

Lars Leszczensky

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Academic Positions

- since 2023 **Professor** of Sociology with Focus on Network Research, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany
- 2016-2023 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), University of Mannheim, Germany
- 2020-2021 **Interim Professor (Vertretungsprofessur, W3)**, Chair of Socialization and Interaction (Prof. Dr. Kurt Mühler), Institute of Sociology, University of Leipzig, Germany
- 2018-2020 **Interim Professor (Vertretungsprofessur, W3)**, Chair of General Sociology (Prof. Dr. Frank Kalter), Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Mannheim, Germany
- 2010-2016 **Researcher and Assistant Lecturer**, Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)/Chair of General Sociology, University of Mannheim, Germany

Education

- 2016 **Doctor** of Social Sciences (summa cum laude), University of Mannheim, Germany
Committee: Frank Kalter, Clemens Kroneberg, Henning Hillmann
- 2010 **Magister** Sociology, Journalism, and Philosophy (grade: 1.1), University of Leipzig, Germany

Research Grants

- 1.496,538 € “The Interplay of Children’s and Parents’ Networks in Shaping Each Other’s Social Worlds” (ChiParNet), ERC Starting Grant (2023-2028)
- 493,895 € “Ethnic Composition, School Ideology, and Boundaries between Arabs and Jewish Students” (2020-2025), together with Yossi Shavit and Uri Shwed, German Research Foundation (DFG, [LE 3446/2-1](#))
- 455,934 € “Religion, Religiosity, and the Social-emotional Integration of Muslim Youth” (2018-2023), German Research Foundation (DFG, [LE 3446/1-1](#))

Research Interests

Social Networks, Intergroup Relations, Migration and Integration

Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Kretschmer, David, Kathrin Lämmermann, and Lars Leszczensky (2022). How Gendered Religious Norms Contribute to the Emerging Gender Gap in Muslim Youths' Interreligious Friendships. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, Accepted for Publication.
- Kretschmer, David and Lars Leszczensky (2022). In-group Bias or Out-group Reluctance? The Interplay of Gender and Religion in Creating Religious Friendship Segregation among Muslim Youth. *Social Forces*, 100: 1307-1332.
- Leszczensky, Lars and Tobias Wolbring (2022). How to Deal With Reverse Causality Using Panel Data? Recommendations for Researchers Based on a Simulation Study. *Sociological Methods & Research*, 22: 837-865.
- Leszczensky, Lars, Sebastian Pink, David Kretschmer, and Frank Kalter (2022). Studying Youth' Group Identities, Intergroup Relations, and Friendship Networks: The Friendship and Identity in School Data. *European Sociological Review*, 38: 493-506
- Leszczensky, Lars and David Kretschmer (2022). Religious Friendship Preferences of Muslim and Non-Muslim Students in German Schools: Bright Boundaries Everywhere or Contingent on the Proportion of Muslim Classmates? *Social Networks*, 68: 60-69.
- Kaiser, Anna, David Kretschmer, and Lars Leszczensky (2021). Social Network-based Cohorting to Reduce the Spread of SARS-CoV-2 in Secondary Schools: A Simulation Study in Classrooms of Four European Countries. *The Lancet Regional Health - Europe*, 8.
- Leszczensky, Lars and Sebastian Pink (2020). Are Birds of a Feather Praying Together? Assessing Friends' Influence on Muslim Youth' Religiosity in Germany. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 83: 251-271.
- Jugert, Philipp, Sebastian Pink, Fenella Fleischmann, and Lars Leszczensky (2020). Changes in Turkish- and Resettler-origin Adolescents' Acculturation Profiles of Identification: A Three-year Longitudinal Study from Germany. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 49: 2476-2494.
- Pink, Sebastian, David Kretschmer, and Lars Leszczensky (2020). Choice Modelling in Social Networks Using Stochastic Actor-Oriented Models. *Journal of Choice Modelling*, 34
- Leszczensky, Lars, Andreas Flache, and Lisa Sauter (2020). Does the Share of Religious Ingroup Members Affect How Important Religion is to Adolescents? Applying Optimal Distinctiveness Theory to Four European Countries. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 46: 3703-3721.
- Jugert, Philipp, Lars Leszczensky, and Sebastian Pink (2020). Differential Influence of Same- and Cross-Ethnic Friends on Ethnic-Racial Identity Development in Early Adolescence. *Child Development*, 91: 949-963.
- Leszczensky, Lars, Rahsaan Maxwell, and Erik Bleich (2020). What Factors Best Explain National Identification among Muslim Adolescents? Evidence from Four European Countries. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 46: 260-276.
- Leszczensky, Lars and Sebastian Pink (2019). What Drives Ethnic Homophily? A Relational Approach on How Ethnic Identification Moderates Preferences for Same-Ethnic Friends. *American Sociological Review*, 84: 394-419.
- Leszczensky, Lars, Philipp Jugert, and Sebastian Pink (2019). The Interplay of Group Identifications and Friendships: Evidence from Longitudinal Social Network Studies. *Journal of Social Issues*, 75: 460-485.
- Fleischmann, Fenella, Lars Leszczensky, and Sebastian Pink (2019). Identity Threat and Identity Multiplicity among Minority Youth: Longitudinal Relations of Perceived Discrimination with Ethnic, Religious and National Identification in Germany. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 58: 971-990.

