

International Interdisciplinary Conference Work, Age, Health and Employment - Evidence from Longitudinal Studies 19 - 21 September 2016 University of Wuppertal, Germany

Opening Presentation - Abstract

Paid work beyond pension age in Germany and the UK. Quantitative and qualitative evidence

Simone Scherger, Prof.

University of Bremen, Germany

More and more people are in paid employment although they already receive a pension and/or are in pension age. The presentation will discuss the questions of who is most likely to work past pension age, how this work is viewed by the older persons themselves, and which consequences it has with regard to life satisfaction. For this purpose, quantitative and qualitative evidence on this subject is reported, drawing from a project comparing Germany and the UK. The results indicate that there is a multiplicity of constellations of and motives for employment in pension age, and that the group of those who pursue such employment tends to be very selective: For example, men, those in better health, better educated people and the self-employed are more likely to work past pension age. On the whole, among the many motives for working, reasons such as enjoyment, the appreciation through work or the aim to keep fit and active are more important than financial reasons. With regard to the latter, it has to be differentiated between poverty and the wish to maintain a certain living standard. Finally, quantitative evidence suggests that the life satisfaction of most working pensioners does not change or improves after having started work again.