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Discover SWISSUbase: What FORS has to offer to social science researchers

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6 February 2025

First, some questions...

- Are you collecting data?
- Are you using secondary data?

Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences

www.forscenter.ch

FORS⁺

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PROJECTS

DATA SERVICES

TOPICS

PUBLICATIONS

EVENTS & TRAINING

ABOUT FORS



FORS IS THE SWISS CENTRE
OF EXPERTISE IN THE
SOCIAL SCIENCES.

We produce survey data for national
and international surveys.

We provide tools for the information
infrastructure in Switzerland and
abroad.

We offer consulting services for
social science researchers.

We do thematic and methodological
research in empirical social
sciences.



FIND &
DEPOSIT DATA



STAFF



OPEN
POSITIONS

FORS⁺

FORS – Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences

- Research infrastructure of national scope intended for any institution or person active in the social sciences
- Mostly funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and hosted by the University of Lausanne
- Founded in 2008
- Largest social science data archive in Switzerland
- Data management consulting and training

Research at FORS



FORS COVID-19 SURVEYS



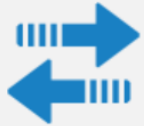
METHODOLOGICAL
RESEARCH



POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
AND PUBLIC OPINION



VALUES AND ATTITUDES



SOCIAL CHANGE



LIFE COURSE



WELLBEING

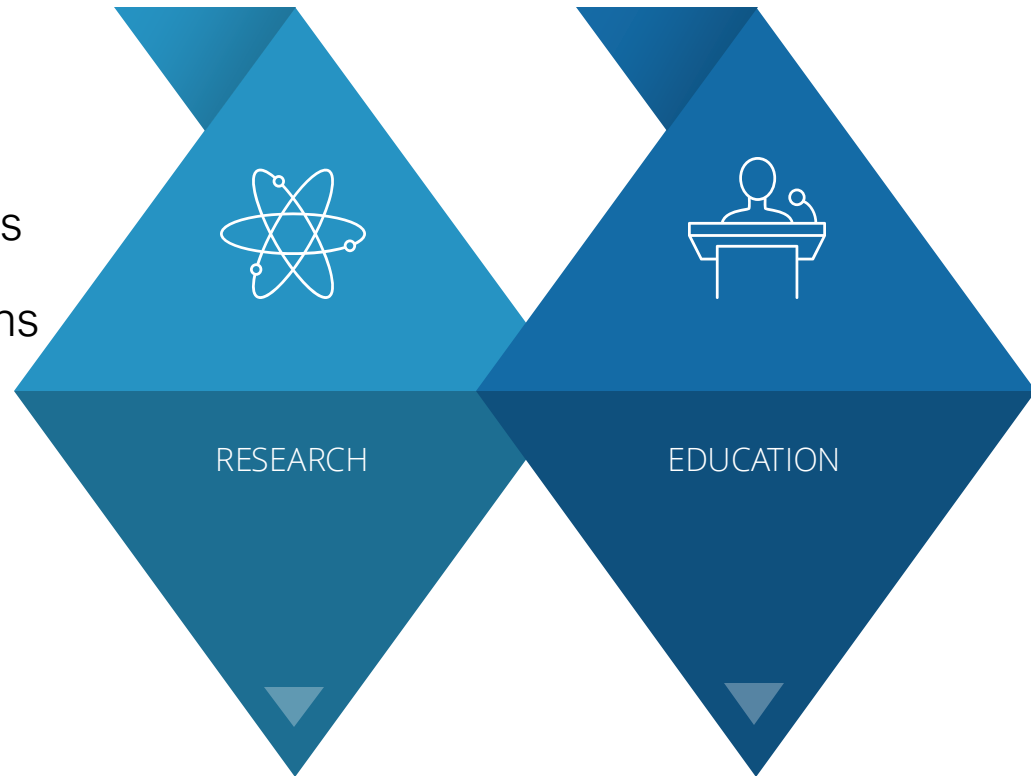


Motivations for data sharing

- Efficient use of data
- Transparency and reproducibility
- Long-term preservation
- Increased quality of data and research
- Visibility of data production (data citation)
- Augmented number of citations of scientific articles
- New collaborations and avenues for research
- ...

