

# Social Stratification Research Seminar 2007: Longitudinal Research on Social Stratification

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## Paper titles, authors, and abstracts

*Last updated: Paul Lambert, 24 August 2007*

*(Comment: some multi-authored papers below are only listed under their first authors)*

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**Tony Chapple** (Office for National Statistics)

### **Revision of SOC2000**

*No abstract currently available*

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**Sally Dench** (University of Sussex)

### **Supporting teenage parents to remain in learning – the impact of Care to Learn**

*Teenage pregnancy rates in Britain are the highest in Europe and a major concern amongst policy makers. Policies have been aimed at reducing conception rates and reducing the chances of teenage parents becoming socially excluded and disadvantaged. Government policy aims to have 60 per cent of young parents in education or employment by 2010. One aspect of policy is to encourage young parents to remain in or return to education, and provide the necessary pastoral and financial support while they are there – and Care to Learn was introduced to provide this. Young parents face considerable barriers when wanting to study or train: including lack of confidence and positive educational experiences, poverty, poor living conditions. This paper will report some findings of the evaluation of Care to Learn – looking at the impact funding and broader support has on the ability of some young parents to study, and also the factors that continue to deter many from returning to or remaining in learning.*

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**Vernon Gayle, Paul Lambert, and Susan Murray** (University of Stirling)

### **School-to-Work in the 1990s: Modelling pathways with large-scale datasets**

*Amongst British youth researchers there is a consensus view that the context in which young people grew up in the closing decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century radically altered. In particular changes in the youth labour market, rising youth unemployment and alterations to rights to benefits, couple with changes at school and in post-school education, are all frequently cited as key aspects of this restructuring. The consequence the restructuring is that more young people are remaining in education, to the extent that now the majority stay beyond the minimum school leaving age, drastically altering the traditional 'school-to-work' transition which characterised earlier decades. An emerging view is that young*

people no longer make clearly delineated transition between stages and that their pathways have become more complex.

*Despite this apparent consensus in identifying the key structural changes, there is a far less theoretical agreement about the conditions in which young people now make choices and move toward living adult lives. One popular view suggests that young people now grow up in an increasingly 'individualised' society. At the current time there has been limited examination of evidence of individualisation through the detailed analysis of longitudinal information on individual young people.*

*We contend little systematic evidence of the changes in school-to-work transitions has been derived from the analysis of large-scale social science surveys. Therefore the overall goal of the paper is to explore youth transitions since the beginning of the 1990s. The paper will present a comprehensive analysis of 'school-to-work transitions' using the Youth Cohort Study of England and Wales (YCS). The YCS is a major longitudinal survey that tracks a nationally representative sample of young people as they reach the minimum school leaving age and is the most relevant dataset for studying patterns of youth transition. The analysis will particularly focus on cohorts 5 (1991) through to 9 (1999). In order to better explore the pathways that young people have taken in the last decade we will, where practicable, exploit the individual longitudinal (i.e. panel) data aspects of the YCS.*

*In addition to the analysis of the YCS we explore data on young people from the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS). The BHPS is a nationally representative sample of households in the 1990s. We plan to construct datasets of young people that also incorporates information on the household they grow up in and individual level data on their parent(s) and other household members. This is a methodologically novel departure in youth research and will allow novel and unique analyses of the effects of home life on youth transitions. The panel element of the BHPS data will facilitate more complex analyses of individual pathways and transitions.*

*These two data sources will allow us to provide a more comprehensive account of school-to-work transitions since the 1990s through detailed statistical modelling. The analysis will contribute to the empirical testing of a number of theoretical propositions associated with increasing individualisation. The paper will therefore make an original contribution to understand contemporary youth transitions.*

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**Cristina Iannelli** (University of Edinburgh)

### **Educational and occupational pathways: a longitudinal perspective in the study of social mobility**

*Social mobility studies have investigated extensively the intermediary role of education between social class of origin and destination but they have paid little attention to the role of educational structure and curricular content in the social reproduction of inequalities. This paper focuses on both individual and structural education factors in the reproduction of social (dis)advantage across generations. Moreover, while social mobility studies have usually focused on mature occupational destinations and in some cases on first job destinations, the present paper adopts a longitudinal perspective through the analysis of social class of destination at three time-points (at ages 23, 33 and 42). Using British longitudinal data from the 2000 and earlier sweeps of the 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS) and a series of logistic regressions, we analyse the effect of attending one type of school instead of another (eg selective schools versus comprehensive schools) and the effect of pursuing one field of study rather than another after controlling for other individual characteristics, such as abilities and educational attainment. The results show that, at the three time-points analysed, people who attended grammar and independent schools had higher chances of entering service class than people who attended comprehensive and secondary modern schools. They were also less likely to enter lower social classes. The most interesting result is that all or most of the advantage associated with the attendance at these types of schools (especially in the case of grammar schools) was accounted for by the curriculum studied in these schools.*

