

Summary

This doctoral thesis is presented as a series of publications titled “The Experience of Spatial Mobility and the Labour Market Situation of Young Adults: An Analysis of Career Paths and the Sense of Stability in the Labour Market”. It focuses on the impact of transnational (mainly intra-European Union) mobility on the professional situation and work stability of individuals born between 1984 and 1991. The analysis concerns a unique generation – the first generation in the modern history of Poland that has no recollection of the 1989 systemic transformation and whose adolescence coincided with Poland’s accession to the European Union, benefiting from the free international movement. While these people studied and gained higher education on a massive scale, there was an increasing trend toward work precarization.

Migration experiences profoundly impact young people’s lives, including their careers. However, the interplay between youth mobility and young adult biography remains largely unexplored. This doctoral thesis fills this research gap by integrating various sociological perspectives. It encompasses studies on youth, mobility and migration, and the labour market, highlighting the multifaceted nature of contemporary youth transitions, with a particular focus on transnational mobilities.

The subject of my research is the complex interplay between spatial mobility experiences and the life paths of young people, particularly their labour market situations. This examination is conducted from both objective and subjective standpoints, contextualized against the backdrop of neoliberal shifts in the work environment. The study is structured around three pivotal research questions: RQ1. How does international mobility influence career paths? RQ2. In what way (and why) do young adults perceive stability in the labour market today? and RQ3. What similarities and differences do young people perceive in how they and their parents understand work stability?

The findings are disseminated through articles, each offering insights into the mobility and labour market experiences of young adults.

- P1. Winogrodzka, D., & Grabowska, I. (2022). (Dis)ordered social sequences of mobile young adults: spatial, social and return mobilities. *Journal of Youth Studies*, 25(2), 242–258. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2020.1865526>.
- P2. Winogrodzka, D., & Sarnowska, J. (2019). Tranzycyjny efekt jojo w sekwencjach społecznych młodych migrantów [The transitional yo-yo effect in the social sequences of young migrants]. *Przegląd Socjologii Jakościowej*, 15(4), 130–153. <https://doi.org/10.18778/1733-8069.15.4.07>.
- P3. Winogrodzka, D., & Mleczo, I. (2019). Migracja płynna a prekaryzacja pracy. Przykłady doświadczeń zawodowych młodych migrantów z wybranych miast średniej wielkości w Polsce [Liquid migration and precarization of work. Examples of experiences of young migrants from selected medium-sized cities in Poland]. *Studia Migracyjne – Przegląd Polonijny*, 171, 85–106. <https://doi.org/10.4467/25444972smpp.19.004.10254>.
- P4. Winogrodzka, D. (2023). ‘Stability is a foggy concept’: work stability from the perspective of young people with mobility experiences. *Journal of Youth Studies*, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2023.2271843>.
- P5. Winogrodzka, D. (2023). „Nie jest to życie, które oni rozumieją, w ich mniemaniu moje życie jest bardzo niestabilne”. Młodzi dorośli o stabilności zawodowej własnej i swoich rodziców [“This is not a life they understand, they think my life is very unstable”: young adults about their own and their parents’ work stability]. *Przegląd Socjologii Jakościowej*, 19(4), 12–45. <https://doi.org/10.18778/1733-8069.19.4.02>.

This doctoral thesis enriches the scholarly discourse on young adults entering the labour market under conditions of mobility. Its notable contributions include a typology of mobile socio-professional sequences of young people (P1) with a complementary in-depth explanation of the transitional yo-yo effect in their educational and professional paths (P2) and the phenomenon of work precarization and its normalisation among migrant people (P3). Additionally, this thesis offers a novel typology of young people's perceptions of work stability (P4), supplemented by insights into their perceptions of their parents' views of this concept (P5).

The publications were prepared based on a rich set of empirical data collected during a qualitative longitudinal study involving young people aged 19–35 with diverse experiences of mobility. This research was part of the project „Education-to- domestic and- foreign labour market transitions of youth: The role of locality, peer group and new media” funded by the National Science Center, Poland, under the Sonata Bis 5 scheme (project no. 2015/18/E/HS6/00147) and conducted at the SWPS University (2016–2020), where I worked as a PhD research fellow. Further financial support for work on the publication series came from the project „INSIMO: Work (in)stability and spatial (im)mobility from the perspective of young people on the move. Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic” (2022–2024), funded by the National Science Center, Poland, in the Preludium 20 competition (project no. 2021/41/N/HS6/03681).