

IAB-Colloquium zur Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung

Societies' (un)equal treatment of the low skilled

Wiemer Salverda

University of Amsterdam

The incidence of low-wage jobs has been on the rise in many countries, particularly Germany and the Netherlands. Low earnings for the occupants of such jobs are increasingly combined with other problematic job characteristics such as contractual insecurity or a dwindling availability of full-time hours. Thus expansion and deterioration may have gone hand in hand at the lower end of the labour market. A drastic expansion of labour supply, particularly interested in part-time jobs (students, second earners) seems an important driver of these developments, enhancing overschooling in low-skill jobs.

Taken together these trends may also have generated negative external effects, affecting especially the employment perspectives of the low skilled – and thereby potentially also their position as citizens. Where these trends occurred government policy has often not opposed them; it may actually have stimulated them, plausibly with the good intention of providing people with jobs while perhaps also offering some income compensation. Interestingly, various other countries have not witnessed the same rise, such as Denmark or France.

**Mittwoch,
22. Juni 2011**

14:00 Uhr

Sitzungssaal 126a