

Preface

Not many people would doubt that labour market insecurity and competition have grown in Europe and elsewhere over the past decades. In fact, non-standard employment or ‘precarious jobs’ have become a big issue for academics, not only as a subject of empirical analysis, but also in their own lives. Employment precariousness is often the dominating topic when academics come together and their discussions frequently revolve around vacancies of better paid or more durable jobs. In this context, it does not come as a surprise that some of the contributors to this volume have changed jobs and countries or made the transition into tenured employment during the writing and editing process. Despite the fact that peer-reviewed journal articles seem to turn in the single-most important asset for mastering this process, we are glad to say that it was not overly difficult to bring together an excellent group of authors from different disciplines and countries to work on this volume. We would like to thank all of you for your work over the last years, for your comments during our meetings and, last but not least, for your patience during the editing process. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank IZA for the generous support for two workshops held in Bonn, for travel expenses and the possibility to present earlier drafts of the chapters at international conferences as well as for further support during the editorial process. Special thanks go to IZA colleague Derek Stemple for his thorough review of all chapters beyond straightforward linguistic issues. We are extremely grateful to Güliz Lali Azari at IZA for supporting us in the final stages of producing the manuscript. We also learned a lot from anonymous reviewers that helped clarify core concepts of our approach (that had also led to lengthy and hopefully fruitful discussions between the editors). Finally, we would like to thank Edward Elgar Publishing, in particular Emily Mew, for giving us the opportunity to have this book published.