

Topics for Bachelor or Master theses

This list includes topics of current research projects at the Chair of Microsociology and is supposed to provide a first inspiration to students regarding potential topics for BA and MA theses. By choosing one of the following topics or a closely related topic, students may benefit from a better fit with substantive and methodological knowledge currently available or developed by myself and colleagues. All of the topics should be taken as rough suggestions and will need further narrowing down depending on the student's interest. If you are interested in any of the topics, please attend my colloquium to discuss it.

In most cases, bachelor theses will consist of a detailed review and discussion of available literature. Only in exceptional cases when students are already familiar with a secondary data set, the BA thesis may also contain descriptive statistical analyses.

Master theses are required to include some empirical statistical analysis. For topics that are particularly suitable for M.A. theses, several potential data sets which are likely to be well suited to explore the respective question are included in [square brackets].

BA- and MA-theses can be written either in German or English. Students are encouraged to write their thesis in English and not to worry about minor language issues – the thesis will be marked on content and substantive arguments.

Possible thesis topics:

1. How are consumption behaviours in different domains influenced by environmental beliefs?
 - a. How does this relationship vary depending on individual gender identification and reproduction (e.g. identification with masculinity norms)?
 - b. How do environmental beliefs and behaviours relate to family background, in terms of social class and (gender) socialization, and to own parenthood status/division of labour in the couple?
 - c. How do environmental beliefs and behaviours relate to family background, in terms of social class and (gender) socialization, and to own parenthood status/division of labour in the couple?
2. How do gender beliefs and political attitudes of people with non-binary, trans or diverse gender identities vary from cisgender men and women in different European countries [ESS 2023]:
 - a. How does this differ depending on gender equality and LGBTQI+ regulations and attitudes in the region or country?

3. Loneliness and social isolation [Pairfam, FReDA, ESS 2023]
 - a. How do feelings of loneliness as well as social isolation vary across cultural contexts?
 - b. How does being in a romantic relationship, its institutionalization as well as dissolution affect loneliness and isolation?
4. Norms and expectations around work and environmental practices:
 - a. (How) do norms and expectations around work, e.g., regarding working hours in general (“Four-day week”) but also regarding flexitime and flexiplace differ relate to environmental practices (e.g. accompanied by higher or lower carbon emissions)?
 - b. (How) do such changes in norms and expectations around work differ across workplaces, occupations and industries and how are they regulated by policies at the state- and workplace-level?
5. Social upward mobility and eating practices (data available from online survey of French college graduates):
 - a. How does upward social mobility relate to altered eating practices (e.g. food consumption, shopping behaviours, restaurants visited)?
 - b. How do college graduates from lower socio-economic backgrounds construct their new class identities in their eating practices?