

Higher Ed. 553 / Sociology 553 / Ed. Theory & Policy 553/ Comparative Ed 553
Fall Semester 2011

Educational Attainment and Social Mobility in Comparative Perspective

Thursdays 9 – Noon
303 Rackely

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Office is 404E Rackely. Drop-in hours are Fridays, 11-Noon, Thursday 8-9, and Tuesdays 1- 2:30

The study of educational attainment and social mobility lends itself to comparative and international perspectives. This graduate seminar is designed for students with some foundation in stratification and attainment research in the United States or in their home countries, and who have had some experience with comparative education research and quantitative data analysis. After reviewing the theoretical roles of schooling in mobility, we consider classic and recent empirical comparative work using qualitative, quantitative, and historical methods. Although our emphasis will be on descriptive and analytical study, planning and policy issues will also arise. The seminar could serve as a bridge to further research in one of the regions covered, or to further study of educational institutions as they structure individual opportunity. We will pay special attention to the topics of social capital, linguistic coding and cultural capital. We will review but not study methods for cross-national and historical research. Class requirements include regular attendance and participation in all discussions. In addition, members of the seminar are expected to write three essay compositions, of about 3500-4000 words. The first paper is due **October 2** and should respond to or critique any two of the readings of the first few weeks of class. Prior to writing this assignment, you should send me a short paragraph telling me what you propose to write about. I might offer suggestions, before you write your paper. I recommend Howard Becker's *Writing for Social Scientists* as a guide. The second assignment, due **November 6**, will be a film review. You should discuss *28-Up* and *49-Up* and you should integrate ideas from the seminar and our readings into your discussion. The third assignment is due **December 11**. This last assignment will be in the form of a short essay exam on the topics covered in this seminar. Each of these three assignments makes up 1/3 of the course grade. All readings for this seminar will be posted on its ANGEL site except, 1) *Choosing Colleges*, and 2) *Class Matters*. You should order these two from an on-line book seller like Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com.

1st Meeting: August 25

Introduction to principles of mobility and stratification. Evolution and variation in role of education. Review of basic statistics needed for the seminar. Screening of Michael Apter, "28-Up." Try to watch as much as you can of this documentary *before coming to class*:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTIQLLBfwbs>

Michael Young. 1959. *The Rise of the Meritocracy*, Chapter 1 and Chapter 3. On ANGEL
Bynner, John and Heather Joshi. 2002. "Equality and Opportunity in Education: evidence from the 1958 and 1970 birth cohort studies." *Oxford Review of Education* 28:405-425.

Michael Young, "Down with Meritocracy!" *The Guardian*, 2001. See also 2009 Review of book.

2nd Meeting: Sept. 1

Selections from Herbert Spencer and Lester Ward distributed in class.

Pitirim Sorokin, *Social and Cultural Mobility* (4 reading selections on ANGEL)

David Bills. 2003. "Credentials, Signals, and Screens: Explaining the Relationship between Schooling and Job Assignment." *Review of Educational Research* 73:441-469.

3rd Meeting: Sept. 8

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

Burton R. Clark. "The "Cooling-Out" Function in Higher Education." *American Journal of Sociology*. 65(6). May, 1960. pp. 569-576.

Gary Becker, "Human Capital" (ANGEL article, *not* book)

4th Meeting: Sept. 15

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

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.

5th Meeting: Sept. 22

Philip Foster. 1977. "Education and Social Differentiation in Less Developed Countries," *Comparative Education Review* 21:211-22.

Yanhong Zhang. 2006. "Urban-Rural Literacy Gaps in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Roles of Socioeconomic Status and School Quality." *Comparative Education Review* 50:581-602.

Claudia Buchmann and Emily Hannum. 2001. "Education and Stratification in Developing Countries." *Annual Review of Sociology* 77-102.

Stephen Heyneman. 1976. "Influences on Academic Achievement: A Comparison of Results from Uganda and More Industrialized Societies." *Sociology of Education* 49:200-211.

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)

6th Meeting: Sept. 29

- Herbert L. Smith and Paul P. L. Cheung. 1986. Trends in the Effects of Family Background on Educational Attainment in the Philippines." *The American Journal of Sociology*, 91:1387-1408.
- Brian Graetz, "The Reproduction of Privilege in Australian Education", *The British Journal of Sociology* 39:58-75 (1988).
- Jutta von Maurice, Michaela Sixt & Hans-Peter Blossfeld. *The National Educational Panel Study: Surveying a Cohort of 9th Graders in Germany*
- Michael Hout and Thomas A. DiPrete. 2006. "What we have learned: RC28's contributions to knowledge about social stratification." *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 24:1–20.

