

Mirjam M. Fischer

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RESEARCH POSITIONS

- Feb 2019 – now **Postdoctoral researcher**
German Institute for Economic Research, Berlin, Germany
Project: “Complementing the Data Structure of the German Socio-Economic Panel with an Oversample of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Persons (SOEP-LGBT)”. <https://www.diw.de/>
- Oct 2018 – May 2019 **Guest researcher**
Sociology Department, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Oct 2014 – Sept 2018 **Doctoral researcher**
Sociology Department, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
Dissertation: “*Free to Live Their Lives as They Wish? The Social Well-Being Gap between Persons in Same-Sex and Mixed-Sex Relationships in Europe.*”
Promotor: Prof. dr. Matthijs Kalmijn; Co-promotor: Dr. Stephanie Steinmetz
- Apr 2018 – June 2018 **Guest researcher**
Health Equity Institute, San Francisco State University, CA, United States
Analysis of psychological well-being of same-sex couples using actor partner interdependence modeling with Prof. dr. Allen LeBlanc and Dr. David Frost
<http://www.projectshare.sfsu.edu/>
- Jan 2014 - Jul 2014 **Research intern**
Amsterdam Centre for Inequality Studies (AMCIS), University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Main duties: survey data cleaning, data analysis and writing a literature review (see Elffers, Van de Werfhorst & Fischer, 2015)
- Oct 2013 - Jun 2014 **Research assistant**
Research group Institutions, Inequalities and Life course, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
Various tasks like survey data cleaning, data processing, data analysis.
- Nov 2011 - May 2012 **Research intern**
Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
Main tasks: statistical analyses of social media use and political participation for Dr. Jacob Groshek.

EDUCATION

- Oct 2014 - Sept 2018 **PhD in Sociology**
 University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
 Dissertation: "*Free to Live their Lives as they Wish? The Social Well-Being Gap between Persons in Same-Sex and Mixed-Sex Relationships in Europe.*"
 Promotor: Prof. dr. Matthijs Kalmijn, co-promotor: Dr. Stephanie Steinmetz
- Aug 2012 - Sept 2014 **Research Master Social Sciences (MSc)**
 University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
 Thesis: "*Does Tolerance Matter? A Study of Same-Sex Unions and Well-being in Nine European Countries.*" (Thesis grade: 8.7/10)
 Supervisors: Prof. dr. Matthijs Kalmijn and Dr. Stephanie Steinmetz
- Aug 2009 - Jun 2012 **International Bachelor of Communication and Media (BSc),**
 Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
 Thesis: "*The Pirate Party in Germany: A Case Study of Framing and Elite Consensus in Mainstream Election Coverage*" (Thesis grade: 8.5/10); Focus area: Communications and Politics.
 Supervisor: Dr. Nel Ruigrok
- Aug 1999 - Jun 2008 **Abitur**, Martin-Heidegger Gymnasium, Messkirch, Germany

FURTHER POSTGRADUATE TRAINING

- Apr 1-5, 2019 Summer school '**Vulnerable Groups on the Labour Market** – Determinants and Consequences of Economic Vulnerability across Europe' InGRID2 <http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/>, University of Amsterdam
- Aug 7-19, 2017 **Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis** by Moritz Marbach, Essex Summer School; Relevant content: Weighting, Matching, Robust Inference with OLS, Functional Form Specification, Causal Graphs, Instrumental Variables, Difference in Difference, Panel Data, Limited Dependent Variables
- July 17, 2017 **Designing Questionnaires for Cross-Cultural Surveys** by Ana Villar and Dorothee Behr at ESRA conference 2017, Lisbon
- Jan 25-29, 2016 **Design and Execution of Education for Starting Teachers**, Centrum voor Nascholing, Amsterdam
- Feb 1–Mar 31, 2015 **Methodology Course Research Design** by Brian Brian Burgoon and Annette Freyberg-Inan, Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research
- Oct 31–Dec 19, 2014 **Advanced Issues in Cross-National Research** by Sofie Marien, University of Amsterdam; Relevant content: Influential Cases, Cross-National Measurement Equivalence, Collinearity and Perturbation Analysis, Cross-Level Interactions

