

PLURALIZATION OF CAREER PATHS IN INTERDEPENDENT LIFE DOMAINS: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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New forms of social integration and career paths have emerged especially since the 1980s. They are associated with the diversification of family configurations and spatial mobility behaviors, as well as with labor markets deregulation, feminization of the labor force, and welfare states liberalization. Such pluralization undermines the predictability, stability, structure and collective determination of individual life courses. Increased flexibility associated with pluralization creates opportunities to specific individuals, groups, organizations and sectors as they provide alternative and disruptive pathways. However, pluralization also generates many structural constraints.

Through memberships in personal, social, and occupational networks, individuals are interactively embedded in various life domains, such as the family, work, and place of residence. The onset of specific life events or transitions (e.g. parenthood, separation, unemployment, occupational and spatial mobility, migration, retirement, illness) – or the absence thereof – often modifies this structural and relational dynamics at various systemic levels. In terms of social integration, such changes require adaptation to the shifting context, which brings with it multiple consequences. The direction and intensity of such shifts vary according to social and economic resources, intersect with social position, sex, age and race, which make individuals more or less vulnerable socially, economically or psychologically. Identifying patterns of stability and change in context, as well as understanding the multidimensional dynamic underlying their production, is a major challenge for contemporary sociology.

This workshop welcomes contributions focusing on the dynamic links between pluralization of career paths, life domains and specific risks and opportunities from a life course perspective. We especially invite contributions drawing on longitudinal data or life course-specific methodologies.