

Spring Semester 2001

Educational Attainment and Social Mobility in Comparative Perspective

Thursdays 9.30 – 12.30
304 Rackely

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The study of educational attainment and social mobility lends itself to comparative and international perspectives. This graduate seminar is designed for students with some exposure to attainment research in the United States or in their home countries, and who have had some previous introduction to comparative education research and to data analysis. After reviewing the theoretical roles of schooling in mobility, we consider recent empirical comparative work using qualitative, quantitative, and historical methods. Although our major emphasis is on descriptive and analytical study, planning and policy issues necessarily will arise. The class may serve as a bridge to further research in one of the regions covered, or to further study of educational institutions as they structure individual mobility.

Abbreviations:

CER = Comparative Education Review
AJS = American Journal of Sociology
ASR = American Sociological Review
SOE = Sociology of Education

Participants in the seminar are expected to write a research grant proposal to study some aspect of educational stratification and mobility. These should range between 10 and 15 pages, they use one of the research methods discussed in class, and be completed by April 21, and will be graded. There will be (ungraded) oral presentations and critiques of these proposals in the last two meetings of the seminar. Finally, there will be an examination on previously distributed take-home questions.

WEEK 1

selections from: Pitirim Sorokin, *Social and Cultural Mobility* (NY, 1927)

Davis, Kingsley and Wilbert Moore, "Some Principles of Stratification," in D. Grusky, ed. *Social Stratification* (Boulder: Westview, 1994), pps. 39-46.

Tumin, Melvin, "Some Principles of Stratification: A Critical Analysis," in D. Grusky, ed. *Social Stratification* (Boulder: Westview, 1994), pps. 47-54.

2.

Jane Gaskell, "Course Enrollment in the High School: the Perspective of Working Class Females", *SOE* 58:48-59 (1985).

Firestone, Shulamith, "The Dialectic of Sex," in D. Grusky, ed. *Social Stratification* (Boulder: Westview, 1994), pps. 568-69.

Hartman, Heidi, "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism: Towards a More Progressive Union," in D. Grusky, ed. *Social Stratification* (Boulder: Westview, 1994), pps. 570-76.

3.

John U. Ogbu. 1982. "Equalization of Educational Opportunity and Racial/Ethnic Inequality." In *Comparative Education*, eds. P. Altbach, R. Arnove, G. Kelly. (New York: Macmillan, 1982) pps 269-88.

Liebertson, Stanley, "A Piece of the Pie: Blacks and White Immigrants Since 1880," in D. Grusky, ed. *Social Stratification* (Boulder: Westview, 1994), pps. 543-554.

Portes, Alejandro and Robert D. Manning, "The Immigrant Enclave: Theory and Empirical Examples," in D. Grusky, ed. *Social Stratification* (Boulder: Westview, 1994), pps. 509-519.

4

Neil Smelser, *Social Paralysis and Social Change: British Working Class Education in the Nineteenth Century*. Chapter 8 (Berkeley, 1991)

Ralph H. Turner, "Sponsored and Contest Mobility and the School System," *ASR* 25: 855-67 (1960)

Bourdieu, Pierre, "Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste," in D. Grusky, ed. *Social Stratification* (Boulder: Westview, 1994), pps. 404-427.

5.

Howard Becker, *Writing for Social Scientists*, Chapt. 2 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982)

Robert Robertson and Maurice Garnier, "Class Reproduction Among Men and Women in France: Reproduction Theory on its Home Ground," *AJS* 91: 250-280 (1985).

6.

John W. Meyer, N. Tuma, K. Zagorski, "Education and Occupational Mobility: A Comparison of Polish and American Men" *AJS* 84: 978-86 (1979).

John Katsillis and Richard Rubinson, "Cultural Capital, Student Achievement, and Educational Reproduction: The Case of Greece" *ASR* 55: 270-79 (1990).

7.

Ping-ti Ho, *The Ladder to Success in Imperial China: Aspects of Social Mobility 1368-1911* (New York, 1962) Chapter 1 (pps. 1-52).

Ronald Dore, *Education in Tokugawa Japan* (Berkeley: U. of California, 1965). Chapter 6.

8.

Brian Graetz, "The Reproduction of Privilege in Australian Education", *The British Journal of Sociology* 39: 58-75 (1988).

Herbert Smith and Paul Cheung, "Trends in the Effects of Family Background on Educational Attainment in the Philippines" *AJS* 91: 1387-1408 (1986).

9.

David Post, "School Subsidy and Educational Stratification: the Case of Hong Kong," *Sociology of Education*, 67(1994)121-138.

David Post, "The Massification of Education in Hong Kong: Consequences for Equality of Opportunity," *Sociological Perspectives*, 39(1996)155-174.

David Post and Suet-ling Pong, "The Waning Effect of Sibship Structure on School Attainment in Hong Kong," *Comparative Education Review* 42(1998) 99-117

10.

Philip Foster, "Education and Social Differentiation in Less Developed Countries," *CER* 21:211-229 (1977).

Janice Currie, "Family Background, Academic Achievement, and Occupational Status in Uganda," *CER* 21:14-28 (1977).

Stephen P. Heyneman, "Influences on Academic Achievement" A Comparison of Results From Uganda and More Industrialized Societies", *SOE* 49:200-211 (1976).

11.

Jonathan Kelley and Herbert Klein, *Revolution and the Rebirth of Inequality: A Theory Applied to the National Revolution in Bolivia* (Berkeley, 1981). Chapter 7 (pps. 144-81)

David Post, "Student Movements, User Fees, and Access to Mexican Higher Education: Trends in the Effect of Social Background and Family Income, 1984-1996" *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 16(2000):141-163.

David Post, "Through a Glass Darkly? Indigeneity, Information, and the Image of the Peruvian University," *Higher Education* 27(1994), 271-95.

12. Grant proposal presentation and critique

13. Grant proposal presentation and critique