

CIED 545 / Sociology 545 / Higher Education 545

**Educational Attainment and Social Mobility  
in Comparative Perspective**

Wednesday 9:05 - 12:05  
Charlotte Building 115 (403 S. Allen)

Instructor: David Post  
863-3766; DMP10 @ PSUVM

Educational attainment and social mobility are topics which lend themselves to comparative and international study. 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 introduction to data analysis. After reviewing the theoretical roles of schooling in mobility, we consider empirical comparative work that draws on qualitative, quantitative, and historical methods. The class pays special attention to research in Britain, East Asia, and Latin America. Although our major emphasis is on descriptive and analytical study, planning and policy issues necessarily will arise as well. The class may serve as a bridge to further research in one of the three regions covered, or to further study of educational institutions as they structure individual mobility. Readings are on sale at the Penn State Bookstore.

**Abbreviations:**

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

Each class participant should write a research grant proposal to study some aspect of educational stratification and mobility. These should range between 10 and 15 pages, use one of the research methods discussed in class, and be completed before November 29. There will be oral presentations and critiques of these proposals at the semester's end. Also, there will be an in-class exam on previously distributed take-home questions at the final meeting.

**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.

Paul Willis, Learning to Labor: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs (NY, 1977).

3.

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.

4.

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.

Lieberson, 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.

5.

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.

6.

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).

7.

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).

8.

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.

9.

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).

10.

David Post, "Educational Opportunity and the Role of the State in Hong Kong", Comparative Education Review 37(1993), pps. 240-262.

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

11.

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).

13.

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)

Joseph P. Farrell and Ernesto Schiefelbein, "Education and Status Attainment in Chile: A Comparative Challenge to the Wisconsin Model", CER 29(1985):490-506.

David Post, "Through a Glass Darkly? Indigeneity, Information, and the Image of the Peruvian University,"

Higher Education 27(1994), 271-95.