

# FELIX ELWERT

## University of Wisconsin–Madison

Department of Sociology and  
Center for Demography and Ecology  
4426 Sewell Social Sciences Building  
1180 Observatory Drive  
Madison, WI 53706  
elwert@wisc.edu

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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### University of Wisconsin–Madison

- 2012– Associate Professor, Department of Sociology  
2013– Associate Professor (Affiliated), Department of Population Health Sciences  
2013–2015 Vilas Associate Professor, Department of Sociology  
2007–2012 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology

### WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Germany

- 2015–2016 Acting Director, Research Unit Social Inequality and Social Policy  
2014–2015 Karl W. Deutsch Visiting Professor

### Harvard Medical School

- 2006–2007 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Health Care Policy

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## EDUCATION

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- 2007 Ph.D., Sociology, Harvard University  
2006 A.M., Statistics, Harvard University  
1999 M.A., Sociology, New School for Social Research  
1997 Vordiplom, Sociology, Free University of Berlin

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## RESEARCH AREAS

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Social inequality; social demography; causal inference.

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## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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- 2016- Fellow, WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Berlin, Germany
- 2013 Causality in Statistics Education Award, American Statistical Association
- 2013 Vilas Associate Award, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2012 Jane Addams Award (Best Paper), Community and Urban Sociology Section, American Sociological Association
- 2010 Gunther Beyer Award (Best Paper by a Young Scholar), European Association for Population Studies
- 2009 & 2010 Honored Instructor Award, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Division of University Housing
- 2009 & 2010 Best Poster Awards, Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America
- 2005–2006 Eliot Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2004 Aage B. Sørensen Memorial Award, Best Graduate Student Paper, Department of Sociology, Harvard University
- 2003 Graduate Society Term-Time Research Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2003 Certificate of Excellence in Teaching, Harvard University
- 1997–2001 Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes
- 1997 German Academic Exchange (DAAD) Scholarship

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## EDITORIAL POSITIONS, PANELS, JURIES

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- 2014- Jury, Causality in Statistics Education Prize, *American Statistical Association*.
- 2013- Consulting Editor, *Sociological Science*
- 2013- Editorial Board, *Journal of Causal Inference*
- 2012–2015 Consulting Editor, *American Journal of Sociology*
- 2013–2014 Advisory Panel, Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program, *National Science Foundation*

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## CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

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- 2016 Organizer, Contexts of Social Inequality Conference, WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Germany.
- 2002 Co-organizer, Sørensen Memorial Conference, Harvard University

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## AFFILIATIONS

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- 2013– HCEO: Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group, Inequality—Measurement, Interpretation, and Policy Network
- 2013– Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin—Madison
- 2013– Center for European Studies, University of Wisconsin—Madison
- 2013– Interdisciplinary Training Program in Education, University of Wisconsin—Madison
- 2007– Center for Demography and Ecology, University of Wisconsin—Madison
- 2007– Center for Demography of Health and Aging, University of Wisconsin—Madison
- 2010– Center for Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia, University of Wisconsin—Madison
- 2005–2007 Graduate Associate, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- Wrigley-Field, Elizabeth, and **Felix Elwert**. 2016. “Mortality Crossovers from Dynamic Subpopulation Reordering.” Pp. 177-99 in Robert Schoen (ed.), *Dynamic Demographic Analysis*. Springer.
- Wodtke, Geoffrey, **Felix Elwert**, and David Harding. 2016. “Neighborhood Effect Heterogeneity by Family Income and Developmental Period.” *American Journal of Sociology* 121(4):1168-1222.
- Elwert, Felix**, and Christopher Winship. 2014. “Endogenous Selection Bias: The Problem of Conditioning on a Collider Variable.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 40:31–50.
- O'Malley, Alistair J., **Felix Elwert**, J. Nils Rosenquist, Alan M. Zaslavsky, and Nicholas A. Christakis. 2014. “Estimating Peer Effects in Longitudinal Dyadic Data Using Instrumental Variables.” *Biometrics* 70:506–15.
- Elwert, Felix**. 2013. “Graphical Causal Models.” Pp. 245–73 in *Handbook of Causal Analysis for Social Research*, S. Morgan (ed.). Dodrecht: Springer.
- Wodtke, Geoffrey, David Harding, and **Felix Elwert**. 2011. “Neighborhood Effects in Temporal Perspective: The Impact of Long-Term Exposure to Concentrated Disadvantage on High School Graduation.” *American Sociological Review* 76(5):713–36.
- Sharkey, Patrick, and **Felix Elwert**. 2011. “The Legacy of Disadvantage: Multigenerational Neighborhood Effects on Cognitive Ability.” *American Journal of Sociology* 116(6):1934–81.