Motivations for data re-use

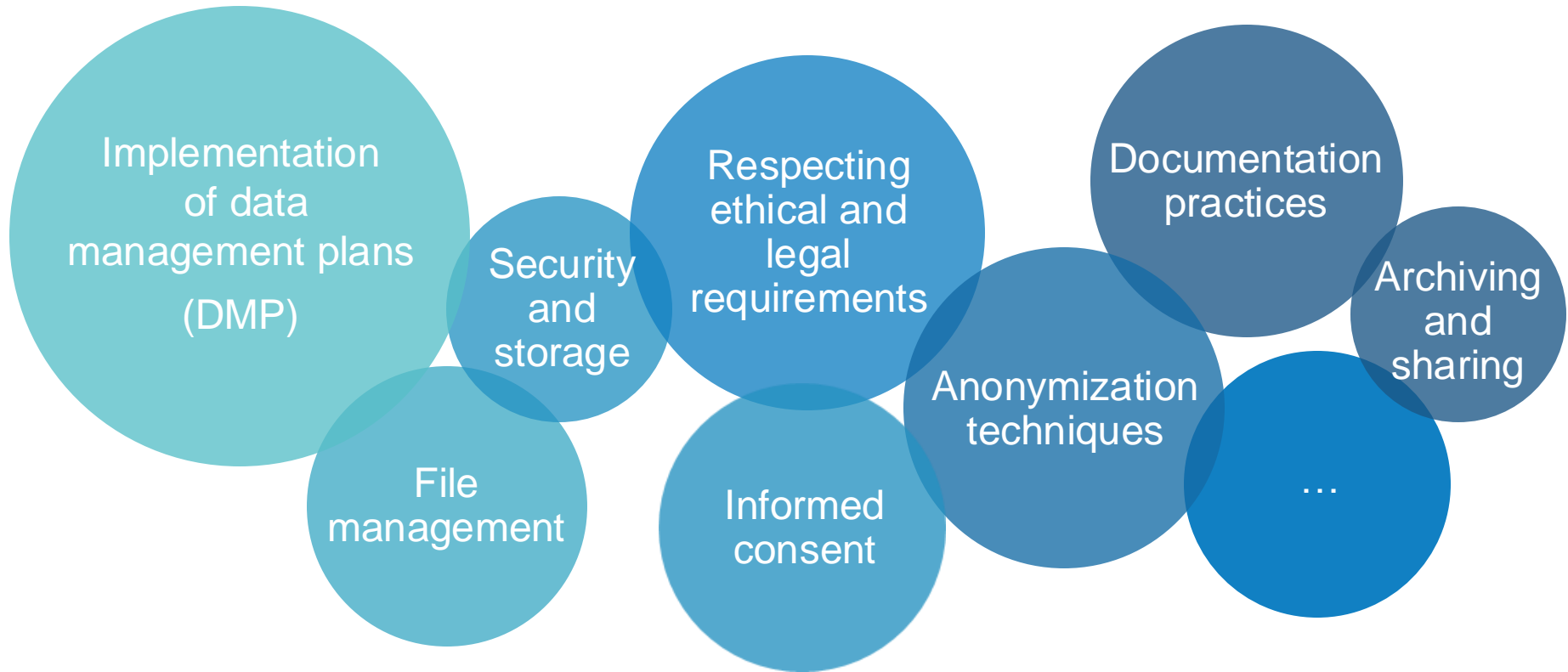
- Answer new research questions
- Extend existing work
- Work on non-reproducible materials
- Access to hard-to-reach populations
- Draw comparisons
- Data linkage
- ...



