

Temporal trends in intergenerational social mobility in Switzerland

A cohort study of men and women born between 1912 and 1974

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1. INTRODUCTION

This study focuses on analyzing whether the influence of social origin on life chances has changed over time in Switzerland, as to date little research has been carried out on this issue in this country. Furthermore, this study is interested in questioning social mobility measurement, through a comparison of the ESeC class schema (which has the same theoretical foundations as EGP) with an alternative one, namely the Oesch schema.

2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Q1: Has social mobility increased over time in Switzerland?
- Q2: Has it fluctuated according to the economic context?
- Q3: Have social mobility chances changed differently between men and women?
- Q4: Does an alternative social class schema reveal different outcomes, in terms of trends, gender differences, etc.?

3. DATA

The data entails a collection of twelve Swiss national population sample surveys with detailed occupation codes gathered between 1975 and 2009: Attitudes politiques en Suisse, 1975; ISSP, 1987; Les Suisses et leur société, 1991; SHP, 1999 & 2004 (second sample); ESS, 2002, 2004, 2006 & 2008; MOSAIC, 2005, 2007 & 2009.

4. POPULATION

The sample contains both Swiss citizens and foreign residents in Switzerland, aged between 35 & 64 years old at the time of the survey. Respondents' years of birth ranged from 1912 to 1974.

The sample was divided in 8 birth cohorts with approximately five years between each: 1912 – 1935, 1936 – 1940, 1941 – 1945, 1946 – 1950, 1951 – 1955, 1956 – 1960, 1961 – 1965, and 1966 – 1974.

5. COMPARING TWO CLASS SCHEMA

5.a. ESeC

1. Higher salariat;
2. Lower salariat;
3. Intermediate employee;
4. Small employers / self-employed;
5. Lower white-collar;
6. Skilled manual;
7. Semi-/un-skilled.

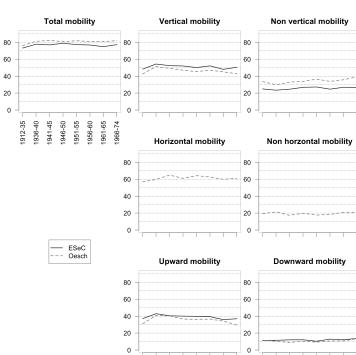
5.b. Oesch

Independent work logic	Technical work logic	Organizational work logic	Interpersonal work logic
1. Large employers	5. Technical experts	10. Higher-grade managers	14. Socio-cultural professionals
2. Self-employed professional	6. Technicians	11. Associate managers	15. Social-cultural semi-professionals
3. Petite bourgeoisie w/ employees	7. Skilled crafts	12. Skilled office	16. Skilled service
4. Petite bourgeoisie w/out employees	8. Routine operatives	13. Routine office	17. Routine service
	9. Routine agriculture		

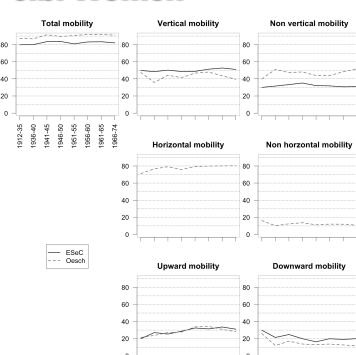
While ESeC (in line with EGP) is rooted in the manual / non manual divide that characterizes industrial societies, Oesch's schema by introducing horizontal distinctions within the social structure, was conceptualized to answer to the phenomenon of tertiarization, feminization and welfare statism. In this respect, it reflects more adequately post-industrial societies.

6. ABSOLUTE TRENDS

6.a. Men



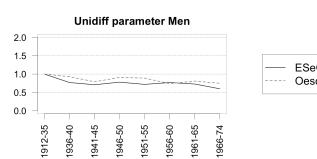
6.b. Women



7. RELATIVE TRENDS

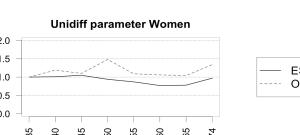
7.a. Men

Model	L2	Df	%L2	DI	BIC
ESeC N=7882	1599.9	288	-	17	-984.1
	464.0	252	71	8.4	-1797.0
	454.6	245	71.6	8.3	-1743.6
Oesch N=7574	1942.4	392	-	18.6	-1559.2
	609.5	343	68.6	8.8	-2454.4
	599.8	336	69.1	8.7	-2401.5



7.b. Women

Model	L2	Df	%L2	DI	BIC
ESeC N=5438	800.2	288	-	13.5	-1676.9
	335.1	252	58.1	7.8	-1832.5
	330.0	245	58.8	7.8	-1777.3
Oesch N=5006	904.2	392	-	15.4	-2435.0
	414.4	343	54.2	8.8	-2507.4
	406.9	336	55.0	8.8	-2455.3



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