

LABOUR TRAJECTORIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND SOCIAL NETWORKS: LONGITUDINAL APPROACH

Lídia YEPES
Mattia VACCHIANO

ABSTRACT

The objective is to analyze the relationship between trajectory of youngsters and social networks, in particular centred on social support as a strategy for job seekers to increase employability. Nowadays, in a moment especially difficult for young people, primarily affected by the economical and social crisis in Spain, the current research is focused on labour trajectories of young adults aged 20 to 34. Three elements have been identified which in interaction result in different patterns which we can analyse by establishing typologies. This can be linked with the increase of de-standardization and the importance of biographical elements to comprehend labour market pathways: the social background, the trajectory itself and, the personal network. Embedded in a life course perspective framework, the paper presents an exploratory analysis with the data collected by a mixed method surveys.

According with the research focus, labour trajectories are both conditioned by structural elements (such as the economy or institutions) and agency. One way to approach these limitations is by what we call 'accumulative advantage or disadvantage'. This approach argues that initial inequalities at the beginning of the trajectories tend to increase over time. The reason is the existence of a feedback process in which initial advantage's situations generate exponentially greater resources which make greater the difference between those with worse starting points. Therefore, the paper maintains as hypothesis that we will also find differences in the use of social support as a mechanism to enter in the labour market according to the social background the youngster have. Consequently, we can set up a typological comparison: as better starting position, the greater possibility to take more advantage of social networks likewise extend and used them. In this sense, the network is devised as a reflection of your own trajectory in which both dimensions keep an interdependence relationship.



Lidia Yepes - Centre d'Estudis Sociològics sobre la Vida Quotidiana i el Treball (QUIT), Institut d'Estudis del Treball (IET), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona | lidia.yepes@uab.cat

Mattia Vacchiano - Centre d'Estudis Sociològics sobre la Vida Quotidiana i el Treball (QUIT), Institut d'Estudis del Treball (IET), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona | mattia.vacchiano@uab.cat

ⁱ This paper is one of the outputs resulting from the research " Social networks as resources and mechanisms for job search and social support in young people", granted by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (Ref. CSO2012-36055).