

Three DJI Youth Surveys (1): a replication study

The DJI Youth Survey is one of the studies carried out in the context of the DJI Social Reports, a research program aimed at obtaining reliable information about the personal and social situation of children, young people and families in Germany, based on empirical data from repeated surveys. The DJI Youth Survey focuses on life situations, values, political and social orientations, as well as young people's and young adults' activities.

Regular and transversal replication surveys allow analyzing resources, orientations and behaviours of young people in the context of social change. The size of the sample, the age groups, the thematic definition of key elements, the possibility of carrying out comparisons with other general social studies, as well as the use of replication studies define and distinguish the DJI Youth Survey from other youth studies in Germany.

Up until now there have been three surveys in the series, in 1992, 1997 and 2003. The surveys, broad and representative, carried out by the DJI included approximately 7,000 young Germans between 16 and 29 years of age in 1992 and 1997. In 2003, the limits for the sample were increased: also immigrants were interviewed, as long as the questions could be asked and answered in German. Furthermore, age limits were lowered, and young people between 12 and 15 years of age were also included in the sample (2) (approximately 2,000 interviewees). In total, 9,000 people were interviewed for this third survey (also see Chart 3).

(1)
German abbreviation for German Youth Institute, *Deutsches Jugendinstitut*, Munich (DJI)

(2)
After including the group of 12 to 15 year olds in the third survey, it was decided to use a shorter and partially simplified questionnaire for this age group. Several questions, above all those referring to political orientations, were not used; some other questions were simplified. But at the same time the researchers tried to keep as much comparable elements as possible, in order to carry out comparisons with the answers of young people between 16 and 29 years of age (questionnaires can be downloaded from: www.dji.de/jugendsurvey). However, in this methodological note we will focus on the group of young people between 16 and 29, as comparisons of time with previous Youth Surveys are prioritized.

Carrying out replication studies, the DJI Youth Survey is, on the one hand, trying to analyze constant issues, for example life situation, values, political opinions and orientations and, on the other hand, it complements these topics by including specific key issues in each survey.

The first Youth Survey (1992) took advantage of the fact that Germany was in the middle of a political "transition" and reunification process, and focused on the assessment of processes of social and political change. One other key aspect of this first survey was political orientations and behaviours of young people and young adults. The Youth Survey tried to fill a gap in the field of sociological youth research in Germany, with the relation of young people to politics playing a central role. Until then, representative and cross-sectional youth studies had not dealt systematically with this topic.

The second Youth Survey (1997) kept focusing on the relation to and the attitude towards politics of young people. Several thematic fields were added, like social justice, relative deprivation, attitudes toward immigrants, tolerance towards violence and environmental awareness. While carrying out the Youth Survey, the DJI worked on another survey exclusively directed to

young foreigners (DJI Foreigners Survey, see Weidacher, 2000 (3)). Thus, it was possible to compare central aspects of the life situation (for example, housing, family, school, training, and employment), as well as the readiness to participate, values or political orientations of young German people and young immigrants of three different countries of origin.

The third DJI Youth Survey (2003) continued with the analysis of life conditions, values, positions and behaviours of young people and young adults, and focused on the description of stability and change during the process of becoming an adult among young “reunited” people in the Federal Republic, based on a solid empirical basis. That way it is possible to empirically prove statements about trends that were based on comparisons of only two surveys, and therefore could only be interpreted as “social change” with reservation. By incorporating 12 to 15 years-olds, as well as young immigrants, it was possible to carry out differentiated analyses of thematic fields like family of origin, school and the meaning of experiencing immigration. The third DJI Youth Survey allows us to analyze life situation, opinions and orientations of children and young people from German reunification up to the present day, as well as identifying the factors that explain trends of change.

- *The following thematic fields were included in all three surveys:*

- Life situation and assessment (school, training, employment, economic situation, family of origin, life forms and housing, assessment of the life situation, relative deprivation, satisfaction)
- Values and social orientation
- Action orientation, orientation towards the future, anomie
- Political orientation, attitudes towards democracy and Europe
- Attitudes toward immigrants
- Social and political participation

- *Thematic fields that were enhanced or complemented depending on the survey:*

- First survey 1992: German reunification, political transition.
- Second survey 1997: Environmental awareness, conceptions on social justice, tolerance towards violence, xenophobic orientations.
- Third survey: Family of origin, school, friends, immigration background, knowledge regarding institutional services for young people and young adults, adequate use of resources.

(3)

See the article by Andreu López Blasco in this monographic issue, where he comments on the results of this research.

