

Paper abstracts and participant list for the 2016 Social Stratification Research Seminar, 7-9 September 2016, University of Cambridge

[edited 6/9/2016, Paul Lambert]

Wendy Bottero (University of Manchester)	
<i>Class subjectivities and everyday critique</i>	
	<p>Many accounts (most notably in class analysis, but with parallels in analyses extending across a range of social inequalities) have struggled with the question of how everyday understandings of inequality are related to the experience of inequality. Class analysts have been rather more successful in explaining why people <i>fail</i> to acknowledge and challenge inequality than in accounting for when and why they do. Yet people do protest, mobilise and organise, and rather more often than many accounts seem to suggest, so how can we explain this? Conventional approaches to the subjectivities of class inequality have focused on how inequality is naturalised and misrecognised, often characterising ‘recognition’ as emerging from moments of ‘crisis’ or ‘exception’, with a comparative neglect of ‘everyday’ critique and ‘ordinary’ expressions of grievance and a voluntaristic suggestion that the stability of unequal relations rests in ignorance or consent. Here I explore alternative explanations of persisting relations of power and inequality, which argues that the key issue rests not in questions of symbolic legitimation but rather in how power relations are constituted as constraining collective practices which are typically experienced as ‘external’ and monolithic, prompting a pragmatic negotiation of them. The central question then becomes not whether power relations are ‘recognised’ (or not), but rather how the constraining nature of collective practices becomes susceptible to renegotiation and transformation. Both social stability and social transformation can then be understood as features of the collective nature of practices.</p>
Jenny Chesters (Victoria Univ., Melbourne)	
<i>The myth of egalitarianism in Australia: The failure of a comprehensive education system to alleviate the advantages associated with family wealth.</i>	
	<p>Despite a widely held belief that Australia is an egalitarian society where social origin is less important than in many other advanced economies, previous research shows that parental education continues to predict child’s educational attainment. Given that university qualifications are now required for entry into the professions and many semi-professional occupations, the inability of the education system to overcome the disadvantages associated with low social origins is an important social issue. In this paper, I examine the effects of parental wealth on educational attainment, occupational status and wealth in young adulthood using panel data from the Housing, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) project collected in 2002 and 2014. The results show that high levels of family wealth are associated with an increased likelihood of completing a university degree; and with having high levels of occupational status and wealth.</p>
Roxanne Connelly* & Vernon Gayle (Univ. Warwick / Univ. Edinburgh)	
<i>Micro-Class Inequalities in Early Reading and Mathematics Skills</i>	
	<p>In countries like Britain there is persistent educational inequality. In general children born into more socially advantaged families have better results on a wide range of educational outcomes. Less is known however about the effects that certain types of parental occupations might have on children’s educational outcomes. In this paper we utilise a micro-class scheme for the UK to investigate contemporary educational inequalities in Britain.</p> <p>Social class schemes are usually characterised by less than a dozen ‘big’ (or agglomerate) discrete categories. The micro-class approach offers an alternative method to analysing contemporary occupational structures. The micro-class approach theorises that the labour market is balkanised</p>