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Feb 2020 - Jan 2023 **Research grant** “Geschlechter- und sexuelle Diversität im Fokus: Teilhabe und Vielfalt der Lebensformen (SOEP-GeSMin) [Gender and sexual diversity: participation and social relationships]” (€ 393.994); funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Berlin, Germany
Principal Investigators: Dr. Mirjam Fischer, Dr. Simon Kühne; co-PIs: Dr. David Richter, Dr. Martin Kroh; reference nr. 01UW2002A
- Nov 2019 – Apr 2020 **Research grant** “Soziale Akzeptanz und mentale Gesundheit von lesbischen, schwulen, bisexuellen und trans* (LSBT*) Menschen [Societal acceptance and mental health of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans* (LGBT*) people]” (€ 9.999); funded by the Berlin University Alliance, Germany
Principal Investigator: Dr. med. Pichit Buspavanich; collaboration partner i.a.: Dr. Mirjam Fischer, reference nr. GC_SC_PC_36
- Jun 2017 **Travel grant** by Prins Bernhard Cultuurfondsbeurs (€ 2.500) for research visit at San Francisco State University, reference nr. 40016094/HEV/ILE
- Dec 2015 **Research grant** Fonds Stimulering en Ontwikkeling Seksuologie (€ 4.500) to fund UNICON data collection together with Prof. dr. Henny Bos, Prof. dr. Matthijs Kalmijn, Dr. Stephanie Steinmetz
- Dec 2014 **ARC-GS National Prize for Best Social Science Master Thesis** in Gender and Sexuality Studies 2014

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- Fischer, M. M.**, Kalmijn, M. & Steinmetz, S. (2019). The Social Integration of Lesbians, Gay Men and Bisexuals: Exploring the Role of the Municipal Context. *Social Science Research*, 84. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2019.06.011>
- Steinmetz, S., & **Fischer, M. M.** (2019). Surveying LGB Couples in a Probabilistic Way – An Example from The Netherlands. *Journal of Official Statistics*, 35 (4), 753-776. <https://doi.org/10.2478/jos-2019-0032>
- Bates, N., Steinmetz, S. & **Fischer, M. M.** (2019). Preface Special Issue Measuring LGBT Populations. *Official Statistics*, 35(4), 699-707. <https://doi.org/10.2478/jos-2019-0029>
- Fischer, M.M.** (2018). Free to Live their Lives as they Wish? The Social Well-Being Gap between Persons in Same-Sex and Mixed-Sex Relationships in Europe [*Doctoral dissertation*]. University of Amsterdam: The Netherlands. ISBN 978-94-92679-72-7.
- Fischer, M. M.** & Steinmetz, S. (2018). Designing a Sampling Frame for Same-sex Couples and Families: The Unions in Context (UNICON) Study. In *SAGE Research Methods Cases*, 2018.
- Fischer, M. M.**, Kalmijn, M. & Steinmetz, S. (2017). Design, Content and Questionnaire of The UNICON Study: Lesbian, Gay and Heterosexual Couples and Families in the Netherlands. *Research report*. University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Fischer, M.M., Kalmijn, M. & Steinmetz, S. (2016). Does Tolerance Matter? A Study of Same-Sex Unions and Well-being in Nine European Countries. *European Societies*, 18(5), 514-534. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616696.2016.1207793>

Fischer, M.M. (2016). Identifying Same-Sex Couples in Cross-National Survey Data: A Comparison of Same-Sex Couples' Demographic and Socio-Economic Traits in Six European Countries. In R Meuleman, G Kraaykamp & M Wittenberg (Eds.), *Nederland In Context: Verschillen en Overeenkomsten* (pp. 50-79). Den Haag: DANS.