FORS Data Management and Archive Services (DMAS)

- Support throughout the research (data) life cycle
- Data management service
 - Consultancy
 - Trainings
 - Guides
- Data archiving, access, and dissemination

Data management support at FORS



Some more questions

- Have you shared data via Open Science Framework?
- Have you downloaded data from Open Science Framework?
- Why do you use Open Science Framework?
- What do you particularly like about Open Science Framework?

Open Science Framework

Some advantages

- Easy to use
- Recognized in the field
- Covers the entire research cycle, including preregistration, closed internal documents, collaboration
- Free for researchers

Some disadvantages

- No curation
- No individualized consultation
- Risk of dumping data
- Lack of clarity on metadata
- Either open or closed data
- No data storage in Switzerland (United States, Canada, Germany, Australia)

Advantages of SWISSUbase (1)

- Data Management Services from the beginning of the project
- Consultancy throughout the data (preparation and) deposit process, especially regarding data protection and sensitive data
- Quality checks by data curators prior to data publication
- Data promotion and dissemination capacity

Data archive services: Our data service experts



Christina Bornatici



Eliane Ferrez



Meret Hildebrandt



Marielle Kappeler

Advantages of SWISSUbase (2)

- Data remain on Swiss servers
- Social science metadata schema
- Free for researchers
- SWISSUbase is CoreTrustSeal-certified for FORS
- Different access levels: Open, restricted, prior agreement
- Contracts: You keep control over your data
- Project catalogue in Switzerland: Visibility for projects when data are not (yet) available

International visibility

Reset filters

Clear search

6 studies found in English from a total of 37274

About

User Guide

REST API

► Topic



► Collection years



► Country



► Publisher



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30 ▼

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1



[SHP_IV Pilot Waves 1-2](#)


Tillmann, Robin

In preparation of the next refreshment sample of the Swiss Household Panel (the SHP_IV, to start in 2020), the SHP ran a two-wave pilot study in 2018 and 2019 to test alternative modes of interviewing. Advances in information and communication technologies and the increasing use thereof, suggest that web-based data collection offers a particularly promising alternative to telephone in the Swiss context. However, differences between CATI and web are large in terms of interviewer presence,...

▼ Read more

Study description available in:

