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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- PREFACE. Restructuring Work and the Life Course: Challenges for Comparative Research and Policy -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- 1. Work and the Life Course: A Cosmopolitan-Local Perspective / Heinz, Walter R. -- PART ONE. Education, Labour Market, and Transitions in the Working Life Course -- Introduction / Heinz, Walter R. -- 2. Youth, Transitions, and the New World of Work / Lowe, Graham S. -- 3. The Dutch Labour Market since 1971: Trends in Overeducation and Displacement / de Witte, Marco / Batenburg, Ronald -- 4. The Transition from Vocational Training to Employment in Germany: Does Region Matter? / Kühn, Thomas / Schaeper, Hildegard / Witzel, Andreas -- 5. Restructuring Work, Restructuring Gender: The Movement of Women into Non-traditional Occupations in Canada / Hughes, Karen D. -- 6. Contested Terrain: Women in German Research Organizations / Allmendinger, Jutta / Fuchs, Stefan / Stebut, Janina von / Wimbauer, Christine -- 7. Polarization of Working Time and Gender Differences: Reconciling Family and Work by Reducing Working Time of Men and Women / Tremblay, Diane-Gabrielle -- 8. Balancing

Employment and Family Lives: Changing Life-course Experiences of Men and Women in the European Union / Yeandle, Susan -- 9. Full Time or Part Time? The Contradictory Integration of the East German Female Labour Force in Unified Germany / Kreckel, Reinhard / Schenk, Sabine -- 10. Unemployment and Its Consequences for Mental Health / Avison, William R. -- 11. Family Turning-points and Career Transitions at Midlife / Carr, Deborah / Sheridan, Jennifer -- PART TWO. Later Life: Restructuring Work and the Transition from Employment to Retirement -- Introduction / Marshall, Victor W. / Verma, Anil -- 12. From Officers to Gentlemen: Army Generals and the Passage to Retirement / Dowd, James J. -- 13. Gender Differences in Transitions to Total-work Retirement / Stone, Leroy O. / Harvey, Andrew S. -- 14. Linking Technology, Work, and the Life Course: Findings from the NOVA Case Study / Chan, Donna C. / Marshall, Joanne G. / Marshall, Victor W. -- 15. Is There Life after Career Employment? Labour-market Experience of Early 'Retirees' / Singh, Gangaram / Verma, Anil -- 16. Downsizing and the Life-course Consequences of Job Loss: The Effect of Age and Gender on Employment and Income Security / Quadagno, Jill / MacPherson, David / Reid Keene, Jennifer / Parham, Lori -- 17. Generational and Life-course Patterns of Occupational Retrenchment and Retirement of South African Migrant Labourers / Oakley, Robin L. -- 18. Changing Working Patterns and the Public-Private Mix in Old-age Security: The Example of Germany / Schmähle, Winfried -- 19. Japan's Current Policy Focus on Longer Employment for Older People / Kimura, Takeshi / Oka, Masato -- 20. The Career Break as an Alternative to Early-exit Schemes / Simoens, Peter / Denys, Jan -- 21. Restructuring Work in an Aging America: What Role for Public Policy? / Rix, Sara E. -- PART THREE. Biography and Social Structure: Stability and Change -- Introduction / Krüger, Helga -- 22. Social Change in Two Generations: Employment Patterns and Their Costs for Family Life / Krüger, Helga -- 23. Reframing Careers: Work, Family, and Gender / Moen, Phyllis / Han, Shin-Kap -- 24. Children of the Gender Revolution: Some Theoretical Questions and Findings from the Field / Gerson, Kathleen -- 25. Engineers and the Western Canadian Oil Industry: Work and Life Changes in a Boom-and-bust Decade / Ranson, Gillian -- 26. Baby Boomers in Transition: Life-course Experiences of the 'Class of '73' / Aniseff, Paul / Axelrod, Paul -- 27. Becoming a Mother or a Worker: Structure and Agency in Young Adult Women's Accounts of Education, Training, Employment, and Partnership / Procter, Ian -- 28. Returning to Work after Childbirth: A Longitudinal Analysis of the Role of Qualifications in Mothers' Return to Paid Employment / Elliott, Jane / Dale, Angela / Egerton, Muriel -- 29. Reconstructing Life Courses: A Historical Perspective on Migrant Experiences / Hoerder, Dirk -- CONTRIBUTORS

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#### Sommario/riassunto

Major economic, technological and demographic forces are combining to influence the ways in which the very structures of people's lives are changed by the work they do. The major defining features of life course, including patterns of entry to and exit from work, are shifting, as is the very nature of jobs and careers. In this multidisciplinary collection of essays, forty-eight social scientists from seven countries examine changes in the organization of work and their impact on people at various stages of the life course. In seeking to consolidate and advance life course theory, the four editors of this volume have sought out and encouraged a wide range of approaches to life course theorizing, methodologies, and research designs. The contributing scholars examine the influence of economic, technological, and demographic forces on public, corporate, and union policies concerning the organisation of work. The topics covered include:

education, labour market change, and transitions in the earlier and middle stages of the working life course; later life transitions in relation to the restructuring of work, and retirement transitions; and various aspects of the relationship between individual biography and social structure, with close attention to gender and family issues over the life course.

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