- Leszczensky, Lars (2018). (K)eine Frage der Religion? Die Entwicklung der sozialen Integration christlicher und muslimischer Neuzuwanderer. *Zeitschrift für Soziologie*, 42: 119-133.
- Leszczensky, Lars (2018). Young Immigrants' Host Country Identification and their Friendships with Natives: Does Relative Group Size Matter? *Social Science Research*, 70: 163-175.
- Kretschmer, David, Lars Leszczensky, and Sebastian Pink (2018). Selection and Influence Processes in Academic Achievement - More Pronounced for Girls? *Social Networks*, 52: 251-260.
- Jugert, Philipp, Lars Leszczensky, and Sebastian Pink (2018). The Effects of Ethnic Minority Adolescents' Ethnic Self-Identification on Friendship Selection. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 28: 379-395.
- Leszczensky, Lars, Andreas Flache, Tobias Stark, and Anke Munniksma (2018). The Relation between Ethnic Classroom Composition and Adolescents' Ethnic Pride. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, 21: 997-1013.
- Leszczensky, Lars and Sebastian Pink (2017). Intra- and Inter-group Friendship Choices of Christian, Muslim, and Non-religious Youth in Germany. *European Sociological Review*, 33: 72-83.
- Stark, Tobias, Lars Leszczensky, and Sebastian Pink (2017). Are there Differences in Ethnic Majority and Minority Adolescents' Friendship Preferences and Social Influence with Regard to their Academic Achievement? *Zeitschrift für Erziehungswissenschaft*, 20: 475-498.
- Leszczensky, Lars, Tobias Stark, Andreas Flache, and Anke Munniksma (2016). Disentangling the Relationship between Young Immigrants' Host Country Identification and their Friendships with Natives. *Social Networks*, 44: 179-189.
- Schulz, Benjamin and Lars Leszczensky (2016). Native Friends and National Identification of Adolescent Immigrants in Germany: The Role of Ethnic Boundaries. *International Migration Review*, 50: 163-196.
- Leszczensky, Lars and Sebastian Pink (2015). Ethnic Segregation of Friendship Networks in School: Testing a Rational Choice Argument of Differences in Ethnic Homophily between Classroom- and Grade-Level Networks. *Social Networks*, 42: 18-26.
- Leszczensky, Lars and Aitana Gräbs Santiago (2015). The Development and Test of a Measure of Youth's Ethnic and National Identity. *Methods, Data, Analyses*, 9: 87-110.
- Leszczensky, Lars (2013). Do National Identification and Interethnic Friendships Affect One Another? A Longitudinal Test with Adolescents of Turkish Origin in Germany. *Social Science Research*, 42: 775-788.

Dissertation Thesis

Leszczensky, Lars (2016). Tell Me Who Your Friends Are? Disentangling the Interplay of Young Immigrants' Host Country Identification and Their Friendships with Natives. University of Mannheim.

* European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Prize for Best PhD Thesis 2017.

* Lorenz-von-Stein Prize for best dissertation in the School of Social Sciences, University of Mannheim.

Other Publications

Jugert, Philipp and Lars Leszczensky (2023). Friendships. In *Reference Module in Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Psychology*. Elsevier.