	<p>into discrete categories, however the categories are balkanised at the level of specific occupations (e.g. doctors, teachers, electricians etc.) rather than large agglomerate groupings.</p> <p>In this paper we undertake analyses of the Millennium Cohort Study, which is a large-scale longitudinal study of children born in the UK between 2000 and 2002. We focus on outcomes in reading and mathematics tests undertaken at age seven. We observe the expected negative relationship, children from families in more advantaged agglomerate classes have better outcomes. In addition to large differences between the agglomerate classes we also observe differences within the big class categories. For example within the ‘lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations’ category, the children of school teachers have good outcomes, but the children of publicans have poor outcomes. Conversely, the children of dance teachers despite being within the ‘intermediate occupations’ category perform far better than other children in this category and more like their counterparts in the ‘teaching’ micro-class. We conclude that there are substantively interesting patterns of educational outcomes at the micro-class level that are masked in big class analyses.</p>
<p>Sam Friedman* & Daniel Laurison (LSE / Swarthmore College, PA)</p>	
<p><i>Mind The Gap: Financial London and the Regional Class Pay Gap</i></p>	
	<p>The hidden barriers, or ‘gender pay gap’, preventing women from earning equivalent incomes to men is well documented. Yet recent research has uncovered that, in Britain, there is also a comparable class-origin pay gap in higher professional and managerial occupations. So far this analysis has only been conducted at the national level and it is not known whether there are regional differences within the UK. This paper uses pooled data from the 2014 and 2015 Labour Force Survey (N=7534) to stage a more spatially-sensitive analysis that examines regional variation in the class pay gap. We find that this ‘class ceiling’ is not evenly spatially distributed. Instead it is particularly marked in Central London, where those in high-status occupations who are from working-class backgrounds earn, on average, £10,660 less per year than those whose parents were in higher professional and managerial employment. Finally, we inspect the Capital further to reveal that the class pay gap is largest within Central London’s banking and finance sector. Challenging policy conceptions of London as the ‘engine room’ of social mobility, these findings suggest that class disadvantage within high-status occupations is particularly acute in the Capital. The findings also underline the value of investigating regional differences in social mobility, and demonstrate how such analysis can unravel important and previously unrecognized spatial dimensions of class inequality.</p>
<p>Harry Ganzeboom & Tamira Sno* (VU University Amsterdam / ADEK University of Suriname)</p>	
<p><i>The first worldwide survey on intergenerational occupational status reproduction - The ISSP 2009</i></p>	
	<p>In 1967, Blau & Duncan published <i>The American Occupational Structure</i>, which launched their famous path model of intergenerational occupational status reproduction, more commonly known as the BD status attainment model. From this simple but powerful multivariate process model, sociologists learned how to distinguish between and quantitatively estimate indirect, confounding and direct effects in a covariance/correlation structure. Blau & Duncan also defined the substance of the occupational reproduction process, that can be summarized in four conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupational status reproduction among US men in 1962, relative to their fathers, is moderately strong and stable across the life cycle (i.e. about equally strong in first and current (last) occupations). • Occupational status reproduction is about as strong, but is hardly confounded by educational reproduction. • About half of the occupational status reproduction in first occupations is mediated by educational attainment, the other half remains direct / unexplained. • Occupational status reproduction in current jobs is only slightly more mediated by education,

	<p>and a substantial part still takes place outside education. About a quarter of the reproduction is still direct, which implies that fathers would still influence their sons' occupational choices beyond the completion of their education and entry into the labor market.</p> <p>While the Blau-Duncan model was perfectly fit for replication in an comparative perspective, research on social mobility and social reproduction has effectively taken other directions (Ganzeboom, Treiman, & Ultee, 1991). in particular by sacrificing single-parameter multivariate accounts of the occupational status attainment process for multi-parameter discrete data models of the bivariate relationship. However, increasingly, researchers agree that this generational shift has not been a fortunate on all accounts and that a comparative analysis of the status attainment model would still be called for (Treiman & Ganzeboom, 2000).</p> <p>The ISSP 2009 effectively is the first world-wide survey in which the four variables in the occupational reproduction process (parental occupation, education, first occupation and current occupation) have been measured in a highly harmonized comparative design, now covering more than 40 countries. Given the limited size of the national datasets, a simple and powerful approach, such as the Blau-Duncan model is called for. We calculate its bivariate and multivariate parameters for all available countries and then test the following standard hypotheses from the stratification and mobility literature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status attainment in education is weaker in more recent cohorts and in more modernized countries. • Status attainment in first occupations is more strongly driven by education and less strongly driven by direct reproduction in more recent cohorts and in more modernized countries. • Status attainment in current occupations is more strongly driven by first occupations, less by education and hardly by parental occupations in more recent cohorts and in more modernized countries.
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Vernon Gayle (Univ. Edinburgh)