- Revised reprint: Sharkey, Patrick, and **Felix Elwert**. 2014. "The Legacy of Multigenerational Disadvantage" Pp. 403–411 in *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective (4<sup>th</sup> edition)*, David Grusky (ed.). Boulder: Westview Press.
- Elwert, Felix**, and Christopher Winship. 2010. "Effect Heterogeneity and Bias in Main-Effects-Only Regression Models." Pp. 327–36 in *Heuristics, Probability and Causality: A Tribute to Judea Pearl*, Rina Dechter, Hector Geffner, and Joseph Y. Halpern (eds.). College Publications, UK.
- Jin, Lei, **Felix Elwert**, Jeremy Freese, and Nicholas A. Christakis. 2010. "Preliminary Evidence Regarding the Hypothesis that the Sex Ratio at Sexual Maturity May Affect Longevity in Men." *Demography* 47(3):579–86.
- Elwert, Felix**, and Nicholas A. Christakis. 2008. "Wives and Ex-Wives: A New Test for Homogamy Bias in the Widowhood Effect." *Demography* 45(4):851–73.
- Elwert, Felix**, and Nicholas A. Christakis. 2008. "Variation in the Effect of Widowhood on Mortality by the Causes of Death of Both Spouses." *American Journal of Public Health* 98(11):2092–98.
- Connor, Stephen R., **Felix Elwert**, Carol Spence, and Nicholas A. Christakis. 2008. "Racial Disparity in Hospice Use in the United States in 2002." *Palliative Medicine* 22:205–13.
- Subramanian, S.V., **Felix Elwert**, and Nicholas Christakis. 2008. "Widowhood and Mortality Among the Elderly: The Modifying Role of Neighborhood Concentration of Widowed Individuals." *Social Science and Medicine* 66:873–84.
- Connor, Stephen R., **Felix Elwert**, Carol Spence, and Nicholas A. Christakis. 2007. "Geographic Variation in Hospice Use in the United States in 2002." *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* 34:277–85.
- Elwert, Felix**, and Nicholas A. Christakis. 2006. "Widowhood and Race." *American Sociological Review* 71(1):16–41.
- Elwert, Felix**. 2002. "Soziale Faktoren des kunstmusikalischen Aufstiegs Venedigs um 1500 [Social Factors of the Rise of Art Music in Venice around 1500]." Pp. 85–105 in *Musik und Urbanität*, Christian Kaden and Volker Kalisch (eds.). Essen: Blaue Eule.
- Other publications**
- Elwert, Felix**. 2015. "Public Health: Real-World Network Targeting of Interventions." *The Lancet* 386:112-3.
- Elwert, Felix**. 2014. "Book Review: Pearl, Judea. 2009. Causality: Models, Reasoning, and Inference, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition." *Acta Sociologica* 57(4):369–371.
- Conrady, Stefan, Lionel Jouffe, and **Felix Elwert**. 2014. "Causality for Policy Assessment and Impact Analysis: Directed Acyclic Graphs and Bayesian Networks for Causal Identification and Estimation." Bayesia White Paper. Bayesia USA: Franlin, TN.