A summary view of the surveys

The DJI Youth Survey is conceived as a “replication study” (analysis of trends, repeated survey), similar to the ALLBUS Project. The main characteristic of a survey of this type is: “same questions, different samples” (Firebaugh, 1997, p.1). This way, transformations can be analyzed on a “net change” level: changes in the distribution of the characteristics of the sample. Only panel studies can include gross changes, which allow identifying individual changes. Strictly speaking, replication has to take into account the context of the survey and its multiple facets (see Allerbeck/Hoag, 1984). With this we are referring to the different possibilities when the survey institute starts planning a survey (choosing a sample, selection process, survey techniques). Also in this respect Allerbeck and Hoag’s most important recommendation is: “Take replication seriously”. The three Youth Surveys were carried out differently, with several modifications with regard to how the survey was developed (as with the ALLBUS studies, see charts added to the methodological reports, for example, Haarman et al., 2006: 8).

Chart 1 (4) contains the main characteristics of the three surveys carried out in the context of the DJI Youth Surveys. The survey institute changed after the first survey (*GFM/GETAS* carried out the first survey and *infas Sozialforschung* the second and third one). A change of the survey institute is usually linked to considerable changes in terms of how the interviews are carried out, and to partially different rules when it comes to designing questionnaires (also, for example, as to how blank answers are treated, which is extensively explained in the methodological reports). The selection process changed between the second and third survey: From an ADM design (with specific variants depending on the institute, also described in the methodological reports) to a sample provided by the census office. However, none of the three surveys changed the surveying method: standardized personal oral interviews – still did not use CAPI (computer assisted personal interviews, method also used in ALLBUS).

In spite of the changes, special attention was given to the replication in order to stay true to the statement: “Take replication seriously” (with support and help of an advisory council). That way, DJI Youth Surveys were able to contribute for a time to the “culture of replication” with its three surveys (5) (Diekmann, 2006: 27) in the field of empirical youth studies.

(4)

Detailed description of the surveys: GFM/GETAS - *Gesellschaft für Marketing-, Kommunikations- u. Sozialforschung* - 1992, infas - *Institut für angewandte Sozialforschung*- Social investigations 1998, infas 2004

(5)

The project of the DJI Youth Surveys is no longer carried out by the DJI.

Chart 1. **DJI Youth Surveys**

	DJI Youth Survey 1992	DJI Youth Survey 1997	DJI Youth Survey 2003
<i>Population:</i>	Young German people/young adults between 16 and 29 years of age	Young German people/young adults between 16 and 29 years of age	Young people between 12 and 15 years of age/young adults between 16 and 29 years of age.
<i>Selection process:</i>	Random selection on different levels (ADM sample); Germans between 16 and 29 years of age living in the Federal Republic of Germany; 1470 sample points (945 West/ 525 East); non proportional distribution of the sample between new and old states; random route for the selection of reference homes; selection of the reference persons through selection key of random numbers.	Random selection on different levels (ADM sample); Germans between 16 and 29 years of age living in the Federal Republic of Germany; 1050 sample points (630 West/ 420 East); non proportional distribution of the sample between new and old states; random route for the selection of reference homes; selection of the reference persons through selection key of random numbers.	Sample selection through census register, 245 city- and town-councils, non-proportional distribution of the sample between new and old states.
<i>Survey method:</i>	Standardized oral interviews, three open questions	Standardized oral interviews, two open questions	Standardized oral interviews
<i>Survey institute:</i>	Gfm / GETAS (Hamburg)	infas Sozialforschung (Bonn)	Infas, Institut für angewandte Sozialforschung GmbH, Bonn
<i>Pre-testing:</i>	February/March 1992 n=159, and June/July 1992 n=54	February 1997, n=156, and June 1997, n=65	March 2003, n=142; June 2003, n=74
<i>Field stage:</i>	September / October 1992 (8 weeks); 720 interviewees (454 West / 266 East); average interviews/interviewees approx. 10; average duration of interviews approx. 63 minutes.	From September to the end of November 1997 (10 weeks); 640 interviewees (403 West / 237 East); average interviews/interviewees approx. 11; average duration of interviews approx. 55 minutes.	August 2003 - January 2004 519 interviewees; average interviews/interviewees approx. 18; average duration of interviews approx 48 minutes for young people between 12 and 15; 65 minutes for young people between 16 and 29.
<i>Sample:</i>	7,090 (West: 4,526, East: 2,564)	6,919 (West: 4,426, East: 2,493)	12 to 15 years of age: 2,154 (West: 1,507, East: 647); - 16 to 29 years of age: 6,956 (West: 4,800, East: 2,156); total: 9,110.
<i>Return rate:</i>	65.5% West, 66.2% East	56.5% West, 65.1% East	12 to 15 years of age: 53.5% West, 58.7% East; 16 to 29 years of age: 46.3% West, 54.9% East.

Distribution of age groups

Chart 2 provides a summary of the main elements of the population of the three surveys carried out by the DJI. In 1992 and 1997 the surveys included young German people between 16 and 29 year of age. In 2003, the survey also included young people between 12 and 15 years of age, as well as young adults of foreign origin (as long as they could answer the questions in German).

