Social mobility - measurement

- Social mobility indicates „societal openness“

- Aggregated data and mobility tables
  - Social classes
  - Resources, barriers, desirability
  - Mobility paths
  - Macro-level of social analysis
  - The first and third generation of SSR

- Individual data and path analysis
  - Social statuses, employment, socioeconomic indexes
  - Aspirations, motivations
  - Social variables influence labor market positions
  - Micro-level of social analysis
  - Second generation of SSR

Blau and Duncan's basic social stratification model

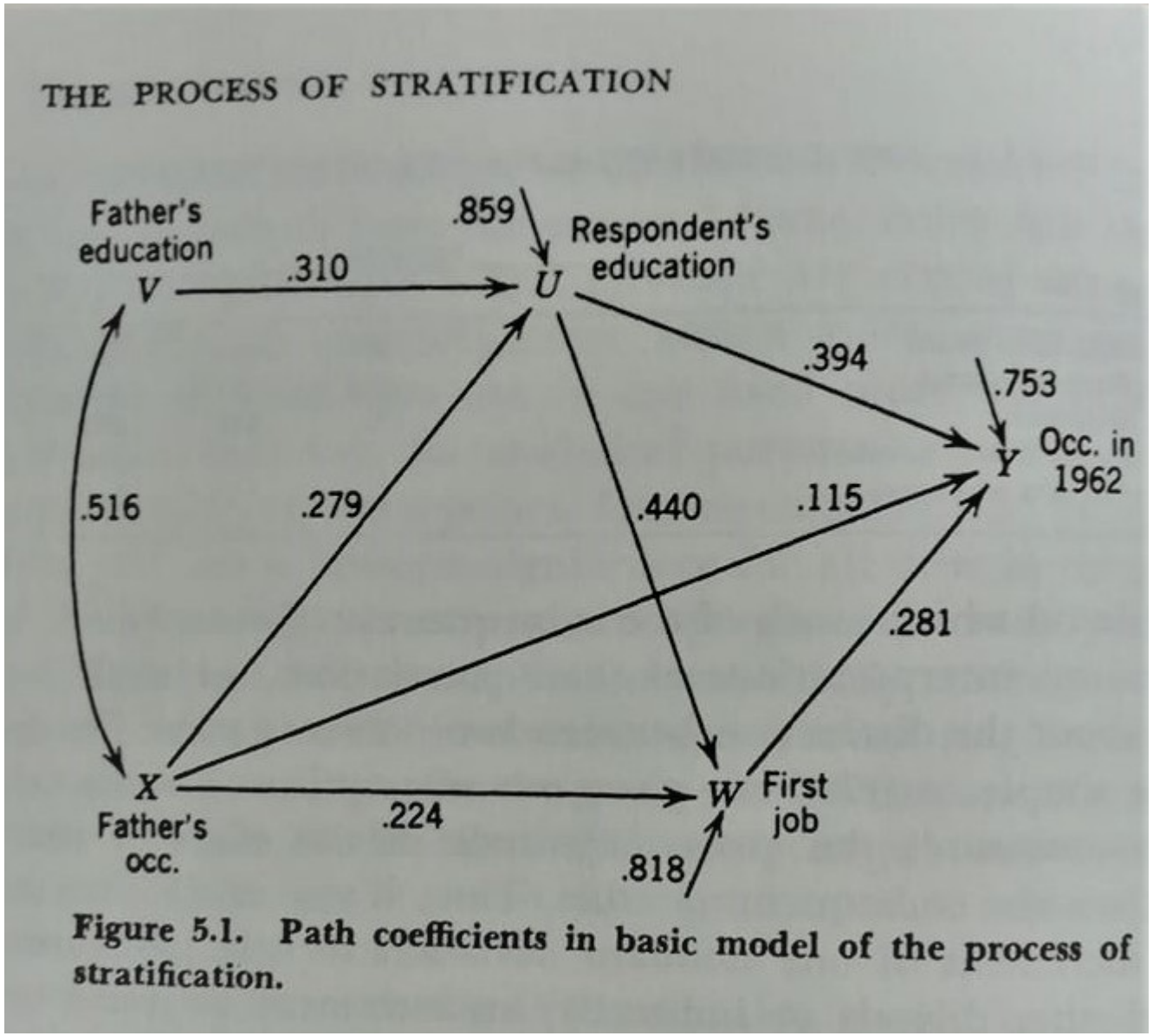
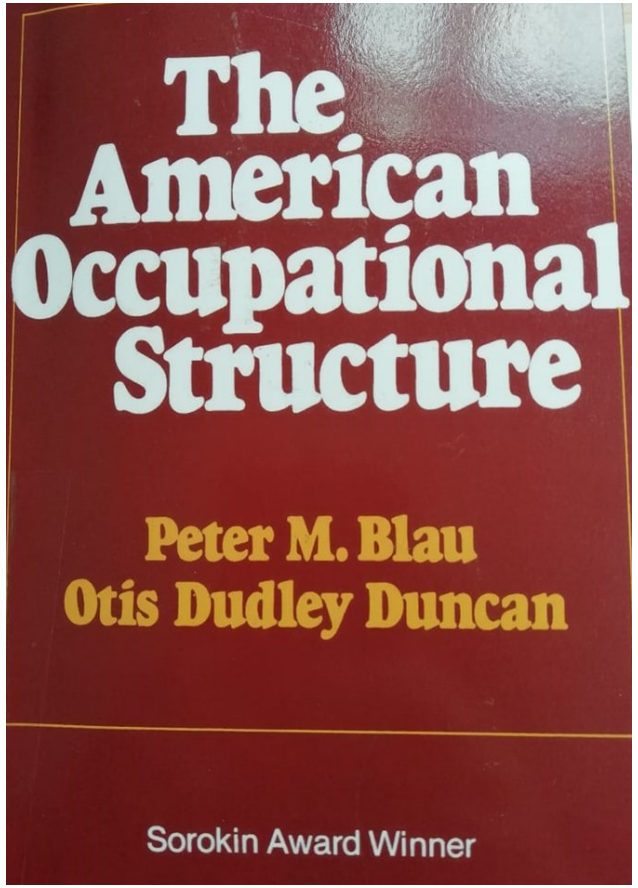