- Leszczensky, Lars and Tobias Stark (2019). Understanding the Causes and Consequences of Segregation in Youth's Friendship Networks: Opportunities and Challenges for Research. In Titzmann, Peter F. and Philipp Jugert (Eds.), *Youth in Superdiverse Societies: Growing up with Globalization, Diversity, and Acculturation* (pp. 233-248). London: Routledge.
- Carol, Sarah and Lars Leszczensky (2019). [Soziale Integration: Interethnische Freund- und Partnerschaften und ihre Determinanten](#). In Pickel, Gert, Oliver Decker, Steffen Kailitz, Antje Röder, Julia Schulze Wessel (Eds.), *Handbuch Integration*. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.
- Leszczensky, Lars, Harald Beier, Hanno Kruse, and Sebastian Pink (2016). [Collecting Network Panel Data in Schools: Practical Guidance Based on the Experiences of Three German Research Projects](#). MZES Working Paper Nr. 166, Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung, Mannheim.
- Leszczensky, Lars, Sebastian Pink, and Frank Kalter (2015). [Friendship and Identity in School. Field Report on Wave 1, Wave 2, and Wave 3 \(Technical Report\)](#). MZES Working Paper Nr. 161, Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung, Mannheim.
- Leszczensky, Lars and Aitana Gräbs Santiago (2014). [Ethnische und nationale Identität von Kindern und Jugendlichen](#). In Zusammenstellung sozialwissenschaftlicher Items und Skalen. Mannheim: GESIS - Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften.
- Leszczensky, Lars, and Aitana Gräbs Santiago (2014). [Die Messung ethnischer und nationaler Identität von Kindern und Jugendlichen](#). MZES Working Paper Nr. 155, Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung, Mannheim.

Awards

- 2022 Anatol-Rapoport-Prize of the Section "Modellbildung und Simulation" of the German Sociological Association (with David Kretschmer).
- 2018 Best Paper Award, Council for European Studies Immigration Research Network.
- 2017 Prize for Best PhD Thesis, European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR).
- 2017 Bojanovsky Research Award, University of Mannheim.
- 2017 Lorenz-von-Stein Prize (Best dissertation in the School of Social Sciences), University of Mannheim.
- 2015 Best Paper Award, Nachwuchspreis der Sektion für Netzwerkforschung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie (with Sebastian Pink).

Occasional Reviewer for Peer-Reviewed Journals

American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Child Development, Childhood, Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology, European Political Science Review, European Sociological Review, Frontiers in Sociology, Group Processes & Intergroup Relations, International Journal of Intercultural Relations, International Journal of Social Research Methodology, International Migration, International Migration Review, Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology, Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology, Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology, Journal of Early Adolescence, Journal of Educational Psychology, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies, Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, Journal of Social and Political Psychology, Journal of Youth Studies, Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie, Methods, Data, Analyses, Nature Human Behaviour, Network Science, PLOS ONE, Poetics, Review of Religious Research, Self and Identity, Social Forces, Social Networks, Social Psychology Quarterly, Social Science Research, Socio-Economic Review, Sociology of Education, Socius, Soziale Welt, Survey Research Methods, The Journal of Politics, Western European Politics, Zeitschrift für Erziehungswissenschaft

Reviewer for Funding Agencies

German Research Foundation (DFG), French National Research Agency (ANR), Icelandic Research Fund (IRF)

Invited Talks (Selection since 2016)

- 12/2023 “Using Stochastic Actor-Oriented Models to Examine Network Formation”, Explaining Macro Dynamics: On the Use of Empirically Calibrated Simulations in Social Sciences, Workshop at the Swedish Institute at Athens, organized by Martin Arvidsson, Selcan Mutgan, Peter Hedström, and Åsa Arnoldson.
- 10/2022 “Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis in Social Network Analysis”, Large Scale Data and Qualitative Research, Workshop at the University of Bremen, organized by Mario L. Small and Betina Hollstein.
- 10/2021 “The Interplay of Gender and Religion in Creating Religious Friendship Segregation among Muslim Youth”, Welfare, and Social Policy Seminar, Stockholm University, Sweden.
- 05/2021 “In-group Bias or Out-group Reluctance? The Role of Gender and Religion in Creating Religious Friendship Segregation among Muslim Youth”, Social Statistics Seminar, University of Manchester, England.
- 11/2020 “Religion, Religiosität und die sozial-identifikative Integration muslimischer Jugendlicher”, FG-Wednesday, German Center for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM), Berlin Germany.
- 03/2019 “Future Social Network Studies? Some Thoughts from a Sociological Perspective”, Future Social Network Studies: New Questions, New Data, New Methods, ETH Zurich, Switzerland.
- 10/2017 “Friendship Networks and Group Identities”, Seminar, Institute of Analytical Sociology, Linköping University, Sweden.
- 10/2017 “What Drives Ethnic Homophily?”, Forschungskolloquium Soziologie, University of Bern, Switzerland.
- 03/2016 “Religiosity and Friendship Choices of Christian, Muslim, and Non-Religious Adolescents in Germany”, Seminar, European Research Centre on Migration and Ethnic Relations (Ercomer), Utrecht University, The Netherlands.

