

La Soutenance de mémoire

Master en sciences sociales – *pilier migration et citoyenneté* – de

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**Variation in employment rates of provisionally admitted foreigners
across Swiss cantons and a comparison of their individual experiences**

aura lieu le

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à l'Institut SFM, Rue A.-L. Breguet 2, Neuchâtel, salle de cours 2.310

Directrice de mémoire : Anita Manatschal

Expert : Didier Ruedin

Résumé:

Foreigners with the F permit are provisionally admitted Switzerland and are disadvantaged in accessing the labour market, because of their uncertain status, lack of rights and resources. Also, they are assigned to a canton and are geographically limited. The focus of this master's thesis is the variation in the employment rates of provisionally admitted foreigners across Swiss cantons and their experiences in the labour market in the cantons of Zürich and Neuchâtel. The former comprises an examination on a structural level and the latter on an individual level. The second part is a complementary study to gain an additional cantonal comparison of provisionally admitted foreigners in the Swiss labour market with another perspective. Thus, a mixed-methods approach was used. The first part of the study is quantitative and includes statistical analyses of F permit holders' employment rates in relation to the cantonal GDP, the degree of urbanity and the strength of right-wing parties. These were based on theoretical considerations. Independent control variables were added. The results of the multivariate regression models indicate that rural and German-speaking cantons have a higher number of employed F permit holders. The focus of the second part was on the experiences of four provisionally admitted foreigners who were in search of employment in two cantons: Zürich and Neuchâtel.

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These differed in their employment rates of F permit holders, most-spoken language and degree of urbanity; the latter two were significant in the statistical analyses. Contrasts and similarities were found at the individual and cantonal level. All four interviewees had had short employment experiences, attended language and work-oriented courses, were advised and taught practical skills by a work coach and considered it impossible to find work without any help. The lack of recognizable qualifications and the F permit's characteristics were the main obstacles mentioned in terms of accessing the labour market. Also, employers and the public tend to be unfamiliar with the F permit. Finally, to them employment meant being occupied and increasing their probability of obtaining a permanent status. The participants from Neuchâtel considered acquaintances to be more important ties, while those from Zürich saw the work coach as the most important means of support in their job search. The former two were open to any occupation, whereas the participants from Zürich were pursuing one line of employment. Finally, the latter were older, had been residing in Switzerland longer and were living with their families. Generally, individual aspects were more decisive and dominant than cantonal factors regarding the access to the labour market.

On the one hand, in rural and German-speaking cantons F permit holders are more likely to find employment. On the other, their probability of a successful economic integration mainly depends on individual aspects.