Is the Paper Just a Palimpsest? An appeal for reproducible social stratification research

	<p>There is now an unprecedented amount of large-scale social science data suitable for studying stratification using statistical data analysis techniques. Despite the advances in the availability of access to large-scale datasets in reality it is impossible to 'reproduce' the results of most of the analyses that are published. This is because information on how the work is undertaken is seldom made available. Most researchers will have a happy, or possibly even a terrifying, early educational memory of being told to "show their working out". Somewhere between elementary school and graduate school this requirement has evaporated. The statistical analysis of large-scale social science data in stratification research (and other areas of sociology) is far from transparent and a culture of 'trust me' rather than a culture of 'show me' currently exists.</p> <p>In this paper I make an appeal for researchers to routinely provide enough information so that others can check that results are accurate, and that correct inferences and conclusions are reported in published work. This transparency will also allow others to test the robustness of the original piece of research, for example by employing new or additional data and alternative methods. Using a genuine example of an attempt to reproduce the analyses in a published research paper, I highlight the obstacles that are commonly encountered and provide some practicable steps for rendering stratification research 'reproducible'.</p> <p>I argue that conventional research publications should, at best, be regarded as a palimpsest of the 'real work' undertaken within the data analytical process. Drawing on insights from computer science and other disciplines that have been engaged in e-Research I illustrate how contemporary digital resources could provide a useful and effective aid to making stratification research more easily reproducible. I propose a set of guidelines which stratification researchers should follow in order to enhance the reproducibility of their research. I conclude by suggesting a set of benchmarks against which the reproducibility of stratification research can be assessed.</p>
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Vernon Gayle, Chris Playford*, Roxanne Connelly & Susan Murray	
(Univ. Edinburgh(1,2), Univ. Warwick, Univ. Stirling)	
<i>Exploring Ear'oles Education: An investigation of the school-level educational outcomes of 'working class' pupils in contemporary Scotland</i>	
	<p>Despite changes in the British education system the qualifications that are gained at school remain important for young people's educational pathways and ultimately their employment trajectories. In Britain the structure and organisation of school-level qualifications is convoluted. Data relating to individual pupil's outcomes are usually messy, and this makes analyses very challenging. This paper is an element of a wider on-going programme of theoretically informed empirical analyses, which examine young people's contemporary educational outcomes. It is original because it uses newly linked administrative data from the Scottish Qualifications Authority that is held as part of the Scottish Longitudinal Study.</p> <p>There has been longstanding interest in the performance of 'working class' pupils in British schools. The title of the paper borrows from Willis' classic sociological study (which identifies the 'lads' and the 'ear'oles' as distinctive groups of working class pupils). The focus of the analyses are the outcomes of 'working class pupils'. We construct a series of alternative parental socioeconomic measures to explore the contemporary relationship between parental social class and filial (i.e. a pupil's) educational outcomes. After controlling for other factors the theorised association between parental social class and filial educational outcomes is observed. Pupils from more advantaged social class backgrounds on average have better educational outcomes. The statistical modelling results uncover a more nuanced set of findings, and they indicated surprising and important differences and similarities between pupils from adjacent social classes. The results also provide new insights into performance difference within social classes.</p>
Sarah Irwin (Univ. Leeds)	
<i>Lay perceptions of inequality and social structure</i>	
	<p>Lay perceptions of social structure, inequality and economic distribution have a particular salience in the current era of widening inequalities which has characterised Britain since the 1980s. Research into subjective beliefs about inequality has generated explanatory puzzles relating to people's apparent tendency to under-estimate the extent of inequalities, to see themselves as being situated 'near the middle' irrespective of their objective position, and /or to hold an a-social view of the underpinnings of socio-economic inequalities. In the presentation I will discuss new qualitative data on people's perceptions of inequality and of how they see themselves to be positioned here. I explore these data with a particular focus on context, biographical experience and social change. The qualitative and temporal analysis is particularly valuable in theorising lay perceptions of inequality and suggests that people are much more sophisticated analysts of social process, and of their own situatedness within a wider social structure, than often thought. This has implications for sociological understanding and also holds relevance for renewing political options for intervention.</p>
Nigel Kragten, Ineke Maas, Marco van Leeuwen & Harry Ganzeboom*	
(U. Utrecht(1,2,3) / VU Uni. Amsterdam)	
<i>Two centuries of intergenerational social mobility in the Netherlands, birth cohorts 1760 - 1980</i>	
	<p>Modernization theory asserts that relative intergenerational social mobility has increased over the long run, whereas status maintenance theory posits the opposite. So far there have been mixed results, with studies finding support for both theories. While previous research has often been limited to fairly short-term trends, this article aims to study very long-term trends of intergenerational mobility in the Netherlands. By combining approximately 450,000 marriage records and survey data on 30,000 fathers and sons we are able to examine intergenerational</p>

