

Paper abstracts and participant list for the 2021 Social Stratification Research Seminar, 8 September 2021, online

[edited 6/9/2021, Paul Lambert]

Participant list (at 6/9/21)

Vivian Baars	Independent scholar
Orian Brook	University of Edinburgh
Jenny Chesters	University of Melbourne
Gregory Clark	University of California, Davis
Roxanne Connelly	University of Edinburgh
Neil Cummins	London School of Economics
Matthew Curtis	ECARES – Univ. Libre de Bruxelles
Anna Folchi	Independent scholar
Harry Ganzeboom	Free University, Amsterdam
Vernon Gayle	University of Edinburgh
Dave Griffiths	University of Stirling
Steffen Hilmert	University of Tübingen
Jade Hooper	University of Stirling
Scot Hunter	University of Stirling
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Paul Lambert	University of Stirling
Cinzia Meraviglia	University of Milan
Maria Montanari	Polytechnic University of Milan
Scot Oatley	University of Edinburgh
Kate O’Hara	University of Stirling
Chris Playford	University of Exeter
Sarah Stopforth	University of Sussex
Sara Trovato	Ist. Italiano Cultura, Paris
Ziming Zhu	London School of Economics

Orian Brook* , Dave O'Brien, Mark Taylor (Univ. Edinburgh (1, 2), Univ. Sheffield(3))	
Class snakes and status ladders? Understanding social closure and social mobility into cultural occupations	
	<p>Social mobility into cultural occupations has emerged as an important academic (Laurison and Friedman 2019, Brook et al 2020) and policy (Social Mobility Commission 2021) concern. Much of the research has focused on the lack of <i>upward</i> mobility into cultural professions and the associated exclusion of those from working class origins. Yet <i>downward</i> mobility, whether studied quantitatively or qualitatively, has not seen the same level of research. In this paper we present the first detailed study of downward social mobility into cultural occupations. Using pooled data from the Office for National Statistics' Labour Force Survey, we demonstrate the dominance of the cultural sector by those from professional and managerial (NS-SEC1) origins. We also explore specific patterns of micro-class reproduction as an additional element of the analysis. In order to explain the overrepresentation of the downwardly mobile, beyond the existing explanations found in the current literature on cultural industries, we use a novel analysis of the social status of cultural jobs. Whilst elites maybe downwardly mobile into cultural jobs, they gain in terms of social status destinations that are, in comparison to downward class mobility, either upward or stable status destinations.</p>
Gregory Clark , Neil Cummins, & Matthew Curtis (Univ. California, Davis (1), London School of Economics (1,2), ECARES – Univ. Libre de Bruxelles (3))	
<i>Occupational Status Indices, Intergenerational Mobility, and Marital Assortment: England, 1800-1940</i>	
	<p>Historical estimates of social mobility often rely on occupational status indices such as HISCAM (Lambert et al., 2013, Long and Ferrie 2018, Xi et al. 2020). Here we show by constructing two new occupational status indices for England 1800-1940 that are more precise than traditional indices, that the errors embedded in any such status index make conclusions about comparative social mobility rates across countries and across time highly suspect. We suggest a way to escape these measurement issues in assessing social mobility, using marital records, which suggests mobility rates are radically lower than conventionally estimated. We do however validate that the HISCAM association methodology successfully captures the socio-economic status of occupations.</p>

Harry Ganzeboom (VU University Amsterdam)

The Process of Stratification: A Critical Examination after 50 years

Duncan's work remains relevant because he got so far ahead of us that we are still filling in items on the long agenda he set. (Hout, 2007)

In 1967, Blau & Duncan's *The American Occupational Structure*, and in particular its chapter 5, *The Process of Stratification*, revolutionized research on social mobility and social stratification, by introducing the status attainment (SAT) model of intergenerational transfer of educational and occupational attainment. While a theoretically and methodologically very influential study, stratification sociology was only quick to forget the many innovations that the SAT model had brought. In this paper I aim to outline to younger generations which those innovations were and how we can still learn from them. I identify at least nine important innovations and explicate how they are related to earlier and subsequent thought:

- Occupation as the "best single indicator of stratification".
- Continuous measurement of educational and occupational position.
- Standardization as a method to control structural mobility and isolate relative mobility.
- Standardization as method of comparative measurement.
- Path analysis: direct, indirect and spurious effects.
- Use of first jobs in cohort comparison.
- Use of first jobs: pivotal role of the career entry point.
- The use of mass data: OCG-1.