Elffers, L., Van de Werfhorst, H. & **Fischer, M.M.** (2015). Effects of Reducing the Period of Mixed Ability Grouping in Secondary Education on Cognitive, Civic and Motivational Outcomes: A Quasi-Experimental Case Study. *Pedagogische Studien*, 92(6), 413-433.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Feb, 2018	Gender and Sexuality as Axes of Social Inequality, guest lecture in Dutch, 60 students, BA-2 General Social Sciences, University of Amsterdam
Sept-Oct, 2017	Intersectionalities: Class, Race, Gender, and Sexuality, seminars in Dutch, 25 students, 12 contact hours, BA-2 Sociology, University of Amsterdam
Feb, 2017	Gender and Sexuality as Axes of Social Inequality, guest lecture in Dutch, 60 students, BA-2 General Social Sciences, University of Amsterdam
Jan, 2017	Introduction to Statistics, practical tutorials in Dutch, 50 students, 24 contact hours, BA-1 Sociology, University of Amsterdam
Jan, 2016	Introduction to Statistics, practical tutorials in Dutch, 25 students, 12 contact hours, BA-1 Sociology, University of Amsterdam

SUPERVISORY ACTIVITIES

- **Daily supervisor** to Ph.D. David Kasprowski, LGBT people on the labor market. German Institute for Economic Research, 2020 – now.

REVIEWING AND EDITORIAL ACTIITIES

- **Guest editor** together with Nancy Bates (U.S. Census Bureau) and Stephanie Steinmetz (University of Lausanne), Special Issue on Measuring LGBT populations, *Journal of Official Statistics*, Vol. 35 (4), 2019
- **Reviewer**, *Journal of Official Statistics*, 2018

SURVEY DATA PROJECTS

The GesMin project: Gender and sexual diversity in Germany

- Project duration: Feb 2020 – Feb 2023
- PIs: Mirjam Fischer, Simon Kühne, co-PIs: David Richter, Martin Kroh
- Sub-project "Survey methodology and management" (PI Kühne, Bielefeld University): Improvement of the existing data infrastructure for LGBT people by a) combining and extrapolating existing data sources and b) a targeted increase in the form of a new online survey.
- Sub-project "Analyses and knowledge transfer" (PI Fischer, DIW Berlin): Initial analyses with existing data sources on the topics of social relationships, family and economic equality of LGB people can begin immediately. On the basis of the expanded database, analyses focusing on equality and participation of trans people in the labor market follow.
- Funding: Federal Ministry of Education and Research Germany (BMBF).

The SOEP-LGBT project: Supplementing the German Socio-Economic Panel with a Sample of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Persons; <https://www.diw.de/en/>

- Project duration: Sept 2018 – anticipated ending Oct 2021
- PIs: David Richter, Martin Kroh, postdoc: Mirjam Fischer
- The SOEP-LGBT project supplements the existing SOEP panel study with 1,000 LGBT households among which 250 with kids; sample based on randomized phone screening of the German population.
- My tasks involve questionnaire design, construction of weighting variables, and data analysis.
- Funding: Federal Ministry of Education and Research Germany (BMBF).

The Unions in Context (UNICON) project: Lesbian, Gay and Heterosexual Couples and Families in the Netherlands; <http://www.unionsincontext.nl/>

- Project duration: Jan 2016 - Apr 2018
- PI: Matthijs Kalmijn, co-PIs: Mirjam Fischer, Stephanie Steinmetz, Henny Bos
- Web-based probability survey among cohabiting same-sex and mixed-sex couples in 22 Dutch municipalities, sampling frame from population registers, realized N = 1,400.
- I planned and executed the full project: attraction of funding, recruitment of government partners, overseeing data collection by an external agency, data processing and cleaning, construction of weighting variables, writing fieldwork report.
- Funding: Amsterdam Centre for Inequality Studies; Institutions, Inequalities and Life courses, Nederlandse Vereniging voor Seksuologie, ERC project 'Family complexity' by Matthijs Kalmijn [FP7/2007-2013 / ERC grant agreement no. 669334].

PRESENTATIONS

Nov 26, 2019

Invited talk at The Swedish Institute for Social Research, University of Stockholm, Sweden; presentation entitled "Survey Approaches to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Persons and Households - Recent Examples from The Netherlands and Germany."

