

IAB-Colloquium

zur Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung

Einladung
18/2017

Negotiating transitions in precarious times: A longitudinal analysis of the impact of job insecurity on the lives of young people in Australia

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Job insecurity has become a major analytical focus for policy-makers and researchers working in the field of youth studies. Analysis about what job insecurity looks like and how to redress it inform everyday policy and research discourses and practices. This paper expands this analytical focus by examining what effect job insecurity has on young people in Australia. It moves beyond the binary focus on youth employment policy and research that concentrates on the distinction of job security and insecurity and neglects the impact on the multifaceted lives of young people. In this paper, we draw on a longitudinal mixed-methods study that collected data between 2006 and 2016 from young people making their post-school transitions in order to

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understand the effects of job insecurity. We focus on three waves (2007-2011-2016) of data to examine who is more likely to be in insecure work at the age of 28 and how insecure work affects various aspects of their lives. Our results show that insecure work is related to lower levels of physical and mental health; lower levels of autonomy; and less satisfaction with their jobs. We also examine the participants' comments on the effects of insecure work to develop a more nuanced understanding of the impact of precarious work on the lives of young people during the third decade of their lives.