**Jenny Jarman** (University of Singapore)

**Title** tbc

*No abstract currently available*

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**Paul Lambert and Erik Bihagen** (University of Stirling and University of Stockholm)

**Concepts and Measures: Empirical evidence on the interpretation of ESeC and other occupation-based social classifications”**

*This paper discusses the linkage between ‘concepts’ and ‘measures’ across alternative occupation-based social classifications. We review empirical evidence from contemporary longitudinal survey data from the UK (British Household Panel Survey) and Sweden (Level of Living Survey), and discuss the properties of an array of alternative occupation-based social classifications.*

*Our assertion is that social scientists frequently over-estimate the linkage between concepts and measures in occupation-based social classifications. The simple point is that measures do correlate strongly with features of the concept(s) on which they are theoretically based - as is demonstrated in valuable studies of criterion validity. However, what the same measures never achieve is an exclusive correlation with their concepts, and nothing else – yet, we argue, this is what many authors have effectively assumed. The result is something of a fallacy – that measures do not distinctively measure the concepts that are attributed to them. This is highly pertinent to stratification research, where the conceptual basis of social classifications is often used in empirical hypotheses concerning stratification processes (esp. Chan and Goldthorpe 2007).*

*The ESeC classification (European Socio-economic Classification) is increasingly expected to be the most widely used occupation-based social classification across Europe and beyond in the next decade. This paper notes several favourable features of the ESeC derivation project and measure. However, it also cites the ESeC classification as a particularly problematic example of assumptions over the linkage between concepts and measures - embodied the ESeC project’s use of the slogan ‘One concept, one measure’ (Rose and Harrison 2007). Our analyses demonstrate emphatically that whilst ESeC may originate from one concept (employment relations), in empirical terms it measures many things (including employment relations, skill, socio-economic advantage, and social distance). These correlations have non-trivial implications for its interpretation and advocacy.*

*Whilst ESeC is an especially influential occupation-based measure, it is important to realise that the opportunities for analysing occupations are many and varied. Major internet resources, such as the files distributed by Ganzeboom (e.g. <http://home.fsw.vu.nl/~ganzeboom/pisa/>), and by the GEODE project ([www.geode.stir.ac.uk](http://www.geode.stir.ac.uk)), allow rapid access to extensive collections of resources. This paper features a short discussion showcasing the facilities of one such resource (the GEODE project, on which both authors have worked). It illustrates how this new internet facility (launched January 2007) allows social scientists ready access to numerous occupational datasets and new opportunities in exploiting occupation-based social classifications.*

*Accordingly, our analysis implements a wide selection of occupation-based social classifications (including the class schemes of ESeC, Wright, and the skill-based scheme advocated by Elias; and the stratification scales of ISEI and CAMSIS), as well as other indicators of occupational circumstances (including measures of the skill levels, income profiles, and gender segregation levels of jobs). By comparing associations and correlations between these measures and key indicators of socio-economic circumstances, we emphasise how an array of alternative occupation-based measures overlap substantially in the factors which they empirically measure.*

*Of course, not only do social scientists have numerous alternatives in how they code occupational data, they also have numerous alternatives in the analytical methods they may use when studying processes related to occupational measures. In this paper we explore the impact of alternative statistical formulations in the exploitation of occupation-based social classifications. We focus on the particular*

*example of the prediction of unemployment risks (which has been used by previous authors as a test of the measurement properties of alternative social classifications). Paying attention to selection effects associated with industry – and direct controls for occupational properties – we demonstrate that previous vindications of certain social classifications are not especially sustained through the analysis of unemployment risks. This occurs because the effects of social classifications diminish in size, and in their difference from each other, when fuller controls for occupational and industrial circumstances are implemented.*

*This paper concludes that there is work to be done in clarifying how we relate the concepts and measures of alternative occupation-based social classifications. We argue that the more favourable occupation-based social classifications are those that are explicit about their qualities as generalised summaries of stratification circumstances, and we challenge the important claim that the ESeC scheme can be taken as a clear measure of ‘one concept’. However, our analyses also demonstrate that occupational information remains the best way to understand micro-social inequalities and processes of social stratification. Indeed, returning to the theme of this conference, we suggest that longitudinal processes of cumulative advantage (in terms of unemployment risks) are ideally understood through the careful interpretation of occupation-based measures and their correlates.*

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**Kathrin Leuze** (University of Bremen)

