

Social Stratification Dynamics – SUNSTRAT (Stockholm University simsam Node for STRATification research)

Presentation made for the SIMSAM-meeting in Umeå: SIMSAM five first years
and beyond, November 4-5, 2013

The Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI), Stockholm University



The presentation

1. Aims of the project
2. Organization and staff
3. Research, examples
4. Infrastructure
5. Next five years?



Social stratification dynamics

Resources like income, health, and wealth (affecting individuals life changes) are unevenly distributed in the population.

The distribution of these resources are also stratified by a number of different dimensions/factors – occupations, social classes, gender, ethnicity etc



Social stratification **dynamics**

1. The uneven spread of resources is most interesting from either an intra-generational perspective (life course) or an intergenerational perspective (between generations)

For example:

Being poor is troublesome, but it gets far worse the longer time you are in poverty and/or if the poverty is stretched out between generations

2. By following individuals over time we reach a bit further in disentangling the effects of SES-differentials in e.g. parental characteristics, effects of schooling and educational choices, effects of personal traits, and occupational choices



Research goals

To further increase our understanding of both intra- and intergenerational processes of stratification by using Swedish registry data, and sometimes combination of registry and survey data



Infrastructural goals

1. Training social stratification researchers how to make full use of register data.
2. Create an organization around SIMSAM that could function as a source of knowledge and experience for all researchers
3. Initiate a program of exchange of students and researchers.



Organization

- **Steering committee:**

Erik Bihagen PI/coordinator, Jan Jonsson, and Charlotta Stern

Work tasks/purpose: Lead the work, plan future work shops, organize meetings of the project etc

- **Advisory board:**

A group of world leading scholars in the field (so far Fabrizio Bernardi, David Grusky, Brian Nolan)

Work tasks/purpose: Participate in work shops, help us in our 'strive for excellence' – what can we do better as a research group and as researchers?

- **Reference group:**

Nordic register researchers (Jani Erola, Marianne Nordli Hansen, Mads Jaeger, Markus Jääntti, Vibeke Myrup Jensen)

Work tasks/purpose: Participate in work shops, collaborations



Staff in the project november 2013 (here in Umeå in bold)

- **Erik Bihagen, PhD, docent**
- Katarina Boye, PhD
- Anders Böhlmark, PhD
- Per Engzell, PhD-candidate
- Robert Erikson, Professor
- Marie Evertsson, PhD
- Liana Fox, PhD
- Michael Gähler, PhD, docent
- Karin Halldén, PhD
- Martin Hällsten, PhD
- Juho Härkönen, PhD (also in SUNDEM), docent
- Jan Jonsson, Professor
- Sara Kjellson, PhD-candidate
- Charlotta Magnusson, PhD
- Carina Mood, PhD, docent
- Magnus Nermo, PhD, docent
- **Eva-Lisa Palmtag, assistant**
- **Frida Rudolphi, PhD**
- Roujman Shabazian, PhD-candidate
- Charlotta Stern, PhD, docent
- Jenny Torssander, PhD-candidate



So...did we reach our goals concerning research and infrastructure?

Yes,

When it comes to research:

About 25 published/forthcoming articles + book chapters + reports + manuscripts

A few examples of our research...



Poverty

Research on dynamics is crucial for a deeper understanding of poverty. Some findings in our project:

“...even if most people who ever enter poverty have brief poverty episodes, the long-term poor carry most of the burden of poverty: 5 percent of the population account for 50 per cent of all poverty years over an 18-year-period”

Mood and Jonsson, manuscript 2012

“It is clear that the study of exits from poverty must be amended with studies of re-entry, which is very high: Five years after poverty exit, 30-40 percent have experienced poverty again for a shorter or longer time period”

Jonsson, Mood and Bihagen 2010, in Social Rapport.



Elite recruitment

Registry data open up ways to study the most privileged in Society: elites (Elite here defined as the most well-paid in large organizations.)

The gender gap in reaching elite positions decrease over time, but men are still overrepresented at these positions

Bihagen, Nermo, Stern, Forthcoming. *Acta Sociologica*.