All three surveys were strictly cross-sectional, that is, no panel design. Therefore, we can compare age groups in different moments of time, for example, young people between 16 and 18 in 1992, 1997 and 2003.

Chart 2. Correspondence between age groups in all three DJI Youth Surveys

Age 1990	1992	1997	2003		Age 2003	
	<i>Germans</i>					
29						
28						
27						
26						
25						
		<i>Germans</i>				
22	24	29			35	
21	23	28			34	
20	22	27			33	
19	21	26			32	
18	20	25			31	
17	19	24			30	
			<i>Germans Immigrants</i>			
16	18	23	29		29	
15	17	22	28		28	
14	16	21	27		27	
13		20	26		26	
12		19	25		25	
11		18	24		24	
10		17	23		23	
9		16	22		22	
8			21		21	
7			20		20	
6			19		19	
5			18		18	
4			17		17	
3			16		16	
2			15		15	
1			14		14	
			13		13	
			12		12	

(6) Datasets of the Youth Surveys are available in the Central Archive for Empirical Social Studies at the University of Köln (ZA). They are archived individually and are available as a whole on CD-ROM: The CD-ROM "Youth Survey 1992/1997/2000" contains the Youth Survey 1992, the Youth Survey 1997, the joint Youth survey (cumulation) 1992 and 1997, as well as the additional survey of the Family Survey 2000. For the Foreigners Survey, an individual CD-ROM is also available: "Foreigners Survey 1997". The dataset of the 2003 survey is also available at the ZA since fall 2008. Data and information about Family surveys until 2000 can be found on CD-ROM, "DJI Family Surveys 1988-2000", at the Central Archive for Empirical Social Studies at the University of Köln (ZA). All datasets and informations (questionnaires, documentation, methodological reports) of the DJI Youth Surveys can also be downloaded from: www.dji.de.

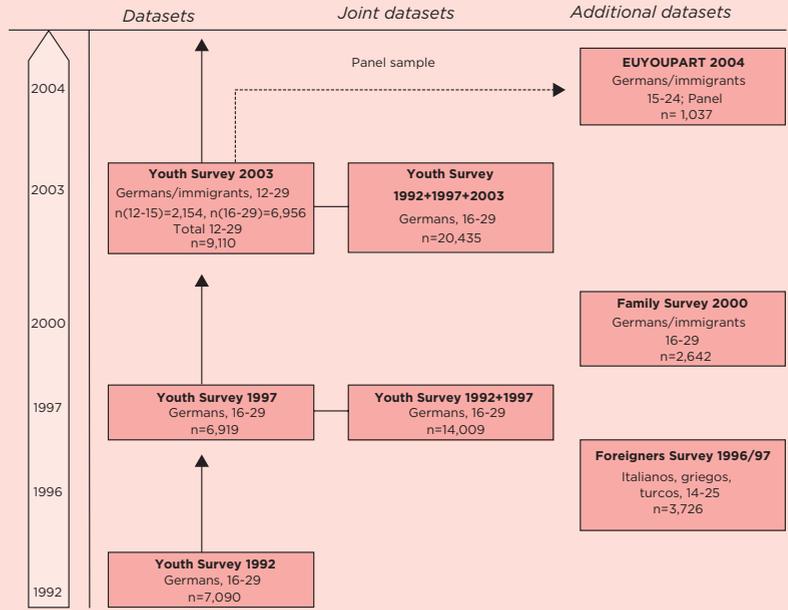
The chart also allows us to see to what extent age groups can be treated as cohorts. For example, young people between 16 and 18 years of age in 1992 correspond to young people between 21 and 23 in 1997, and to 27 to 29 year-olds, limited to young Germans, in 2003. In any case, these are the only groups that can be found in all three surveys. In other cases, we can compare other groups as cohorts in two surveys that are close to each other. Finally, the left column allows identification of cohorts that have reached a certain age in the year of German reunification. That way, it is possible to identify age groups whose growth has taken place after the reunification, in contrast to young people that have, for the most part of their lives, lived in the former Democratic Republic of Germany.

Datasets

Three basic datasets of the DJI Youth Surveys are available, apart from the complementary survey with immigrants (survey with young Italians, Greeks and Turks between 18 and 25 years of age) and some questions related to the replication of the Youth Survey included in the Family Survey of the year 2000.

After the second survey, a joint dataset of the two surveys was created. This dataset contains the variables of identical questions. After the third survey, a second joint dataset was created, with variables of all three surveys. Joint datasets are valid for young German interviewees between 16 and 29. (6)

Chart 3. **Datasets of the DJI Youth Surveys**



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- Datensätze und Informationen zu den Datensätzen** (Fragebögen, Dokumentationen, Methodenberichte) unter: www.dji.de/jugendsurvey - Instrumente, Materialien, Daten.