

Thomas Zimmermann

Contact Information

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Education

- 02/2018 – present PhD-Candidate at the Chair for Sociology with a Focus on Empirical Educational Research, Prof. Dr. Birgit Becker, Goethe University Frankfurt. Dissertation: *Social influence or rational calculus? The importance of information for an explanation of socially differentiated educational aspirations.*
- 08/2013 – 08/2017 PhD-Candidate at the Chair for Methods of Empirical Social Research, Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké, University of Kassel, Germany. Dissertation: *Formation, development and realization of educational aspirations and expectations of disadvantaged children and youth in Germany.*
- 06/2007 Diploma in Political Science, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main, Germany.
- 04/2007 First State Examination in Teaching German and Social Studies for Secondary and Upper Secondary Schools, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main, Germany.

Professional Positions

03/2018 – present	Research Assistant at the Chair for Sociology with a Focus on Empirical Educational Research, Prof. Dr. Birgit Becker, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.
10/2017 - present	Research Assistant at the Chair for Methods of Empirical Social Research, Dr. Bettina Langfeldt, University of Kassel, Germany.
03/2012 – 10/2017	Research Assistant at the Chair for Methods of Empirical Social Research, Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké, University of Kassel, Germany.
10/2011 – 02/2012	Research Assistant at the Chair of Sociology with a Special Focus on Longitudinal Educational Research, Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké, National Education Panel Study (NEPS), Otto-Friedrich-University of Bamberg, Germany.
10/2009 – 12/2009	Acting Director, Master of Education Program, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
10/2008 – 06/2015	Researcher, Education Research Unit (ERU), Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
04/2008 – 05/2011	Lecturer, Master of Education Program, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Research Projects

03/2012 – present	Research Assistant, <i>Social and Ethnic Inequalities in Educational Aspirations</i> (with Prof. Dr. Birgit Becker, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Germany and Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké, University of Kassel, Germany).
06/2011 – 06/2012	Research Scientist (Principal Co-Investigator), <i>Impacts of Privatization of Higher Education on the Training of Teachers in Cambodia</i> (with Prof. Dr. Yuto Kitamura, The University of Tokyo, Japan; Prof. Dr. James Williams, The George Washington University, United States).

- 04/2010 – 04/2015 Research Scientist (Principal Co-Investigator), *Staying in School: A Longitudinal Mixed Methods Study of Transition, Drop-outs, and Retention – Primary to Upper Secondary School in Cambodia* (with Prof. Dr. Yuto Kitamura (Principal Investigator), The University of Tokyo, Japan; Prof. Dr. James Williams, The George Washington University, United States; and Dr. Chhinh Sitha, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia).
- 06/2009 - 07/2009 Research Scientist (Principal Co-Investigator), *Strategic Planning Research for Room to Read, Cambodia* (with Dr. Chhinh Sitha (Principal Investigator), Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Dr. Nith Bunlay, Royal University of Phnom Penh).
- 10/2008 - 01/2009 Research Scientist (Principal Investigator and Team Leader), *UNESCO Teacher Training Review Project: Strengthening Teacher Training to Achieve Education for All* (Principal Co-Investigators: Dr. Chhinh Sitha, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Dr. Rath Chhang, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Sophea Hor, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia).

Professional Activities

- 06/2017 – 10/2017 Organization of the 3rd Kassel Summer School in Quantitative and Qualitative Methods, University of Kassel (together with Prof. Dr. Ulrich Hamm, Prof. Dr. Carsten Keller, Prof. Dr. Armin Kibele, Prof. Dr. Ulrike Tikvah Kissmann, Dr. Anna Kosmützky & Dr. Thomas Krikser).
- 10/2016 – present Member of the Competence Center for Empirical Research Methods at the University of Kassel.
- 09/2016 – 08/2017 Organization of the Lecture Series “Social-Scientific Research Methods”, University of Kassel (together with Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké).
- 06/2015 – 10/2015 Organization of the 2nd Kassel Summer School in Quantitative and Qualitative Methods, University of Kassel (together with Dr. Anna Kosmützky, Prof. Dr. Hans Peter Kuhn, Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké, Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Tuidier & Prof. Dr. Ralf Wagner).

