

Contents

Acknowledgements.....	3
List of tables.....	9
List of figures.....	11
1 Introduction.....	13
1.1 Background.....	13
1.2 Theoretical perspectives.....	16
1.2.1 The life course perspective.....	16
1.2.2 Micro level theories.....	19
1.3 Research questions and contributions.....	21
1.3.1 How did institutional settings and cultural preferences shape the family related employment interruptions of mothers in Germany in the past three decades?.....	21
1.3.2 To what extent can retrospective life course data provide reliable information on educational trajectories, employment histories and employment interruptions?.....	23
1.3.3 How important are job amenities, compared to wage offers, for the re-entry decisions of mothers?.....	24
1.4 Data and methods.....	25
1.5 Outline of the thesis.....	27
2 Educational attainment and family related employment interruptions in Germany: Do changing institutional settings matter?	29
2.1 Introduction.....	29
2.2 Previous research on employment interruptions.....	31
2.3 Institutional and structural changes in the German welfare state: Changed conditions for younger cohorts?.....	32
2.4 Theoretical considerations and hypotheses.....	35
2.5 Data, variables and method.....	37
2.5.1 Data.....	37
2.5.2 Dependent and independent variables.....	38

2.5.3	Method.....	41
2.6	Employment re-entry after family related employment interruptions – descriptive and multivariate results.....	42
2.7	Discussion and conclusions.....	49
3	Between familial imprinting and institutional regulation: Family related employment interruptions of women in East and West Germany and the GDR.....	51
3.1	Introduction.....	52
3.2	Institutional regulations in Germany and the GDR.....	53
3.2.1	Institutional regulations in the FRG and GDR before the German reunification.....	53
3.2.2	Institutional regulations in Germany after the reunification in 1990.....	54
3.2.3	Fathers and parental leave regulations.....	56
3.3	Employment and employment interruptions of women in Germany and the GDR.....	57
3.4	Attitudes towards the employment of mothers in East and West Germany.....	59
3.5	Theoretical background.....	61
3.5.1	Institutional regulations and cultural expectations.....	61
3.5.2	Family, education and welfare state systems as socialisation agencies.....	62
3.6	Data and methods.....	63
3.7	Family related employment interruptions in East and West Germany and the GDR.....	66
3.7.1	The duration of employment interruptions: West and East Germany in comparison.....	66
3.7.2	The duration of employment interruptions after the German reunification.....	68
3.7.3	Factors that influence return after family related employment interruptions: GDR and FRG in comparison.....	71
3.7.4	Factors that influence the duration of employment interruptions: GDR and FRG in comparison after the German reunification.....	73
3.8	The long road to uniform re-entry patterns.....	75

4	Improving retrospective life course data by combining modularised self-reports and event history calendar. Experiences from a large scale survey.....	79
4.1	Introduction.....	79
4.2	Previous research on recall differences.....	81
4.3	Theoretical background: The structure of autobiographical memory and memory pathways.....	83
4.3.1	Hierarchical pathways to stimulate top-down retrieval.....	84
4.3.2	Separate chronological time-lines to stimulate parallel recall	84
4.3.3	Sequential pathways to stimulate dating of episodes	84
4.3.4	Autobiographic memory retrieval problems.....	85
4.4	Stimulation of autobiographical memory: Combining modularised self-reports and event history calendars.....	85
4.4.1	Modularised self-reports as tool for data collection	86
4.4.2	Event history calendar as recall aid.....	88
4.5	Data, measurement, and empirical methods.....	90
4.6	Completeness and dating accuracy in ALWA	93
4.6.1	Completeness: Added episodes.....	93
4.6.1.1	Descriptive results.....	93
4.6.1.2	Influencing factors on adding episodes.....	95
4.6.2	Dating accuracy: Corrected episodes.....	99
4.6.2.1	Descriptive results.....	99
4.6.2.2	Influencing factors on correcting episodes.....	100
4.7	Discussion of the major findings.....	103
4.8	Conclusion.....	105
4.9	Appendix: Technical implementation: Design and technical features of the data revision tool	107
5	Does data editing really matter? The relevance of within and post-interview data editing in the IAB-ALWA study.....	111
5.1	Introduction.....	111
5.2	Data collection and editing in ALWA.....	112
5.2.1	First step – within-interview data collection and editing.....	112
5.2.2	Second step – post-interview data collection and editing	113

5.3	Empirical Part	115
5.3.1	The second step editing of parental leave episodes and periods of labour market inactivity – descriptive findings.....	115
5.3.2	How does data editing affect multivariate analyses?	118
5.4	Discussion and conclusion	122
6	It's not (all) about the money: What are prospective returners willing to accept for a job? Evidence from a factorial survey among mothers	125
6.1	Introduction	125
6.2	Previous research	127
6.3	Theoretical framework and hypotheses	129
6.4	Data and methods.....	133
6.4.1	Factorial survey data.....	133
6.4.2	Methodological aspects of the factorial survey	136
6.4.3	Analysing strategy	136
6.5	Results.....	139
6.5.1	Descriptive results.....	139
6.5.2	Model specification	140
6.5.3	Test of hypotheses	140
6.6	Conclusions and discussion.....	148
7	Summary and concluding remarks	151
7.1	Summary of the main findings and answers to research questions.....	151
7.2	Limitations of the thesis and suggestions for future research	153
8	Zusammenfassung auf Deutsch	155
	References	159