Those with working class origins have smaller chances of reaching elite positions even net of education

Education and cognitive ability is less important over time as mediators between parents' SES and belonging to the business elite while non-cognitive skills/personality is of increasing importance over time.

Bihagen, Nermo, Stern, 2013. *European Sociological review*.



Health

Some interesting contributions to the field of socio-economic differentials in health:

Using the educational reform of prolonged schooling in the 1950s as an experiment, there was evidence of a causal effect on health Lager & Torssander, 2012. PNAS

Prenatal smoking affects children's educational outcomes in a dose-response fashion, and can shape educational inequalities by family background

Härkönen, J., H. Kaymakçalan, P. Mäki and A. Taanila 2012. *Demography*.



Educational inequalities

Example of how detailed registry data with large N makes new research possible:

Hällsten, M. (2011). "Late Entry in Swedish Tertiary Education: Can the Opportunity of Lifelong Learning Promote Equality Over the Life Course?", *British Journal of Industrial Relations*.

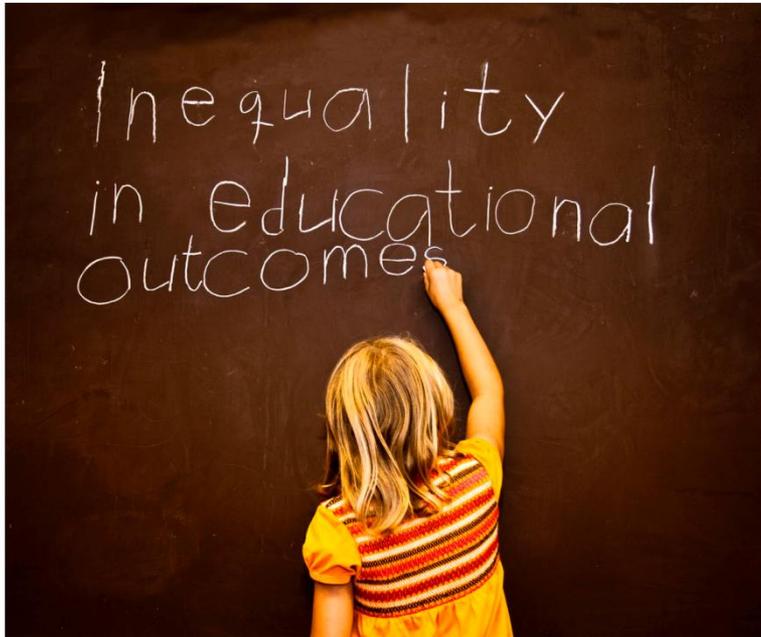
“with a moderate amount of simplification /.../ lifelong learning tends to promote both intra- and intergenerational equality.”



Inequality in Educational Outcomes

How Aspirations, Performance, and Choice Shape School Careers in Sweden

Frida Rudolphi



I. Change in social selection to upper secondary school – primary and secondary effects in Sweden

Erikson, R. and Rudolphi, F. 2010.

European Sociological Review, 26: 291-305

II. Ever declining inequalities?

Primary and secondary effects in Sweden in the transition to upper secondary and higher education for students born in 1972-1990

Forthcoming in Jackson, M. (Ed.),
Determined to Succeed? Performance, Choice and Education.

Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Two processes drive inequality in education attainment