First writing assignment is due in Angel drop-box by Noon, October 2.

7th Meeting: Oct. 7

The New York Times, Bill Keller, *Class Matters*. Available in University Bookstore and at: <http://www.nytimes.com/indexes/2005/05/15/national/class/> Read first half, and take responsibility for leading discussion of one life story documented in this series.

Emily Beller and Michael Hout. 2006. "Intergenerational Social Mobility: The United States in Comparative Perspective." *The Future of Children* 16:19-36

8th Meeting: Oct. 14

The New York Times, Bill Keller, *Class Matters*. Available in University Bookstore and at: <http://www.nytimes.com/indexes/2005/05/15/national/class/> Read second half, and take responsibility for leading discussion of one life story documented in this series.

Read NY Times "Prequel" from 1993 on ANGEL

Florencia Torche. 2010. "Economic Crisis and Inequality of Educational Opportunity in Latin America." *Sociology of Education* 83(2) 85–110.

9th Meeting: Oct. 21

Pierre Bourdieu, Introduction to "Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste."

Pierre Bourdieu, "The Forms of Capital".

James Coleman, "Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital." *The American Journal of Sociology* 94:S95-S120

10th meeting: Oct. 28

Shu-Ling Tsai; Hill Gates; Hei-Yuan Chiu. 1994. "Schooling Taiwan's Women: Educational Attainment in the Mid-20th Century." *Sociology of Education* 67:243-263.

Mathew Creighton and Hyunjoon Park. 2010. "Closing the Gender Gap: Six Decades of Reform in Mexican Education." *Comparative Education Review* 54:513-537.

Sharon Stash and Emily Hannum. 2001. "Who Goes to School? Educational Stratification by Gender, Caste, and Ethnicity in Nepal." *Comparative Education Review* 45:354-378.

Note: on November 3 I will not be in class, but you should watch and discuss 49 UP! Your film review will be due in the drop box by NOON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6th

11th Meeting: Nov. 10

Max Weber, *Bureaucracy*, and the *Protestant Ethic*

John Meyer. 1977. "The Effects of Education as an Institution" *American Journal of Sociology*

John W. Meyer, Francisco O. Ramirez, David John Frank, Evan Schofer. 2005. "Higher Education as an Institution."

12th Meeting: Nov. 17

Joseph Soares. 2007. *The Power of Privilege: Yale and America's Elite Colleges*. Stanford University Press. Read Chapter 6 (scanned on ANGEL)

Anna Zimdars, Alice Sullivan and Anthony Heath. 2009. "Elite Higher Education Admissions in the Arts and Sciences: Is Cultural Capital the Key?" *Sociology* 43: 648-666.

Malcolm Gladwell, read two New Yorker articles: "Getting In" and also "The Examined Life."

13th Meeting: Dec. 1

Read first half of Patricia McDonough, *Choosing Colleges: How Social Class and Schools Structure Opportunity*.

Richard Rubinson and Maurice Garnier. 1985. "Class Reproduction Among Men and Women in France: Reproduction Theory on its Home Ground." *American Journal of Sociology* 91:250-280.

14th Meeting: Dec. 8

Patricia McDonough, *Choosing Colleges: How Social Class and Schools Structure Opportunity*, Part II Read second half, and take responsibility for leading discussion of one girl's choices.

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

FINAL PAPER DUE IN ANGEL DROP-BOX BY NOON SUNDAY DEC. 11

15th Meeting: Make-Up-Class (to be arranged at some point in semester)

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, "Hong Kong Higher Education, 1981-2001: Public Policy and Re-emergent Social Stratification." *Oxford Review of Education*. 29(4). December, 2003. pp. 545-570.

David Post. 2010. "Postsecondary Educational Expansion and Social Integration in Hong Kong." *Research in Sociology of Education* 17:231–269.

David Post, "Constitutional Reform and the Opportunity for Higher Education Access in Ecuador Since 1950" <http://epaa.asu.edu/ojs/article/view/814>. Also available *en castellano*.