



ASYFAIR GERMANY DATA SET – READ ME

Research Study Name: ASYFAIR - Fair and consistent asylum adjudication? A critical, multi-methodological and interdisciplinary study of asylum court hearings in Europe

Depositors:

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Data Set: 3 files

- *ASYFAIR Germany Quantitative Data Set* (.xlsx file)
- *ASYFAIR Germany Quantitative Data Set Notes* (.xlsx file)
- *ASYFAIR Germany Quantitative Data Set Acronyms* (.xlsx file)

File: ASYFAIR Germany Quantitative Data Set (.xlsx)

Description of data: Quantitative dataset (in .xlsx format) of 270 court appeal hearings at German administrative courts. For each individual hearing (rows), 1,334 variables (columns) were recorded. Descriptions of each variable (columns) can be found in the separate file 'ASYFAIR Germany Qualitative Data Set Notes', and acronyms and/or abbreviations used in the data set can be found in the separate file 'ASYFAIR Germany Qualitative Data Set Acronyms'.

Data preparation: The study involved sensitive and personal data, which could compromise the research subjects and researcher. The shared data available here has been subject to a process of anonymization to minimise the risk to research subjects and researchers, whilst maintaining the integrity and utility of the data. Raw survey and ethnographic data has been removed from the data set, and data preparation involved careful consideration of direct and indirect identifiers in the data set.

Direct identifiers include case file numbers; exact dates and times of the hearings; court locations; court room numbers, the names and exact age of judges, legal representatives, government representatives and interpreters involved in hearings; and other personal details of participants. This information has been removed from the data set to prevent the identification of individuals or specific court cases.

Sensitive, case-specific information whose disclosure could pose a real risk of harm to individual asylum appellants, such as exact details about the asylum claim itself and the mental and/or physical health of the appellant, as well as free-text fields describing in detail various parties' behaviours in the court room, and verbatim quotes (e.g. exact 'ice-breaker' questions by judges) have also been removed from the data set.

Indirect identifiers included in the raw survey data that could be linked with publicly available information sources (such as court and verdict listings, etc.) and could enable identification of research subjects have been removed from the data set or edited in preparation for the shared data. For example, the exact start and ending times of hearings have been simplified to pre-defined 'times of the day' (morning, noon, afternoon, late). The editing of data maximised the potential for (re)use of the data set, but prevents the identification of individuals, and minimises the risk of deriving potentially harmful information from any case.

Usage of Data: Individuals who use the ASYFAIR data set, are requested to cite the data set made available here.

File: ASYFAIR Germany Quantitative Data Set Notes (.xlsx)

Description of data: The file contains our descriptions of each of the 1,334 variables (columns) in the data set. The notes also indicate where data has been removed (R), edited (E) or added (A); and all potential field options with individual descriptions (e.g. what does 'yes' for a specific variable mean). This allows individuals who want to use the data to maximise their understanding of the data set. The notes further include additional information on the variables that enhances the further understanding of why this data has been collected, such as how variables relate to the specific context of asylum appeal hearings at German administrative courts and German asylum and procedural law. They also contain information on the 'validity' of collected data (for example, participant's age brackets, attire or fatigue, depend on the researcher's subjective assessments). Parts of this information are based on the notes of the survey tool (*ASYFAIR Germany Pro Forma*).

Use of file: The descriptive notes can be used in conjunction with the file 'ASYFAIR Germany Quantitative Data Set'. Each of the 1,334 variables (columns) in the data set is referenced in the 1,334 rows in the data set notes file in exactly the same order. The field names in both files correspond with each other, and individuals using the files may use the 'search' function (keyboard command Ctrl+F or Cmd+F) to find the corresponding information.

File: ASYFAIR Germany Quantitative Data Set Acronyms (.xlsx)

Description of file: Acronyms and abbreviations used in the data set and notes files are listed in this document.

File: ASYFAIR Germany Pro Forma (.pdf)

Description of file: This Adobe Acrobat file (.pdf) is the original ASYFAIR survey tool of the data set. The survey tool was composed by ASYFAIR researchers following a pilot study at courts in early 2018, and builds on the previous work in the UK by the ASYFAIR's PI Dr. Nick Gill. The original .pdf file was editable, and completed electronically by the researcher, and the data from this survey tool was exported as a .xlsx file, and compiled in one .xlsx file, which was later analysed with the quantitative data mining software SPSS.

Use of file: The file has been amended from the editable version to an image file, and is therefore not editable. The file serves as an illustration for the survey tool, and allows individuals using the ASYFAIR data set to gain an insight into the ASYFAIR research tool used to create the available data set.