ABSTRACT

The paper approaches inequalities in the labour market by looking at the role of social capital in job seeking processes. More specifically, this paper aims to analyse how the weak presence of young people in the labour market (in the form of unemployment and/or underemployment) at the beginning of their career path affects their relational resources for job-seeking. It merges the conceptual frames of social network analysis and the life course perspective in approaching the process of accumulation of disadvantages along labour career paths.

To do so, the ‘Personal networks of the youth in Barcelona’ survey was conducted. This survey, carried on in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona in 2014, interviewed 250 young adults (20-34 years old) following a quota sample strategy. In the personal network questionnaire used components of both quantitative and qualitative methodologies were included in one single data collection device. The data obtained has very rich information on the events that make up the interviewees’ labour trajectory, as well as on the structure and use of their personal network.

The results of the paper delve into the different ways in which social capital is built and mobilised in the labour market at different stages of an individual's labour career, looking specifically at: (1) The impact of (long-term) unemployment and precarity on young people’s process of creating and developing their personal network; (2) Its effect upon the ability of networks to produce returns in the labour market and its consequences for the development of the ensuing labour trajectory; (3) The social class differences on (1) and (2). By so doing, the paper explores the “relational side” of the ‘scarring effect’ of unemployment.
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We use data from the National Longitudinal Surveys to investigate the relative importance of family financial and human capital in the transition into self-employment. Specifically, we estimate the impacts of individual’s own wealth and human capital and parental wealth and self-employment experience on the probability that an individual transits from wage-salary to self-employment. We find young men’s own financial assets exert a statistically significant but quantitatively modest effect on the transition. Social capital may decrease with longer unemployment duration because social circles defined by work contact can decay when work contact ceases, or because being out of work is increasingly stigmatizing the longer a person cannot find new employment. That erosion of social capital means that the longer a worker is unemployed, the less likely he or she is to find a new job. Among long-term unemployed or underemployed workers in late 2011, 63 percent skipped dental visits, 56 percent put off needed health care, and 40 percent reported not filling a prescription, with each proportion roughly twice that for full-time workers.1. Declining Reemployment Wages. The negative effect of unemployment on later wages is well documented (Jacobson, LaLonde, and Sullivan 1993; Ruhm 1991). How this all affects the economy of both the region and the country as a whole is uncertain, however, cracks have begun to show recently as the Spain-Catalonia situation has escalated. It has been a tense few months in the lead up to and in the aftermath of Catalonia’s independence referendum that was held on 1 October. Both pro-independence separatist groups and pro-unity groups have taken to the streets of Barcelona on occasion to peacefully protest while both the Catalan and Spanish governments have volleyed shots back and forth at one another. Although Social inequality results from a society organized by hierarchies of class, race, and gender that unequally distributes access to resources and rights. It can manifest in a variety of ways, like income and wealth inequality, unequal access to education and cultural resources, and differential treatment by the police and judicial system, among others. Social inequality goes hand in hand with social stratification. Overview. Discrimination of an individual, community, and institutional levels is a major part of the process of reproducing social inequalities of race, class, gender, and sexuality. For example, women are systematically paid less than men for doing the same work. 2 Main Theories. There are two main views of social inequality within sociology.