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Article

Felix Büchel Award

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Felix Büchel Award

A Prize for Excellence in SOEP Data Use in Memory of Felix Büchel

Felix Büchel, who passed away on July 12, 2004, at the age of 47, was not only a major long-time user of SOEP data and active supporter of the SOEP project. He also exhibited all of the qualities that SOEP users should ideally possess. Felix was an excellent scholar and serious policy advisor. His research focussed on issues of crucial economic and social importance, and he made effective use of the entire spectrum of possibilities SOEP data have to offer. His research was interdisciplinary, covering topics in education, labor markets, immigration, and income distribution. And he always made use of the longitudinal features of SOEP.

Felix was a great colleague and loyal friend; he showed true caring for others and a constant spirit of optimism. His death after a long battle with cancer was untimely, and leaves a void that will be very difficult to fill.

Felix was a tenured Senior Research Scientist (Forschungsgruppenleiter) at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development (Max-Planck-Institut für Bildungsforschung) in Berlin. He was a Professor of Economics (Adjunct Professorship) at the Technical University of Berlin, a Professor of Sociology (Honorary Professorship) at the Free University of Berlin, and a Research Professor for the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP) at DIW Berlin.

The Felix Büchel Award is dedicated to his memory. Every two years starting in 2006, the award will be granted to the one SOEP user who best demonstrates the qualities of excellence in scholarship that Felix exhibited by carrying out interdisciplinary longitudinal research, in many cases from a comparative perspective and situated in a national and international context. Felix published his results not only in renowned professional journals but in policy papers as well. His impressive publication record in international journals should offer a role model for future prize-winners to follow.

The committee for selecting the prize-winner will be comprised of representatives of the SOEP staff, and of both the Programme Committee for the bi-annual International Conference of SOEP Users and the SOEP Scientific User Committee.

The award is a 1000 € cash prize plus an invitation to the International Research Conference of SOEP users in Berlin, where the prize will be granted and the winner will be invited to give a keynote address.

Gert G. Wagner Joachim R. Frick Jürgen Schupp