Meet the ISSP

Meet the Experts! – GESIS online talks

Dr. Insa Bechert, March 24th, 2022
Speaker

Dr. Insa Bechert

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- Deputy team lead *International Studies*
- PhD in Sociology
- Cross-cultural research, Data harmonization, Research on religion
- Responsible for coordinating the ISSP data harmonization and integration in the GESIS department Survey Data Curation
- Contact: insa.bechert@gesis.org
What to expect today?

The *International Social Survey Programme* (ISSP)

- About the survey program
- About the data
- Examples of data use
- Data access
Basic Information

- Collaborative cross-national programme
- Founded in 1984 by four countries: Australia, Germany, Great Britain, USA
- Developed out of cooperation of general social surveys
- 60 items, not longer than 15 minutes
- Annual surveys, topics important for social sciences
- Three GESIS departments involved
Member Countries in 2022

NORTH- & SOUTH AMERICA
- Chile
- Mexico
- Suriname
- USA
- Venezuela

AFRICA
- South Africa
- Tunisia

EUROPE
- Austria
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Czech Rep.
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Greece
- Hungary
- Italy
- Iceland
- Lithuania
- Norway
- Poland
- Russia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland

ASIA
- Bangladesh
- China
- India
- Japan
- Israel
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Turkey

AUSTRALIA/ OCEANICA
- Australia
- New Zealand
- New Zealand
# Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of module</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
<th>IV</th>
<th>V</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2023*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Societies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2024</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Health Care</td>
<td></td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure Time and Sports</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Identity</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2023*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Networks</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Combined module
Organization

- No central funding
- Democratic structure
- Final decision-making by the annual general assembly
- Continuous cooperation
- Ongoing work in working groups and committees
- Common ISSP rules (Working Principles)
About the data
Questionnaire Development

- Module proposal: new topics or replication
- Drafting group to develop the ISSP source questionnaire
- Discussion inside drafting group as well as within the ISSP as a whole
- Pre-test in selected countries
- Final ISSP source questionnaire
- Implementation in ISSP member countries
Module topic: Family and Changing Gender Roles

- Concept: Gendered division of household work
  - Item: “In your household, who does the following things?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Always me</th>
<th>Usually me</th>
<th>About equal or both together</th>
<th>Usually my spouse/partner</th>
<th>Always my spouse/partner</th>
<th>Is done by a third person</th>
<th>Can’t choose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>Does the laundry</td>
<td>□1</td>
<td>□2</td>
<td>□3</td>
<td>□4</td>
<td>□5</td>
<td>□6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>Makes small repairs around the house</td>
<td>□1</td>
<td>□2</td>
<td>□3</td>
<td>□4</td>
<td>□5</td>
<td>□6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>Cares for sick family members</td>
<td>□1</td>
<td>□2</td>
<td>□3</td>
<td>□4</td>
<td>□5</td>
<td>□6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>Shops for groceries</td>
<td>□1</td>
<td>□2</td>
<td>□3</td>
<td>□4</td>
<td>□5</td>
<td>□6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>Does the household cleaning</td>
<td>□1</td>
<td>□2</td>
<td>□3</td>
<td>□4</td>
<td>□5</td>
<td>□6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>Prepares the meals</td>
<td>□1</td>
<td>□2</td>
<td>□3</td>
<td>□4</td>
<td>□5</td>
<td>□6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Module topic: National Identity

Concept: Nationalism

Item: “How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?”
People should support their country even if the country is in the wrong.
ISSP module variables

Module topic: National Identity

- Concept: Nationalism
  - Item: “How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?”
  [COUNTRY’S] television should give preference to [COUNTRY] films and programs.
Module topic: National Identity

- Concept: Nationalism
  - Item: “How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?”

Immigrants take jobs away from people, who were born in [COUNTRY].
ISSP Background Variables

- Country-specific data collection
- ISSP Background Variable Guidelines

Country-specific recoding & ex-ante output harmonization

ISSP standard background variables
Examples of data use
### Substantial Research

#### Social Inequality

- **“Fair” pay**
  - **Items:** “We would like to know what you think people in these jobs actually earn […]”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a doctor in a general practice</td>
<td>...€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a chairman of a large national cooperation</td>
<td>...€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a shop assistant</td>
<td>...€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an unskilled factory worker</td>
<td>...€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a cabinet minister in the [national] government</td>
<td>...€</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Social Inequality**

- "Fair" pay or egalitarianism
- Items: “Next, […] how much do you think they SHOULD earn?”

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a doctor in a general practice</td>
<td>...€</td>
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<tr>
<td>a shop assistant</td>
<td>...€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an unskilled factory worker</td>
<td>...€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a cabinet minister in the [national] government</td>
<td>...€</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cross-national Comparison of Egalitarianism

The “Should-Earn” Ratio:
Chairman of a Large National Company vs. Unskilled Factory Worker

Bechert and Osberg, forthcoming
Module topic: Religion

- Concept: Religiosity

- Dimensions: Cognitive, Affective, Behavioral
- 7 items covering the dimensions
- Check which religious types are revealed in the data by Latent Class Analysis
# LCA Results – Believe in God

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster Size</th>
<th>Type 1</th>
<th>Type 2</th>
<th>Type 3</th>
<th>Type 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I don't believe in God</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know whether there is a God, no way to find out</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't believe in a personal God, but in a Higher Power</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I find myself believing in God sometimes</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>While I have doubts, I feel that I do believe in God</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know God really exists and have no doubts about it</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## LCA Results - Praying