EN

 Access data

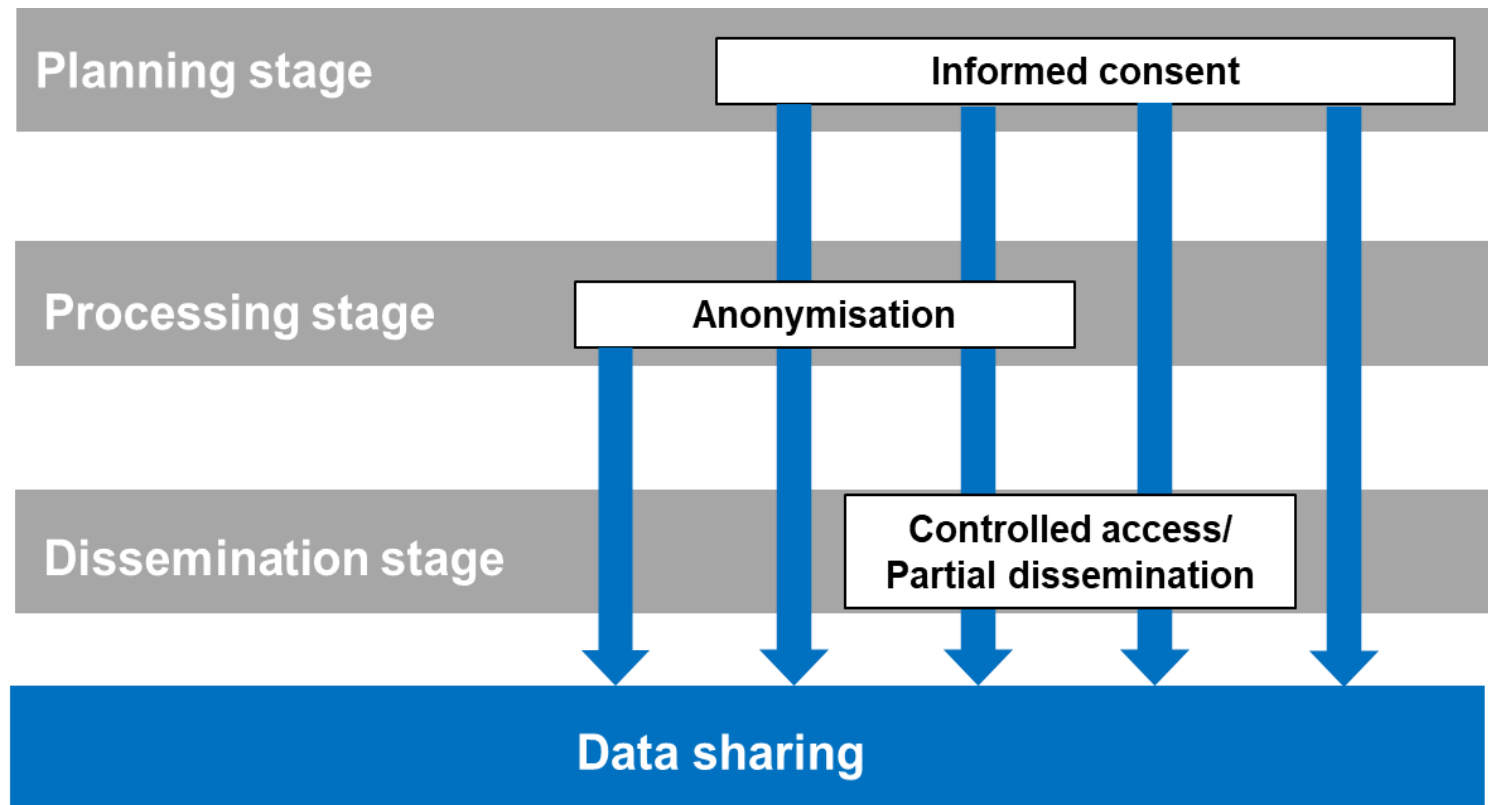
[Replication Data for: Integrating online data collection in a *household panel* study: effects on second-wave participation](#)

Voorpostel, Marieke (FORS (Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences)); Roberts, Caroline (University of Lausanne);

Ghoorbin, Margarita (University of Lausanne)

Received wisdom in survey practice suggests that using web mode in the first wave of a panel study is not as effective

Sharing sensitive data



FORS replication service

FORS replication service

⊕ Deposit your
replication material

⊕ Replication material
entries

Welcome to the FORS replication service dedicated to the sharing of replication materials!

The FORS replication service allows the Swiss social science research community to share the materials needed for the replication of analyses of journal article publications.


It is a free service run by the data service of the Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences (FORS), which complements the online platform [SWISSUbase](#), dedicated to the archiving and sharing of research data.


Researchers in the social sciences are invited to upload all relevant documentation and information (code, syntax, metadata, partial datasets, ...) into the FORS replication service and link them with the related publication.

Once reviewed and accepted by the FORS data expert team, the replication materials receive a DOI, are published, citable, and become accessible without any registration or restriction. A click on the DOI link leads directly to the page allowing the free download of the materials.

More details about the deposit procedure, as well as the acceptance criteria, are available [here](#).

SWISSUbase Info Website

[About](#) [Platform](#) [Services](#) [Help Centre](#) [Connect with us](#) [Go to platform](#)



Preserve your data for the future.

Join us – share, preserve and explore research data on SWISSUbase.

