

Nominal Category Class Classifications

Theory, Measurement, Harmonization

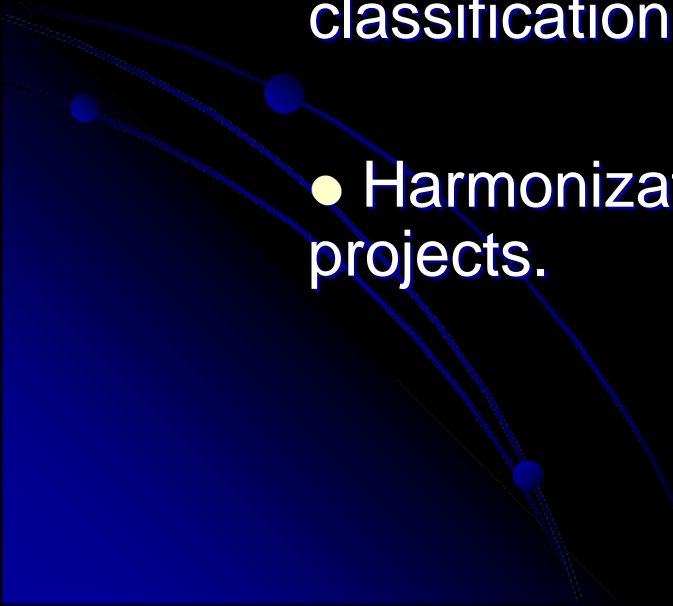
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Content of the presentation:

Nominal category class classifications.


- Theories underlying the concept of class and the associated measurements.
 - Measurement of nominal category class classifications: which variables are needed?
 - Harmonization: over time and across survey projects.
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Why is class interesting?


- The labour market is the main system of stratification in contemporary Western societies.
- Despite controversy, class remains the major sociological concept explaining social inequality.
- Class interesting both as dependent and independent variable

Nominal Category Class Classifications

Three more or less influential categorizations

1. Erikson/Goldthorpe classification of occupations (EGP, ESeC)
 2. Oesch's classification of occupations
 3. Grusky's occupational/class schema
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1. Erikson/Goldthorpe classification
2. Oesch's classification

- Big/aggregate classes
 - Weak class idioms: employment relations only
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1. Erikson/Goldthorpe classification of occupations

Two sources behind the EGP class schema

- John Goldthorpe - different types of employment contracts: worker contract / service contract.
- Robert Erikson - skills based class schema (SEI) (educational requirements for a specific job)

EGP

Over time a gradual change of the theoretical concept

- From a skills-based understanding of class towards a model of different degrees of reciprocal/mutual dependence relations between the employer and the employee
- A change of concept did not result in a change of the classification schema

EGP classes are distinguished on the basis of two dimensions

- Employee monitoring difficulties
- Human asset specificity (required on the job training [non-transferable skills])

Two ideal types of employment contract

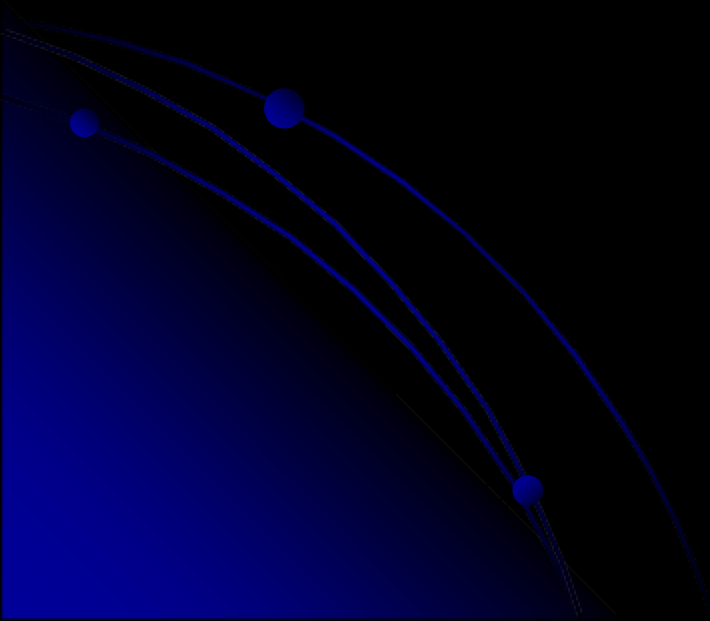
- Labour contract: low on both dimensions
- Service contract: high on both dimensions

Oesch's classification of occupations

- Argument: the EGP schema is very much a schema for industrial society.
- The class structure is much more heterogeneous in contemporary societies
 - female labour force participation
 - service sector growth
 - welfare state expansion

Influenced by Esping-Andersen's dual hierarchy:

- 'Fordist hierarchy' (occupations in the industrial society)
- 'Post-industrial hierarchy' (new service occupations)



Oesch: Three hierarchies

- **Technical work logic**

Computing professionals (high)

Machine operators (low)

- **Organizational work logic**

Financial managers (high)

Mail sorting clerks (low)

- **Interpersonal work logic**

Journalists (high)

Shop assistants (low)

