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## **A lost sense of community? Ageing workers' accounts of being a postal service employee**

Using qualitative longitudinal data consisting of the accounts of career postal service workers, this article focuses on the experienced changes in the spirit of workplace community. The data consist of repeat interviews collected as a part of a qualitative longitudinal study with 19 people over 50 years of age. The data are treated as a sample of the values and culturally possible ways of sense-making. The results show an emerging and changing picture of what working for the postal service means, and how the discursive construction of the sense of community evolves and degenerates over time. The sense of community is described both as a positive and cohesive factor, but also as being in a process of decay and change. Increased workload and the precariousness of careers, among other things, are noted to contribute to this change. Moreover, the accounts of the ageing workers also describe the sense of community as a factor that influences people's motivation to develop their work careers.