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Available Datasets

12k +
Project descriptions

12
SWISSUbase Team Members

5
Data Service Units

Discover our mission, services & how we can support you.

www.info.swissubase.ch

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FORS⁺ GUIDES

to survey methods
and data management



The FORS Guides offer support to researchers and students in the social sciences who intend to collect data, as well as to teachers at university level, who want to teach their students the basics of survey methods and data management. Written by experts from inside and outside of FORS, the FORS Guides are descriptive papers that summarise practical knowledge concerning survey methods and data management. They give a general overview without claiming to be exhaustive. Considering the Swiss context, the FORS Guides can be especially helpful for researchers working in Switzerland or with Swiss data. The FORS Guides are an ongoing publication series, additional guides will follow soon.

FORS GUIDES TO SURVEY METHODS

If you want to collect your own data or just better understand the decisions behind data collection processes, these guides will give you interesting insights into measurement concepts, the development of questionnaires, survey modes, field organisation and monitoring and a lot of other topics regarding the collection and processing of data.

[Mobile web surveys](#) (FORS Guide N°01), Jessica M.E. Herzing

[Measurement of income in surveys](#) (FORS Guide N°02), Ursina Kuhn

[Refusal conversion](#) (FORS Guide N°04), Marieke Voorpostel

[Surveying national minorities](#) (FORS Guide N°06), Jessica M.E. Herzing, Guy Elcherroth, Oliver Lipps, Brian Kleiner

[Incentives in surveys](#) (FORS Guide N°08), Oliver Lipps, Jessica M.E. Herzing, Nicolas Pekari, Michèle Ernst Stähli, Alexandre Pollien, Gisana Riedo, Maud Reveilhac

[Measurement of social position in surveys](#) (FORS Guide N°10), Robin Tillmann

[Measuring party affiliation](#) (FORS Guide N°12), Georg Lutz, Lukas Lauener

[Preparation of survey data](#) (FORS Guide N°13), Alexandre Pollien, Jessica M. E. Herzing, Erika Antal

[Panel surveys: advantages and disadvantages compared with repeated cross-sectional surveys](#) (FORS Guide N°14), Oliver Lipps

[Representativeness of surveys and its analysis](#) (FORS Guide N°15), Michael Ochsner

[Data Linkage](#) (FORS Guide N°18), Giannina Vaccaro, Elfie Swerts

[Measuring psychological constructs](#) (FORS Guide N°22), Valérie-Anne Ryser

FORS GUIDES TO DATA MANAGEMENT

The correct, fast and easy handling of data is a major concern of all researchers collecting and processing data. The guides provide you with useful knowledge around your data management, from the planning to its implementation, the consideration of ethical issues and data protection until the final archiving and sharing of your data.

[Ethics in the era of open research data: some points of reference](#) (FORS Guide N°03), Pablo Diaz

[The informed consent as legal and ethical basis of research data production](#) (FORS Guide N°05), Sybil Krügel

[How to draft a DMP from the perspective of the social sciences, using the SNSF template](#) (FORS Guide N°07), Pablo Diaz, Alexandra Stam

[Pre-registration and registered reports](#) (FORS Guide N°09), Marieke Heers

[Data anonymisation: legal, ethical, and strategic considerations](#) (FORS Guide N°11), Alexandra Stam, Brian Kleiner

[Replication in the social sciences](#) (FORS Guide N°16), Marieke Heers

[Data protection: legal considerations for research in Switzerland](#) (FORS Guide N°17), Pablo Diaz

[Data Citation: How and Why Citing \(Your Own\) Data](#) (FORS Guide N°19), Christina Bornatici, Nicolas Fedrigo

[Qualitative data anonymisation: theoretical and practical considerations for anonymising interview transcripts](#) (FORS Guide N°20), Alexandra Stam, Pablo Diaz

[Data Sharing in the Social Sciences](#) (FORS Guide N°21), Marieke Heers

[Quantitative data anonymisation: practical guidance for anonymising social science data](#) (FORS Guide N°23), Brian Kleiner, Marieke Heers

Contact us

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- marieke.heers@fors.unil.ch

Thank you!