

# Subjective measures of social status: validation

Harry B.G. Ganzeboom  
Free University Amsterdam  
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# Three measures of subjective social status

- Centers (1949): Subjective 'Social Class (lower class, working class, upper working class, middle class, upper middle class, upper class).
- Diagram question: "Where do you belong in diagram?" (1 – top ... 6 – bottom).
- Top-bottom ladder: "Where would you put yourself on this scale?" (1 – top ... 10 – bottom).

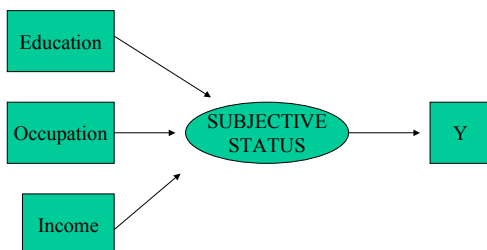
# Questions

- Do they measure the same thing (validity)?
- Do they measure that same thing with equal reliability?
- Do we need three indicators: what is that good for?

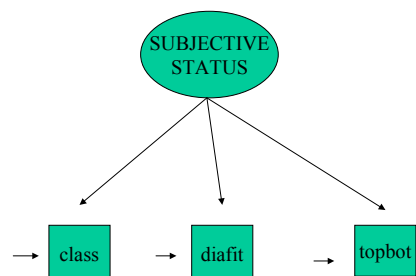
# Research design

- Compare distributions across country and time:
  - R<sup>2</sup> by country
  - Change in means over time
- Missing value patterns
- Reliability / factor analysis
- Validity analysis in structural model

# Structural model



# Measurement model



## Data (from INEQ modules)

- Distributional analysis: all available data.
- Validation: only countries/wave in which all three measures are available
  - Pooled
  - Per country/wave

## Missing values analysis

	CLASS	DIAFIT1	TOPBOT
1987	<b>2.9</b>		<b>3.6</b>
1992	<b>10.6</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>3.2</b>
1999	<b>4.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>3.3</b>

## Correlations – all data

Correlations

		TOPBOT	CLASS	DIAFIT1
TOPBOT	Pearson Correlation	1	.487	.651
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000	.000
	N	70613	56537	37996
CLASS	Pearson Correlation	.487	1	.508
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.	.000
	N	56537	58141	36925
DIAFIT1	Pearson Correlation	.651	.508	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.
	N	37996	36925	38880

## Correlations -- listwise

Correlations

		TOPBOT	CLASS	DIAFIT1
TOPBOT	Pearson Correlation	1	.511	.650
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000	.000
	N	36145	36145	36145
CLASS	Pearson Correlation	.511	1	.510
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.	.000
	N	36145	36145	36145
DIAFIT1	Pearson Correlation	.650	.510	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.
	N	36145	36145	36145

## Reliability

- Alpha: 0.767
- Without CLASS: 0.744
- Without DIAFIT1: 0.675
- Without TOPBOT: 0.630

## Differences and trends

- TOPBOT 18.7% wave: ns
- DIAFIT1 14.2% wave: t = -2.1
- CLASS 13.6% wave: t = +2.5

## Predicting TOLARGE

	[1]	[2]
• CLASS	.139	.079
• DIAFIT1	.144	.104
• TOPBOT	.089	.072
• SUBJPOS	<b>.214</b>	<b>.214</b>

(Standardized regression coefficients, controlled for country and wave differences, [1]: bivariate, [2] multiple.)

## Correlations with objective status

	EDUC- ATION	OCCUP- ATION	INCOME
CLASS	.231	.226	.145
DIAFIT1	.161	.158	.198
TOPBOT	.130	.141	.184

## Intervening variable SES → TOLARGE?

Total effect	.101	
Controlling CLASS	.046	.149
Controlling DIAFIT1	.061	.181
Controlling TOPBOT	.062	.167
Controlling SUBJPOS	<b>.034</b>	<b>.218</b>

## Observe

- Effect of subjective position is considerably stronger than of objective position.
- Three indicators are needed to bring out the intervening effect.