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Reconciling Family and Work by Reducing Working Time of Men and Women / Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay ; 123 -- ; 8 Balancing Employment and Family Lives: Changing Life-course Experiences of Men and Women in the European Union / Susan Yeandle ; 142 -- ; 9 Full Time or Part Time? The Contradictory Integration of the East German Female Labour Force in Unified Germany / Reinhard Kreckel, Sabine Schenk ; 159 -- ; 10 Unemployment and Its Consequences for Mental Health / William R. Avison ; 177 -- ; 11 Family Turning-points and Career Transitions at Midlife / Deborah Carr, Jennifer Sheridan ; 201 -- ; Part 2 Later Life: Restructuring Work and the Transition from Employment to Retirement / Introduction by Victor W. Marshall, Anil Verma ; 229 -- ; 12 From Officers to Gentlemen: Army Generals and the Passage to Retirement / James J. Dowd ; 233 -- ; 13 Gender Differences in Transitions to Total-work Retirement / Leroy O. Stone, Andrew S. Harvey ; 258 -- ; 14 Linking Technology, Work, and the Life Course: Findings from the NOVA Case Study / Donna C. Chan, Joanne G. Marshall, Victor W. Marshall ; 270 -- ; 15 Is There Life after Career Employment? Labour-market Experience of Early 'Retirees' / Gangaram Singh, Anil Verma ; 288 -- ; 16 Downsizing and the Life-course Consequences of Job Loss: The Effect of Age and Gender on Employment and Income Security / Jill Quadagno, David MacPherson, Jennifer Reid Keene, Lori Parham ; 303 -- ; 17 Generational and Life-course Patterns of Occupational Retrenchment and Retirement of South African Migrant Labourers / Robin L. Oakley ; 319 -- ; 18 Changing Working Patterns and the Public-Private Mix in Old-age Security: The Example of Germany / Winfried Schmahl ; 332 -- ; 19 Japan's Current Policy Focus on Longer Employment for Older People / Takeshi Kimura, Masato Oka ; 348 -- ; 20 Career Break as an Alternative to Early-exit Schemes / Peter Simoens, Jan Denys ; 360 -- ; 21 Restructuring Work in an Aging America: What Role for Public Policy? / Sara E. Rix ; 375 -- ; Part 3 Biography and Social Structure: Stability and Change / Introduction by Helga Kruger ; 397 -- ; 22 Social Change in Two Generations: Employment Patterns and Their Costs for Family Life / Helga Kruger ; 401 -- ; 23 Reframing Careers: Work, Family, and Gender / Phyllis Moen, Shin-Kap Han ; 424 -- ; 24 Children of the Gender Revolution: Some Theoretical Questions and Findings from the Field / Kathleen Gerson ; 446 -- ; 25 Engineers and the Western Canadian Oil Industry: Work and Life Changes in a Boom-and-bust Decade / Gillian Ranson ; 462 -- ; 26 Baby Boomers in Transition: Life-course Experiences of the 'Class of '73' / Paul Anisef, Paul Axelrod ; 473 -- ; 27 Becoming a Mother or a Worker: Structure and Agency in Young Adult Women's Accounts of Education, Training, Employment, and Partnership / Ian Procter ; 489 -- ; 28 Returning to Work after Childbirth: A Longitudinal Analysis of the Role of Qualifications in Mothers' Return to Paid Employment / Jane Elliott, Angela Dale, Muriel Egerton ; 505 -- ; 29 Reconstructing Life Courses: A Historical Perspective on Migrant Experiences / Dirk Hoerder ; 525.

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.
