

# IAB-Colloquium

zur Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung

Einladung  
21/2017

## „Family of origin, field of study and career progression. Inequality in graduates' occupational mobility“

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Research on stratification and mobility has consistently shown that there is a direct impact of social origin on occupational destination net of educational attainment. In the UK, we observe this effect even for the highest educated, i.e. graduates from tertiary education from higher social backgrounds obtain more favourable occupational positions than those from less advantaged backgrounds. However, only a few

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Regensburger Str. 100  
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studies applied a longitudinal and dynamic perspective on how individual's working careers are related to intergenerational mobility. In our paper we contribute to this research by looking at developments of inequality during the life course. We want to examine whether or not inequality decreases over time, remains stable or even increases over the life course. We further distinguish between graduates of different fields of study as we expect inequality to develop differently due to different initial occupational placement and upward mobility processes. Using data from the 1970 British cohort study (BCS70) we examine (1) social inequality in career progression of graduates from higher education (2) career development for different fields of study and (3) differences in social inequality between fields of study. We apply a growth curve analysis (GCA) allowing us to describe within- and between-individual occupational trajectories.