

# From the first (1987-1988) to the most recent (2018) edition of POLPAN

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**Harmonized longitudinal data on social structure:  
Polish research in a cross-national perspective**

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NCN: Multidimensional Biographies and Social Structure: Poland 1988-2018  
(UMO-2017/25/B/HS6/02697)

## **Four main points**

- **Intellectual biography of POLPAN**
- **Where to find us: publications and data**
- **Methodological challenges**
- **Why POLPAN is relevant for today and the future**

## **Intellectual biography (1)**

### **Doing research in sociology in the last years of State Socialism in Poland**

Two distinct features:

- (1) Central planning and emphasis on the changes in the social structure and systems of values
- (2) Financial support of large, well-prepared projects

### **IFiS PAN and its role in conducting the large projects involving fieldwork**

- (1) Tradition of such studies and international collaboration
- (2) Infrastructure (strong network of interviewers)
- (3) Bureaucratic flexibility (possibility of forming goal-oriented teams)

## **Intellectual biography (2)**

**Initial team:** Kazimierz M. Slomczynski, Krystyna Janicka, Ireneusz Białocki, Henryk Domański, Bogdan W. Mach, Zbigniew Sawiński, Joanna Sikorska, Wojciech Zaborowski

### **Preparation for major project on social structure in Poland**

Proposal consultations in Poland & abroad (e.g. Walter Muller, Uli Mayer, John Goldthorpe, Donald Treiman)

Pilot study (random sample, N = 2000)

### **Conducting the main study on Social Structure and Mobility**

Target population: men & women aged 25-65

Sample drawn from good sampling frame

3 randomly assigned questionnaire versions with same core, to expand topic coverage

Achieved N = 5,817, with response rate at 72.4%.

### **Preparation of data and analyses**

## Intellectual biography (3)

**1989 Revolutions** → Interest in radical social change and idea of returning to the 1987-1988 respondents

Difficulty with funding under great inflation

**1993:** The panel study on sub-sample of 1987 respondents (N = 2,267)

**1998:** New wave, with renewal sample of the younger cohort.

Since 2008, in each POLPAN wave, the younger cohort is overrepresented.

## Intellectual biography (4)

- The Polish Panel Survey, POLPAN, currently features seven waves spaced five years apart  
1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013, 2018
- In all these years, the core of the questionnaire centers on individuals' placement in the social structure
- Each wave adds new survey items, reflecting team members' research interests.  
Particularity of POLPAN: features Nottingham Health Profile and Simplified Raven Test
- Relationship funding – innovation: Funding sources' low likelihood of financing panel studies (non-psychology) *per se* → design POLPAN wave-by-wave grant proposals around new substantive topics.

## Where to find us: Project description and data

- [polpan.org](http://polpan.org)
- I. Tomescu-Dubrow, K.M Slomczynski, Z. Sawiński, A. Kiersztyn, K. Janicka, D. Życzyńska-Ciołek, I. Wysmułek, M. Kotnarowski. 2021. “The Polish Panel Survey, POLPAN.” *European Sociological Review* <https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcab017>
- POPLAN data: Polish Archive of Social Data, and GESIS (selected waves),  
Harvard Dataverse (complete panel data 1988-2018)  
<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/harvard?q=polpan>

## POLPAN publications

- **Books: 11**, including 7 in English: 5 by IFiS Press, 1 by CEU Press, 1 by Springer.
- **Articles: 81**, including 61 in English: *Polish Sociological Review (19)*, *International Journal of Sociology (16)*, *ASK: Research & Methods (5)*
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- **Book chapters: 44**

