

# Matthias Penker

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Competence Center for Survey Research, Institute for Advanced Studies

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*Matthias is a Sociologist and Survey Methodologist, enthusiastic about Bayesian methods.*

## Research Interests

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Survey Methodology, Environmental Sociology, Digital Divide, International Comparative Research, Multilevel Modeling

## Education

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### Austria

DOCTORAL PROGRAM SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Thesis: Support for Change: Studying Environmental Public Sphere Behavior across Countries and Time

*University of Graz*

*2022-2026*

### Austria

MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY

- Thesis: I should doesn't mean I can: Examining Compensatory Green Beliefs of Austrian School Graduates

*University of Graz*

*2019-2022*

## Work Experience

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POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

### Graz

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

- Teaching responsibilities in the field of quantitative social research, planning and implementation of the Social Survey Austria. Project lead for the "Megaphon readers survey", a collaboration with the Caritas-Styria

*Competence Center Survey  
Research, Institute for Advanced  
Studies, Vienna*

*Since 2026*

*Department of Sociology, University  
of Graz*

*2024-2026*

### Mannheim

GUEST RESEARCHER

- Collaborating with GESIS-hosts (Henning Silber, Lydia Repke and Tobias Gummer) on a publication on the longitudinal dynamics of survey attitudes using the GESIS panel. Manuscript is currently under review

*GESIS Leibniz Institute for Social  
Science*

*May 2024*

### Graz

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

- Development of the new ISSP module on Digital Societies; monitoring and methodological evaluation of the transition of the Austrian Social Survey from face-to-face to a self-administered mixed-mode design; implementation and evaluation of ISSP pre-tests; and consulting on methodological approaches and design-specific issues for research projects and colleagues. Harmonization of repeated items in the Social Survey Austria and technical implementation of a time series data file. Conducted and analyzed qualitative interviews as part of a third-party funded project financed by Austrian Post.

*Center for Social Research,  
University of Graz*

*2022-2024*

### Graz

STUDENT ASSISTANT

- Merging multiple waves of the World Values Survey with external data sources. Implementation of surveys using LimeSurvey.

*Department of Sociology, University  
of Graz*

*2021-2022*

## Graz

*Department of Business and  
Education*

### STUDENT ASSISTANT

2019-2020

- Implementation and methodological evaluation of a survey on the digital competences of all first-year students in Styria during the 2019/2020 academic year. Development, analytical evaluation, and publication of a multidimensional measurement instrument for digital competences (<https://doi.org/10.1177/07591063211061760>).

## Graz

*Joanneum Research Life Center*

### PROJECT ASSISTANT

2019-2020

- Development and field work of a questionnaire on environmental spillover-effects; project for master thesis

## Graz

*Department of Sociology, University  
of Graz*

### TEACHING ASSISTANT

2018-2021

- Tutoring for the course “Elementary Data Analysis.”

## Graz

*Convelop GmbH*

### JUNIOR RESEARCHER

2015-2022

- Involvement in projects with a strong focus on mixed-methods designs in the field of evaluation research. This includes the evaluation of the Humboldt Research Fellowship, the assesment of gender and diversity measures within the Human Brain Project and the Austrian Academy of Sciences based on a mixed-methods approach.

## Additional Professional Activities

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*University of Maribor*

### CONSULTANT

2024-2025

- Methodological Consulting for Prof. Andrej Kirbis and his research group on longitudinal and cross-sectional models of pro-environmental- and political behavior; Implemenatation of random intercept cross lagged panel models in R

*University of Vienna*

### CONSULTANT

2024

- Consultation on data- preparation and analysis of survey data for Project: „EU-ropäische (Krisen-)Erzählungen: Perspektiven von Lehramtsstudierenden, Project-lead by Prof. Britta Breser

*Joanneum Research Life Center*

### STUDENT CONTRACT

2021

- Harmonization and merging of multiple years of SILC data across several countries.

