

PERSONAL DETAILS

Aurélien Abrassart 29.12.1984
Universität Bern French nationality
Forschungsstelle für Bildungsökonomie Email: aurelien.abrassart@vwi.unibe.ch
Schanzeneckstrasse 1, 3001 Bern

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Education, skills and the related labour market outcomes
- The role of institutional settings such as welfare states, labour market regimes or educational systems in shaping social stratification in modern economies
- The “Matthew effect” or cumulative advantage in social policy
- Feedback effects in social policy
- Preferences for different types of education
- Occupational prestige ranking
- Differences in scholastic achievement and preferences for academic vs. vocational education by migration background and ethnicity

EDUCATION

PhD in administrative sciences

Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (IDHEAP),
University of Lausanne, Switzerland 2010-2013

Thesis title: Why are low-educated workers better off in some countries? Three essays on the link between skills, institutions and labour market outcomes.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Giuliano Bonoli

Brief Synopsis:

In all post-industrial societies, low-educated workers (below upper secondary education) experience an important disadvantage in the labour market, whether in terms of employment chances, occupational prestige or wages, as compared to their better educated counterparts. This disadvantage varies however greatly across countries. Furthermore, the conventional wisdom, according to which deregulating the labour market is the key to guaranteeing good employment chances for low-educated workers, has been invalidated by several notable studies. In this research, we explore new possibilities as to why the labour market situation of low-educated workers varies across post-industrial nations. By doing so, we first show that average levels of cognitive skills of the low-educated group are determinant for their employment chances in our knowledge-based economies. Second, inequalities in the occupational status differ greatly at the beginning of the career and tend to grow over time as a result of cumulative advantage mechanisms, although depending greatly on the features of the educational system and labour market policies. Last but not least, patterns of job displacement, whereby low-educated workers are crowded out of low skill jobs by better educated workers, significantly lower their employment chances.

Awarded the Prix de la faculté de droit, des sciences criminelles et d'administration publique de l'Université de Lausanne pour l'excellente qualité de sa thèse, et la nouveauté des pistes proposées.

Master of Arts (MA) in Public Management und Policy, Minor in Public Economics

IDHEAP, University of Lausanne 2007-2009
Dissertation title: Les inégalités dans les résultats scolaires entre natifs et immigrés en Suisse, leurs causes et les solutions potentielles
Grade : 5.5/6

**Licence Gestion, Economie, Droit et Sciences de la Société,
mention économie appliquée**
University of Paris-Dauphine, France 2005-2006

**Diplôme d'Études Universitaires Générales mathématiques, informatique et
applications, dans le domaine sciences et technologie**
University of Paris V, France 2003-2005

EMPLOYMENT

University of Bern, Centre for Research in Economics of Education, Bern, Switzerland
Postdoctoral researcher 80% 01.2017-today

Title of the research project: "A question of perspective: a study of occupational prestige ranking by type of education required and individuals' educational experience and political orientation in Switzerland". This project is conducted within the scope of the Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET) research funding programme. 01.2017-11.2019

Büro für arbeits- und sozialpolitische Studien BASS AG, Bern, Switzerland
Project manager and research associate 80% 03.2015-04.2017

**University of Konstanz, Chair of Political science, especially Policy Analysis and Political Theory,
Konstanz, Germany**
Postdoctoral researcher 100% 05.2013-03.2015

University of Lausanne, IDHEAP, Chair of Social Policy, Lausanne, Switzerland
PhD student 100% 09.2010-09.2013

- PhD thesis
- Consulting for diverse cantonal administration offices und institutions
- Teaching

Research assistant 100% 09.2009-08.2010

- Preparation of the PhD thesis
- Consulting for diverse cantonal administration offices und institutions

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany

Winter semester 2014

An Introduction to contemporary political sociology (advanced seminar)
Politik in der Schweiz (undergraduate seminar II)

Summer semester 2014

The Foundations and development of modern capitalism (advanced seminar)
New social risks and social investment (MA-Seminar)

Winter semester 2013-2014

The politics of Switzerland (advanced seminar)
Applied research methods: The political economy of labour market regimes (MA-Seminar)

Summer Semester 2013

Transformations of labour markets and inequalities (advanced seminar)
Human capital formation and social investment (MA-Seminar)

IDHEAP, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

Winter semester 2012-2013

Reforming the Welfare State: the Social Investment strategy with Prof. Dr. Giuliano Bonoli (MA-Seminar)

REVIEWS

Reviewer for the following Journals:

Acta Sociologica
European Societies
European Sociological Review
European Union Politics
Journal of European Social Policy
Socio-Economic Review
Work and Occupations

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Busemeyer, M., Abrassart, A. and Nezi, R. (*forthcoming*). Beyond positive and negative: New perspectives on feedback effects in public opinion on the welfare state. *British Journal of Political Science*.