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Praying</th>
<th>Type 1</th>
<th>Type 2</th>
<th>Type 3</th>
<th>Type 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than once a year – once a month</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 times a month – several times a week</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a day – several times a day</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bechert, 2018
# Method Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data collection modes</th>
<th>% usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Face-to-face, PAPI, no visuals</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face-to-face, PAPI, visuals</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face-to-face, PAPI, respondent reading questionnaire</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face-to-face, PAPI, interpreter or translator, no visuals</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face-to-face, PAPI, interpreter or translator, visuals</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPI, computer assisted personal interview, no visuals</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPI, computer assisted personal interview, visuals</td>
<td>24.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPI, interpreter or translator, visuals</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self completion, arrives with interviewer, interviewer attending</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self completion, arrives with interviewer, drops-off, picks up later</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self completion, arrives with interviewer, drops-off, mailed back by Respondent</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self completion, mailed to, mailed back by Respondent</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASI, computer-assisted self-completion interview</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAWI, self-administered questionnaire: Web-based</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATI, computer assisted telephone interview</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to access data and documentation?
ISSP Online

- General information: www.issp.org
- ISSP datasets, questionnaires, method reports, documentation: http://www.gesis.org/issp/home/
ISSP Modules by Topic

On the following pages, ISSP modules are organized by module topic. For a chronological list of ISSP modules, please, see the “ISSP Modules by Year”.

- Citizenship
- Environment
- Family and Changing Gender Roles
- Health and Health Care
- Leisure Time & Sports
- National Identity
- Religion
- Role of Government
- Social Networks
- Social Inequality
- Work Orientation
Role of Government


ISSP Role of Government modules mainly deal with issues, such as attitudes towards government responsibilities and government spending, state intervention in the economy, civil liberties, political interest, trust and efficacy.

Please, note that ISSP Role of Government data (so far modules I-IV) is also available as a cumulated data file, allowing for cross-national analyses over time.

Publication


1985 1990 1996

2006 2016 Cumulation 1985-2006

Single variables from the ISSP ‘Role of Government’ modules are included in the ONBound project:


ONBound provides a cumulated international cross-survey database linked with country level indicators. It allows for extensive comparative analyses of national and religious identities with harmonized survey data from 280 survey waves and a time span of 50 years.

ISSP 2016 - "Role of Government V" - ZA No. 6900

Latest news on this module

Data Access
- Download of data and documents or
- GESIS Online Study Catalogue ZACAT - (provides dataset documentation and enables online analyses)

Registration is required for data download.

Related Materials
- ISSP 2016 source questionnaire (PDF)
- ISSP 2016 variable report (PDF)
- ISSP 2016 study monitoring report (PDF)
- Overview of questions, variables and replications (PDF)
- Report on Questionnaire Development (PDF)
- Errata and earlier dataset versions are provided on the corresponding study page.

Participating Countries, National Questionnaires and Background Variable Documentation: TABLE
ISSP Online

- General information: www.issp.org
- ISSP datasets, questionnaires, method reports, documentation: http://www.gesis.org/issp/home/
- Data Access https://search.gesis.org/
International Social Survey Programme: Religion IV - ISSP 2018

Muckenhuber, Johanna; Hadler, Markus; Höllinger, Franz

GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA7570 Data file Version 2.1.0, https://doi.org/10.4232/1.13629

Abstract: "Attitudes towards religion and religious practice. Topics: Assessment of personal happiness; satisfaction with relationships with family members; attitudes towards extramarital sex; attitudes towards homosexual relationships between adults; attitudes towards abortion if family has very low income; gender roles in marriage; institutional trust (parliament, business and industry, churches and religious organisations, courts and legal system, schools and educational system); attitudes towards the influence of religious leaders on voters; attitudes towards science and religion (too much trust in..." more
Data Access

The **download** of datasets generally requires a **login** at GESIS. Registration at GESIS is free of charge, open to all and gives you access to various GESIS services.

**Downloads:**

ZA7570 v2-1-0.sav.zip (Dataset) 4.98 MB
ZA7570 v2-1-0.dta.zip (Dataset) 3.5 MB

**Availability:** A - Data and documents are released for academic research and teaching. Please note our **terms of use**.
Thank you for your attention
Expert Contact & Data Access

**Contact:** you can reach the speaker via e-mail: 
[insa.bechert@gesis.org](mailto:insa.bechert@gesis.org)

And the ISSP user support at: [isspservice@gesis.org](mailto:isspservice@gesis.org)

Please visit our website [www.gesis.org](http://www.gesis.org) for more detailed information on our [services](http://www.gesis.org/services) and [research](http://www.gesis.org/research).
Stay in touch

- Check out the [GESIS blog](#) "Growing Knowledge in the Social Sciences" for topics, methods and discussions from the GESIS cosmos – and beyond.

- Keep up with GESIS activities and subscribe to the monthly [newsletter](#).

- Book a [training](#) in social science research methods.
More from DRS Experts in the Series

Mar 10 Andrea Löther: CEWS-Hochschulranking nach Gleichstellungsaspekten

Mar 24 Insa Bechert: Meet the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)

May 04 Steve Quinlan, Klara Dentler: Introducing the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES) project: Making Electoral Research Global and Comparative

May 16 Jan-Lucas Schanze, Anja Böller, Oshrat Hochman: Implementing the European Social Survey (ESS) in self-completion modes

May 30 Andrea Lengerer: Familienforschung mit dem Mikrozensus


Jul 18 Adrian Stanciu: Value Measurement in ALLBUS: between Innovation and Replication

Sep 15 Pablo Christmann, Nina Schumann: Das familiendemografische Panel (FReDA): Nutzungspotentiale für die Forschung

Thank you for participating!