	<p>mobility for over two hundred years. We estimate log-linear models with 10 year wide cohort interactions to examine fluctuations in social mobility. Relative social mobility is found to have decreased in the first half of the 19th century after which it continuously increased until the end of the studied period. Immobility remained stable up until 1855 after it decreased slowly and after 1905 it decreased at a more substantial rate. Overall, intergenerational mobility is found to have decreased over the past two centuries, lending support to modernization theory.</p>
<p>Paul Lambert* & Alasdair Rutherford (Univ. Stirling)</p>	
<p><i>Variations by occupations in engagements with civil society</i></p>	
	<p>This paper explores whether fine-grained occupational differences provide some explanatory contribution in assessing influences upon how individuals engage in civil society. Survey data from the UK (BHPS, UKHLS, HOCS and Oxford Social Mobility Enquiry) and from cross-nationally comparative studies (ESS) combines information on activities related to civil society (for example, formal and informal volunteering, and membership of social associations), with fine-grained detail on occupations. It is interesting to examine both social influences upon propensity to engage with civil society (e.g. to volunteer regularly), and social influences on the apparent effects of civil society engagement (e.g. the influence of volunteering on personal well-being). Previous studies using similar survey resources have shown modest social influences on both processes, such as linked to age, family circumstances, educational experience and stratification position. Here we hypothesise that specific features of occupations could have an influence over-and-above these factors. We assess fine-grained occupational variations through statistical models on the above datasets using occupation-specific random effects and occupation-level fixed effects. We find small but significant patterns of variation in civil society engagement that are apparently linked to differences from occupation to occupation, and speculate on the implications.</p>
<p>Yaojun Li (Univ. Manchester)</p>	
<p><i>Persistent disadvantage amidst progress: A study of ethnic minority position in the labour market over time and generations</i></p>	
	<p>As people of ethnic minority origins are changing the demographic landscape of the UK, their socio-economic position and integration into the mainstream society is assuming an ever greater importance. Numerous studies have been conducted over the last two decades but most focus on a specific aspect of life, which makes it difficult to have a clear and overall view of the dynamics of their integration processes. This paper seeks to make a contribution to this area of scholarship.</p> <p>In this study, we use pooled data from the General Household Survey (GHS) and Labour Force Survey (LFS) from 1992 to 2015. In order to assess the ethnic minority progression over the working career, we use a pseudo-cohort framework in which two cohorts are constructed: a younger one aged 16-25 in 1992-1997 (aged 22-31 in 1998-2003, aged 28-37 in 2004-2009, and aged 34-43 in 2010-2015) and an older one having achieved 'occupational maturity' aged 36-45 in 1992-1997, 42-51, 48-57 and 54-63 in the next three 'periods', with sample sizes being 378,970 and 417,097 for the two cohorts respectively for the main ethnic groups excluding the 'other'. As the data pertain to representative samples of the same birth cohorts at different ages, our analysis effectively constitutes a longitudinal rather than the usual cross-sectional study. We then coded first and second generation statuses for the main ethnic minority groups, with the former referring to those born abroad and arriving in the UK at age 13 or older, and the latter to those born in the UK or arriving by the age of 12. For each generation, we differentiated black Caribbean, black African, Indian, Pakistani/Bangladeshi, and Chinese.</p> <p>Our analysis focuses on unemployment, access to the professional-managerial salariat and labour market earnings (GDP-deflated) for the ethno-generational groups over the periods for men and</p>

