

# The Bonn Longitudinal Study on Ageing (BOLSA) as an interdisciplinary research resource

## Origin / History

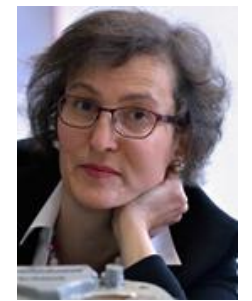
- Initiated in 1964/1965 by Hans Thomae and Ursula Lehr (University of Bonn), funded by VW foundation as a research project in psychology and medicine, continued funding (VW and DFG) until 1984
- Material (paper files and audio tapes) stored at the University of Heidelberg, recovered in 2014 by Christina von Hodenberg, transferred to Historisches Datenzentrum in Halle



Prof. Dr.  
Ursula Lehr



Prof. Dr.  
Hans Thomae



Prof. Dr.  
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## Study Design / Data

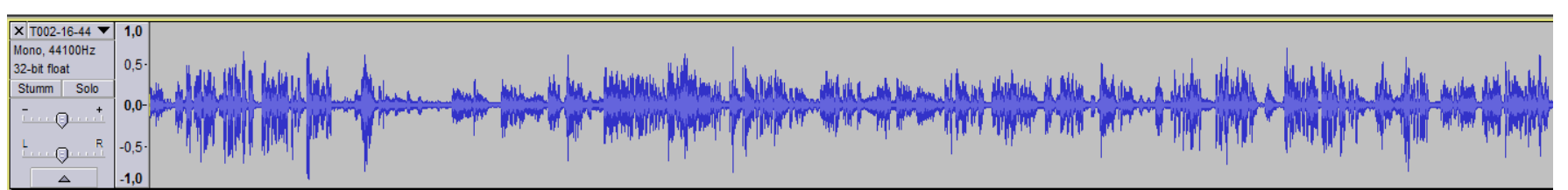
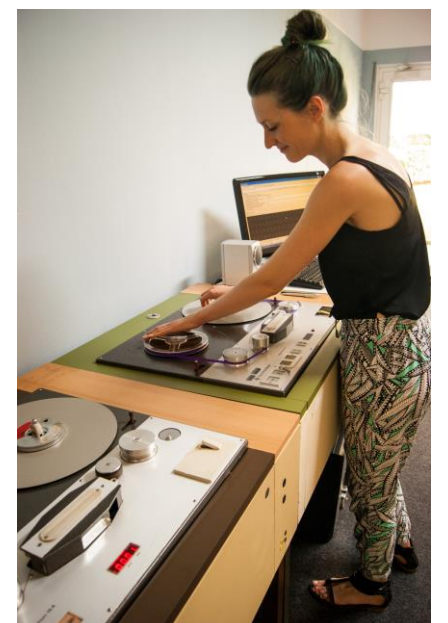
	1880-1885		1900-1905	
	♀	♂	♀	♂
1965	n≥50	n≥50	n≥50	n≥50
1966	n=202			
1967	n=184			
1969	n=146			
1972	n=121			
1976	n=81			
1980	n=52			
1984	n=34			

- Longitudinal Study – up to 8 examinations/subject, 2 cohorts, samples of min. 50 subjects/cohort + gender
- Psychological, medical examinations, field notes → Subject files, documents on methodological background, administrative Files, (correspondence, writing samples, photos)
- Semi-structured interviews → Reel-to-Reel audio tapes**
- Wide scope: „(personal) past, present and future“, recurring topics across interviews, 606 recordings remain, others lost, almost all by female speakers

013	INT	und da ist bei Ihnen unten alles äh alles äh ausgebrannt ja? <i>and all of this burned down, did it?</i>
014	M	ist alles verbrannt ja. <i>all burned down, yes.</i>
015		(0.85)
016	INT	also auch noch die/ nur der Keller <i>just the basement</i> oder auch noch die die unterste Etage mit? <i>or also the lowest floor?</i>
017	M	nein nur die Keller. <i>no just the basement</i>
018	INT	ah ja ((unverständlich)) <i>ah yes ((incomprehensible))</i>
019	M	nur die Keller auf der einen Seite. <i>just the basement on one side</i>
020	INT	mhm
021		(0.82)
022	M	ich meine <i>I mean</i> das ist natürlich nun wieder in Stand gesetzt worden. <i>that has been restored now.</i> aber die Kriminalpolizei – Sie können sich ja vorstellen <i>but the police you can imagine</i>

## Interdisciplinary Perspectives / Research Data Management

- Original publications in psychology, medicine, social gerontology
- New perspectives for history, social sciences (oral history, event analysis, gender studies, generational research)
- New perspectives for linguistics (language variation, language development in later life, comparative studies)
- Digitisation started, joint dissemination through Historisches Datenzentrum Sachsen-Anhalt, Archiv für Gesprochenes Deutsch, Service Centre eSciences Trier
- Use for research purposes for registered users through platform
- Challenge: no transcripts! – speech technology, crowd sourcing



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