

Aims and objectives

After the classical anthropological studies on rites de passage, transitions in the life course have been constantly on the research agenda since the 1980s. Flexibilisation of work, limitations of welfare states, changes of family structures and gender roles as well as longer life have contributed to a de-standardisation of the institutionalised life course. In consequence, transitions between life stages have become more uncertain and risky. For a long time, primarily transitions between youth and adulthood have been addressed. Increasingly, however, transitions from early childhood to very old age and with regard to diverse situations, institutions and spheres of life are in the focus.

Transition research has developed and diversified across different disciplines, epistemological interests and approaches as well as research methodologies. These developments have resulted in a research scenery which is difficult to be overlooked while there seems to be a theoretical deficit. Research seems to operate with different understandings of transitions which are rarely made explicit. In fact, the meaning of transitions seems to be so self-evident that theoretical clarification appears to be dispensable.

The aim of this conference is taking stock of concepts and controversies, findings and insights, perspectives and paradigms of transition research across the life course in the last three decades and to find common ground for theorising transitions. Key notes reflect on and present experiences from life course research, biographical analysis, developmental studies and from different disciplines, especially sociology, psychology and educational science. Cross-cutting to these overarching perspectives, recent research agendas on transitions in the distinct life stages childhood, youth, adulthood and old age will be reviewed and discussed.

The conference is part of the programme of the Research Training Group „Doing Transitions“ funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG; see www.doingtransitions.org). It focusses on the question *how* transitions in the life course emerge from social practices of formation and production on the levels of discourse, institutions and individuals. With this international conference, „Doing Transitions“ goes public. It invites researchers from different disciplines and gives young researchers the opportunity to build networks in the field.

Contact

Address of conference venue:

Goethe University Frankfurt am Main
Campus Westend, Building PA, Foyer
(no. 6 on the map)
Theodor-W.-Adorno-Platz 1
60323 Frankfurt am Main



Contact:

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Registration:

Due to limited places, please register until 20th of February 2017 under www.doingtransitions.org/ events (operative from 1st of January 2017)

DOING TRANSITIONS DOING TRANSITIONS DOING TRANSITIONS

Collaborative DFG-funded Research Training Group on
Forms of the Formation of Transitions in the Life Course

International Conference

TRANSITIONS IN THE LIFE COURSE

What do we know
and what does it mean?

Goethe University
Frankfurt am Main
26th–28th of April 2017

Programme

Wednesday, 26th of April

Welcome

- 14:00 Enrico Schleiff
Vice President, Goethe University Frankfurt
- Isabelle Diehm
Dean of Faculty of Education

Introduction

- 14:20 Barbara Stauber, *University of Tübingen*
Andreas Walther, *Goethe University Frankfurt*

Keynotes 1 & 2

- 15:00 Richard A. Settersten, *State University Oregon*: Flux: What science tells us about making transitions across the life course?
- 16:00 *Coffee break*
- 16:30 Karen Evans, *Institute of Education, London*: Researching youth and working life transitions in changing social landscapes
- 18:00 *City walk and dinner for invited speakers*

Thursday, 27th of April

Keynote 3

- 9:00 Bettina Dausien, *University of Vienna*: 'Biography' as a theoretical and methodological perspective in transition research
- 10:00 *Coffee break*

10:30 Parallel forums

Forum 1: Transitions in Childhood

- Pia Schober, *University of Tübingen*: Transitions into kindergarten
- Nadia Kutscher, *University of Vechta*: Transitions into primary school

Chaired by Sabine Andresen & Birgit Becker,
Goethe University Frankfurt

Forum 2: Transitions in Adulthood

- Daniela Grunow, *Goethe University Frankfurt*: Family transitions
- John Field, *University of Stirling*: Transitions in adult learning biographies
- Chaired by Christiane Hof, *Goethe University Frankfurt*, Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha, *University of Tübingen*

12:30 Lunch break

Keynote 4

- 14:00 Daniela Jopp, *University of Lausanne*: Developmental continuities and discontinuities across the life span
- 15:00 *Coffee break*
- 15:30 **Parallel forums**

Forum 3: Transitions in Youth and Young Adulthood

- Nora Gaupp, *German Youth Institute Munich*: Young people facing school-to-work-transitions
- Barbara Stauber, *University of Tübingen*,
Barbara Friebertshäuser, *Goethe University Frankfurt*: Youth transitions - rituals and practices in youth cultures

Chaired by Andreas Walther, *Goethe University Frankfurt*

Forum 4: Transitions in Old Age

- Ines Himmelsbach, *Catholic University of Applied Sciences Freiburg*: Transitions of health and (in)dependent living
- Nan Stevens, *VU University Amsterdam*: Partnership, Friendship and loneliness in transitions in later life
- Chaired by Frank Oswald and Insa Fookan,
Goethe University Frankfurt

Poster Session

- 17:30 Phd and postdoc projects in 'Doing Transitions' - with drinks and snacks
- 20:00 *Conference dinner for all participants*

Friday, 28th of April

Keynote 5

- 9:00 Ingrid Schoon, *Institute of Education, London*: Conceptualising transitions within a life-course framework. The role of structure, agency, and time
- 10:00 *Coffee break*

Panel Discussion

- 10:30 Lessons of transitions research – questions of and for 'Doing Transitions'
- Ingrid Schoon, *Institute of Education, London*,
Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha, *University of Tübingen*,
Birgit Becker, Frank Oswald,
Andreas Walther, *Goethe University Frankfurt*
- Chaired by Barbara Stauber, *University of Tübingen*,
Sabine Andresen, *Goethe University Frankfurt*

Wrap-Up and Looking Ahead

- 12:30 Petra Bauer, Markus Rieger-Ladich,
University of Tübingen