Second, with the benefit of hindsight I identify and critically examine the many problems of the SAT model as a valid representation of the true process of intergenerational transfer of educational and occupational status:

- No women.
- No mother.
- Only two points to measure occupational career.
- Problems with the definition and measurement of first job.
- No control for occupational inheritance.
- Glossing over occupational affinities.
- Inadequate control of non-linear (non-uniform) structural mobility.

Finally, I highlight from a number of findings that can be drawn from Blau & Duncan's SAT model some dubious ones, in particular:

- Father's education and father's occupation are equally strong determinants of education.
- Father's education has no direct effects on occupational status attainment.
- Father's occupation affects occupational status attainment beyond the point of entry.
- Father's occupation is stronger correlated with current occupation than with first occupation.
- There is only a moderately strong continuity between first and current occupation.
- Education strongly affects current occupation beyond first occupation.
- Education mediates less than half of the association between father's and son's occupations.
- There is no change in the SAT model between cohorts: modernization theory is rejected.

In retrospect, none of these findings is plausible and in fact has weathered the test of time. Taking evidence from the worldwide and voluminous *International Stratification and Mobility*, I replicate the SAT model for men and women, with education and occupation of both parents included in the model.

Vernon Gayle, Roxanne Connelly, Chris Playford (Univ. Edinburgh (1,2), Univ. Exeter (3))

Stratification Data: Past, Present and Future

Measures of social origins, education and destinations in the labour market, have been central to stratification research. The use of longitudinal surveys, that make repeated contacts with children and families have provided invaluable resources for understanding stratification processes and trends. The UK leads the world in the collection of nationally representative birth cohort data. These studies have provided enviable data resources for stratification research. The absence of the collection of a new birth cohort in the 1980s sparked the first crisis in stratification data. The establishment of the Millennium Cohort Study provided a slow-burn solution to this problem. Unfortunately, valuable lessons were not learned. Once again serious gaps have emerged in the UK social science data portfolio and we are living through a second, and more serious, data crisis. We argue that administrative data resources provide some useful information but should be analysed with caution because the quality of data can vary. Administrative resources also tend to contain fewer of the key variables required for routine social science analyses. Regional studies have collected potentially useful youth data but tend to be smaller in scale and limited by their geography. We argue that data collected within household panel studies offer partial solutions in the current crisis. In conclusion we outline a potential blueprint for collecting data that is suitable for studies of education, youth transitions and stratification and for many other social science research enterprises.

Jade Hooper (Univ. Stirling)

Exploring Social and Locality Variations of Dog Bites in Scotland Using Administrative Data Sources

Dogs are an important part of human society, and whilst this relationship is mainly regarded as positive, there are also risks associated with their presence. Dog bites to humans can cause serious and long-lasting physical and psychological damage. Studies across England and Wales have found rates of hospital admissions due to dog-bite incidents to be increasing (Tulloch et al, 2021a; HSCIC, 2015), with significant rises also likely due to the Covid-19 pandemic (Tulloch et al, 2021b).

Previous research has shown that hospital admissions for dog-bites are highest in the most deprived areas across England and Wales (HSCIC 2014; 2015). However, there is a paucity of research which aims to explore why this may be or how this issue may be addressed. Whilst there is a public interest in these figures in Scotland, thus far there has been no rigorous empirical investigation into social inequalities in dog-related injuries. Through an innovative and ambitious analysis of linked by-product data, the current study hopes to address this gap.

