

BIBB-Kolloquium zur Berufsbildungsforschung

18.11.2024

14.00 Uhr, Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung, Bonn, Raum 1.3.25
(**Achtung:** ggf. aktuelle Änderungen im Intranet/Internet beachten)

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zum Thema:

***Understanding Differences in Career Inequality Between Workers
with Vocational and General Education***

The vocational decline hypothesis suggests that vocationally trained workers are advantaged in their early careers but disadvantaged later on compared to their generally trained counterparts. Numerous studies have investigated this hypothesis revealing mixed results and differences in the magnitude of the life-course trade-off. Two reasons likely contribute substantially to these inconsistencies: Differences in study design or operationalization and institutional variation between countries under study. In nations where vocational systems convey highly occupation-specific skills, the career trade-off should be more pronounced than in other countries. However, comparable evidence based on panel data to support this notion is lacking. This study leverages extensive household panel data from five countries—Australia, Germany, Korea, Switzerland, and the UK—to systematically compare employment trajectories between vocational and general graduates across countries under a unified analytic framework. Findings reveal a pronounced career trade-off only in Germany and only among workers with tertiary education. In other countries, differences in employment prospects over the career remain small. These results emphasize that future research on career inequality between workers with different education should extend beyond analyzing employment prospects to working conditions and job content.