Occupational Careers and Social Origin Revisited: The Father's Micro-Class and Individuals’ Careers

MSc Marcus H. Kristiansen (PhD-student, Utrecht University/ICS)
and prof. dr. Ineke Maas (Utrecht University/ICS, and VU Amsterdam)

Corresponding author: Marcus H. Kristiansen (m.h.kristiansen@uu.nl)

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Abstract:

Recent social stratification scholarship examines the influence of parental status or big-class on individuals’ career attainment. The authors draw on the recent micro-class approach to hypothesize on the influence of the father’s micro-class or occupation-specific resources on individuals’ careers, and study (1) how often individuals work in their father’s occupation and (2) how the father’s micro-class resources affect career progression. Using life-course data on the careers of Dutch men and women, the authors find that 15 percent of men and 5 percent of women enter their father’s occupation during their career. Further, men are not able to use their father's resources to achieve career progression after they left their father's occupation. Women’s career progression seems less influenced by their father’s occupation-specific resources.