This presentation will summarise some of the key early findings from this study using administrative health data from NHS24 calls, A&E and SMR01 records involving dog-related injuries. Area-based measures of social circumstance are considered through the SIMD, along with an exploration of novel, area-level characteristics including measures of local greenspace, average garden size and dog populations. The presentation will also discuss future analytical plans using this data matched to Scotland Census micro-data and individual/household level measures of social circumstance.

Paul Lambert (Univ. Stirling)

'Stickiness' and other accounts for the difference between scaling intergenerational continuity and social interaction distance

In this paper I make exploratory comparisons between the theoretical and empirical properties of measures that scale intergenerational continuity and those that scale social interaction distance. Steven Rytina's recent text argues that 'stickiness' can be thought of as a social process that explains and also defines the structure of social stratification and inequality, if analysed through the prism of data on occupational intergenerational continuity. Rytina's empirical approach is quite close to that used in various CAMSIS scales, but in the latter tradition, it has previously been assumed that there is no important difference between structures of intergenerational continuity and other markers of social interaction such as partnership or friendship. Using contemporary UK data I generate scales based upon intergenerational continuity and homogamy. In common with previous evaluations, modest empirical differences between these scales do emerge, but it is hard to establish if these are important theoretical differences, or minor operational ones. I present exploratory results that hitherto suggest that, if we compare lots of plausible minor variations in scale operationalisations, there are few if any important empirical differences between scales of intergenerational continuity and of social interaction distance.

Cinzia Meraviglia, Sara Travota, Anna Folchi (Univ. Milan (1), Ist. Italiano Cultura, Paris (2), Independent Scholar (3))

Educational and labor market outcomes of deaf people in ten European countries

We will present the results of one of the first quantitative projects about the social condition of deaf people in a series of European countries, which allows to shed light on their social outcomes in each country considered. While considering the difficulties in counting disabled people (since their number depends on the definition of their category, which is culturally biased), by using data from Eurostat Labor Force Survey deaf students' educational achievement and employment rates in ten European countries will be presented. Our results permit to conclude that inequalities do exist between deaf and hearing people in the access to higher levels of education, in the choice among educational fields, in the access to occupations, especially to the ones that exert social power. In particular, education remains a place of inequalities – and it is justified to consider it a crucial issue, as it has always been considered within research on deafness. On the other side, and this is the most important result of data analyses, the evidence that deaf people in some European societies have indeed achieved considerable results in education and in labor implies that there is no crystallized social injustice against deaf people, but rather, solutions exist that some countries have achieved, others have not. However, our analyses also show that other cleavages, beside that distinguishing deaf and hearing people, contribute to shape the social outcomes of both populations, and notably gender is among them.

Maria Giulia Montanari, Cinzia Meraviglia (Polytechnic University of Milan (1), Univ. Milan (2))

Should I stay or should I go? Migration, social origin and destination of Romanians across Europe

This paper addresses the effect of social origin on the status attainment process of Romanian migrants. Our study informs the ongoing debate among sociology of migration and stratification scholars, proposing a theoretical framework to test both the self-selection towards the area of residence and its interaction with the process of status attainment. The Romanian case has been chosen as it represents the most relevant instance of intra-European mobility nowadays, however, differently from a well-established practice, we compare Romanian migrants both in Central-Northern EU and Southern EU to those who stay in Romania. According to our data, coming from the 2012 EUCROSS survey, Romanians with a higher social origin have an equal probability to either stay in Romania or migrate towards Central-Northern Europe, while Romanians in Southern Europe are negatively self-selected with respect to both social origin and education. Moreover, the effect of social origin is stronger for migrants than for stayers in the case of women, while migrants on the whole show lower socio-economic status and returns to education – net of compositional factors and of the effect of control variables – as compared to stayers, as also emerged in recent literature. Finally, we observe a penalization in terms of ISEI for Romanian migrants in Southern Europe, and especially for women. A possible conclusion is that Romanians would better stay than migrate (or possibly migrate towards Central-Northern Europe), especially when women.