- Apr 1-5, 2019 **'Vulnerable Groups on the Labor Market' - Determinants and Consequences of Economic Vulnerability across Europe: InGRID Summer School**, Amsterdam, NL; presentation entitled "LGB(T)s in the Labor Market: Introducing the SOEP-LGBT Project."
- Jul 17-21, 2017 **7th conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA)**, Lisbon, Portugal; presentation titled "Designing a Sampling Frame for Same-Sex Couples and Families: The Unions in Context (UNICON) Study."
- Mar 31, 2017 **Symposium Sexological Research**, Nederlandse Wetenschappelijke Vereniging voor Seksuologie (NWS), Amersfoort, NL; presentation titled "The Unions in Context (UNICON) Project: Gay and Lesbian Couples and Families in the Netherlands."
- Oct 27, 2016 **Congresdag LGBT Onderzoek in de Lage Landen**, Nederlands-Vlaams netwerk LGBT onderzoek, Antwerp, Belgium; presentation titled "Unions in Context (UNICON): A Web-Mode Survey among Same-Sex and Mixed-Sex Couples in the Netherlands."
- Jun 13-15, 2016 **Unequal Families and Relationships**, Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, Edinburgh, Scotland; presentation titled "Unpacking Differences in Social Integration between Heterosexuals and Non-Heterosexuals in the Netherlands: The Role of Tolerance of Homosexuality."
- Jun 9, 2016 **Dag van de Sociologie 2016**, Dutch Sociological Association (NSV), Tilburg, the Netherlands; presentation titled "Unpacking Differences in Social Integration between Heterosexuals and Non-Heterosexuals in the Netherlands: The Role of Tolerance of Homosexuality."
- Jul 13-17, 2015 **6th conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA)**, Reykjavik, Iceland; presentation titled "A Socio-Demographic and Socio-Economic Portrait of Same-Sex Couples in 6 European Countries: Evidence from the ESS and the GGS."
- May 27, 2015 **Dag van de Sociologie 2015**, Dutch Sociological Association (NSV), Amsterdam, the Netherlands; presentation titled "Social Integration and Tolerance of Homosexuality: Evidence from a Comparative Couple Study in 28 European Countries and Israel."

ORGANIZING CONFERENCE PANELS

- Jul 15-19, 2019 **Session organizer and chair**, "Analyzing the Lives of LGBTI People - Survey Approaches to LGBTI Persons, Couples and Families", 8th conference of the European Survey Research Association, Zagreb, Croatia
- Jul 17-21, 2017 **Session organizer and chair**, "Analyzing the Lives of LGBTI People - Survey Approaches to LGBTI Persons, Couples and Families", 7th conference of the European Survey Research Association, Lisbon, Portugal
- Aug 4-5, 2016 **Session organizer and chair**, "Survey Approaches to LGBTI Persons, Couples and Families", Proud in Europe? LGBTI Emancipation in Comparative Perspective, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Jun 9, 2016

Session organizer and chair, “Survey Approaches to LGB Persons, Couples and Families”, Dag van de Sociologie 2016, Tilburg, the Netherlands

RESEARCH SKILLS & TECHNIQUES

- **Management:** planning, supervising and managing entire data collection cycle of a survey in collaboration with a fieldwork agency; recruitment of government partners/municipalities as partners in research project, setting up and managing national research network SOGI-GER in Germany (see section on Grants and Awards).
- **Research design:** sampling difficult to reach populations, designing surveys, designing (web mode) questionnaires, surveying sensitive populations (sexual and gender minorities).
- **Statistical:** multi-level regression modelling, fixed and random effects, structural equation modelling, actor partner interdependence modelling, cross-sectional comparative research, matching, difference-in-difference, regression using limited dependent variables, network analysis, construction of population and non-response weights.
- **Computational:** Stata (daily use), SPSS, IBM Amos.

MEDIA PRESENCE

- ‘Sociaal Welzijn van LHB’s’, Radio Swammerdam, Mar 3, 2019
- ‘Hoe groter de tolerantie, des te meer welzijn homo’s ervaren’, Folia, Feb 20, 2019

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- German: native speaker
- English: fluent
- Dutch: fluent
- French: limited working proficiency