Abrassart, A., Busemeyer, M. R., Cattaneo M. and Wolter, S. C. (2018). Do adult foreign residents prefer academic to vocational education? Evidence from a survey of public opinion in Switzerland. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, DOI: [10.1080/1369183X.2018.1517595](https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2018.1517595)

Bonoli, G. and Abrassart, A. (2015). Availability, cost or culture? Obstacles to Childcare Services for Low Income Families. *Journal of Social Policy*, 44(4), 787-806.

Abrassart, A. (2015). Low skill jobs or jobs for low-skilled workers. An analysis of the institutional determinants of the employment rates of low-educated workers in 19 OECD countries, 1997- 2010. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 25(2), 225-241.

Abrassart A. (2013). Cognitive Skills Matter: The Employment Disadvantage of Low-Educated Workers in Comparative Perspective. *European Sociological Review*, 29(4), 707-719.

NON-SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Strub, S., Abrassart, A., Bannwart, L. and Oesch, T. (2016). Analyse der Löhne von Frauen und Männern anhand der Lohnstrukturhebung 2012, im Auftrag des Bundesamtes für Statistik (BFS), Neuchâtel.

Abrassart, A., Guggenbühl, T. and Stutz, H. (2016). Evaluation des effets de la loi sur les prestations complémentaires cantonales pour les familles et les prestations cantonales de la rente-pont (LPCFam), sur mandat du Service des assurances sociales et de l'hébergement (SASH), Département de la santé et de l'action sociale (DSAS) du canton de Vaud.

Gehrig, M., Simion M. and Abrassart, A. (2015). Regulierungsfolgenabschätzung zum Tabakproduktegesetz, im Auftrag des Bundesamts für Gesundheit BAG.

Bonoli, G., Abrassart, A. et Schlanser, R. (2010). La politique tarifaire des réseaux d'accueil de jour des enfants dans le Canton de Vaud, Rapport de l'étude mandatée par la Fondation pour l'Accueil de Jour des Enfants (FAJE) du Canton de Vaud, IDHEAP, Lausanne.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Abrassart, A. and Wolter, S. Contestation of the social order depending on political orientation and party choice: evidence from a survey of public opinion in Switzerland. Paper prepared for the ECSR 2018 conference, Sciences Po, Paris, 29-31 October 2018.

Abrassart, A. and Palier, B. Understanding the movement of workers along the occupational structure following structural changes: application to the French case. Paper prepared for the ECSR 2018 conference, Sciences Po, Paris, 29-31 October 2018.

Abrassart, A. and Wolter, S. Investigating the image deficit of VET: occupational prestige ranking depending on the type of education and the skill content of occupations. Presently under review at the Journal of European Social Policy.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED (SELECTION)

ECPR General Conference

Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany 22.-25.08.2018

XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology

Facing an unequal world: challenges for global sociology
Yokohama, Japan 13.-19.07.2014

Assessing the social investment strategy

International Conference organised by IDHEAP, NCCR LIVES and the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland 10.-11.04.2014

21st International Conference of Europeanists

Resurrections
Organized by the Council for European Studies
Washington, D.C., USA 14.-16.03.2014

SASE 23rd Annual Conference

Transformations of Contemporary Capitalism: Actors, Institutions, Processes
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain 23.-25.06.2011

LANGUAGE AND IT SKILLS

French: Mother tongue
English: Fluent in speech and writing
German: Fluent in speech and writing
Swiss German: Very good knowledge of Züridütsch
Computer skills: Very good Knowledge of the MS Office programs (Word, Excel, and Power Point)
Excellent knowledge of Stata
Basic knowledge of SPSS and Eviews

INTERESTS

Sports: Swimming (member of the Masters 1 at Schwimmclub Winterthur), skiing and snowshoeing (member of the Skiclub Pfungen), playing and watching basketball

Other: going to concerts (rock, metal, hip-hop), enjoying a good book (mostly science-fiction, Beat Generation, and philosophical essays, e.g., from Nassim Nicholas Taleb), tasting craft beer