06/2013 – 10/2013	Organization of the 1 st Kassel Summer School in Quantitative and Qualitative Methods in the Social Sciences, University of Kassel (together with Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké & Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Tuidler).
05/2010 – 05/2011	Member of the Master Regulation Development Working Group at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
04/2009 – 05/2011	Member of the Education Resource Center Steering Committee, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
02/2009 – 05/2011	Co-founder and Member of the Strategic Development Working Group, Master of Education Program, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
10/2008 – 06/2015	Co-founder and Member of Education Research Unit (ERU), Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
07/2008 – 05/2011	Member of the Academic Board, Master of Education Program, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Membership in Professional Associations

- Member of the International Sociological Association (ISA), Research Committee on Social Stratification (RC28), Research Committee on Logic and Methodology (RC33).

Teaching

04/2008 – present	<p><i>Determinants and consequences of educational aspirations</i>, bachelor course on the social science program, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.</p> <p><i>The Analysis of Social Contexts: Content- and Methods-Related Challenges in Data Collection and Data Analysis</i>, master course in the Sociology Program, University of Kassel, Germany (together with Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké).</p> <p><i>Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods as an Access to the Social World</i>, bachelor course in the Sociology Program, University of Kassel, Germany (together with Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké).</p>
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Empirical Research Methods in Social Science Research Practice, bachelor course in the Sociology Program, University of Kassel, Germany (together with Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké).

Multivariate Analysis with the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS), master course in the Sociology Program, University of Kassel, Germany (together with Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké).

Advanced Data Collection and Data Analysis Methods, master course in the Sociology Program, University of Kassel, Germany (together with Dr. Anna Kosmützky, Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké and Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Tuijder).

From Data Collection to Data Analysis: Methodological Approaches to Studying Social Phenomena, bachelor course in the Sociology Program, University of Kassel, Germany (together with Dr. Anna Kosmützky, Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké and Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Tuijder).

Educational Aspirations and Educational Success - bachelor course in the Sociology Program, University of Kassel, Germany.

Educational Winners and Losers – Applied Regression Techniques in Sociology of Education, bachelor course in the Sociology Program, University of Kassel, Germany (together with Dipl. Soz. Lisa Währisch).

Social Inequality and Social Capital, bachelor course in the Sociology Program, University of Kassel, Germany (together with Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké).

Methods of Empirical Social Research – intensive summer course in the Sociology Program, University of Kassel, Germany (together with Dipl. Soz. Daniel Klein)

Educational Inequalities in the Life Course II, empirical bachelor course in the Sociology Program, University of Kassel, Germany (together with Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké).

Educational Inequalities in the Life Course I, empirical bachelor course in the Sociology Program, University of Kassel, Germany (together with Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké).

Educational Inequality – Theoretical Implications and Empirical Results, bachelor course in the Sociology Program, University of Kassel, Germany (together with Prof. Dr. Volker Stocké).

Research Seminar II, seminar in the Master of Education Program, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Research Seminar I, seminar in the Master of Education Program, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Foundations of Education, graduate course in the Master of Education Program, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Awards / Grants

03/2015 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Travel Award for the Annual Meeting of the Comparative and International Education Society Annual Conference, Washington D.C., USA.

Further Training

07/2007 – 02/2008 Training in International Cooperation, Capacity Building International, Germany (InWEnt) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Publications

Peer reviewed journals / book chapter

Zimmermann, T. (2018). Die Bedeutung signifikanter Anderer für eine Erklärung Sozial Differenzierter Bildungsaspirationen. *Zeitschrift für Erziehungswissenschaften*, 21 (2), 339-360. DOI: 10.1007/s11618-017-0781-z

Zimmermann, T. & Williams, J. H. (2016). Does Students' Gender Matter? Parents' Educational Expectations and Their Determinants and Consequences in Explaining Students' Dropout in an Area in Cambodia. In: Y. Kitamura, D. B. Edwards Jr., S. Chhinn, & J. Williams (Eds.), *The political economy of schooling in Cambodia: Issues of quality and equity* (p. 123-142). Palgrave MacMillan.

