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Subject of the Contribution:

Atypical Employment:
Types of Employment Careers and Socio-economic Risks

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The increase of atypical employment relationships designates a change on the labour market which is associated with extensive uncertainty in regard to the standard of living and social integration. We already know a lot about forms of atypical employment and their determinants and outcomes. However, there is a lack of insight about the dynamics of employment careers that are shaped by atypical employment relationships. Until now, we still know only very little about how often an atypical employment is taken on and abandoned again during the course of an employment career and whether atypical employment occurs in a concentrated fashion during specific phases of employment histories. A picture of a given moment is also not sufficient to shed light on how risks and opportunities related to atypical employment are distributed. In order to address the socio-economic risks of atypical employment adequately, we need to consider the context of individual employment careers and their socio-economicand cohort specific embeddedness.

Therefore, our research questions are: how wide-spread is atypical employment in different phases of the employment career and can we distinguish specific employment career types? Are there socio-economic differences between these particular employment career types?And finally: what kind of a relationship exists between selected subjective and objective socio-economic risks (like low pay, fear of losing one's job, and loss of recognition) and different types of employment careers? To answer these questions, we will rely on data coming from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) from 2002 to 2011 and conduct sequence, cluster and regression analyses. In doing so, we will gain insight into the context-specific, biography and employment history related determinants of atypcial employment and their risks and opportunities.

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