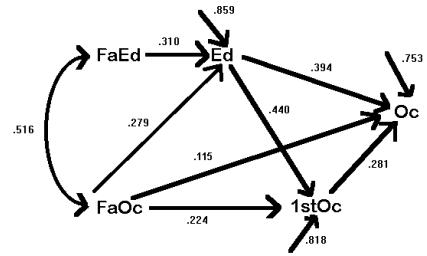


## Mothers matter!

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## The Blau-Duncan model (1)



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2

## The Blau-Duncan model (2)

- BD-model refers to men, ...
- ... relative to their fathers
- **What about women:**
  - *respondents*
  - *mothers?*

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3

## BD-model for women

- Usual results / expectations for women:
  - Women's occupation is more strongly determined by their education than men's;
  - Women's career mobility less strong than for men [more continuity]; low SEI women have stronger tendency to quit employment than high SEI women;
  - Father's occupation has smaller effect on women's occupation than on men's occupation.

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4

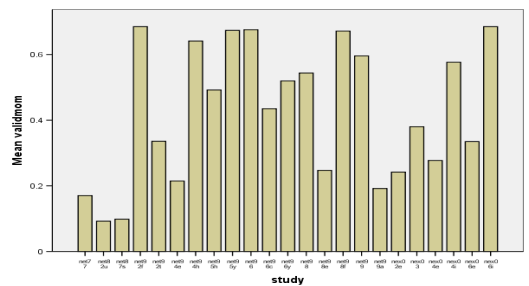
## Mothers occupations in the Netherlands (and elsewhere)

- Incidence varies dramatically (10%-65%) among surveys due to question format: "at R age 15" / "ever" (Table 1).
- Many mothers (in the Netherlands) are not gainfully employed when respondent "was growing up / age 12-16"; however, many were employed before that time (Table 2b).
- Underlying assumption (ESS!): mother's occupation does not matter when she did not work in this occupation when respondent was growing up.

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5

## Valid M-Occ in ISMF 1977-2006



6

## However: theory

- Resources: mother's employment / occupation matters to respondent's status attainment because it brings additional (financial, social) resources to the household.
- Time-budget: mother's employment has a negative effect on respondent's status attainment because she has no time left to help her children (in school).
- Corollary: *the best mother is a former teacher*.

## Mother's effects in ISMF-NL

- ISMF: Intergenerational mobility data harmonized in standardized format [EDUCYR, ISEI].
- Some 23 ISMF files for the Netherlands contain a valid measure of mother's occupation.
- Table 1b shows effects on (A) education, (B) current/last occupation, with gender-role model.
- Conclusions: Mothers matter, in particular for women.

## Research questions

- Does mother's occupation matter for educational and occupational status attainment?
  - How do size of and trends in social background effects change when mother's occupation into account?
- Do maternal occupations matter for mothers who were not gainfully employed when respondent was growing up?

## Conclusions

- Yes, mothers occupations matter, for both educational and occupational attainment in first and most recent job.
- Gender-role modelling: fathers matter more for men, and (in particular) mother matter more for women.
- Mother's occupation also matters, when mother did not work at Resp. age 15 (but some time earlier).
- (No conclusions on trends yet).

## Data & design: ISSP-NL

- Data collected in 1996-1998-1999-2004-2006-2008 (ISSP-NL and related surveys). N=8059.
- Occupation (father – mother – first – current / last) measured with two independent indicators: (A) 'crude' [showcard] measure and (B) detailed occupations. Both are expressed in ISEI metric.
- Question on mother is about her occupation ever. An additional question asks when she worked last.

## ISSP1987: self-classification

Here is a list of different types of jobs. Which type did your father have when you were 16 years / [did you have in] the first job you had after you finished your full-time education / [do you have] in your job now?

1. Professional and technical (for example: doctor, teacher, engineer, artist, accountant)
2. Higher administrator (for example: banker, executive in big business, high government official, union official)
3. Clerical (for example: secretary, clerk, office manager, civil servant, bookkeeper)
4. Sales (for example: sales manager, shop owner, shop assistant, insurance agent, buyer)
5. Service (for example: restaurant owner, police officer, waiter, barber, caretaker)
6. Skilled worker (for example: foreman, motor mechanic, printer, tool and die maker, electrician)
7. Semi-skilled worker (for example: bricklayer, bus driver, tannery worker, carpenter, sheet metal worker, baker)
8. Unskilled worker (for example: labourer, porter, unskilled factory worker)
9. Farm (for example: farmer, farm labourer, tractor driver)

Was your father / were you / are you self-employed, or did he /did you / do you work for someone else?

1. Self-employed, own business or farm
2. Work[ed] for someone else

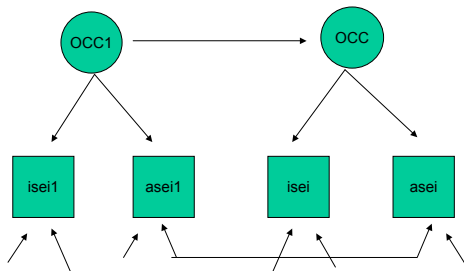
## Design: a fully error-corrected occupation measure

- Double measurement of occupations allows for the detection / repair of:
  - Random measurement error: residual / total variance.
  - Systematic measurement error:
    - Method effects: correlated error between similar measures of occupational status.
    - Education bias: correlated error between crude occupation measures and education of the incumbent.
- See Ganzeboom (2005) and De Vries & Ganzeboom (2008) for a similar analysis.

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13

## SEM / MTMM model



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14

## Results – Table 3

- Mothers matter:
  - For educational attainment, effects of mother's occupation is as large as father's, for both men and women.
  - For occupational attainment, the effect of mother's occupation is basically restricted to women. Father's occupation influences occupational attainment of both men and women (gender role modeling).
  - Effect of father's occupation is clearly larger when mother does not report an occupation.

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15

## Results – Table 4

- Many respondents report mother's occupation, despite claiming that she never worked!
- For educational attainment, mothers occupations worked before respondent was around age 15, matter just as much as her occupations reported before that age. However, not more...
- In the occupational career, mothers occupations worked before respondent was age 15, matter, but not as much as when she worked when respondent was age 15.

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16

## Conclusions

- Yes, mothers occupations matter, for both educational and occupational attainment in first and most recent job.
- Gender-role modelling: fathers matter more for men, and (in particular) mother matter more for women.
- Mother's occupation also matters, when mother did not work at Resp age 15 (but some time earlier).
- (No conclusions on trends yet).

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17