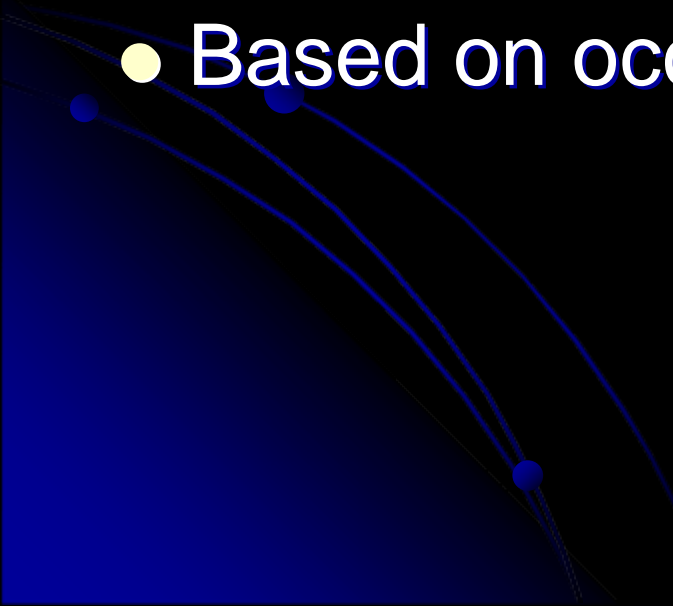
Oesch: 17 (8) categories

- Employment relations differ within (vertical stratification/hierarchy) and across logics (horizontal stratification)
- Empirical findings four countries
 - earnings
 - union density
 - promotion
 - political preferences


David Grusky's occupational/class schema

- Small/disaggregated classes
- classes are formed at the unit of occupations (closure/licenses, unions, social mobility)
- Strong class idiom
 - classes share economic conditions as well as social conditions/values
- A class schema for the service classes

EGP/ESeC/Oesch/Grusky

- nominal category class schemas
 - Similar building blocks
 - Based on occupational classifications
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Variables needed for classification

- ISCO 88 (4-digit level)
 - ISCO 88 is the most important variable, because:
 - continuity over time
 - freedom and the flexibility to develop new and refine existing class schemas
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- Employee/self-employed
(If self-employed: number of employees)
- Working hours (fulltime, part-time)
- Supervising function

Related variables

- Sector of employment: private/public
- Education
- Size of establishment

Information should be collected both for:

- those currently working and those not currently working (last job)
- respondent and spouse/partner

Unit in the class structure: household vs.
individual

(Data: ISSP 1996 - couples only)

Class identity by EGP

Men only (% working class id)

	Husband's class			
	Working	Working	Service	Service
	Wife's class			
	Working	Service	Working	Service
SE	81	63	20	9
DE	76	56	24	11
US	73	61	29	20

Class identity by EGP

Women only (% working class id)

	Husband's class			
	Working	Working	Service	Service
	Wife's class			
	Working	Service	Working	Service
SE	79	29	48	9
DE	61	22	20	4
US	78	67	37	26

State reduce income diff. by EGP

Men only (% yes)

	Husband's class			
	Working	Working	Service	Service
	Wife's class			
	Working	Service	Working	Service
SE	79	65	43	28
DE	65	54	45	34
US	31	21	17	10

State reduce income diff. by EGP Women only (% yes)

	Husband's class			
	Working	Working	Service	Service
	Wife's class			
	Working	Service	Working	Service
SE	81	77	51	41
DE	58	46	46	34
US	39	30	29	22

Conclusion I

Because of :

- debates on theoretical explanations why class matters (mechanisms)
- debates on class classifications
- new ideas on how to best measure social stratification (labour market based)
- changing labour markets

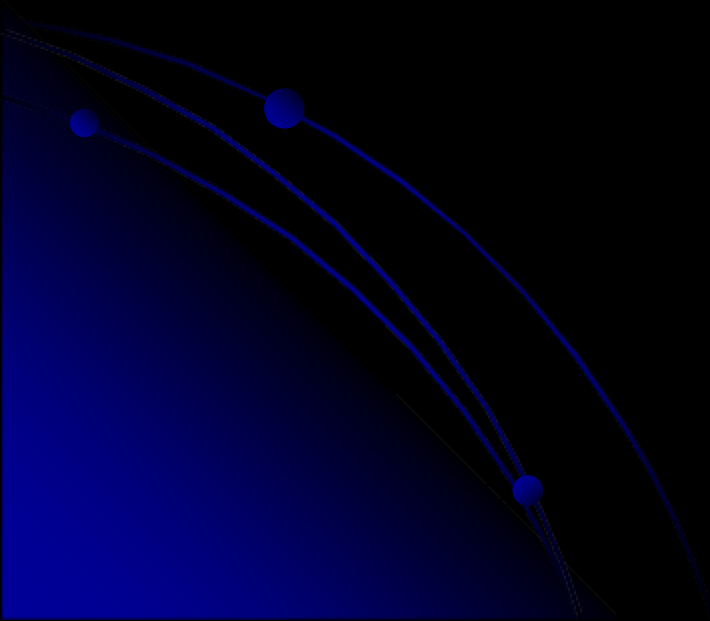
New and revised theories of class and class schemas will appear. Class classifications are not fixed over time

Other applications of ISCO

- ISCO 88 is used to construct other (not class based) schemas.
- Varieties of Capitalism School (P. Hall, D. Soskice). Stratification based on skills formation.

Therefore the strategy should be:

- to ensure that the key variables building up nominal class category classifications are retained in the surveys, the ISCO 88 (4-digit) in particular.



Conclusion II

Harmonization:

Between survey projects and surveys over time

- Priority 1. Provide recoding procedures for other occupational schemas into ISCO 88.
- Priority 2. Provide recoding schemas into existing EGP/ESeC etc.

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