	<p>women separately in both gross and net effects. Preliminary analysis shows that in the first period when there was a very high level of unemployment, the two black groups and Pakistani-Bangladeshi men and women were around three times as likely to be unemployed as white men and women, a pattern that persisted over periods, for both cohorts and for both gender groups. Yet, apart from first-generation Pakistanis-Bangladeshis, most groupings are not less likely than whites to be in salariat positions. However, in terms of earnings, most groups, with the exception of Indians and Chinese, earned less than whites. We then used selection models and average margin effects for further analysis controlling for education, family composition, health conditions and different economic development levels in the country and found that the salariat and the earnings positions of the ethno-generational groups are much lower and that again persisted over the periods we covered. Overall, most ethno-generational groups are therefore found to have experienced a consistent disadvantage in the labour market although progress is also found not only for Indians but also for Pakistani-Bangladeshis. Further analysis is continuing.</p>
<p>Kane Needham (Univ. Stirling) (reserve paper)</p>	
<p><i>The role of digital divides in social networking: a career-management perspective</i></p>	
	<p>In career management and network theory the classic work of Granovetter (1973;1974) is often cited to emphasise the importance of weak social ties in securing employment. The basic idea in network theory follows the sociological truism that ‘birds of a feather flock together’, resulting in a homogeneity of socioeconomic characteristics within strong-tie networks of individuals. Weak ties therefore are more likely to bring new information to a given individual or group from different networks (Lin and Dumin, 1986). Granovetter’s work shows this in action, with weak ties performing an important function in gaining access to employment opportunities.</p> <p>The advent of the internet as a space of social interaction and information has led to a resurgence in this combination of career management and network theory in the context of social networking sites (SNS) in particular, with authors such as Rainie and Wellman (2012) waxing lyrical about the potential of informational flows towards social mobility. Especially given the high rates of internet access in Western societies.</p> <p>There are a number of Authors however, who are prolific writers in the area of ‘the second-level digital divide’. The focus of this divide is the distribution of abilities amongst the connected, online population, and how offline inequalities are often mirrored online – resulting in an unequal distribution of outcomes from ‘productive’ internet usage (Hargittai, 2008).</p> <p>The present paper, using data from ONS Opinions and Lifestyles Survey, will examine the stratification of social networking site usage, as well as some internet activities that signify productive internet usage as a proxy for human capital accumulation online. Age of the survey respondent is usually the single largest predictor for online activities, so the analyses contained here will look at differences within age groups, with the aim of identifying characteristics associated with internet-age, career-based disadvantage.</p>
<p>Robin Samuel & Andreas Hadjar (Univ. Luxembourg)</p>	
<p><i>The Association between Social Positions and Subjective Well-Being Distributions. A Relational Analysis Based on Swiss and UK Panel Data</i></p>	
	<p>The effects of class, social mobility, or position in the income distribution on levels of subjective well-being (SWB) and its correlates have been studied extensively over the past years. In sum, this generated mixed evidence as to how societal positions or social mobility are related to the average level of a society’s or an individual’s SWB. Less well-researched is how societal structures and the</p>