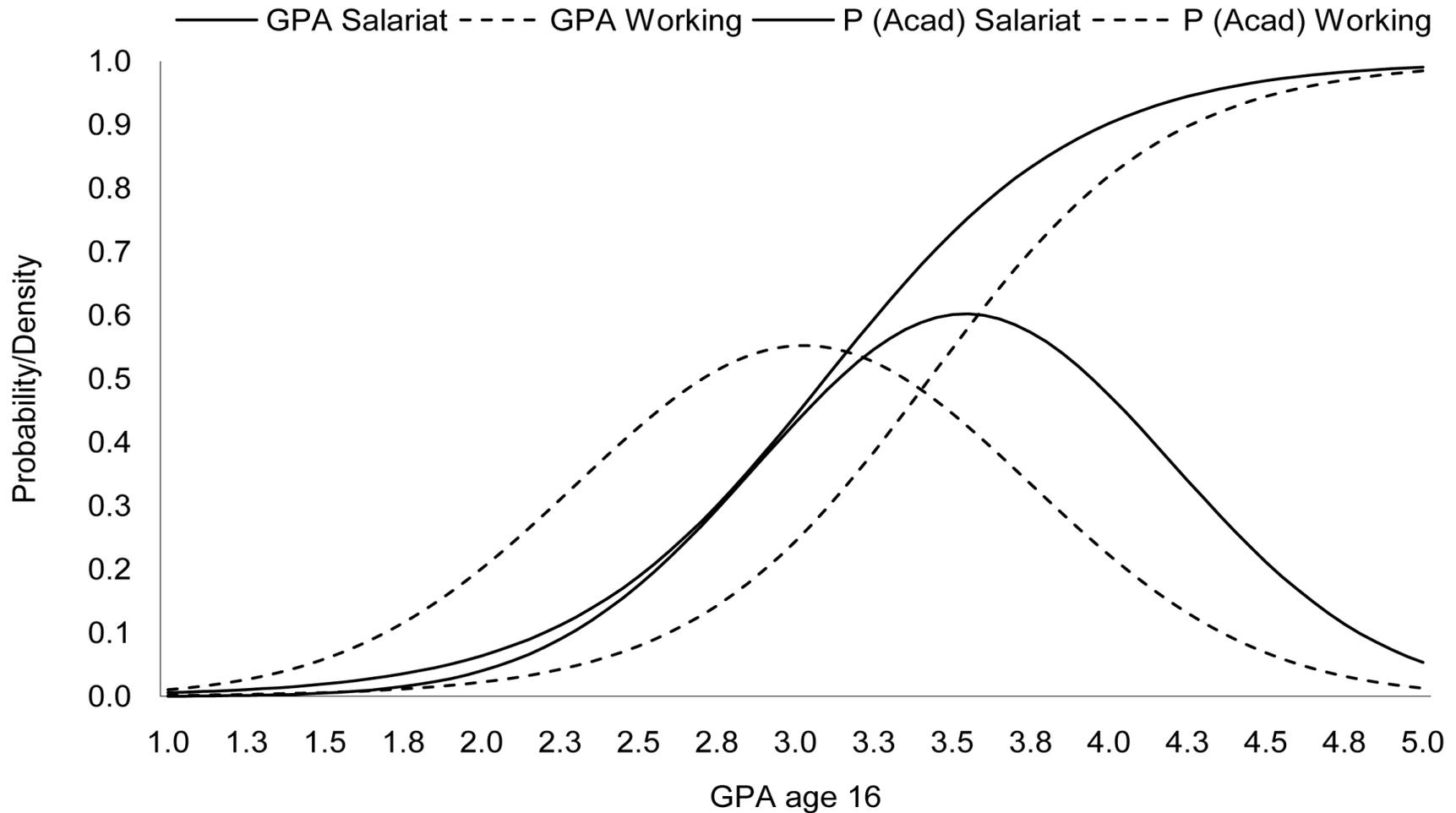
(SES-differentials in educational attainment)

Primary effects: indirect effect of class origin via performance

Secondary effects: direct effect of class origin net of performance, 'choice'



Figure 1. Grade point average (GPA) and transition probabilities to academic upper secondary programs. Individuals born in 1981. (Rudolphi 2011, Introduction in diss.)