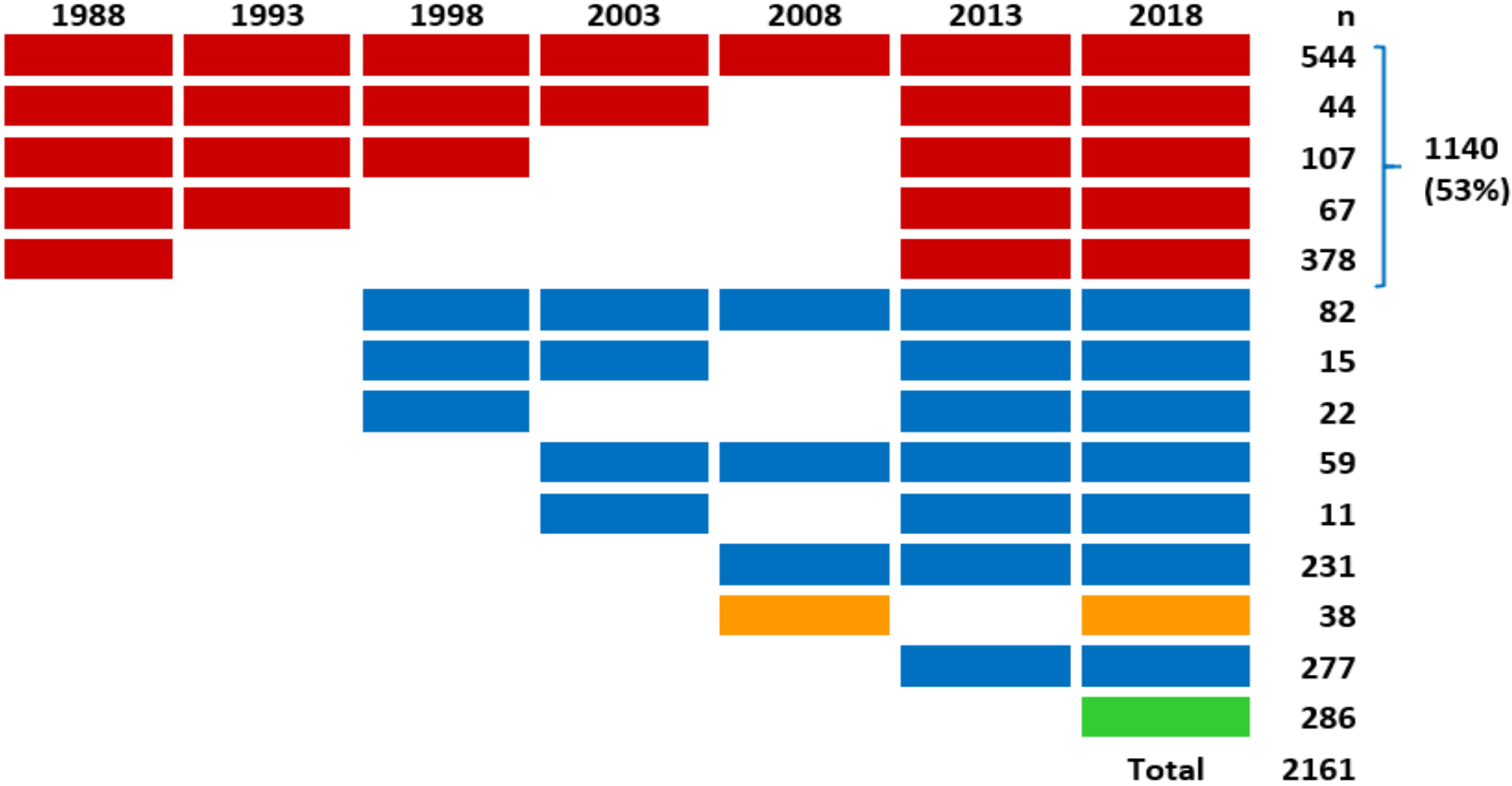


## **POLPAN waves as cross-sectional data**

Data for each 7 waves are representative for the population of specific age brackets:

- 1988 21-65 (N = 5,817)
- 1993 26-70 (N = 2,267)
- 1998 21-75 (N = 2,135)
- 2003 21-80 (N = 1,699)
- 2008 21-85 (N = 1,806) (weights needed)
- 2013 21-90 (N = 2,780) (weights needed)
- 2018 21-95 (N = 2,161) (weights needed)

# POPLAN 1987/1988-2018



## Methodological challenges: unbalanced panel data structure

What happened with missing cases (units)?

We should distinguish here between cases that (i) became invalid, and (ii) cases that potentially should be in our sample.

(i): death + permanent emigration + living in institution – usually eliminated from counting non-responses.

(ii): refusals and all other reasons which are accounted for as non-responses (according to WAPOR standard).

