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SOEP 201210th International
German Socio-Economic Panel User Conference

Berlin, June 28 to 29, 2012

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www.sfb882.uni-bielefeld.deBielefeld, February 15th, 2012
Seite 1 von 2**Shall I help you my dear?****Examining variations in social support for career advancement within partnerships**

Strong gender inequalities persist in the career advancement of highly qualified men and women. Women are still underrepresented in managerial positions in both the private and the public sector of the economy. Vertical and horizontal dimensions of segregation, gender role beliefs as well as the public provision of welfare services provide explanations of gender inequalities. Much less is known about the social mechanisms at the inner couple level, however. Following the notion of linked lives, the paper investigates the provision of social support for career advancement within partnerships and at various stages of the occupational careers and family cycles. Is there evidence to suggest that social support for a partner's career is occupational career-specific? And are social networks for career advancement within partnerships systematically related to men's and women's occupations?

Using data from wave 23 (2006) of the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP) and considering highly qualified, homogenous dual-earner couples as units of analysis, the paper compares couples in different occupational fields and who work in occupations that are typical or atypical for their gender. In 2006 information about the persons who support advancement in career or educational training and fosters the progress has been collected for the first time.

The empirical analysis controls for individual qualification, characteristics of career development and current job of both partners and relate these to each other. Family-related variables and regional differences are also taken into account. The results of the analysis, though cross-sectional, give some first insights into inner couple social support patterns. The paper also debates on some important flaws of the empirical analysis, reveals that

further longitudinal data are required and expresses various suggestions for future research following the next data release in 2012.

– Dr. Katrin Golsch & Andrea Zochert –