

## **The junior professors and their occupational Destination**

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In my dissertation project I focus on the junior professorship as a new career path in German academia. Drawing on survey data collected among current and former junior professors at all universities in Hesse, Rhineland-Palatinate, and Saarland, the goal of the study is twofold. First, the aim is to obtain reliable findings of this career path in general (especially with regard to the question: who becomes junior professor?). Second, I am interested in the occupational destination of the former junior professors (especially with regard to the question: who gets a full/tenured professorship after their junior professorship?). The German federal government fell short of their goal to create more than 6.000 positions. With 1.613 job holders in 2014, the junior professorship may still be regarded as an established academic career path. However, so far, reliable research findings on this new position in the German university labor market have been rare. Hence, in a first step of my dissertation, I will give general insights into the sociodemographic and academic background of junior professors. Building on these findings, the main analysis targets the occupational destination. Since the junior professorship qualifies for a full professorship straight away, I especially investigate the question which additional factors contribute to a successful appointment. The international state of research informs my study about potential success factors of scientific careers. Drawing on Bourdieu's field theory and his concept of capital, I integrated these factors into my model of analysis. The success factors can be distinguished as social capital (e.g. cooperation with renowned mentors), economic capital (e.g. endowment of the junior professorship), cultural capital (e.g. a habilitation in addition to the junior professorship), and symbolic capital (e.g. publications, prizes). In addition to that, the impact of gender and social origin will also be examined. The research questions sketched out above will be answered with the help of survey data. The primary data collection period ended in the beginning of 2016. My ambition for the survey was to reach every current and former junior professor at all universities in Hesse, Rhineland-Palatinate, and the Saarland (reference date: 01 June 2015). Knowing the total population enables me to detect a possible survivor bias in the data. For this reason, I conducted an extensive investigation previous to the survey. With the help of the universities, almost every former and current junior professor in the research field could be identified. Thanks to a multistage survey design, a response rate of 56 percent could be reached in the end. As a main instrument of analysis I will apply event history analysis to prove the impact of the success factors of scientific careers on a potential appointment after the junior professorship. In my presentation I will give further insights into my theoretically informed model of analysis as well as into the underlying data base. Furthermore, I will be able to present first results from the analysis.