#### **Revisiting the “Graduate Proletariat” – Consequences of Higher Education Expansion for Graduate Careers in Britain and Germany**

*There appears to be a wide-spread consensus that higher education in Europe suffers from a lack of efficiency. The criticism has been provoked by the seemingly inability of higher education to deliver to an ever-expanding number of students an ever greater variety of higher education products determined, to a great extent, by changing demands of the job market. Higher education expansion thus increased the fears of an overqualified “graduate proletariat” working in unsuitable jobs or not at all. This paper asks whether such pessimistic claims are justified. It analyses graduate career trajectories in two countries that strongly differ in their degree of massification – Britain, which has experienced a massive growth of participation rates during the last two decades, and Germany with only moderate increases in student intake during the same period. By applying hazard models to two British cohort studies (NCDS/BCS70) and the German SOEP the paper shows that rising numbers of students indeed worsened graduate career chances in Britain as regards finding employment in general and stable employment in particular, but not in Germany. On the other hand, status outcomes of initial employment positions, which are generally lower in Britain, seem to be less a result of higher education expansion, but rather of the more selective structure of German secondary education.*

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**Yaojun Li** (University of Manchester)

#### **Moving in and out of social networks -- a longitudinal study of socio-demographic changes on social network processes in Britain (1991-2005)**

*A dynamic social life is of vital importance to the health of a democratic society. There is growing concern about the declining stock of social capital in advanced capitalist countries like Britain. Numerous studies have documented the falling levels of formal civic engagement, particularly among the disadvantaged groups (Putnam 2000; Hall 1999; Li et al 2002, 2003), yet systematic research on informal social capital is sketchy (although see Li et al., 2005). Furthermore, while research has pointed to class differences as underlying the differential generation of social capital (Li et al 2005), there is little research on ethno-religious differences in the different channels of social capital*

generation (although see Li and Marsh, 2007). Most importantly, little research has been conducted on the impacts of changes in socio-demographic factors upon changes in the channels that generate social capital, namely, formal and informal social networks.

This situation arises mainly from a lack of good (national representative) data and appropriate research methods. Most social surveys do not contain questions that permit such an analysis. When such data do become available, the extremely rich details turn to be so overwhelming that one is at a loss what to do, namely, how to conduct a conceptually inspired and methodologically rigorous investigation that is at the same time amenable to easy interpretation.

This paper will try to make a contribution in this regard. I will use the BHPS to study to movement in and out of formal and informal social networks (1991-2005), and the determinants of such movement. The formal social networks will be assessed via civic engagement both in terms of having or not having civic membership, and, using latent class analysis, in terms of underlying types of civic organisations. With regard to informal networks, I will build on Li et al. (2005) and use neighbourhood attachment and social support as the second and third types of social network. Then, making use of the panel properties of the BHPS, I will trace the impacts of socio-demographic attributes (sex, ethno-religious, class, education) and changes in such attributes (employment, marital status, class and education) upon the changes in the three types of social capital: civic engagement, neighbourhood attachment and social support. Thus, the paper will use multilevel and multivariate analysis including IRT and LCA modeling. Hopefully, the paper will make a significant contribution to longitudinal social stratification research in one of the most important aspects of social life in Britain.

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### **Changes in some aspects of the Bulgarian social groups' quality of life: Longitudinal Evidence for the transition period in Bulgaria**

**Silviya Nikolova** (PhD Student by The Center for Population Studies by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)

*In this presentation I will show that, at household level, occupational segregation in Bulgaria remained fairly stable over the period between 1992 and 2002, however the household quality of life varied strongly depending on social group. As a base for the social groups composition will be used the occupational status of the household head.*

*During the period between 1992 and 2002, Bulgaria went through a difficult transition from planned to market economy accompanied by years of economic instability. These processes have led to an increase in poverty and inequality among the Bulgarian population and worsening in the quality of life.*

*In this paper I will present the changes in the household consumption model and in the income and expenditures structure of the different social groups depending on the occupational status of the household head. Further analysis will be made on the comparison between the inequality and poverty rates among the social groups in Bulgaria and their changes during the years between 1992 and 2002.*

*The main data sources for this analysis are the Bulgarian household budget surveys (BHBS) for the years between 1992 and 2002 conducted regularly by the Bulgarian National Statistical Institute.*

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### **Civic Values and Social Mobility**

**Lindsay Paterson** (University of Edinburgh)

*It has often been claimed that the civic culture of the welfare-state democracies has depended on large amounts of upward social mobility. The demographic heterogeneity of the professional classes, according to this view, induced in them a willingness to lead an alliance across many classes that*

