

Paper presented at the WELLCHI Network Conference 2

Well-being of children and labour markets in Europe
Different kinds of risks resulting from various structures and changes in the labour markets

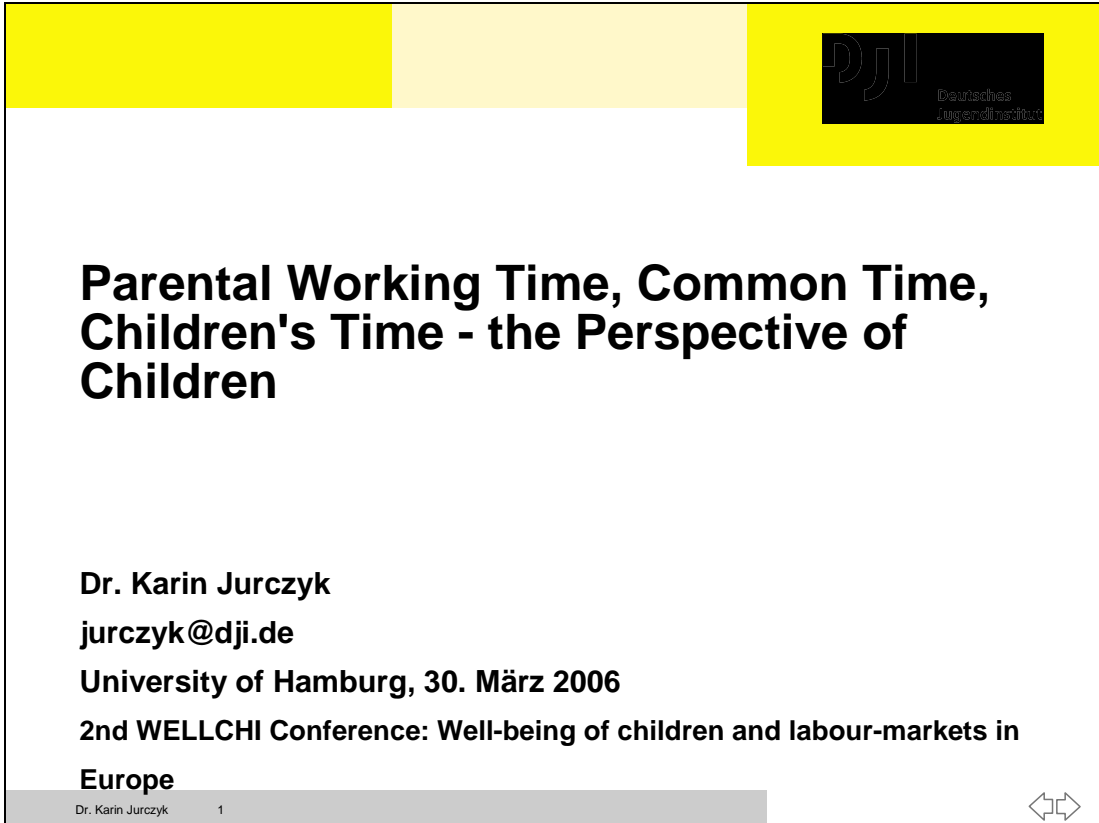
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Parental Working Time, Common Time, Children's Time – the Perspective of Children

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Slide 1

The slide features a yellow header bar at the top. On the right side of this bar is the logo for the German Youth Institute (DJI), which consists of the letters 'DJI' in a stylized font above the text 'Deutsches Jugendinstitut'. The main body of the slide is white and contains the following text:

**Parental Working Time, Common Time,
Children's Time - the Perspective of
Children**

Dr. Karin Jurczyk
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University of Hamburg, 30. März 2006
**2nd WELLCHI Conference: Well-being of children and labour-markets in
Europe**



At the bottom left, there is a small grey box containing the text 'Dr. Karin Jurczyk' and the number '1'. At the bottom right, there is a small icon of two arrows pointing in opposite directions.



1. Postfordist Changes of Society

- Changing connections between childhood, family and professional life
- Blurring boundaries
- Children's time with parents: an ideological discourse
- Working-life and children's wellbeing: a non deterministic relation


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2. Parental Working Time

- Men working longer becoming fathers
- Rising motherly employment rates
- Part-time as „Mommie Track“
- The working-time gap between men and women
- Real and desired parental employment patterns
- Flexibilisation

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Table 1: Actively employed women as a percentage of women aged 15–64 (2003)

	East Germany	Percentage change 1996 – 2000	West Germany	Percentage change 1996 – 2000
Women with children	69.4	-0,3	59.4	+9.4
Of whom: youngest child aged				
< 3 years	43.4	+9.9	29.7	+4.1
3–5 years	66.0	+0.6	55.2	+8.4
6–14 years	73.5	-4.2	68.8	+6.7

Source: Engstler and Menning 2003: 107; own presentation.

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Table 2: Real and desired parental employment patterns with children below the age of six (in per cent, Germany 1998)

	REAL EMPLOYMENT PATTERN	DESIRED EMPLOYMENT PATTERN
Man works full-time; woman works full-time	15.7	32.0
Man works full-time; woman works part-time	23.1	42.9
Man works full-time; woman has no gainful employment	52.3	5.7
Other situations	8.9	19.4

Source: Bertelsmann 2002: 25.


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Employees in non-standard working time (2003)

- regular shift and night work (16 %)
- weekend work (13 % on Sundays, 32 % on Saturdays)
- regular overtime (54 %)
- part-time work (24 %, of which 87 % are women)
- flexi-time (50 % of which 18 % are operationally regulated, 32 % self regulated)
- working time accounts (41 %), e.g. block leisure time and sabbaticals


Source: Bauer et.al. 2004.


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2. Increasing risks or chances for children?

- No reduction of common time in general
- Two groups with time-famine
- Many parents with time-squeeze: lack in the quality of time
- Transition to Postfordism: Mismatch of institutions
- Ambivalences of flexibilisation



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3. Children's Perspectives on their Parents' Work

- The Galinsky-Polatnick-Debate in USA
- Six results from the new sociology of childhood


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Six results from the new sociology of childhood

- 1. Children as competent reporters
- 2. Different needs, reliability as priority
- 3. Subtle perception of parental working conditions
- 4. Appreciation of combined parental care-engagement
- 5. Need for company in special times
- 6. Plea for autonomy

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4. Conclusion

- Working-time data: tendency to focus on risks
- Children look different: Clear demands
- Age as a crucial dimension of needs
- The myth of quality time
- Elements of well-being
- Discourse on the ideas of „good“ childhood
- Confined knowledge