**Borders and prospects for Job Quality:  
Mother/daughter relationship in the context of Israeli class/ethno-national exclusions**

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**Abstract**

In recent years, with the increase in youth and young adults prolonged unemployment and with low quality service jobs expected to occupy larger time spans in their work histories, it became known that there exist a great gender and class divide in the routes young people take. For many working-class girls the prospects are of doing what girls always have – caring, catering, cashiering, cleaning in low pay low quality jobs. The borders between low and better job quality for girls from stigmatized communities are more solid than ever. Gonik has offered the observation that middle class mothers are able to provide their daughters with forms of assistance which working class mothers remain unable to. So far little research has investigated the type of assistance working class mothers need to receive so that educators enhance their ability to assist their daughters in negotiating and eventually crossing the border between low and better job quality. As a primary step in the exploration of this understudied field, I raise two empirical questions: what form of support and resources do working class mothers provide their daughters with? And, how such resources may improve their daughters’ prospects for jobs of a better quality? I have so far conducted 10 pilot semi-structured interviews with mothers on these issues and analyzed them for themes related to social capital: using their own ‘bridging’ relationships to support their daughters’ occupational development. My ‘in progress’ analysis shows that one additional sets of borders must be analytically crossed, in the examination of the proposed research questions: the borders preventing working class mothers from using relationship in their communities in bridging ways. The study examined how working class mothers manage to pursue such border crossing with their daughters and what are the barriers blocking their ability to cross them. I further discuss the implication of mothers’ action for creating an intervention that is based on critical awareness and border crossing.