

## Research Project

### Educational Systems and Gendered Transitions from School into Vocational Training and Work (ESGT)

#### Third-party funded project

**Project title** Educational Systems and Gendered Transitions from School into Vocational Training and Work (ESGT)

**Principal Investigator(s)** [Imdorf, Christian](#) ;

**Project Members** [Wohlgemuth, Karin](#) ; [Schoch, Aline](#) ; [Cortesi, Sasha](#) ; [Hanbury, Hugo](#) ;

**Organisation / Research unit**

Departement Gesellschaftswissenschaften / Fachbereich Soziologie

Departement Gesellschaftswissenschaften / Sozialforschung und Methodologie (Bergman)

Departement Gesellschaftswissenschaften / Bildungssoziologie (Imdorf)

**Project start** 01.06.2011

**Probable end** 31.05.2015

**Status** Completed

**In the Swiss labor market, women and men often work in different occupations. This horizontal gender segregation results in unequal life chances in Switzerland. Gender segregation in education varies internationally and it is particularly evident in systems where vocational education and training is prominent; that is where students are under constraint to make major career choices early on such as in the Swiss education system. The wide variety of differentiated vocational education and training programs on offer allows youths to make gender-typical career choices. Because of the strong linkage of education and employment in Switzerland, these choices translate into different jobs for women and men later on.**

In spite of this important insight, we lack sufficient empirical research on the education system's role in creating a gender-segregated labor market. The terminated research program has addressed this research gap and it has investigated from an international comparative perspective how the Swiss education system affects gender relations in education and in the labor market.

It studies the Swiss education system as an institutional structure that shapes the close link between education and career aspirations early in life and positions in the labor market later on.

The project has delivered empirically grounded knowledge on how the institutional logics of the education system and its underlying educational policy contribute to gender segregation in the labor market. It provides policy makers with the knowledge needed to reduce gender inequality in education and employment.

Based on a sociologically informed understanding of education systems that incorporates gender as an analytical category, the project represents an innovative contribution to international transition research. Methodically, the project relies on regionally and internationally comparative case studies. The data sources used are the Swiss youth panel study TREE and various international youth surveys from Bulgaria, Canada, Germany and Norway.

The regional and international case studies on the relation between education system and gender segregation have been complemented by two separate dissertation projects. [Sasha Cortesi](#) has investigated the principles of recruitment and selection in general and vocational upper secondary in Switzerland. [Karin Wohlgemuth](#) has examined how young women and men make individual career decisions in the

light of the various education options offered by schools or vocational training programs.

## Contactă

Prof. Dr. Christian Imdorf, Institut für Soziologie, Leibniz Universität Hannover

## Recommendations for further reading

Bieri F, Imdorf C, Stoilova R, and Boyadjieva P (2016) [The Bulgarian educational system and gender segregation in the labour market](#). *European Societies* 18(2): 158–179 ([open access](#))

Heiniger M and Imdorf C (2018) [The role of vocational education in the transmission of gender segregation from education to employment: Switzerland and Bulgaria compared](#). *Journal of Labour Market Research* 52:15 ([open access](#))

Imdorf C, Sacchi S, Wohlgemuth K, Cortesi S, and Schoch A (2014) [How cantonal educational systems in Switzerland promote gender-typical school-to-work transitions](#). *Swiss Journal of Sociology* 40(2): 551–57 ([open access](#))

Imdorf C, Hegna K, Eberhard V, and Doray P (2015) [Educational Systems and Gender Segregation in Education: A Three-Country Comparison of Germany, Norway and Canada](#). In *Gender Segregation in Vocational Education*: 83–122. Emerald Group Publishing Limited ([open access](#))

Imdorf C, Hegna K, and Eberhard V (2016) [Geschlechtersegregation im Bildungssystem – Welche Rolle spielt die Berufsbildung?](#) *Berufsbildung in Wissenschaft und Praxis*, 45 (2). pp. 23-27 ([open access](#))

Imdorf C, Hegna K, Reisel, L (eds.)(2015) [Gender Segregation in Vocational Education](#). *Comparative Social Research* Vol. 31.

Kriesi I and Imdorf C (2019) *Gender Segregation in Education*. In: Becker R *Research Handbook on Sociology of Education*, Edward Elgar Publishing (forthcoming).

Wohlgemuth K, Schoch A, Imdorf C (2017) *Transitions sexuées de l'école à la l'enseignement post-obligatoire en Suisse*. In Buisson-Fenet H (Ed.) [École des filles, école des femmes : L'institution scolaire face aux parcours, normes et rôles professionnels sexués](#). Louvain-la-Neuve: De Boeck Supérieur, 43-56 ([Google Books](#))

**Keywords** Educational systems and organisations, education and work, school-to-work transition, gender segregation, Switzerland, international comparison, youth panels, case studies, school's recruitment of students, educational pathways

## Financed by

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

## Add publication

### Published results

454953, Leemann, Regula Julia; Imdorf, Christian, *Zum Zusammenhang von Geschlechterungleichheiten in Bildung, Beruf und Karriere : ein Ausblick*, 978-3-531-17288-0, *Geschlechtsspezifische Bildungsungleichheiten*, Publication: Book Item (Buchkap., Lexikonartikel, jur. Kommentierung, Beiträge in Sammelbänden etc.)