Figure 5.1. Path coefficients in basic model of the process of stratification.

- Regression analysis
- Path analysis
- Structural Equation Modeling (SEM)



Mobility table

- Intergeneration and intragenerational mobility
- Social reproduction
- Upward and downward social mobility
  - long distance, short distance

TABLE 1 THREE-CLASS MOBILITY TABLE: MEN IN ENGLAND AND WALES 1972

		Current (destination) class			
		1	2	3	Total
ORIGIN CLASS	1	731	322	189	1242
	2	857	1140	1109	3106
	3	787	1386	2915	5088
	Total	2375	2848	4213	9436

NOTE: Classes are: 1 = Service; 2 = Intermediate; 3 = Working.
SOURCE: Calculated from Goldthorpe et al. (1980/87), Table 2.2.

Outflow mobility

- calculation of percentages in rows
- interpretation I: of all men originating in class Y, X% moved into class Z
- interpretation II: the probability of a man born into class Y, moving into class Z, was X%

TABLE 2 PERCENTAGE OUTFLOW MOBILITY TABLE: MEN IN ENGLAND AND WALES 1972

		Destination class			
		1	2	3	Total
ORIGIN CLASS	1	59	26	15	100
	2	28	37	36	101
	3	15	27	57	99

NOTE: Classes as Table 1. Percentages are by row—row totals may not add to 100 because of rounding.
SOURCE: As Table 1.

Inflow mobility

- calculation of percentages in columns
- interpretation: X% of all men in class Y came from class Z
- social composition of classes, „social heterogeneity“

TABLE 3 PERCENTAGE INFLOW MOBILITY TABLE: MEN IN ENGLAND AND WALES 1972

		Destination class		
		1	2	3
ORIGIN CLASS	1	31	11	5
	2	36	40	26
	3	33	49	69
	Total	100	100	100

NOTE: Percentages are by column—column totals may not add to 100 because of rounding.
SOURCE: As Table 1.

Structural and net mobility I

- Social Mobility = structural mobility + net mobility

- Structural (forced) mobility is given by
  - economic and technological changes
  - demographic changes (class difference in fertility, mortality, migration…)

- Net mobility is real mobility
  - how different class origins influenced destinations
  - inequality in mobility chances stems from differences in:
    - class resources
    - class bariers
    - class desirabilities

- Identification structural mobility by Dissimilarity index

Dissimilarity index - DI, D, or Δ

- DI is computed as sum of positive differences between two percent distributions divided by number 2:
- Values <0;1>
- Interpretation: what proportion is needed for the situation in which two distributions are identical?

$$\Delta = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=}$$

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Structural and net mobility II

- Problems in identification structural mobility by DI
  - two class structures are incomparable because of „career mobility“
  - „age problem“ in SM research

- Many efforts to empirically identify net mobility with the help of „mobility indexes“
  - no proper way

- Solution: change in conceptualization of intergenerational mobility
- Social origin vs. social destination (SO - SD) (no intergenerational mobility)

- Structural and Exchange mobility are replaced by concepts *absolute* and *relative* mobility
  - It is not possible to measure structural and exchange mobility in data *ex post*

- Contingency table: Father, Son and The Holy Ghost (the core of mobility table) (R. Erikson, J. Golthorpe: *Constant Flux,* 1992)

Absolute and relative social mobility I

- Absolute mobility is *probability* of ending up in a different social class from the one a person was born into.
- Usually the movements are often small: from class 2 to 1, say, or from class 5 to 6.
- Measured in percent (%)

- Relative mobility is *chance*, if a person started in, say, class 6 or 7, of making it to, say, class 1 or 2 compared with those who started at the top.
- It is an answer to the question: if a person starts at the bottom, *how many times less likely* to make it to the top than somebody born there
- Measured in odds ratios (OR)

Absolute and relative social mobility II

Key questions:

1. How strong is the relationship between where you start out (origin) and where you go to (destination)?
2. What is the chance of a man from class Y to end up in class Z rather than in another class?

OR (odds ratio) is the convential meassure of inequality in access to particular class destinations from different class origins.

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TABLE 4 ALL POSSIBLE ODDS RATIO IN THE THREE-CLASS ENGLAND AND WALES MOBILITY TABLE

Destination class	Origin class	Odds ratio
1 v 2	1 v 2	3.03
1 v 2	1 v 3	3.98
1 v 2	2 v 3	1.32
1 v 3	1 v 2	5.03
1 v 3	1 v 3	14.33
1 v 3	2 v 3	2.85
2 v 3	1 v 2	1.65
2 v 3	1 v 3	3.54
2 v 3	2 v 3	2.15