

FABIAN KRATZ



ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2015-present Post-Doc at the chair of Josef Brüderl at Institute of Sociology at the University of Munich (LMU)
- 2011-2015 Research associate at the Institute of Sociology at the University of Munich (LMU),
- 2010-2015 Research associate at the Bavarian State Institute of Higher Education Research and Planning (IHF)

EDUCATION

- 2015 Dr. rer.pol. (Ph.D.) Economics and Social Science, Summa Cum Laude, Friedrich Alexander University of Erlangen Nuremberg.
- 2009 Diploma in Sociology (1.20, second best average grade of 111 graduates)
- 2008-2009 Sociology Student at the LMU Munich
- 2007-2008 Erasmus Student at the “Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona”
- 2004-2007 Sociology Student at the LMU Munich (Minors: Statistics, Psychology)
- 2003-2004 community service, München
- 2003 Abitur, Lise-Meitner-Gymnasiums Grenzach-Wyhlen (average grade: 1.7, award for outstanding performance in mathematics and physics).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Research Committee on Social Stratification (RC 28/International Sociological Association), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie Sektion “Modellbildung und Simulation”, Akademie für Soziologie.

PUBLICATIONS

- Fabian Kratz** (2026). Directions for improving the policy relevance of inequality research: Lessons from social origin–specific health disparities. *Social Science Research*, 135, 103322. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2026.103322>.
- Kratz, Fabian** & Klee, Matthias (2026). Can Equalizing Education Weaken the Link Between Parental Education and Cognitive Function? Evidence from a Non-Parametric Decomposition Analysis. *Social Science & Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2026.118961>
- Kratz, Fabian** (2025). Rising Educational Divides in Attitudes: How Polarization across Cohorts Can Mask Age-Related Polarization. *Sociological Science*, 12, 486–510.
- Kratz, Fabian**, & Brüderl, Josef (2025). Assessing age trajectories (of subjective well-being): clarifying estimands, identification assumptions, and estimation strategies. *European Sociological Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcafo38>.
- Kratz, Fabian** (2024). Socialism and the modernization hypothesis: Changes in attitudes towards immigration across birth cohorts by type of welfare state. *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*. 57(1), 19-44.
- Hadjar, Andreas, **Kratz, Fabian** & Samuel, Robin (2024). Social Mobility and Subjective Well-Being. *Encyclopedia of Happiness, Quality of Life and Subjective Well-being* edited by Hilke Brockmann and Roger Fernandez-Urbano, 193–199.
- Kratz, Fabian** (2024). A liberalizing effect of happiness? The impact of improvements and deteriorations in different dimensions of subjective well-being on concerns about immigration. *European Sociological Review*, 40(4), 686–703.
- Kratz, Fabian**, Pettinger, Bettina, & Grätz, Michael (2022). At Which Age is Education the Great Equalizer? A Causal Mediation Analysis of the (In-)Direct Effects of Social Origin over the Life Course. *European Sociological Review*, 38(6), 866–881.
- Kratz, Fabian** (2021). Do Concerns about Immigration Change after Adolescence? How Education and Critical Life Events Affect Concerns about Immigration. *European Sociological Review* 37(6), 987–1003.
- Kratz, Fabian** (2021). Health Inequalities across the Life Course. Pp. 97–110 in *The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Inequalities and the Life Course*, edited by Magda Nico and Gary Pollock. London and New York: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group.

