

Determinants of Leisure Activities of Children  
With and without Migration Background in Germany  
- An Analysis Based on the National Educational Panel Study  
(NEPS)

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Introduction

Persisting educational inequality in Germany affects the school performance of children with migration background and children from lower socioeconomic groups negatively <sup>6</sup>. Similarities can be found for leisure activities: There is a positive correlation between higher socioeconomic groups and club membership for children and adolescents<sup>2; 3; 5</sup>. Lower participation shows as well for children with migration background <sup>4</sup>. This study aims to explain this correlation using Bourdieu's capital theory (1983) <sup>1</sup>, with the parental capital being the main explanatory factor for these differences. Therefor the research question is as follows:

Which factors influence the institutionalized leisure activities of children with and without migration background?

Results

Variable	Category	N	%
Number of institutionalized leisure activity	0	1.621	21.62
	1	3.220	42.96
	2-6	2.655	35.42
Total		7.496	100

- 66% (4.968) are members in an sport clubs/ 21% (1.555) are members in an religious youth group
- 16% (1.212) have a migration background (at least 1 parent born outside of Germany)

Multinomial Regression (Ref. 2-6 activities) Controlled for: Gender, Age, Type of School, Residential Area		0		1	
Migration Background (Ref. No)		RRR	p	RRR	p
Yes		1.55	0.00	1.28	0.00
Household income in Euro (Ref. Over 2000)					
< 1000		1.10	0.45	0.86	0.13
1000 < 1500		0.80	0.05	0.80	0.01
1500 < 2000		0.71	0.00	0.80	0.01
Highest school degree parents (Ref. High)					
Low		1.47	0.02	1.07	0.66
Medium		1.20	0.03	1.02	0.71
Marital Status (Ref. Married)					
In a relationship		1.60	0.00	1.57	0.00
Without Partner		1.78	0.00	1.26	0.01
Number of books in household (Ref. Over 201)					
0 until 25		1.21	0.15	1.11	0.37
26 until 100		0.93	0.43	0.99	0.93
101 until 200		0.75	0.00	0.97	0.70
Discussions on cultural/political topics (Ref. Weekly)					
Never or seldom		1.98	0.00	1.58	0.00
Several time a month		1.42	0.00	1.30	0.00
Number of participation in cultural activities (Ref. More than once)					
Never		1.79	0.00	1.25	0.01
Once		1.12	0.33	1.11	0.20
Number of jobs requiring medium qualification (Ref. 4)					
2 until 3		1.46	0.00	1.15	0.03
0 until 1		2.09	0.00	1.28	0.01

Data and Method

- 1st Wave of the 4th starting cohort from the year 2010 of the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS)
- Sample: 7.496 students in grade 9 attending public schools in Germany and corresponding parent interviews
- Depending Variables: - Number of club memberships (0, 1, 2-6)  
- membership in sport club/ religious youth group (Yes/ No)
- Multinomial logistic regression for number of memberships
- Binary logistic regression for kind of activity
- Independent Variables: - Migration background, Gender, Age, Type of School, Residential Area (East/West)

Parental Capital	
Economic Capital	
Household income (weighted with OECD scale)	
Institutionalized cultural capital	
Highest school degree parents (ISCED 2011)	
Objectified cultural capital	Number of books in household
Incorporated cultural capital	Number of participation in cultural activities during last 12 mounts, Number of discussions on cultural/political topics between parents/children
Social Capital	
Marital status, Number of jobs requiring medium qualification in social group of parents	

- Children with migration background have a lower chance of participating in institutionalized leisure activity
- Married parents and living in West- Germany have a positive effect on the participation of children with migration background
- Not participating can be explained by a lack of parental capital, however children with migration background can benefit less from the incorporated cultural capital of their parents
- There is a threshold, where more economic capital has no further positive effect on the chance of participation
- Participation in more than one activity is hardly explained by the parental resources, which also have no explanatory effect on the migration difference
- Different clubs demand different kinds of capital, with a trend to economic resources for sport clubs, which had no effect on the participation in religious youths groups

Discussion

This study shows that sociodemographic characteristics and migration background affect the participation and kind of institutional leisure activities of children, with different implementation possibilities of these resources for children with migration background and depending on the kind of activity. General financial support by federal funds could increase the participation rate for children with and without migration background, but would not have the same positive effect on all kind of activities. It seems to be difficult to find universal measures to decrease social inequality in leisure participation rates.

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