*Joanneum Research Life Center*

### STUDENT CONTRACT

2020

- Implementation of multiple imputation for: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2021.102169>

## Honors and Awards

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ISSP USER CONFERENCE,

2024

- Best Paper Award for “30 Years of Environmental Attitudes and Behaviours. A Longitudinal Study on Environmental Change and National Affluence in European Societies using ISSP Data (1993-2020)”

MASTER SOCIOLOGY

2020/21

- Performance Studentship of University Graz for exceptional achievements.

BACHELOR SOCIOLOGY

2017/18

- Performance Studentship of University Graz for exceptional achievements.

## Reviewer

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- International Journal of Sociology, Bulletin of Sociological Methodology, Electoral Studies, Energy Research & Social Science, Survey Methods: Insights from the Field

## Membership

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- European Survey Research Association
- Österreichische Gesellschaft für Soziologie: Sektion Soziologische Methoden und Forschungsdesigns
- Grazer Gesellschaft für Soziologie

## Skills

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- Programming Languages: R (Intermediary), Python (Beginner), Stan (Beginner)
- Operation Systems and other Software: Windows (Intermediary), Linux-Ubuntu (Beginner), SPSS (Intermediary), MaxQDA (Intermediary), Github (Beginner), LimeSurvey (Intermediary), Prompt Engineering

## Language

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- German (Native), English (Fluent)

## Journal Publications (Peer Reviewed)

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1. Penker, M., & Kirbiš, A. (2026). Support for Change: A Cross-National Comparative Analysis of Public Sphere Behaviour using a Civic Voluntarism Model. In *Helijon* (No. 1; Vol. 12). <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.helijon.2025.e44242>
2. Etter, C., Eder, A., & Penker, M. (2026). Self-reported digital stress in the Austrian population: Addressing sociodemographic group differences and effects on subjective well-being. In *Public Health (Berl.)*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10389-026-02792-2>
3. Penker, M., & Kirbiš, A. (2025). Education for future? Investigating the role of education in explaining active green engagement—A multilevel moderated mediation analysis. *Sustainable Futures*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sftr.2025.100608>
4. Penker, M., Eder, A., & Hadler, M. (2025). From Face-to-Face to Push-to-Web: Methodological Lessons from the Transition of the “Social Survey Austria.” *Survey Methods: Insights from the Field*. <https://doi.org/10.13094/SMIF-2025-00012>
5. Lederer, T., Müller, K., Penker, M., Stolz, E., & Freidl, W. (2024). The Mediating Effect of After-Midnight Use of Digital Media Devices on the Association of Internet-Related Addictive Behaviour and Insomnia in Adolescents. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 12. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2024.1422157>
6. Penker, M., & Eder, A. (2024). Analysing mixed-mode effects of CATI and CAPI. A case study based on survey data from the ISSP Environment module. *Bulletin of Sociological Methodology*, 162(1), 108–128. <https://doi.org/10.1177/07591063241236066>

7. Fairbrother, M., Penker, M., & Hadler, M. (2024). Social Movements and the State: Modeling Public Confidence with Data from the World Values Survey. *Journal of Trust Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21515581.2024.2391385>
8. Penker, M. (2024). Green Momentum? An Age-Period-Cohort Analysis of Support for the Environmental Movement in 24 Countries. *International Journal of Sociology*, 54(6), 565–586. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00207659.2024.2407651>
9. Penker, M., & Seebauer, S. (2023). “I should” Does Not Mean “I can.” Introducing Efficacy, Normative, and General Compensatory Green Beliefs. *J Consum Policy*, 46, 223–251. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10603-023-09539-6>
10. Janschitz, G., & Penker, M. (2022). How digital are “digital natives” actually? Developing an instrument to measure the degree of digitalisation of university students – the DDS-Index. *Bulletin of Sociological Methodology*, 153(1), 127–159. <https://doi.org/10.1177/075910632111061760>