- Kratz, Fabian**, & Patzina, Alexander (2020). Endogenous Selection Bias and Cumulative Inequality over the Life Course: Evidence from Educational Inequality in Subjective Well-Being. *European Sociological Review*, 36(3), 333-350.
- Kratz, Fabian** (2020). On the way from misery to happiness? A longitudinal perspective on economic migration and well-being. *Migration Studies*, 8(3), 307-355.
- Kratz, Fabian**, & Bristle, Johanna (2019). Tracking and educational inequality in health in later life. In: *Health and socio-economic status over the life course* (pp. 99-106). De Gruyter Oldenbourg.
- Kratz, Fabian**, Patzina, Alexander, Kleinert, Corinna, & Dietrich, Hans (2019). Vocational education and employment: Explaining cohort variations in life course patterns. *Social Inclusion*, 7(3), 224-253.
- Brüderl, Josef, **Kratz, Fabian**, & Bauer, Gerrit (2019). Life course research with panel data: an analysis of the reproduction of social inequality. *Advances in Life Course Research*, 41, 100247.
- Keuschnigg, Marc, & **Kratz, Fabian** (2018). Thou shalt recycle: How social norms of environmental protection narrow the scope of the low-cost hypothesis. *Environment and Behavior*, 50(10), 1059-1091.
- Preisner, Klaus, Neuberger, Franz, Posselt, Lukas, & **Kratz, Fabian** (2018). Motherhood, employment, and life satisfaction: Trends in Germany between 1984 and 2015. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 80(5), 1107-1124.
- Kratz, Fabian**, & Nicolai Netz (2018). Which mechanisms explain monetary returns to international student mobility? *Studies in Higher Education*, 43(2), 375-400.
- Kratz, Fabian**, Bauer, Gerrit, & Brüderl, Josef (2017). Die Vererbung sozialer Ungleichheit: ein neuer Ansatz zur Untersuchung einer klassischen soziologischen Frage. *Festschrift für Hans-Jürgen Andreß*.
- Kratz, Fabian**, & Lenz, Thorsten (2015). Regional-ökonomische Effekte von Hochschulabsolventen, *Beiträge zur Hochschulforschung*, 31, 8-27.
- Falk, Susanne, **Kratz, Fabian**, & Müller, Christina (2015). Sicherheit oder hohes Einkommen? Die Karriereentwicklung von Absolventinnen männerdominierter Studienfächer, IHF kompakt.
- Kratz, Fabian** (2015). Parental Education, International Student Mobility, Regional Labor Migration and Wages. Dissertationsschrift.
- Falk, Susanne, **Kratz, Fabian**, & Müller, Christina (2014). Die geschlechtsspezifische Studienfachwahl und ihre Folgen für die Karriereentwicklung. München: IHF.

Kratz, Fabian, & Brüderl, Josef (2013). Returns to Regional Migration: Causal Effect or Selection on Wage Growth. *Journal of Applied Social Science Studies*, 133, 1 – 12.

Kratz, Fabian, Reimer, Maike, Felbinger, Sabine, & Zhu, Xiaoyun (2013). Stellenfindung und Arbeitgeberwechsel von Hochschulabsolventen: Eine ereignisanalytische Untersuchung der Beschäftigungsdauer beim ersten Arbeitgeber. *Beiträge zur Hochschulforschung*, 35(1), 38-56.

Kratz, Fabian (2012). Der Einfluss der sozialen Herkunft auf die internationale Mobilität und den Stellensuchradius von Studierenden und Hochschulabsolventen. *Soziale Welt*, 63(1), 45-64.

Riordan, Patrick, & **Kratz, Fabian** (2012). Netzwerke im Arbeitsmarkt: Ein Überblick und eine Anwendung zum Jobeinstieg von bayerischen Hochschulabsolventen. In: Braun, Norman; Keuschnigg, Marc; Tobias Wolbring (Hg): *Wirtschaftssoziologie II: Anwendungen*. München: Oldenbourg, S. 25-46.

MANUSCRIPTS WITH R&R

Kratz, Fabian (2025). Cumulative Inequality and Attitude Formation: How Education Affects Liberal Attitudes Across the Life Course. Pre-print available: https://scholar.google.de/scholar?cluster=5248136713212330660&hl=de&as_sdt=0,5
(revising & resubmitting to American Journal of Sociology)

Kratz, Fabian (2024). Explaining Social Disparities by Emulating Interventions at different Life Course Stages. Pre-print available: <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/dg78h>
(revised & resubmitted to Social Science Research)

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Kratz, Fabian. Answers to Which Questions? Clarifying Estimands to Rethink the Muslim–Antisemitism Link in Germany.
(under review, European Sociological Review)

Kratz, Fabian & Klein, Markus. Equalizing Education, Equalizing Opportunity? How Education Shapes the Origin-Destination Link.
(under review, European Sociological Review)

Working Papers

Kratz, Fabian (2024). Mediation and Decomposition Analysis: Why We Cannot Do What We Think We Can Do, and How Causal Mediation Analysis Can Help Us. Pre-print available: <https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/qn2j5>

Kratz, Fabian, & Brüderl, Josef (2024). The Age Trajectory of Happiness. How Lack of Causal Reasoning has Produced the Myth of a U-Shaped Age-Happiness Trajectory. Preprint available under: <https://psyarxiv.com/d8f2z/>

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Kratz, Fabian, Burkhard, Jannis & Daniel, Annabell. Explaining Educational Differentials: Towards an Interventional Perspective.

Kratz, Fabian, Stawarz, Nico, & Netz, Nicolai. The Interplay of Parental and Individual Education in Determining Returns to Migration.

Kratz, Fabian. Parental Wealth, Self-Control, and Educational Success: A Causal Mediation Analysis.