	<p>distribution of SWB are associated taking into account relative positions in the class structure. Veenhoven (2000) finds that “[c]ontrary to expectation there appears to be no link between the size of the welfare state and the level of well-being within it”. As an implication, the distribution of income and other assets related to class position should not have an effect on SWB and its distribution. In contrast, Delhey and Kohler (2011) find that income inequality affects SWB inequality. Furthermore, their results imply that SWB is not only about absolute need fulfilment but has an evaluative and relative component.</p> <p>Our article explores the idea of relationality further by analysing whether and how absolute and relative societal positions translate to positions in the SWB distribution. We draw on previous work by Shavit (2011) on relative educational level and Lopez-Calva et al. (2012) on relative class position.</p> <p>We use Swiss and UK panel data to estimate effects of period-specific societal positions on SWB distributions, focusing on percentiles of each. Studying the associations between these distributions and how they change over time allows us to gauge how relative social positions affect relative positions in the SWB distribution over time. We employ and compare two measures to indicate the relative social stratification location. First, a slightly condensed version of the Erikson-Goldthorpe-Portocarero class scheme (EGP), and second, percentiles of the ISEI distribution. In doing so, we further consider instrument effects to account for censoring in the measurement of subjective well-being (Delhey & Kohler, 2011).</p> <p>Our preliminary findings show that when controlling for macro-level inequality, e.g., by using the Gini coefficient of equivalised disposable income, social position as indicated by EGP does not affect SWB. However, when employing ISEI scores we find differences in the effects of social position on the placing in the SWB distribution over time. Our results demonstrate the value of taking a perspective that differentiates between relative and absolute societal position in studying the link between social structures and SWB.</p>
<p>Merve Sancak (Univ. Cambridge)</p>	
<p><i>Political economy of equitable growth: Partisanship and the technical skill system in Turkey</i></p>	
	<p>The changing dynamics of the world economy and the rapid growth of later industrialisers raised a number of questions about sustainable and equitable growth. Turkey formed a unique example in this sense, as it is the only OECD country that decreased the level of income inequality. This was attributed to the governing party’s ‘social neoliberal’ character, which managed to create cross-class alliances. This paper argues that with electoral support from different classes, the governing party focused on the technical skill system, which actually created benefits for the losers of the neoliberal transformation: the small and medium enterprises and workers with lower levels of education.</p>
<p>Michael Smith (McGill Univ.)</p>	
<p><i>How much does unemployment reduce income in the UK and what determines the size of the income loss?</i></p>	
	<p>In two papers I examined the effect of unemployment on income. In Smith and Zhang, 'On the use of indicators of the generosity of unemployment compensation in quantitative, crossnational research', <i>International Journal of Comparative Sociology</i> (2011) we examined the methodological weaknesses of approaches to the subject using program rules - the sort of approach found in Esping-Andersen’s <i>Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism</i> and in a number of articles by Lyle Scruggs. In Denier and Smith, 'Income after job-loss in the United States: From program rules to panel data', <i>Social Policy and Administration</i> (2012) we estimated income losses in the United States replacing the program rule method by using a panel data set. The paper here extends this research in the</p>

	<p>following ways. First, I use the British Household Panel Survey to estimate income losses associated with unemployment in the UK over the period 1991 to 2008. Second, I estimate the relative importance of transfer programs as a source of income across different unemployment experiences. Third, I examine the income effects of unemployment across categories of the population with different pre-unemployment labour market experiences.</p>
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Participant list (at 6/9/16)

Camilla Barnett	University of Stirling
Sait Bayrakdar	University of Cambridge
Wendy Bottero	University of Manchester
Yuji Shimohira Calvo	University of Edinburgh
Jenny Chesters	Victoria University, Melbourne
Roxanne Connelly	University of Warwick
Jennifer Ferguson	University of Stirling
Sam Friedman	London School of Economics
Harry Ganzeboom	Free University, Amsterdam
Vernon Gayle	University of Edinburgh
Sarah Irwin	University of Leeds
Paul Lambert	University of Stirling
Johannes Langer	University of Edinburgh
Yaojun Li	University of Manchester
Oksana Morgunova	University of Glasgow
Kane Needham	University of Stirling
Lindsay Richards	University of Oxford
Robin Samuel	University of Luxembourg
Merve Sancak	University of Cambridge
Marina Shapira	University of Stirling
Mike Smith	McGill University, Montreal
Tamira Sno	Anton de Kom University of Suriname
Sarah Stopforth	University of Edinburgh