**Elwert, Felix.** 2008. "Societal Implications of Incarceration." Pp. 483–84 in *Encyclopedia of Social Problems*, Vincent N. Parillo (ed.). Sage: Beverly Hills, CA.

**Elwert, Felix.** 2008. "Bereavement Effects by Race." Pp.74 in *Encyclopedia of Social Problems*, Vincent N. Parillo (ed.). Sage: Beverly Hills, CA.

**Elwert, Felix,** and Christopher Winship. 2002. "Commentary: Population Versus Individual Level Causal Effects." *International Journal of Epidemiology* 31:432–34.

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## GRANTS

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Principal Investigator. "Comparing Housing Policy in Britain and Germany." Aston University, 2015-2016, € 31,500 .

Investigator. "An Interdisciplinary Pilot Study of Health Inequality Based on a Large Biosocial Survey in Taiwan." Chinese University of Hong Kong (PI Tony Tam), 2013-2015, HK\$ 350,000.

Principal Investigator. "A New Test for Unobserved Confounding Bias with an Application to the Effect of Parental Wealth on Child Educational Test Scores." University of Wisconsin Graduate School Research Competition, 2012, \$27,952.

Investigator. "Healthy Children, Strong Families: American Indian Communities Preventing Obesity." National Institutes of Health R-01 (PI Alexandra Adams), 2012–2017. \$485,630.

Principal Investigator. "Longitudinal Effects of Poverty on Child Cognitive Development." University of Wisconsin Graduate School Research Competition, 2010, \$23,103.

Investigator. "Multigenerational Neighborhood Effects on Child Depression and Other Health Outcomes." PSID grants competition, Michigan (PI Patrick Sharkey), 2009–2010, \$7000.

Principal Investigator. "The Social Transmission of Health and Mortality in Old Age – Addressing the Endogeneity of Spousal Death in the Widowhood Effect." Pilot grant funded through the Center for Demography of Health and Aging center grant, P30-AG017266, 2008, \$33,734.

Investigator. "Neighborhood Effects on Health in the Framingham Heart Study and the Role of Social Networks." National Institute of Aging, AG031093 (PI Nicholas Christakis), 2008–2012, \$203,839.

Principal Investigator. "Differential Effects of Widowhood and the Black-White Crossover in Mortality." University of Wisconsin Graduate School Research Competition, 2008, \$11,000.

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**INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2016 “How Neighborhood Effects Vary by Duration, Timing, and Family Finances.” Nuffield College, Oxford University.
- “Graphical Causal Models.” Bio<sup>3</sup> Seminar, Dept. of Biostatistics, Georgetown University.
- “Neighborhood Effects on Educational Outcomes.” Contexts of Social Inequality Conference, WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Germany.
- 2015 “Time and Money: How Neighborhood Effects Vary With Family Resources and Developmental Timing.” University of Cologne, Germany.
- “Neighborhood Effects in Time.” University of Chicago.
- “Poor Families, Poor Neighborhoods: How Family Poverty Intensifies Neighborhood Effects on High School Graduation.” University of Munich, Germany.
- “Instrumental Variables Analysis.” WZB Social Science Research Center Berlin, Germany.
- 2014 “Endogenous Selection Bias.” University of Leipzig, Germany.
- “Multigenerational Neighborhood Effects: The Problem of Generativity.” University of Copenhagen, Denmark.
- “New Insights on Endogenous Selection Bias.” Chinese University, Hong Kong.
- “Identifying Peer Effects In Dyadic Longitudinal Data Using Genes as Instrumental Variables.” Genetics and Behavior Conference, Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group, University of Chicago.
- 2013 “Conditions for Identifying Peer Effects in Social Networks Using Genes as Instrumental Variables.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY.
- “Poor Families, Poor Neighborhoods: How Family Poverty Intensifies the Impact of Concentrated Disadvantage on High School Graduation.” Institute for Research on Poverty, Summer Research Workshop. University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- “Poor Families, Poor Neighborhoods: Neighborhood Effects on High School Graduation Among Poor and Nonpoor Children.” Harvard Medical School.
- “Conditions for Identifying Causal Peer Effects in Social Networks Using Genes as Instrumental Variables.” Department of Statistics, Indiana University.
- 2012 “Detecting and Reducing Confounding Bias Using Future Values of the Treatment.” Population Association Of America Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