Kratz, Fabian, Rowold, Carla, & Struffolino, Emanuela. Exploring the Role of Life Course Trajectories in the Gender Pension Gap through Sequence Analysis and Non-parametric Decomposition.

Kratz, Fabian. Tracking and Health Inequality in Europe: New Insights using novel Methods of Causal Mediation Analysis.

Kratz, Fabian & Krähmer, Daniel. Assessing Mechanisms of Cumulative Inequality in Health over the Life Course. A Clarification of Estimands.

Kratz, Fabian & Kneip, Thorsten. Assortative mating and wealth inequality.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Süddeutsche Zeitung „Wenn der Schmerz ausstrahlt“ Beitrag über „A liberalizing effect of happiness? The impact of improvements and deteriorations in different dimensions of subjective well-being on concerns about immigration.“

Focus „Erstaunliches Forschungsergebnis: Je glücklicher ein Deutscher ist, desto positiver sieht er Migration“ Beitrag über „A liberalizing effect of happiness? The impact of improvements and deteriorations in different dimensions of subjective well-being on concerns about immigration.“

Süddeutsche Zeitung „Im Laufe des Lebens werden wir unzufriedener - aber die einen mehr als die anderen“ Interview über die Entwicklung von Lebenszufriedenheit mit dem Alter.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung „Ressourcen der Toleranz“ Beitrag über “Do Concerns about Immigration Change after Adolescence? How Education and Critical Life Events Affect Concerns about Immigration”.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung „Wann ist die beste Zeit des Lebens? Beitrag über “The Age Trajectory of Happiness. How Lack of Causal Reasoning has Produced the Myth of a U-Shaped Age-Happiness Trajectory”.

Science unscripted podcast der deutschen Welle:

<https://www.dw.com/en/people-get-unhappier-not-happier-as-they-get-older/av-57379930>

Bayern 2 Radio + podcast:

<https://www.br.de/radio/bayern2/sendungen/radiowelt/fabian-kratz-soziologeder-mythos-vom-gluecklichen-alter-100.html>

SWR 2 Radio + podcast:

<https://www.swr.de/swr2/wissen/was-ist-glueck-und-wie-koennen-wir-es-finden-sw2-wissen-2021-11-17-100.html>

Deutschlandfunk:

<https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/hoehen-und-tiefen-wann-ist-die-beste-zeit-des-lebens-100.html>

<https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/bildungschancen-soziale-herkunft-praegt-auch-den-berufseinstieg-dlf-7337b701-100.html>

<https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/campus-und-karriere-04-06-2022-wie-soziale-herkunft-den-berufseinstieg-praegt-dlf-aaec2bac-100.html>

Podcast des Bundesinstituts für Bevölkerungsforschung

<https://www.bib.bund.de/DE/Service/Podcast/2024-04-09-BiB-Podcast-Sorgen-vor-Einwanderung-sinken-wenn-Lebenszufriedenheit-steigt.html>

ARD Audiothek:

<https://www.ardaudiothek.de/episode/der-tag/abschrecken-abschotten-ab-schieben-ist-das-die-loesung/hr/13493869/>

The Science Fictions Podcast

<https://sciencefictionspod.substack.com/p/episode-88-wellbeing>

SELECTION OF CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

*invited talks, ^kkey notes

- 2025 ^kEndogenous selection bias in the study of cumulative (dis-)advantage. Workshop: Processes of cumulative (dis)advantage in the study of inequalities. Theories, conceptual models, and analytical methods. University of Mannheim. 10/2025.
- Rising Educational Divides in Attitudes: How Polarization across Cohorts Can Mask Age-Related Polarization. Academy of Sociology Conference. Mainz 10/2025.
- Education and Attitudes towards Immigrants: Testing the Role of Stereotyping using a Factorial Survey Experiment. Randomized Controlled Trial Workshop. Centre for Economic and Regional Studies. Budapest 9/2025.
- Cumulative Inequality and Attitude Formation: How Education Buffers Against Rising Concerns about Immigration Across the Life Course. ECSR Conference. University of Cologne. Cologne 9/2025
- Cumulative Inequality and Attitude Formation: How Education Buffers Against Rising Concerns about Immigration Across the Life Course. RC28 Spring Meeting University of Milan. Milan 3/2025

