

# IAB-Colloquium

## zur Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung

### Just how feasible is using register data for career research?

*Amelia Román (OSA Institute for Labour Studies, Utrecht University),  
Jonathan Debeer (Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course  
Studies - CELLO, Antwerp University)*

The main question of this research is how administrative data can be utilized to understand the multi-dimensional aspects that affect individuals on their paths from initial education throughout their potential labour careers. We use German administrative register data from the Beschäftigten- und Leistungsempfänger-Historik (BLH) and IEB administrative registers started in 1975 in the former country of West Germany including all individuals covered by public social security contributions with the exception of civil servants and self-employed persons. Two methods are applied to analyze career patterns: the first is a data reduction clustering technique called Latent Class Analysis, and the second method is a kind of sequence analysis called Optimal Matching Analysis. Eight distinct career typologies result from our analyses. The administrative data prove to be a rich source for career path analysis and for building typologies, far more powerful than previous research using social survey panel data. However, without an essential link to social survey information including socio-economic status and wage, we are left guessing as to which types have more successful career paths and which types are destined for impoverished careers.

**Donnerstag, 17. September 09**  
13:00 Uhr

Sitzungssaal 126a