2424949, Imdorf, Christian; Sacchi, Stefan; Wohlgemuth, Karin; Cortesi, Sasha; Schoch, Aline, *How cantonal education systems in Switzerland promote gender-typical school-to-work transitions*, 0379-

- 3664, Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Soziologie / Swiss Journal of Sociology, Publication: JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)
- 2206825, Cortesi, Sasha; Imdorf, Christian, Le certificat fédéral de capacité en Suisse - Quelles significations sociales pour un diplôme hétérogène? = The Federal Diploma of Vocational Education and Training in Switzerland – Social significance of a heterogeneous certificate, 2265-7762, Cahiers de la recherche sur l'éducation et les savoirs, Publication: JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)
- 2206831, Imdorf, Christian, Lorsque les entreprises formatrices sélectionnent en fonction du genre. Le recrutement des apprenti(e)s dans le secteur de la réparation automobile en Suisse, 2105-2913, Revue française de pédagogie, Publication: JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)
- 1317170, Imdorf, Christian, Wenn Ausbildungsbetriebe Geschlecht auswählen : geschlechtsspezifische Lehrlingsselektion am Beispiel des Autogewerbes, 978-3-531-18487-6, Bildung – Arbeit – Erwachsenwerden, Publication: Book Item (Buchkap., Lexikonartikel, jur. Kommentierung, Beiträge in Sammelbänden etc.)
- 1384998, Buchholz, Sandra; Imdorf, Christian; Hupka-Brunner, Sandra; Blossfeld, Hans-Peter, Sind leistungsschwache Jugendliche tatsächlich nicht ausbildungsfähig? : eine Längsschnittanalyse zur beruflichen Qualifizierung von Jugendlichen mit geringen kognitiven Kompetenzen im Nachbarland Schweiz, 0023-2653, Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie, Publication: JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)
- 1924023, Leemann, Regula Julia; Imdorf, Christian; Gonon, Philipp; Rosenmund, Moritz, Change and Reforms in Educational Systems and Organizations, Publication: Edited Book (Herausgeber eines eigenständigen Buches)
- 1924040, Leemann, Regula Julia; Imdorf, Christian; Gonon, Philipp; Rosenmund, Moritz, Einführung zum Schwerpunktheft (Change and reforms in educational systems and organizations), 0379-3664, Swiss journal of sociology, JournalItem (Kommentare, Editorials, Rezensionen, Urteilsanmerk., etc. in einer wissensch. Zeitschr.
- 2737826, Imdorf, Christian; Hupka-Brunner, Sandra, Gender differences at labor market entry in Switzerland, 978-1-78471-502-1 ; 978-1-78471-503-8, Gender, Education and Employment: An International Comparison of School-to-Work Transitions, Publication: Book Item (Buchkap., Lexikonartikel, jur. Kommentierung, Beiträge in Sammelbänden etc.)
- 3227447, Imdorf, Christian; Hegna, Kristinn; Liza, Reisel, Gender Segregation in Vocational Education, 978-1-78560-347-1, Publication: Edited Book (Herausgeber eines eigenständigen Buches)
- 3227448, Imdorf, Christian; Hegna, Kristinn; Eberhard, Verena; Doray, Pierre, Educational systems and gender segregation in education: a three country comparison of Germany, Norway and Canada, 0195-6310, Comparative social research, Publication: JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)
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- 3399624, Wohlgemuth, Karin; Schoch, Aline; Imdorf, Christian, Transitions sexuées de l'école à l'enseignement post-obligatoire en Suisse, 978-2-8073-0567-0, Ecole des filles, école des femmes. L'institution scolaire face aux parcours, normes et rôles professionnels sexué, Publication: Book Item (Buchkap., Lexikonartikel, jur. Kommentierung, Beiträge in Sammelbänden etc.)

3766478, Wohlgemuth, Karin, Schule oder Berufsbildung? Übergänge in die nachobligatorische Bildung aus subjektiver und geschlechtsspezifischer Sicht in der Schweiz, Publication: Thesis (Dissertationen, Habilitationen)

4479625, Cortesi, Sasha, La formation en école à plein temps du secondaire II en Suisse : hétérogénéité institutionnelle et traditions de formation, Publication: Thesis (Dissertationen, Habilitationen)

**Add documents**

**Specify cooperation partners**

ID	Kreditinhaber	Kooperationspartner	Institution	Laufzeit - von	Laufzeit - bis
2350377	Imdorf, Christian	Eberhard, Verena	Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training	01.10.2013	31.12.2015
2350385	Imdorf, Christian	Doray, Pierre	Université du Québec à Montréal, CIRST	01.06.2012	31.12.2015
2383522	Imdorf, Christian	Hegna, Kristinn	Norwegian Social Research NOVA	01.08.2012	31.12.2015