Labor market entry of Swiss sociology graduates at the master’s level

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Session on “The Labor Market of Sociologists – Structures, Trends, Perspectives”

Neuchâtel, September 10–12, 2019
1 Introduction

2 Data

3 Results
   • Labor market status
   • Sectors and types of occupations
   • Job characteristics
   • Occupational positions
   • Earnings
   • Correspondence between work and qualification
   • Overall success: achievement of occupational goals

4 Conclusions
Introduction

- The goal of this talk is to give a brief statistical overview of the labor market situation of graduates with a master’s degree in sociology from one of the Swiss universities.
- Since the available data have been collected about 5 years after graduation, only early careers can be studied.
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Data

- Data: Higher education graduates study of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO)
- Full census (but not all graduates participate in the surveys; using weights provided by the FSO to counterbalance attrition).
- Pooled analysis across all cohorts due to the small number of graduates.
Comparison groups

- Focus is on graduates holding a master’s degree in Sociology.
- They will be compared to graduates with a master’s degree (university only) in . . .
  - other social sciences (psychology, education, political science, communication, etc.)
  - economics (the FSO does not classify economics as social science, but it is)
  - history and culture sciences (philosophy, archeology, history, music, ethnology, etc.)

- Sample size:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other social sciences</td>
<td>4634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and culture</td>
<td>1845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7341</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

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Conclusions
Percent who are gainfully employed

- Sociology: 95%
- Other social sciences: 95%
- Economics: 95%
- History and culture: 90%

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Percent who are gainfully employed

- Sociology
- Other social sciences
- Economics
- History and culture

Male and female employment rates.
Percent who are unemployed

- Sociology: 0.5%
- Other social sciences: 3.0%
- Economics: 2.5%
- History and culture: 2.0%

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Percent who are unemployed

- Sociology: Male - female
- Other social sciences: Male - female
- Economics: Male - female
- History and culture: Male - female
Percent who are not active on the labor market

- Sociology: 6%
- Other social sciences: 4%
- Economics: 3%
- History and culture: 8%

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What are those doing who are not active on the labor market?

**sociology**

- household/kids: [bar graph]
- in education: [bar graph]
- other: [bar graph]

**other disciplines**

- household/kids: [bar graph]
- in education: [bar graph]
- other: [bar graph]
What are those doing who are not active on the labor market?

### sociology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<th>Female</th>
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<td>In Education</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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### other disciplines

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<td>Other</td>
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- Labor market status
- **Sectors and types of occupations**
- Job characteristics
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Conclusions
Where do people work?

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4 Conclusions
Percent who work part-time (<90%) (among gainfully employed)

- Sociology: 55%
- Other social sciences: 50%
- Economics: 25%
- History and culture: 60%

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Percent who work part-time (<90%) (among gainfully employed)

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Percent who work low part-time (< 50%) (among gainfully employed)

- Sociology
- Other social sciences
- Economics
- History and culture

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Percent with a temporary contract (among all employees)

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Percent with (some) managerial responsibility (among gainfully employed)

- Sociology: Male 40%, Female 35%
- Other Social Sciences: Male 38%, Female 33%
- Economics: Male 32%, Female 28%
- History and Culture: Male 30%, Female 26%

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Percent with budget responsibility (among all employees)

- Sociology: High percentage
- Other Social Sciences: Moderate percentage
- Economics: Lower percentage
- History and Culture: Similar to Economics

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Labor market entry of sociology graduates

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Median standardized yearly earnings (in 1000)

- Sociology: Male, Female
- Other Social Sciences: Male, Female
- Economics: Male
- History and Culture: Male, Female

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Job is adequate to respondent's qualification with respect to ...

- Position
- Tasks to be done
- Qualification requirement
- Earnings

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Percent who, so far, could (mostly) realize their occupational aspirations

(Unfortunately only asked people who are working.)
Percent who, so far, could (mostly) realize their occupational aspirations

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- Overall, sociologists do very well: labor market participation is high, unemployment low, earnings comparable to others, mostly professionals and managers.

- In terms of occupational position, sociologist even seem to outperform the other groups (high proportion with managerial or budget responsibility).

- Yet, in terms of how well they perceive their work as corresponding to their qualification, sociologists fare a bit worse than their peers from neighboring disciplines.

- Related to that, the proportion of sociologists who feel that they are on a successful path to realizing their career aspirations, is comparably low.