

BIBB-Kolloquium zur Berufsbildungsforschung

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(Achtung: ggf. aktuelle Änderungen im Intranet/Internet beachten)

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zum Thema:

Effects of internal migration on the life satisfaction of apprentices

Spatial mobility can have far-reaching implications for individuals' life satisfaction trajectories. Previous research has mostly examined how spatial mobility influences the life satisfaction of middle-aged adults. Moreover, it has sometimes disregarded the influence of other important life events preceding, accompanying, or following spatial mobility. Consequently, its conclusions are not readily transferable to individuals in other life stages and their age-specific coupled life events. To narrow this research gap, we examine how migrating within Germany during the transition to vocational education and training (VET) influences the life satisfaction trajectories of apprentices. Using data from the German National Educational Panel Study (NEPS), we estimate fixed-effects panel regressions to deal with selection into VET-related migration. We find no general effect of VET-related migration on apprentices' life satisfaction beyond the substantially positive effect of entering VET. Moreover, the pre-migration VET opportunity structures do not moderate the effect of VET-related migration on life satisfaction. However, VET-related migration geared towards the attainment of higher-status (versus lower-status) occupations positively influences apprentices' life satisfaction in the short term. We observe the strongest positive effects of VET-related migration to urban (versus rural) regions. These results suggest that, beyond strictly VET-related factors, age-specific lifestyle factors, which become accessible by moving towards the amenities of urban regions, moderate the effects of internal migration on life satisfaction. Overall, our study illustrates the need to consider the specificity of life stages and coupled life events when analysing the effects of spatial mobility on life satisfaction.