Social Mobility
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• What is it?

• Why should we care about it?

• What are the facts?
What is it?

• Movement through the life-course from one social position to another
  
  – Intergenerational – parents-children

  – Intrigenerational – in the course of the work-life
What is it?

• What are the positions?
  – Income/earnings groups
    • Deciles, quintiles, percentiles
  – Social class positions (as defined by occupations)
  – Usually, but not necessarily, some idea of hierarchy
What is it?

• Real groups or nominal groups?
  – Status groups can use rules of social exclusion/inclusion
  – Nominal groups are just statistical conveniences
What is it?

• Measurement
  – Turn-over tables
  – Correlations
Why do we care?

• Caste and class societies

• Legitimation/ideology of modern societies
  – Meritocracy – how equal are we?

• Consequences
  – Mobility or lack of it may explain something else about society
What are the facts?

• Intergenerational Income mobility

  – Compare 2 birth cohorts born 1958 and 1970

  • Father child correlation is significantly higher for 1970 cohort – ergo less mobility?
Figure 7. UNIDIFF parameter estimates and confidence intervals: males 25–59
"The Great Gatsby Curve"

![Graph showing the relationship between inequality (Gini index) and intergenerational immobility (intergenerational earnings elasticity) for various countries. The countries are plotted on the graph, with points representing different levels of inequality and immobility. The countries include Peru, Brazil, China, and others.]