Do Male-Female Differences in Job Search vary with age?

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In the paper we reconsider the question whether women search longer than men for a job which can be consistent with explanations of differences in productivity or employer discrimination in a search equilibrium framework. For the empirical analysis we use data on displaced men and women from West German register data and employ duration analysis. We show that gender differences in unemployment durations vary with age; a finding that is not consistent with the theoretical predictions. Furthermore, it is only young women who search longer than comparable men. Finally, we show that in addition women exit slower during the first year. We discuss possible economic explanations of these results.