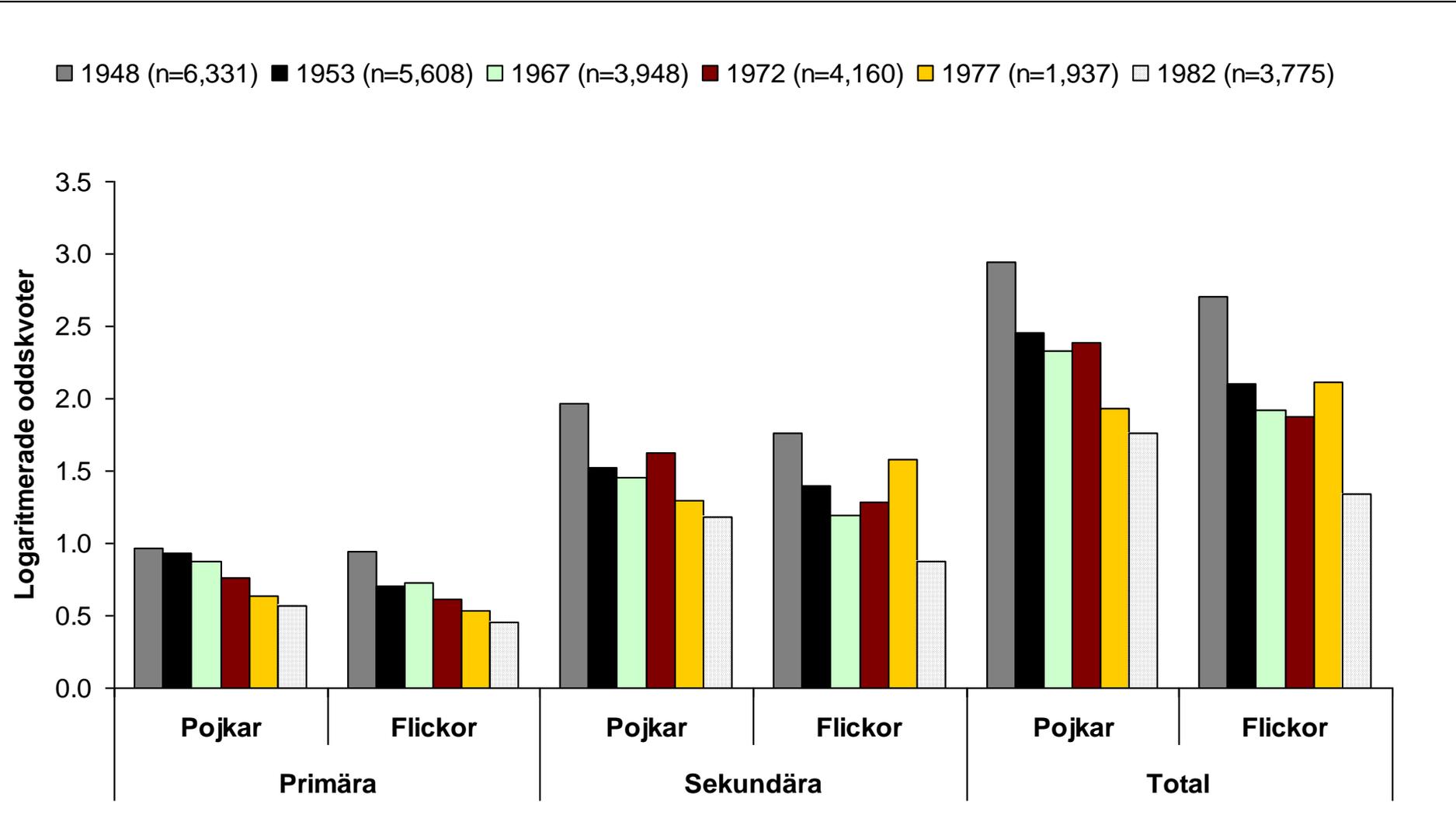


Data

- Cohort sequential – every 5th-10th year a sample of pupils is surveyed, and followed-up in registers.
- For this study; born in 1948, 1953, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982
- Test results in 6th grade, identical test cognitive ability (language, numerical series, "metal folding")



Class origin inequality (Service I vs. working class origin) in transition to academic upper secondary education Logged odds ratios, decomposed by primary and secondary effects (by sex and cohort). Performance measured by cognitive tests.



Infrastructural goals

To contribute to the training of empirical stratification researchers that are capable of making full use of data based on registers.

Appointed new PhDs:

Sara Kjellson, Are Skeie Hermansen (continued at Oslo University), Per Engzell, Roujman Shabazian.