Edwards Jr., D. B., Zimmermann, T., Chhinn, S., Williams, J., & Kitamura, Y. (2016). The Complexity of Continuation: A Narrative Perspective on Student Transition and Dropout from Primary to Lower Secondary School in Cambodia. In: Y. Kitamura, D. B. Edwards Jr., S. Chhinn, & J. Williams (Eds.), *The political economy of schooling in Cambodia: Issues of quality and equity* (p. 143-164). Palgrave MacMillan.

Williams, J. H., Kitamura, Y., Ogisu, T., & Zimmermann, T. (2016). Who Wants to Teach in Cambodia? In: Y. Kitamura, D. B. Edwards Jr., S. Chhinn, & J. Williams (Eds.), *The political economy of schooling in Cambodia: Issues of quality and equity* (p. 187-203). Palgrave MacMillan.

Edwards Jr., D. B., Zimmermann, T., Chhinn, S., Williams, J., & Kitamura, Y. (2014). Student retention and transition from primary to lower secondary school in Cambodia: Narrative insights into complex systems. *Prospects. Quarterly Review of Comparative Education*, 44, 367-380.

Working paper / reports

Williams, J. H., Kitamura, Y., & Zimmermann, T. (2012). Teacher education and privatization in Cambodia. (ESP Working Paper. Special Series in the Privatization of Education Initiative 2012 No. 45.) London: Open Society Foundation, Privatization in Education Research Initiative (PERI).

UNESCO (2009). Teacher Training Review Project: Strengthening Teacher Training to Achieve Education for All. Phnom Penh: UNESCO (Unpublished document written under contract with UNESCO, by Zimmermann, T., Chhinh, S., Hor, S, & Rath, C.).

Room to Read Cambodia (2009). Strategic Planning Research: Understanding the Operational Environment. Phnom Penh: Room to Read Cambodia (Unpublished document written under contract with Room to Read Cambodia by Chhinh, S., Zimmermann, T., Bunlay, N.).

Presentations

Zimmermann, T & Stocké, V. (2018). Inequality of Educational Aspirations: Social influence or rational choice? Paper presented at the Educational Inequality: Mechanisms and Institutions Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

- Zimmermann, T. (2017). Still an Open Question? Assessing the Causal Relationship between Students' Aspirations and School Success. Paper presented at the 7th Conference of the European Survey Research Association, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Zimmermann, T. (2016). Assessing the Causal Relationship between Students' Aspirations and School Success – a Comparison of Analytical Procedures. Paper presented at the 9th International Conference on Social Science Methodology, Leicester, England.
- Zimmermann, T. & Stocké; V. (2016). Inequality of Educational Aspirations: Social Influence or Rational Choice? Poster presented at ISA RC28 Summer Meeting, Bern, Switzerland.
- Zimmermann, T. & Williams, J. H. (2015). Does Students' Gender Matter? Parents' Educational Expectations and Their Determinants and Consequences in Explaining Students' Dropout in an Area in Cambodia. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Comparative and International Education Society Annual Conference, Hilton Hotel Washington D.C., United States of America.
- Chhinh, S., Edwards Jr., D, Williams, J. H., Kitamura, Y. and Zimmermann, T. (2014). Equity and Quality in Educational Decision-making: Results of a longitudinal study of 6th grade Cambodian students. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Comparative and International Education Society Annual Conference, Sheraton Centre Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Edwards Jr., D., Chhinh, S., Kitamura, Y., Williams, J. and Zimmermann, T. (2013). Student transition from primary to lower secondary school in Cambodia: Findings and implications from pupil and parent perspectives. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the 57th Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society, Hilton Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, LA.
- Zimmermann, T. (2013). Schooling or working? An empirical Test of the Breen and Goldthorpe Model in a provincial area of Cambodia. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the 57th Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society, Hilton Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, LA.
- Williams, J.H., Zimmermann, T., Edwards Jr., D., Chhinh, S. and Kitamura, Y. (2012). Gender and educational and career aspirations: First results of a longitudinal study of 6th grade Cambodian students. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the 56th Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society, Caribe Hilton, San Juan, Puerto Rico.