:
  - Intersectionality gender * social class: gender cannot be understood with dichotomous concept
  - Need for measurements beyond gender dichotomy: femininities, masculinities → would allow for innovative intersectionality research with available sample size
Conclusion

- Drawing ‘the Swiss Tree’ of educational and work trajectories: TREE will be replaced by longitudinal register data. But TREE will continue to explain ‘the Tree’
- Overcoming challenges 1-3, bringing in (more) context = comparative advantage with respect to register data
- Where to go with TREE? Should we know more about individuals or should we know more about organisational contexts of their trajectories? Can we afford both? Should policy-relevance be taken into account?