Organized Sessions/Symposia

- 09/2019 “Intergroup Relations in Social Networks” (together with David Kretschmer, Hanno Kruse, Sebastian Pink and Tobias Stark), Session at the 4th European Conference on Social Networks (EUSN2019), ETH Zurich, Switzerland.
- 07/2018 “Intergroup Relations in Social Networks: Causes of Segregation” (together with Tobias Stark, Hanno Kruse and Sebastian Pink), Session at the Sunbelt 2018 Conference, Utrecht University, The Netherlands.
- 10/2017 “Social Networks and Intergroup Relations: New Questions and Challenges” (together with Hanno Kruse and Clemens Kroneberg), Session at the 3rd European Conference on Social Networks (EUSN2017), Johannes Gutenberg-University, Mainz, Germany.

- 07/2017 “Truly Relational: A Social Network Approach to Intergroup Relations” (together with Philipp Jugert), Symposium at the 18th General Meeting of the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP), University of Granada, Spain.

Conference Presentations (Selection since 2015)

- 11/2023 “Do Gendered Religious Norms Contribute to the Emerging Gender Gap in Muslim Youths Interreligious Friendships?”, Netzwerk für empirisch-analytische Sozialforschung zu Muslim:innen NAFS, Erlangen, Germany.
- 02/2023 “Gendered Mutual Evaluations of Young Muslims and Non-Muslims in Germany”, Annual Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, United States.
- 09/2022 “Beeinflusst muslimische Religiosität die Entstehung–oder das Ausbleiben–von Freundschaften zwischen muslimischen und nichtmuslimischen Jugendlichen?”, 42. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie, Bielefeld, Germany.
- 09/2018 “(K)eine Frage der Religion? Die Entwicklung der sozialen Integration christlicher und muslimischer Neuzuwanderer”, 39. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie, Göttingen, Germany.
- 03/2018 “What Factors Best Explain Adolescent European Muslims National Identification?”, 25th International Conference of Europeanists, Chicago, United States.
- 10/2017 “Kausale Inferenz mit Paneldaten. Eine Simulationsstudie zur Modellierung umgekehrter Kausalität”, Herbsttagung der Sektion Modellbildung und Simulation der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie, University of Kaiserslautern, Germany.
- 10/2017 “What Drives Ethnic Homophily?”, Third European Conference on Social Networks (EUSN2017), Johannes Gutenberg-University, Mainz, Germany.
- 06/2017 “Adolescents’ Ethnic Self-Identification and the Formation of Interethnic Friendships”, 10th Annual Meeting of the International Network of Analytical Sociologists, University of Oslo, Norway.
- 03/2017 “The Effects of Ethnic Minority Adolescents’ Ethnic Self-Identification on Friendship Selection”, ISA RC28 (Social Stratification and Mobility), Spring Meeting 2017, University of Cologne, Germany.
- 09/2016 “Henne oder Ei? Paneldaten und das Problem umgekehrter Kausalität”, 38. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie, University of Bamberg, Germany.
- 09/2016 “Intra- and Inter-group Friendship Choices of Christian, Muslim and Nonreligious Adolescents in Germany”, European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Conference, University of Oxford, England.
- 06/2016 “Are Friendship Choices of Immigrants and Natives Affected by Immigrants’ Host Country Identification? The Role of Relative Group Size”, 9th Annual Meeting of the International Network of Analytical Sociologists, Utrecht University, The Netherlands.
- 10/2015 “The Co-Evolution of Friendship Networks and Host Country Identification of Young Immigrants”, Herbsttagung der Sektion “Modellbildung und Simulation” der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie, University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany.
- 06/2015 “Ethnic Segregation of Friendship Networks in School”, 8th Annual Meeting of the International Network of Analytical Sociologists, Harvard University, USA.