- “Endogenous Selection Bias.” Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University.
- “Endogenous Selection Bias.” Duke University.
- 2011 “The Effects of Long-Term Residential Disadvantage on Child Outcomes.” University of California, Los Angeles.
- “Estimating the Effects of Long-Term Residential Disadvantage on Child Outcomes.” University of Mannheim, Germany.
- “Effect Heterogeneity and Bias in Regression-Type Models.” Symposium on Health Econometrics and Quantitative Health Research, National University of Singapore.
- “Neighborhood Effects Across Generations.” Joint Statistical Meetings, American Statistical Association, Miami Beach, FL.
- “Neighborhood Effects in Time and Across Generations.” Harvard Medical School.
- 2010 “Neighborhood Effects and Time.” Department of Sociology, Yale University.
- “Multigenerational Neighborhood Effects on Child Health and Educational Outcomes.” SES and Health Across Generations and Over the Life Course Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- “Multi-Stage Selection Explains a Mortality Deceleration Puzzle.” Population Association Of America Annual Meeting, Poster presentation, Dallas, TX. PAA Best Poster Award.
- “Effect Heterogeneity and Bias in Main-Effects-Only Regression Models.” American Sociological Association Methodology Section Conference, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
- 2009 “Why Adjusting for ‘Observed Frailty’ Accentuates the U.S. Black-White Mortality Crossover.” International Population Conference (IUSSP), Marrakech, Morocco.
- “Multigenerational Neighborhood Effects on Child Cognitive Ability.” American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- “Race Crossover in Mortality Accentuated by Covariate Adjustments.” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Poster presentation, Detroit, MI. PAA Best Poster Award.
- 2008 “Neighborhoods, Networks, and Health.” Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School.
- “Endogenous Selection Bias.” Symposium on Causality, Friedrich-Schiller-University, Jena, Germany.

- “Cohabitation, Divorce, and the Trial Marriage Hypothesis.” Initiative in Population Research, Ohio State University.
- 2007 “Marital Status and Longevity: New Tests from Marital Triads and Ex-Wives.” Inaugural Conference, Center for Inequalities and the Life Course, Yale University.
- “Endogenous Selection.” ASA Methodology Section Conference, Yale University.
- 2006 “Children and Divorce: A Case Study of Causal Inference from Time Varying Treatments.” Causal Analysis in Population Studies: Concepts, Methods, Applications, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna.
- “Marriage Reconsidered: How Cohabitation Causally Reduces the Risk of Divorce.” Center for Research on Inequality and the Life Course, Yale University.
- 2005 “Causality in Family Research.” Einstein Akademie of the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, Berlin, Germany.
- “Widowhood and Race in the United States.” WZB Social Science Research Center, Berlin, Germany.
- 2004 “Teaching Quantitative Subjects to Non-Quantitative Students.” Workshop, Fall Teaching Conference, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University.
- 2003 “Cohabitation, Divorce, and the Causal Effect(s) of Screening.” Second Conference of the European Research Network on Divorce, Tilburg, Netherlands.
- “Trial Marriage Reconsidered: Evidence for a Positive Causal Effect of Cohabitation on Marital Stability.” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
- “Estimating Causal Effects of Policy Interventions.” Lectures, Open Society Institute, Tashkent and Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- 2002 “Incarceration, Unemployment and Eurosclerosis.” Sørensen Memorial Conference, Harvard University.
- 1999 “Rising Noise: A Sociological Model for the Late Consolidation of Art Music in Cinquecento Venice.” German Musicological Society, Annual Meeting of the Section on Sociology and Social History, Schmöckwitz, Germany.
- “The Impact of Incarceration on OECD Measures of Labor Market Performance.” U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington D.C.
- “Truth and Transitional Justice in Germany after 1989.” Transregional Center for Democratic Studies, New School for Social Research, New York, NY.