- 2024 *Parental Wealth, Self-Control, and Educational Success: A Causal Mediation Analysis. Research Colloquium “Comparative Stratification Research (Chair of Fabian Pfeffer)“. Munich 12/2024.
 Explaining Educational Differentials: Towards an Interventional Perspective. Conference “Analytical Sociology: Theory and Empirical Applications“. Venice 11/2024
 The Interplay of Parental and Individual Resources in Determining Returns to Spatial Mobility. “LIVES & nccr – on the move International Conference“. Geneva 11/2024.
 *Causal Mediation Analysis: How Can We Identify Effective Measures to Reduce Social Disparities? Sociological Research Colloquium. Saarbrücken 07/2024.
^kMeasuring Happiness. The EUROPÆUM—A network of leading European universities. Helsinki 06/2024.
 Causal Mediation Analysis: Explaining Social Disparities by Emulating Interventions at Different Life Course Stages. WORKSHOP “Methods for Studying Life Events and Trajectories: Interdisciplinary Perspectives“. Cologne 06/2024.
 *Causal Mediation Analysis: Explaining Social Disparities by Emulating Interventions at Different Life Course Stages. SEMILUX Colloquium “Social Inequalities and Public Policies“. Luxembourg 04/2024.
 *Causal Mediation Analysis: Explaining Social Disparities by Emulating Interventions at Different Life Course Stages. Research Colloquium “Methods and Social Structure“. Mainz 04/2024.
- 2021 Explaining Inequalities: Solutions for time-dependent confounding in mediation analysis. LMU Munich 10/2021.
 On the way from misery to happiness? A longitudinal perspective on economic migration and well-being. DZHW workshop on methodological innovations in spatial mobility research 08/2021.
 *The Age Trajectory of Happiness: How Lack of Causal Reasoning has Produced the Myth of a U-Shaped Age-Happiness Trajectory. Presentation at the Research Seminar in Economics FU Berlin 07/2021.
- 2020 *The Political Costs of Inequality: A Cumulative Inequality Perspective on Anti-Immigration Attitudes. LINES - Life course and Social Inequality Research Center 02/2020.
 Immigration Attitudes are not Stable after Adolescence. How Education and Critical Life Events Change the Magnitude of Immigration Concerns LMU Munich 11/2020.
- 2019 Endogenous Selection Bias and Cumulative Inequality over the Life Course: Evidence from Educational Inequality in Subjective Well-Being. IFO Institut Munich 11/2019.
- 2018 *Testing Mechanisms of Cumulative (Dis-)Advantage using Panel Data. CRITEVENTS: Critical Life Events and the Dynamics of Inequality: Risk, Vulnerability, and Cumulative Disadvantage workshop (NORFACE), LINES - Life course and Social Inequality Research Center, 11/2018.

- *Estimating Growth Curves—Do we Get it Right? CRITEVENTS: Critical Life Events and the Dynamics of Inequality: Risk, Vulnerability, and Cumulative Disadvantage workshop (NORFACE), European University Institute, Florence, 06/2018.
- Cumulative Deprivation and Fear of Immigration in Germany: An Intersectional, Dynamic Life Course Approach 06/2018. SOEP User Conference DIW Berlin 08/2018.
- Vocational Education and Employment over the Life Cycle: Mechanisms Explaining Initial Advantage and Late Disadvantage. ECSR 10/2018.
- 2017 *Childhood Adversity and Cumulative Disadvantage Processes in Health Trajectories. An international perspective. Max Planck Institute for social law and social policy.
- Thou Shalt Recycle: How Social Norms of Environmental Protection Narrow the Scope of the Low-Cost Hypothesis. ETH Zurich 05/2017.
- *Social inequality in Well-being across the Life Course—Methodological fallacies and substantial results 05/2017 University of Leipzig.
- Social Inequality in Well-being over the Life Course. RC28 Spring Meeting University of Cologne.
- *Testing Mechanisms of Cumulative Inequality using Survey Data. TU Kaiserslautern 12/2017
- 2016 Educational Inequality and Well-being over the life course. Analytical Sociology: Theory and Empirical Applications. Venice international University 11/2016.
- Long Term Effects of Education on Life Satisfaction. RC28-Summer meeting. Bern 08/2016.
- Well-Being over the Life Course. How Methodological Fallacies Explain the Mixed Empirical Evidence. SOEP User Conference DIW Berlin 08/2016.
- 2015 *The Role of Regional Labor Migration in Explaining Effects of Parents' Education on Wages. IAB Nürnberg. 06/2015

METHODOLOGICAL SHORT COURSES

2024	Causal Mediation Analysis LMU 05/2024 (one day)
2022	Causal Mediation Analysis IHF 11/2022 (two days)
2022	Causal Mediation Analysis DZHW 10/2022 (two days)
2019	Causal Mediation Analysis DJI 05/2019 (two days)
2018	Causal Mediation Analysis LMU 07/2018 (one day)

