

Title	Coping with Occupational Transitions
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Brief introduction	<p>The continuous evolution of the labour market in highly industrialized countries during recent decades has led to the experience of redundancy and unemployment by many people. Coping with career breaks does not inevitably result in a personal crisis including psychological damage for each individual experiencing them. Yet it must be emphasized that such an experience might lead to long-term unemployment especially for members of vulnerable groups, and this situation is often linked to the experience of social exclusion.</p> <p>The series discusses topics that look into the individual, organizational, and social-psychological effects of career transitions and the resulting risks of social exclusion. The focus lies on psychological unemployment research and intends to demonstrate the individual and societal costs of a mass unemployment that, in the meantime, has become widely accepted. Furthermore, the series draws attention to those indirect effects of the labour market crisis which manifest themselves as job insecurity and precarious working conditions. These effects can be characterized as the integration of social features of unemployment into employment itself. In a similar manner, questions of psychological coping with poverty and homelessness are discussed. An important point of reference is the program "Social Equity and Health" which was conceived by the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Eighties. It clarified the inter-relatedness of unemployment and its effect on health, and discussed possibilities of limiting this damaging influence by the application of various approaches to intervention. This program could also demonstrate the 'spread-off effects' that mass unemployment exerts on employees.</p> <p>The contributions to the series show perspectives for making it easier to cope with forced career changes in an increasingly unfathomable working world and thus help to reduce the developments of individual crises. To achieve this, the publications included in the series emphasize that both society and the individual are responsible for adjusting careers in the case of industrial and enterprise restructuring.</p> <p>The series "Psychology of Social Inequality" is directed toward psychologists, sociologists, educators, economists, and social workers who are confronted with the psychological effects of career transitions and social inequality in their scientific and practical work. Independent empirical studies are included as well as literature reviews and conference proceedings. Aside from theoretical discussions, the series also includes practical evaluations that examine the possibilities and limitations of intervention approaches in the areas of unemployment and working conditions.</p>