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**METHODOLOGICAL SHORT COURSES**

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- 2016 “Graphical Causal Models.” 2.days. Statistical Horizons, Berlin and Philadelphia.  
“Instrumental Variables Analysis.” 2 days. Statistical Horizons, Berlin and Philadelphia.
- 2015 “Causal Identification in the Social Sciences.” 1 day. Quantel, University of Leipzig, Germany.  
“Graphical Causal Models.” 2 days. University of Cologne, Germany.  
“Instrumental Variables Analysis.” 2 days. Statistical Horizons, Philadelphia, PA, and Berlin, Germany.  
“Graphical Causal Models.” 2 days. HEC: École des hautes études commerciales de Paris, France.  
“Causal Inference from Observational Data.” 5 days. University of California, Berkeley.  
“Instrumental Variables Analysis and Related Techniques. 5 days. University of California, Berkeley.  
“Graphical Causal Models.” 2 days. BayesiaLab User Conference, Pre-Conference course, Fresno, CA.  
“Masterclass: Graphical Causal Models.” 2 days. DIW German Institute for Economic Research, Berlin, Germany.
- 2014 “Causal inference from Observational Data.” 4 days. University of Copenhagen, Denmark.  
“Causal Inference with Graphical Causal Models.” 2 days. BayesiaLab User Conference, Pre-Conference course, UCLA.  
“Basics of Graphical Causal Models.” 1 day. European Consortium for Sociological Research Conference, Berlin, Germany.  
“Introduction to Directed Acyclic Graphs.” 1 day. College for Interdisciplinary Educational Research, Social Science Research Center, Berlin, Germany.  
“Causal Inference from Observational Data.” 5 days. University of California, Berkeley.  
“Instrumental Variables Analysis.” 2 days. Statistical Horizons, PA.
- 2013 “Graphical Causal Models for Causal Inference.” 2 days. Princeton University.  
“Causal Inference with Directed Graphs.” 2 days. Statistical Horizons, PA.
- 2012 “Graphical Models for Causal Inference in Observational Research.” 2 days. Columbia University.

- “Introduction to Causal Inference.” 4 days. University of Oslo, Norway.
- 2011 “Causal Inference with DAGs.” 1 day. Yale University.
- “Graphical Models for Causal Inference.” 2 days. Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Program, Columbia University.
- 2008 “Causal Inference for Time-Varying Treatments (Parts 1 & 2).” Interdisciplinary Training Program in Education Sciences, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- 2007 “Introduction to Causal Inference for Time-Varying Treatments.” 1 day. Department of Sociology, Yale University.
- “Causality.” 1 day. University of Mannheim Spring School, Germany.
- 2006 “Introduction to Causal Inference for Time-Varying Treatments in Population Science.” 1 day. Vienna Institute of Demography, Austria.
- “Summer Institute on Longitudinal Methods: Causal Inference.” 3 days (with Christopher Winship). Methodology Center, Pennsylvania State University.
- 2005 “Counterfactual Causal Modeling.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

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## TEACHING AND ADVISING

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### University of Wisconsin-Madison

Sociology 995: Center for Demography of Health and Aging Training Seminar (Seminar)

Sociology 952: Mathematical and Statistical Applications in Sociology–Causality (Seminar)

Sociology 952: Mathematical and Statistical Applications in Sociology–Graphical Causal Models (Seminar)

Sociology 360: Statistics for Sociologists I (Lecture)

Sociology 120: Marriage and the Family (Lecture)

### Harvard University

Sociology 203a: Advanced Quantitative Research Methods (teaching fellow)

Quantitative Reasoning 36: Statistics and Public Policy (teaching fellow)