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION AND GRANTS

2025	Education and Distributive Attitudes Across the Life-Course (EDITUDE) with Lersch, Philipp (Project Proposal under review)
2017	„Entscheidungen und Übergänge zur Promotion“ im Rahmen des „Bundesberichts wissenschaftlicher Nachwuchs (BuWIN) 2017“ (33000 Euro)
2019	International Conference on the Social Structure of Subjective Well-Being

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023	Runner-Up in the Final Selection for Associate Professor of Health Inequalities and Social Policy at the University of Luxembourg
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TEACHING

SoSe 2025	Vorlesung Applied Panel Data Analysis Using Stata
	Betreuung der Bachelorarbeiten des Lehrstuhls
WiSe 2024/25	Seminar „Einstellungen zu Immigration“ (BA)
	Seminar Analytical Sociology: Theory and Empirical Applications
SoSe 2024	Vorlesung Applied Panel Data Analysis Using Stata
	Betreuung der Bachelorarbeiten des Lehrstuhls
WiSe 2023/24	Seminar „Einstellungen zu Immigration“ (BA)
	Seminar Analytical Sociology: Theory and Empirical Applications
SoSe 2023	Vorlesung Applied Panel Data Analysis Using Stata
	Betreuung der Bachelorarbeiten des Lehrstuhls
WiSe 2022/23	Seminar „Einstellungen zu Immigration“ (BA)
	Seminar Analytical Sociology: Theory and Empirical Applications
SoSe 2022	Vorlesung Applied Panel Data Analysis Using Stata
	Betreuung der Bachelorarbeiten des Lehrstuhls
WiSe 2021/22	Seminar „Einstellungen zu Immigration“ (BA)
	Betreuung der Bachelorarbeiten des Lehrstuhls
SoSe 2021	Seminar „Einstellungen zu Immigration“ (MA)
	Betreuung der Bachelor- und Masterarbeiten des Lehrstuhls
WiSe 2020/21	Seminar „Einstellungen zu Immigration“ (BA)
	Betreuung der Bachelor- und Masterarbeiten des Lehrstuhls
SoSe 2020	Seminar „Durch welche Mechanismen entsteht Ungleichheit im Lebensverlauf?“ (MA)
	Betreuung der Masterarbeiten des Lehrstuhls
WiSe 2019/20	Seminar „Theorien und Methoden zur Erklärung von Ungleichheit im Lebensverlauf“ (MA)
	Seminar „Einstellungen zu Immigration“ (BA)
SoSe 2019	Seminar „Ungleichheit im Lebensverlauf“ (MA)
	Betreuung der Masterarbeiten des Lehrstuhls
WiSe 2018/19	Übung im Vorlesungsstil „Analytische Soziologie“ (BA)
	Seminar „Einstellungen zu Immigration“ (BA)
SoSe 2018	Soziologische Studien zu Ungleichheit im Lebensverlauf (MA)
WiSe 2017/18	Übung im Vorlesungsstil „Analytische Soziologie“ (BA)
SoSe 2017	Mechanismen zur Erklärung von Gesundheitsungleichheit im Lebensverlauf (MA)
	Seminar „Einstellungen zu Immigration“ (BA)
WiSe 2016/17	Seminar „Alters- Perioden- und Kohorten Effekte in der Soziologie“ (MA)
	Mechanismen kumulativer Verursachung im Lebensverlauf (MA)
SoSe 2016	Seminar „Happiness“ (MA)
	Seminar „Migrationssoziologie“ (BA)
WiSe 2015/16	Übung im Vorlesungsstil „Analytische Soziologie“ (BA)
	Betreuung der Masterarbeiten des Lehrstuhls
SoSe 2015	Betreuung der Masterarbeiten des Lehrstuhls
WiSe 2014/15	Betreuung der Masterarbeiten des Lehrstuhls
SoSe 2014	Seminar „Reproduktion sozialer Ungleichheit in der und durch die Familie“ (BA)
WiSe 2013/14	Übung „Migrationssoziologie“ (BA)
	Übung „Räumliche Mobilität und Berufserfolg“ (MA)
SoSe 2013	Übung „Determinanten und Konsequenzen räumlicher Mobilität“ (MA)

WiSe 2012/13	Übung „A workflow of data analysis using STATA“ (MA)
	Übung „Strukturelle Erklärungen sozialer Ungleichheit“ (MA)
SoSe 2012	Betreuung der Abschlussarbeiten des Lehrstuhls
WiSe 2011/12	Begleitübungen zur Vorlesung Methoden der empirischen Sozialforschung