

Choice of Field of Study through the Lense of Social Context

An Empirical Study on the Role of Social Relations on Degree Subject Choices

In the last couple of years, fast growing numbers of new students and persisting educational disadvantage, lead to an increasing number of surveys on the choice of field of study, as well as university dropouts. The main focus lay on educational disadvantage, although there are still research methodological gaps inhibiting an ideally broad overview on determinants of the choice of field of study. Achievement motivation, motivation to study, vocational orientation and local higher education programs were examined as determinants for the students' subject choice, but interaction in social relations have been neglected so far. Hence, this paper will collect data on the social environment via ego-centered networks, to study the meaning of social interaction relation considering the choice of field of study. New students of various higher educational institutes in the area of Mainz as chosen population shall participate in an online standardized survey, as their choice of field of study is most recent and subject specific focuses of the German higher educational system may provide additional reasons for divergent choices not only subject-wise, but also institution-wise.