

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
 - Intragenerational – 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