*underpinned a common political project seeking to establish a common social citizenship. As the amount of upward social mobility stagnates or even begins to fall, it has then further been claimed that there might emerge a degree of ideological closure in the professional classes that might erode their commitment to civic values. The 1958 and 1970 British birth cohort studies are used to investigate this question. Longitudinal data are invaluable here because they allow us to assess three hypotheses: that upward mobility as such has induced civic values in the professional classes; or that more important is the early socialisation through which upwardly mobile people went; or that outweighing both of these is the culture of the destination class. The main statistical analysis to be reported on in the talk uses the 'diagonal reference models' (eg, Clifford, P. and Heath, A. (1993), 'The political consequences of social mobility', *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, A156, pp. 51-6.), the purpose of which is to assess the relative importance of origin and destination class in influencing people's attitudes.*

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## **Inter-ethnic Unions and Children in the UK**

**Lucinda Platt** (University of Essex)

*Inter-ethnic unions or 'mixed marriages' are often regarded as the end point of minority assimilation, in that they reflect the weakening and blurring of boundaries between ethnic groups. They are thus typically regarded as positive for both 'society' as a whole and for minority groups within that society, and seen as leading to the equalisation of different ethnic groups. However, attention has been drawn to the fact that such unions may bring higher costs in terms of maintenance of identity and cultural practice for minorities compared to the majority (Berthoud 2005). It is also not unequivocal that the children who stem from such interethnic unions reap the benefits that might be associated with the assimilation hypothesis (ONS 2006), even if there is limited evidence that marrying a white partner can constitute a form of upward mobility for minority groups (Muttarak 2007).*

*The fact that the 2001 Census adapted its ethnicity question to include a number of 'mixed categories' recognised the increasing prevalence of such unions and their offspring in the composition of the UK as well as their significance and salience for understandings of the UK population. At the same time, it enabled the scale of such 'mixed' groups to be empirically assessed. However, despite counts of the different mixed populations and of inter-ethnic unions based on census data (ONS 2006), and 'mixed marriages' proving a topic of intense social and media interest, analysis of the extent to which inter-ethnic unions contribute to an ever more diverse society and to one in which the life chances across ethnicities are increasingly equalised has received remarkably little attention.*

*This paper thus uses pooled quarters of The Labour Force Survey to investigate, first the extent to which inter-ethnic unions have comparable fertility with their component 'ethnicities' - and thus the extent to which they contribute to a greater or lesser extent to a more diverse society; and, second, the extent to which the welfare of children is comparable, better, or worse for those children living in inter-ethnic unions compared to those living in ethnically homogamous unions. To do this it uses propensity score matching techniques to compare the employment status of families on the basis of whether members of the couple belongs to the same ethnic group or not. Given the small sizes of certain ethnic groups and the common support requirement for propensity score matching, this paper is intended to be primarily exploratory at this stage, investigating the extent to which this approach can be used effectively to address these questions.*

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## **Holistic trajectories: Applications of multiple sequence analysis**

**Gary Pollock** (University of Manchester)

*No abstract currently available*

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**Michael Smith** (McGill University)

**What does panel data tell us about job-loss, earnings, and income in Canada and Australia?**

*No abstract currently available*

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**Richard Zijdeman** (University of Utrecht)

**The influence of secondary education on intergenerational status attainment during industrialisation, the Netherlands 1880 and 1920.**

*In stratification sociology, two well known theories hypothesise differently how industrialisation and the rise of mass education influenced the status attainment process. 'Modernisation' theory claims that before industrialisation father's occupation had a large impact on both son's education and occupation. After industrialisation the influence of father's occupation on both son's education and occupation would have declined, while the influence of son's education became more important to his own occupation. Reproduction theory agrees that industrialisation could have decreased the direct influence of father's on son's occupation. However, in order to compensate for this loss, parents from the higher strata would have invested in more years and higher quality education, increasing the influence of father's occupation on son's education.*

*Tests of these incongruent theories are scarce, since most historical records only contain information on the direction relation between father's and son's occupation. Trying to gather information on the educational career of a sample of marriage records is quite difficult, since for each individual one would need information on which school that person went to. Therefore, this study starts from a representative sample of students of secondary higher education in 1880 and 1920 and retrieved information on the student's occupation and that of his father on students' marriage records (effective  $N \approx 820$ ). Using path-analysis a comparison of the status attainment process for students and non-students (i.e. a sample of Dutch marriage records from 1875-1885 and 1915-1925) (effective  $N \approx 1400$ ) was made. Preliminary results show a decreasing influence of father's occupation on both son's occupation as on son's education, while the influence of son's education on son's occupation does not change significantly. This is a partial confirmation of 'modernisation' theory and a rejection of reproduction theory.*

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