## Book Chapters (Peer Reviewed)

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1. Penker, M., & Wardana, R. (2026). 30 Years of Environmental Attitudes and Behaviours. A Longitudinal Study on Environmental Change and National Affluence in European Societies using ISSP Data (1993-2020). In A. Telesiene, M. Hadler, & M. Groß (Eds.), *Green European: Reassessing Environmental Behaviours and Attitudes in the Face of the Polycrisis* (pp. 25–56). Palgrave. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-18360-6\\_2](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-18360-6_2)
2. Penker, M., Wardana, R., Klösch, B., & Hadler, M. (2024). Umwelteinstellungen in Österreich in Krisenzeiten Eine Untersuchung der aggregierten und individuellen Stabilität der Bereitschaft, umweltbewusst zu handeln. In W. Aschauer, A. Eder, & D. Prandner (Eds.), *Die Auswirkungen der Corona-Pandemie auf die österreichische Gesellschaft* (pp. 393–413). Nomos. <https://doi.org/10.5771/9783748942696-393>
3. Janschitz, G., Monitzer, S., & Penker, M. (2021). Digitalisierungsgrad der Studienanfänger:innen. In G. Janschitz & et al (Eds.), *Alle(s) digital im Studium?! Projektbericht der Steirischen Hochschulkonferenz zur Analyse digitaler Kompetenzen von Studienanfänger:innen* (pp. 58–87). Graz University Library Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.25364/978-3-903374-00-3>
4. Janschitz, G., Monitzer, S., & Penker, M. (2021). Studienanfänger:innen und ihr digitales Umfeld. In G. Janschitz & et al (Eds.), *Alle(s) digital im Studium?! Projektbericht der Steirischen Hochschulkonferenz zur Analyse digitaler Kompetenzen von Studienanfänger:innen* (pp. 26–57). Graz University Library Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.25364/978-3-903374-00-3>

## Manuscripts (under review or accepted)

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1. Penker, M., Gummer, T., Repke, L., & Silber, H. (n.d.). Changes in General Survey Attitudes Over the Course of a Panel Study: Investigating the Impact of Survey Experience. In *Social Science Quarterly*. under review.
2. Wardana, R., Penker, M., Klösch, B., Schweighart, M., & Hadler, M. (n.d.). *Umwelteinstellungen und umweltrelevantes Verhalten der Österreicher\*innen. Ergebnisse des Sozialen Survey 2021* (M. Hadler, W. Aschauer, D. Prandner, N. S. Fritsch, & H. Bacher, Eds.). in press; Springer.
3. Penker, M., Prandner, D., Seymer, A., & Bodi-Fernandez, O. (n.d.). *Unterschiedliche Methoden, unterschiedliche Herausforderungen. Die Methodik der Sozialen Survey Österreich 2016-2024* (M. Hadler, W. Aschauer, D. Prandner, N. S. Fritsch, & H. Bacher, Eds.). in press; Springer.

## Datasets

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1. Hadler, M., Eder, A., Penker, M., Aschauer, W., Prandner, D., Bacher, J., & Berghammer, C. (2024). *Social Survey Austria 2024 (SUF edition)*. <https://doi.org/10.11587/0VKC5X>
2. Penker, M., Aschauer, W., Bacher, J., Beham-Rabanser, M., Berghammer, C., Eder, A., Etter, C., Grausgruber, A., Haller, M., Höllinger, F., Muckenhuber, J., Prandner, D., Verwiebe, R., & Hadler, M. (2025). *Social Survey Austria: Cumulation 2016-2024*. <https://doi.org/10.11587/LDSKTK>