Completed dissertations in the project:

Jenny Torssander 2013 (next week) Equality in Death: How the Social Position of Individuals and Families are linked to Mortality

Frida Rudolphi 2011: Inequality in Educational Outcomes. How Aspirations, Performance, and Choice Shape Careers in Sweden

Karin Halldén 2011: What's Sex Got to Do with It? Women and Men in European Labour Markets

Martin Hällsten 2010: Essays on Social Reproduction and Lifelong Learning

Charlotta Magnusson 2010: Mind the Gap. Essays on Explanations of Gender Wage Inequality

Appointed post-docs (*but already very capable from start*):

Carina Mood, Stockholm University

Martin Hällsten, Stockholm University

Liana Fox, Columbia University



Infrastructural goals

Organizing courses: Courses in data management and the MONA-system together with SUNDEM

Organizing workshops with researchers:

Top incomes and elites, 2009

Social stratification dynamics I , 2010

Poverty and income inequality, 2011

Social stratification dynamics II, 2011

Education and inequality, 2012

The SIMSAM national meeting (organized with SUNDEM), 2012

Social stratification dynamics III, 2012

Upcoming: Stratification and health (organized with SINGS), 2014?



Infrastructural goals

To contribute to the creation of an organization around SIMSAM that could function as a source of knowledge and experience for other researchers

Participated in the joint SIMSAM work
SINGS, courses
SIMSAM-infra application

On-going initiative for standardizing and documenting stratification variables



Infrastructural goals

Initiate a program of exchange of students and researchers.

Guest research program, guests over the years:

Michael Grätz, PhD-candidate EUI, Florence

Liliya Leopold, PhD-candidate EUI, Florence

Lindsey Macmillan, researcher, University of London

Anton Lager, researcher, CHESS, Stockholm

Paul Lambert, researcher, Stirling University

Nicole Kaiser, internship, Friedrich-Alexander University

Marco Albertini, researcher, University of Bologna

Fabian Pfeffer, researcher, University of Michigan

Maarten Buis, researcher, University of Tuebingen



Infrastructural goals

Initiate a program of exchange of students and researchers.

Important; all have collaborated with someone in SUNSTRAT on research topics that are covered by our approved ethical applications



Next five years

The same field: Social stratification dynamics but new organization and new research questions

Work packages structure the node

WP1: Infrastructure

WP2: Education

WP3: Labour market

WP4: Economic resources

WP5: Family

WP6: Health



No funding from SIMSAM/VR

Much of the research will be done anyway, but it will take longer time.

More dependent on project funding.



WP1: Infrastructure

First year led by Carina Mood

The purpose of this WP is to make registry based research more efficient and accessible to other researchers.

- a. data management (with SUNDEM)
- b. harmonization of stratification variables
- c. collaborate with the research school

Together with all WP:s



WP2: Education

- 2A. Long-term effects of disadvantaged background and poor performance in school (Janne Jonsson, Frida Rudolphi)
- 2B. The effects of contextual circumstances for schooling outcomes (Anders Böhlmark, Helena Holmlund)
- 2C. The effects of educational policy on equality of educational opportunities (Anders Böhlmark, Helena Holmlund)



WP3: Labour market

- 3A. Housework, parental leave and labour market returns
(Katarina Boye, Marie Evertsson, Karin Halldén,
Charlotta Magnusson, Anders Stenberg)
- 3B. Gender segregation (Charlotta Magnusson)
- 3C. Elite recruitment (Erik Bihagen, Magnus Nermo,
Charlotta Stern)
- 3D. Children of immigrants and labour market returns (Erik
Bihagen, Liana Fox)



WP4: Economic Resources

- 4A. Intergenerational mobility (Janne Jonsson, Carina Mood, Erik Bihagen)
- 4B. The socioeconomic consequences of the great recession during the 1990s (Janne Jonsson, Carina Mood)
- 4C. Poverty dynamics (Carina Mood)
- 4D. Effects of parental wealth (Martin Hällsten)



WP5: Family

- 5A. Marriages and stratification (Juho Härkönen, Ognjen Obucina)
- 5B. Birth order effects on educational transitions (Juho Härkönen, Frida Rudolphi)
- 5C. Income differences within households and division of care leave (Katarina Boye)
- 5D. “Absent” parents and children’s outcomes (Michael Gähler)



WP6: Health

- 6A. Use schooling reforms for estimating the causal effect of education on health (Anton Lager, Robert Erikson, Cecilia Magnusson)
- 6B. The importance of children's resources for their parents' health (Jenny Torssander)