Sociology 91r: Crime, Deviance, Incarceration, and Policing (instructor)

### Ph.D. Committees (completed) (\* chair), first academic jobs

Brenner, Phillip S. (2009): University of Michigan

Desmond, Matthew (2010): Harvard Society of Fellows, Harvard University

Felix Elwert

*Lumpkin Award* (best sociology dissertation), UW-Madison

Fiehl, Jeremy (2015): University of Arizona

*Lumpkin Award* (best sociology dissertation), UW-Madison

Hanselmann, Paul (2014): University of California, Irvine

\* Kim, Hyun Sik (2011): Korean Institute of Health and Social Affairs

Kim, Insoo (2008): Korean Military Institute, Seoul, South Korea

Lim, So-Jung (2013): Utah State University

Nathan, Alan (2013) Consulting

Pfeffer, Fabian (2010): University of Michigan

Schudde, Lauren (2013): Columbia University

Wang, Xiaolu (2015): Dickinson College

Weinberger, Naftali (2015): University of Utrecht, The Netherlands

\* Wrigley-Field, Elizabeth (2014): RWJ Columbia University & University of Minnesota

*Lumpkin Award* (best sociology dissertation), UW-Madison

### **M.A. Committees (completed)**

\* Xiaoyu Li

\* Elizabeth Wrigley-Field

Ian Wall

Geoffrey Wodtke (external)

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### **SERVICE**

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#### **Peer Reviewer**

*Acta Sociologica*

*American Journal of Epidemiology*

*American Journal of Sociology*

*American Sociological Review*

*Demography*

*Demographic Research*

*Epidemiology*

*International Journal of Epidemiology*

*JAMA*

*Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*

*Journal of Health and Social Behavior*

*Journal of Policy Analysis and*

*Management*

Felix Elwert

*Journal of the Royal Statistical Association–A*

*Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*

*The Lancet*

*Law, Probability, and Risk*

*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*

*Social Science and Medicine*

*Social Science Research*

*Sociological Methodology*

*Sociological Methods and Research*

*Sociological Quarterly*

*Sociological Science*

*Statistics and Public Policy*<sup>w</sup>

Springer Verlag (statistics)

*Statistics in Medicine*

Templeton Foundation

Wiley (statistics)

### **WZB Berlin Social Science Center**

Conference Organizer, Contexts of Social Inequality Conference, 2016. s

Deputy Chair, Faculty search committee at the University of Potsdam, 2015

Friends of the WZB Award Committee, 2015

### **University of Wisconsin–Madison**

*University Level*

Memorial Library Committee, 2013–2014

Teaching Fellows Selection Committee, 2012–2013

Faculty Senate, Alternate, 2008–2011

FLAS Fellowship Selection Committee, 2014

*Center for Demography & Ecology / Center for the Demography of Health and Aging*

Training Director, CDHA, 2010–2012

Steering Committee, CDE, 2007–present

*Department of Sociology*

Chair and member, Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee, 2012–2014

Chair, Sociology Summer Institute Committee, 2011–2012

Chair, Major Event Committee, 2008–2011

Development Committee, 2008–present

Hauser Fund Committee, 2010

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Placement Committee, 2007–2010

Social Committee, 2007–2010

### **Harvard University**

*Graduate School of Arts and Science*

Authors' Committee, Harvard Social Science Statistics Blog, 2005–2007

Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Awards Committee, 2003

At-Large-Representative (Social Sciences), Graduate Student Council, 2001–2003

*Department of Sociology*

Junior Faculty Search Committee, 2003

Co-organizer, Sørensen Memorial Conference, 2002

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### **CONSULTING (SELECTED)**

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Bayesia Inc. (2014–)

Bertelsmann Foundation (2014)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2008, 2013–14)

Massachusetts General Hospital (2006–2007)

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### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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2002– American Sociological Association

2003– American Statistical Association

2009– International Union for the Scientific Study of Population

2002– Population Association of America

2012– International Association of Ladakh Studies