## Presentations

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1. Penker, M., Gummer, T., Repke, L., & Silber, H. (2025). „Do I like these surveys?“ *An analysis of change in survey attitudes based on data from the GESIS panel 2014-2022*. 17. Workshop der Panelsurveys im deutschsprachigen Raum, 13 - 14 March, Vienna (Poster presentation).
2. Penker, M., Eder, A., & Hadler, M. (2024). *Going Online! Analyses of the New Push-to-Web Approach of the Social Survey Austria*. Mannheim Research Colloquium on Survey Method, 28 May, Mannheim.
3. Penker, M. (2024). *Green Momentum? An Age-Period-Cohort Analysis of Support for the Environmental Movement in 24 Countries*. 16th Conference of the European Sociological Association, 27 - 30 August, Porto.
4. Eder, A., & Penker, M. (2023). *The Austrian ISSP Surveys during the Corona Crisis. Public Opinion Research in a Technology-Driven World*. Public Opinion Research in a Technology-Driven World, WAPOR, 19 - 22 October, Salzburg.
5. Eder, A., Penker, M., Hadler, M., & Müller, P. (2026). *The Role of Survey Mode in Item Non-Response: Evidence from the ISSP Health Module (2011-2021)*. ISSP General Assembly meeting, 25 April - 29 April, Prague.
6. Penker, M., Hadler, M., & Eder, A. (2025). *Advancing Research on Pro Environmental Attitudes by Exploring Time-Variant Predictors with Three-Level Multilevel Models Covering the Period from 1993 to 2020*. 11th Conference of the European Survey Research Association, 14 - 18 July, Utrecht.
7. Eder, A., Etter, C., & Penker, M. (2025). *Digitaler Stress in der österreichischen Bevölkerung*. 28. Kongress der Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Soziologie, Graz, 30 - 02 July, Graz.
8. Etter, C., Eder, A., & Penker, M. (2025). *Self-reported digital stress in the Austrian population: addressing its distribution and impact on subjective well-being*. ESA Midterm Conference of RN 21- Quantitative Method, European Sociological Association, 02 - 04 June, Lappenranta.
9. Eder, A., Penker, M., & Hadler, M. (2025). *The Role of Survey Mode in Item Non-Response: Evidence from the ISSP Health Module (2011-2021)*. 11th Conference of the European Survey Research Association, 14 - 18 July, Utrecht.
10. Penker, M., Eder, A., & Hadler, M. (2025). *Item-Non-Response in Online-Erhebungen Eine länder- und zeitvergleichende Analyse des ISSP-Gesundheitsmoduls 2011 und 2021*. 28. Kongress der Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Soziologie, Graz, 30 - 02 July, Graz.
11. Penker, M., & Kirbiš, A. (2023). *Support for Change: A Cross-National Comparative Analysis of Public Support for the Environmental Movement using a Civic Voluntarism Model*. ESA Midterm Conference of RN 12- Environmental Sociology, European Sociological Association, 06 - 08 September, Trento.
12. Wardana, R., Klösch, B., Penker, M., & Hadler, M. (2023). *The willingness to act environmentally friendly during the pandemic: inter- and intraindividual stability among Austrians*. ESA Midterm Conference of RN 12- Environmental Sociology, European Sociological Association, 06 - 08 September, Trento.
13. Penker, M., Wardana, R., Klösch, B., & Hadler, M. (2023). *Umwelteinstellungen in Österreich in Krisenzeiten. Eine Untersuchung der aggregierten und individuellen Stabilität der Bereitschaft, umweltbewusst zu handeln*. Kongress der österreichischen Gesellschaft für Soziologie, Wien 03 - 05 July, Vienna.
14. Penker, M., Eder, A., & Hadler, M. (2023). *Selected Pretest Results “Digital Societies*. ISSP General Assembly meeting, 29 April - 02 May, Island.
15. Penker, M., & Eder, A. (2022). *(To be) Biased or unbiased? Analyzing mixed-mode effects based on survey data from the ISSP Environment Module collected during the COVID-19 pandemic*. ESA Midterm Conference of RN 21- Quantitative Method, European Sociological Association, 06 - 09 September, Salamanca.
16. Penker, M., Seebauer, S., Brenner-Fließner, M., & Hadler, M. (2021). *Should doesn't mean can. Introducing Normative Compensatory Green Beliefs for the Case of Austrian School Graduates*. International Conference on Environmental Psychology, 05 - 08 October, Siracusa.

17. Brenner-Fließner, M., Seebauer, S., & Penker, M. (2021). *Preaching water – drinking wine? Is political pro climate engagement of adolescents associated with a climate-friendly lifestyle?* Conference of the European Sociological Association, 31 August – 03 September, Barcelona.
18. Janschitz, G., & Penker, M. (2021). *Wie digital sind Studienanfänger\*innen wirklich? – Ergebnisse des Forschungsprojektes DiKoS.* Joint conference of the Austrian and German sociological societies, Section: Youth: Digitalisation and Youth, 23 - 25 August, Vienna.