

Markus Klein

Professor of Human Development and Education Policy
Depute Head (Research), Strathclyde Institute of Education
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Research Profile

My research examines educational inequalities across the life course, with a particular focus on school absenteeism, child development, and long-term outcomes in education, labour markets, and wellbeing. I combine large-scale longitudinal and administrative data with advanced quantitative methods to identify mechanisms underlying inequalities and to inform policy.

Current Appointments

- Depute Head (Research), Strathclyde Institute of Education (2025–)
- Professor of Human Development and Education Policy, University of Strathclyde (2024–)

Previous Academic Positions

- Director of Research, University of Strathclyde (2023–2025)
- Reader (2022–2024); Senior Lecturer (2018–2022); Lecturer (2016–2018)
- Research Associate, University of Edinburgh (2013–2015)
- Research Fellow, University of Mannheim (2008–2013)

Education

- PhD in Sociology, University of Mannheim (2013)
- Diplom (MSc equivalent) in Social Sciences, University of Mannheim (2008)

Research Grants (Selected)

- PI, **Understanding School Attendance, Education, and Labour Market Outcomes**, Nuffield Foundation (£214,755), 2022–2024
- PI, **Social Inequalities in Educational Attainment: An investigation into the mediating role of school absenteeism**, ESRC (£201,551), 2018–2023
- Co-I, **Family SES and School Absenteeism**, ESRC (£86,000), 2023–2026
- Co-I, **Housing Inequalities and Child Wellbeing**, ESRC (£81,000), 2024–2027

Recent Publications

Full list available on Google Scholar

- Klein, M. and Kühhirt, M. (2025). Parental education and children’s cognitive development: A prospective approach. *Social Forces*, 2025, soaf146
- Dräger, J., Klein, M. and Sosu, E. (2025). Does the impact of pupil absences on achievement depend on their timing? *American Educational Research Journal*, 62 (5), 872-908
- Klein, M., and Sosu, E. (2025). School absences, academic achievement, and adolescents’ post-school destinations. *Oxford Review of Education*, 51(3), 339-356.

- Dräger, J., Klein, M., and Sosu, E. (2024). Trajectories of school absences across compulsory schooling and their impact on children’s academic achievement: an analysis based on linked longitudinal survey and school administrative data. *PloS One* 19 (8), e0306716
- Dräger, J., Klein, M., and Sosu, E. (2024). The long-term consequences of school absences for educational and labour market outcomes. *British Educational Research Journal*, 50(4), 1636-1654.
- Klein, M., and Sosu, E. (2024). School attendance and academic achievement: Understanding variation across family socioeconomic status. *Sociology of Education*, 97(1), 58-75.
- Barg, K. and Klein, M. (2024). Maternal occupation-specific skills and children’s cognitive development. *Sociology*, 58(1), 118-139.

Research Leadership and Roles

- Strathclyde Institute of Education REF2029 Lead
- ESRC Assessor College Member (2025–)
- OECD International Expert on School Attendance (2025–)
- Generation New Era - Member of ESRC Management Board (2025-)

Impact and Engagement

- Invited participant at DfE roundtable on school attendance (2025).
- Co-organised national school attendance events with policymakers and practitioners, including collaboration with Scottish Government and Education Scotland (2024).
- Research informed Scottish Government school attendance guidance and Ofsted inspection frameworks and training.
- Provided written evidence to the UK Parliament Education Committee and presented at the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Parental Participation in Education (2023).

Selected Invited Talks and Keynotes

- University of Cambridge (2026)
- DfE Economics Seminar (2026)
- Tusla Education Welfare Service Conference, Ireland (Keynote, 2025)
- OECD, Paris (Keynote, 2024)
- Nuffield Foundation, London (2024)
- Scottish Government Seminar Series (2023)

Editorial and Professional Service

- Editorial Board Member, *Sociology*, 2022-2025
- Reviewer for leading journals (e.g., American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, AERA Open)
- ESRC Peer Review College Member, Grant reviewer for Nuffield Foundation, Irish Research Council, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), Dutch Research Council (NWO), German Science Foundation (DFG), Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

Awards

- BERJ Editor’s Choice Award (Commended, 2017)
- Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research, (Nominee, 2019)