## Response rates for different POLPAN sub-samples, 2018

- Panel sample contains all 2013 respondents who agreed to be re-contacted, aged 26-95 in 2018 (N =1837). RR (panel 2013) = 74%
- Panel sample contains respondents first interviewed in 2008, but not re-interviewed in 2013 (N = 38). RR (panel 2008) = 23%
- Renewal sample covers young people, aged 21-25 in 2018 (N =286).  
RR (new cohort) = 54%

Age bracket	Age midpoint	Cohort C1,..., C15 = midpoint of 5-year bracket of years of birth						
86-90	88	X	X	X	X	X	C1=1925	C2=1930
81-85	83	X	X	X	X	C1=1925	C2=1930	C3=1935
76-80	78	X	X	X	C1=1925	C2=1930	C3=1935	C4=1940
71-75	73	X	X	C1=1925	C2=1930	C3=1935	C4=1940	C5=1945
66-70	68	X	C1=1925	C2=1930	C3=1935	C4=1940	C5=1945	C6=1950
61-65	63	C1=1925	C2=1930	C3=1935	C4=1940	C5=1945	C6=1950	C7=1955
56-60	58	C2=1930	C3=1935	C4=1940	C5=1945	C6=1950	C7=1955	C8=1960
51-55	53	C3=1935	C4=1940	C5=1945	C6=1950	C7=1955	C8=1960	C9=1965
46-50	48	C4=1940	C5=1945	C6=1950	C7=1955	C8=1960	C9=1965	C10=1970
41-45	43	C5=1945	C6=1950	C7=1955	C8=1960	C9=1965	C10=1970	C11=1975
36-40	38	C6=1950	C7=1955	C8=1960	C9=1965	C10=1970	C11=1975	C12=1980
31-35	33	C7=1955	C8=1960	C9=1965	C10=1970	C11=1975	C12=1980	C13=1985
26-30	28	C8=1960	C9=1965	C10=1970	C11=1975	C12=1980	C13=1985	C14=1990
21-25	23	C9=1965	X	C11=1975	C12=1980	C13=1985	C14=1990	C15=1995
Periods		1988	1993	1998	2003	2008	2013	2018

## Generations Defined by Demographic Cohorts, Historical Events, and Respondent Age

<b>Generation</b>	<b>Birth year</b>	<b>Experiential events (timing of)</b>	<b>Age at event</b>	<b>Age in 2018</b>
<b>Second World War</b>	<b>1923 - 1933</b>	<b>End of war, 1945</b>	<b>12 – 25</b>	<b>85 – 95</b>
<b>Socialist state</b>	<b>1934 - 1948</b>	<b>Events of 1968</b>	<b>20 – 34</b>	<b>70 – 84</b>
<b>Solidarity</b>	<b>1949 - 1960</b>	<b>Crash of Solidarity, 1981</b>	<b>21 – 32</b>	<b>58 – 69</b>
<b>Radical social change</b>	<b>1961 - 1971</b>	<b>Fall of communism, 1989</b>	<b>18 – 28</b>	<b>47 – 57</b>
<b>Post-communist</b>	<b>1972 - 1987</b>	<b>Stabilization, 1993; EU 2004</b>	<b>17 – 31</b>	<b>31 – 46</b>
<b>EU openness</b>	<b>1988 - 1997</b>	<b>Defeat of Civic Platform (PO) 2015</b>	<b>18 – 27</b>	<b>21 – 30</b>

Table. Period, Age, and Cohort (PAC) in the Polish Panel Survey, POLPAN, 1988-2018

Age bracket	Age midpoint	Cohort C1,..., C15 = midpoint of 5-year bracket of years of birth						
86-90	88	X	X	X	X	X	C1=1925	C2=1930
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<b>Periods</b>		<b>1988</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2018</b>

## Why POLPAN matters

(1) Allows to test predictive power of sociological models

Econometric approach to the data, where extrapolation from models including  $t_1$  and  $t_n$  can be tested on data for  $t_{n+1}$

(2) Provides ample materials on long-term trends, showing that some attitudes and opinions do not change very much through time.

These results are important for today and the future.



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Thank you, I will appreciate your questions