

# **Habilitation**

A collection of publications regarding

## **Research on Topics of Public Health Concern:**

**Performance-enhancing substance use and health promotion in  
specific populations**

Submitted by

**Pavel Dietz**

at the University of Graz

Graz, February 2017

**Summary**

## **Structure of this habilitation**

This habilitation is built up of *two* major topics. Both major topics are subdivided into two further topics respectively, and built up of *twelve* different single publications including eight peer-reviewed *journal articles*, one *book*, and three *chapters*. The first major topic focuses on performance-enhancing substance use. Here, **a)** exploring the prevalence of and predictors for performance-enhancing substance use, and **b)** the validation of the unrelated question model (UQM) – a type of the randomized response technique (RRT) - were picked out as central themes. The second major topic is on health promotion in specific populations with focus on **a)** physical activity in pregnancy and **b)** evaluation of the Kids-Clubs in Germany. The latter Kids-Club study was performed during my first postdoc period at the University of Mainz, Germany. The aim of this synopsis is to give some background information as well as a summary of the two major topics and its different research parts and to illustrate that the performed research is of public health relevance and contributes significantly to the international discussion concerning public health. Additionally, my contribution to all studies and publications used for this cumulative habilitation will be described in order to allow independent reviewing of this habilitation. I explicitly declare, that none of the used publications were part of my cumulative PhD-thesis which was built up of four peer-reviewed journal articles.

To keep it consistent through the whole text and to improve readability, this synopsis is written in American English. When male and female subjects were tested, I limited the descriptions to the male form ('his') instead of specifying both genders ('his/ her'). I explicitly declare that this was done only for the sake of readability and was free of any discrimination against women.

## **Aim of this habilitation**

The aim is to achieve the *venia docendi* for the discipline 'public health' at the University of Graz (according to § 103, 1 UG). With a considerable number of research projects and scientific publications, performed in collaboration with national and international partners from different disciplines (medicine, sociology, psychology, law, and politics), I want to demonstrate a wide range of expertise in the field of public health and its adjoining scientific disciplines. In addition, with the first major topic and its focus on performance-enhancing substance use, I want to illustrate the competence to independently further develop a previous project. Therefore, I picked up questions that appeared at the end of my PhD-projects, translated these questions into research hypotheses and performed studies to explore these hypotheses. Furthermore, with the second major topic and its sub-projects concerning health promotion in

specific populations, I want to show the qualification to burrow into and contribute to completely new projects in a, personally, new scientific field.

Additionally, using a variety of different research methods, I want to present a multifaceted repertoire of key skills which are obligatory for a researcher in the field of public health. These are for example the use of quantitative (online and paper-and-pencil surveys) and qualitative (semi-structured interviews and hermeneutic analyses) methods, subjective (self-report questionnaires) and objective (accelerometer devices and anthropometric measurement) instruments as well as different study designs (longitudinal, cross-sectional, observational, systematic review).

### **Authorship and contribution to each publication**

I am first author of seven, senior author of four and co-author of one publication. Each publication where I am listed as first author was primarily written by me with the support of the co-authors. With exception of the book written together with Prof. Antje Dresen (publication **eleven**), each publication where I am listed as senior author was primarily written by the responsible first author under my supervision and with my significant support. Prof. Antje Dresen and I contributed equally to the book. For publication **six** I am listed as co-author. This publication was primarily written by Prof. Hannes Schröter and Prof. Rolf Ulrich with my significant support including study design, data analysis, data interpretation, and manuscript preparation.