

## Applying Sequence Analysis in the Social Sciences

*ViDSS International Workshop (Online)*

This two-day workshop delves into the practical application of sequence analysis for social science research. Sequence analysis, originally developed in biology and computational science, has attracted increasing attention in the social sciences for the analysis of longitudinal data. Most applications focus on life course processes, including labour market careers, transitions to adulthood, or family formation, but in the past few years the number of applications in other fields of the social sciences has been growing. Starting from the book “Sequence Analysis” (2023) by Marcel Raab and Emanuela Struffolino, the first day covers (1) a brief introduction to the method, (2) a step-by-step guide to its application and (3) recent methodological developments tailored at social science research questions. All methods are demonstrated with hands-on examples using R (TraMineR package among others). On the second day, the spotlight shifts to practical applications of sequence analysis, featuring works in progress by PhD students who are incorporating this method in their dissertations. This will allow students to discuss methodological challenges as well as approaches to overcome them based on practical examples in an interactive format. This workshop is specifically intended for students who are using (or are planning to use) sequence analysis to fully leverage its potential but is also open to those interested to learn more about the method.

**Lecturers:** Emanuela Struffolino (University of Milan) & Marcel Raab (ifb)

**Participants:** Student members of the Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences (ViDSS). If places are available, doctoral candidates in the Social Sciences who are not (yet) ViDSS members or doctoral candidates from other faculties/universities using sequence analysis in their PhD research can join. Doctoral candidates receive 2 ECTS upon participation. Postdoctoral researchers may apply but doctoral candidates will be prioritised.

**Dates:** Thursday, 16 May 2024 09:00–16:30  
Friday, 17 May 2024 09:00–14:30

**Format:** This workshop will be held online via Zoom.

**Capacity:** 15 participants

**Organisers:** Christina Siegert, Maria Köpping

**Application:** Please send an e-mail to [christina.siegert@univie.ac.at](mailto:christina.siegert@univie.ac.at), briefly mentioning your previous experience with Sequence Analysis, your motivation to participate in the workshop and whether or not you would like to present your own work in progress during the second day of the workshop. The deadline for applications is **Tuesday, 2 April, 23:59 CET**.

### Preliminary programme

Day 1	A brief introduction to Sequence Analysis A step-by-step guide to its application Recent developments
Day 2	Presentations and discussion: Work-in-progress PhD projects Q&A

**Suggested (but not compulsory) readings to prepare for the course**

Aisenbrey, S. and Fasang, A.E. (2010). New Life for Old Ideas: The 'Second Wave' of Sequence Analysis Bringing the 'Course' Back Into the Life Course. *Sociological Methods & Research* 38(3):420–462.

Billari, F.C. (2005). Life course analysis: two (complementary) cultures? Some reflections with examples from the analysis of the transition to adulthood. *Advances in Life Course Research* 10(5):261–281.

Liao, T. F., Bolano, D., Brzinsky-Fay, C., Cornwell, B., Fasang, A. E., Helske, S., Piccarreta, R., Raab, M., Ritschard, G., Struffolino, E., & Studer, M. (2022). Sequence analysis: Its past, present, and future. *Social Science Research*, 107:102772.

Raab, M., & Struffolino, E. (2023). *Sequence Analysis*. SAGE.