

Leonard David Wendering

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Education

Ph.D. in Sociology

University of Mannheim, Germany

Since Sep 2023

M.Sc. in Sociology (Double Degree)

University of Trento, Italy

& University of Bamberg, Germany

With distinction (Trento: 110/110; Bamberg: 1.2/1.0)

Thesis: *The Relationship between Persistent Poverty and Health Inequalities across Age Groups: Evidence from the German Socio-Economic Panel*

Apr 2021 – Jul 2023

B.A. in Business Psychology

West Coast University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Grade: 1.6/1.0

Sep 2014 – Jul 2017

Working Papers

- *The Girl Next Door? Childhood Cross-Group Exposure Increases Rates of Inter-Ethnic Marriage.* (with N. Zhang & K. Ostermann)
- *Crafting Cohesion: Interethnic Contact and Prejudice Reduction in Vocational Training.*
- *Harnessing GPT for Enhanced Academic Writing: Evidence from a Field Experiment with Early-Career Researchers in the Social Sciences.* (with M. Ratkovic, T. Gschwend, K. Bauer, A. Kurella, O. Rittman, M. Sauter, N. Schwitter)
- *Lessons from an AI-Sprint: A Proposal for Measuring the Human-AI Evolution in Research.* (with M. Ratkovic & T. Gschwend)

Conference Presentations

- Wendering, L. (2025). The Girl Next Door? Childhood Cross-Group Exposure Increases Rates of Inter-Ethnic Marriage. *5th ISA Forum of Sociology*, Rabat, Morocco.
- Wendering, L. (2025). The Girl Next Door? Childhood Cross-Group Exposure Increases Rates of Inter-Ethnic Marriage. *European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Conference*, Cologne, Germany.
- Wendering, L. (2024). Crafting Cohesion: Interethnic Contact and Prejudice Reduction in Vocational Training. *6th Annual Conference of Experimental Sociology (ACES)*, Turin, Italy, 28–30 Aug.
- Wendering, L. (2024). The Girl Next Door? Childhood Cross-Group Exposure and Inter-Ethnic Marriage. *8th International Meeting on Experimental and Behavioral Social Sciences (IMEBESS)*, Riga, Latvia, 23–25 May.

Teaching Experience

- 2025 – Instructor, *Exercise: Methods in Political Sociology*, University of Mannheim.
- 2024 – Instructor, *Proseminar: Political Sociology*, University of Mannheim.

Research Experience

Researcher, Making Diversity Work Mar 2023 – present

Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), Mannheim, Germany

- Designed a field experiment with 195 participants using randomised seating to test the impact of interethnic contact on prejudice.
- Processed 50 million U.S. census records (1880–1900/1910) and applied coarsened exact matching to evaluate long-term effects of early intergroup exposure on marriage patterns.
- Developed an RAG application and employed LIWC analysis to examine whether AI tools can improve Ph.D.-level academic writing.

Student Assistant, Research Data Center

May 2022 – Nov 2022

Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories, Bamberg, Germany

Service

Student Representative

2023 – present

CDSS Cohort, University of Mannheim

Consultant, DataFest Germany 2024

Apr 2024

University of Mannheim

Chair, MTP – Marketing between Theory and Practice

Sep 2021 – Aug 2022

University of Bamberg

Projects

- **PhD Lunch Platform** – Web application for automated monthly lunch group matching.
- **RAG Academic Search System** – Retrieval-Augmented Generation system for academic literature search.

Skills

Methods/Software: R, Stata, Python, Git, L^AT_EX

Languages: German (native), English (fluent), Spanish (basic)

Interests

Chess (Elo 1988; DWZ 1961)