Empirical measures of social stratification positions:
social classes, prestige ratings, socioeconomic indexes

What is the base of differences between people in modern societies?

- Socio-economic inequalities in the labour market

- What are jobs? Occupations – nominal categories

- The transfer of classification of occupations into sociologically meaningful variables

    - *How to transform nominal categories into ordinal or continuous (measured) variables?*

- result 1: **social classes,** categorical approach to social reality

- result 2: **prestige ratings**, hierarchical/continuous approach

- result 3: **socioeconomic indexes** – hierarchical/continuous approach

- All these measures are ISCO based

ISCO – International Standard Classification of Occupations

- ILO: International Labour Organization in Geneva

  - original idea comes from 1921, the need for an ISCO

  - the first elementary version of ISCO has been proposed in 1958

  - ISCO68 -ISCO88 -ISCO08

- ISCO – 4 digits

ISCO-08 major groups

1 Managers
2 Professionals
3 Technicians and Associate Professionals
4 Clerical Support Workers
5 Services and Sales Workers
6 Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Workers
7 Craft and Related Trades Workers
8 Plant and Machine Operators, and Assemblers
9 Elementary Occupations
0 Armed Forces Occupations

9 Elementary Occupations
- 91 Cleaners and Helpers
  - 911 Domestic, Hotel and Office Cleaners and Helpers
  - 912 Vehicle, Window, Laundry and Other Hand Cleaning Workers
- 92 Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Labourers
  - 921 Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Labourers
- 93 Labourers in Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Transport
  - 931 Mining and Construction Labourers
  - 932 Manufacturing Labourers
  - 933 Transport and Storage Labourers
- 94 Food Preparation Assistants
  - 941 Food Preparation Assistants
- 95 Street and Related Sales and Services Workers
  - 951 Street and Related Services Workers
  - 952 Street Vendors (excluding Food)
- 96 Refuse Workers and Other Elementary Workers
  - 961 Refuse Workers
  - 962 Other Elementary Workers

1 Managers
- 11 Chief Executives, Senior Officials and Legislators
  - 111 Legislators and Senior Officials
  - 112 Managing Directors and Chief Executives
- 12 Administrative and Commercial Managers
  - 121 Business Services and Administration Managers
  - 122 Sales, Marketing and Development Managers
- 13 Production and Specialized Services Managers
  - 131 Production Managers in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
  - 132 Manufacturing, Mining, Construction and Distribution Managers
  - 133 Information and Communications Technology Services Managers
  - 134 Professional Services Managers
- 14 Hospitality, Retail and Other Services Managers
  - 141 Hotel and Restaurant Managers
  - 142 Retail and Wholesale Trade Managers
  - 143 Other Services Managers

Categorical approach to occupation stratification

- Class approach
- Limited number of discrete categories
- External heterogeneity (members differ from other members)
- Internal homogeneity (similarity to other members of the same category)
- Criteria that define heterogeneity and homogeneity are tested in empirical research
  - Conditions (income, working time, vacation time, type of contract)
  - Opportunities (mobility odds, financial bonuses, promotions)

- How social classes are relevant for description and explanation of social phenomena
- Social classes = social mobility
  - Multidimensionality, social mobility patterns differ
- Social classes are theoretical concept that is empirically tested

Continuous approach to occupation stratification

- Hierarchical approach
- Indexes are similar to prestige scales, but differences in construction
- Unlimited number of distinctions among occupational groups
- Differences in occupations can be captured in one dimension
    - Represented by one parameter is statistical modeling
    - Advantage when external heterogeneity and internal homogeneity do not work in the case of social classes
- Can solve the problem of "intervening" variable in mobility analysis (gender, age, ethnicity)
- Indexes (ISEI) = status attainment process
- Reproduction is part of attainment process, social mobility is not directly measured

Social classes: categorical approach

- Generally: social classes are connected to modern society

- The labour market is the axis of modern life

- Job = money that are necessary for life in society = the level of quality of life

  - living conditions

- Jobs (and labour markets in nation states) mean the organization of life, time and individual biographies

Fathers of social classes: Karl Marx and Max Weber

- **Karl Marx (1818–1883)**, German philosopher, economist, sociologist.
- Two classes in modern society: class antagonisms under capitalism between the *bourgeoisie* and *proletariat*
- Classes are defined by the relationship to production
    - Bourgeoisie owns means of production
    - Proletariat owns just labour power
- Structural specification of social classes

- **Max Weber (1864–1920)**, German sociologist, philosopher, and political economist
- Class position means the labour market position
- Jobs
- Many classes and specific cultural behaviour (explanation!)
- Cultural specification of social classes

Social classes in modern societies

- Social classes are groups of people in the same labour market position

- People with the same labour market chances
    - The same odds to get certain type of work
    - The same odds to get the similar salary
    - The same odds to do certain type of paid activity

- Are social classes the social groups today?
    - Is job/employment so important that makes social class?

Theory of social classes

- Theory of social classes must answer two key questions:

- What criteria and why these criteria differentiate positions in the labour market?

  - How many social classes?

- Who belongs to which social class?

  - Does the social class exist as a social group? What have social class representants similar?

Empirical measurement of social classes

- Up to 1980's huge distance between class theory and empirical indication of class differences
- A lot of authors wrote about class differences in the modern labour markets but the problem was how to indicate them
- Empirical indication of class differences = operational definition
    - operationalization
- Theory is a base of concept of social classes

- *Why social classes cannot be derived from empirical reality?*

EGP, ESeC => ESeG

- EGP and ESeC => ESeG

  - The most popular social class empirical indications today

- EGP (Erikson, Goldthorpe and Portocarero)

  - Origins in 1980s

  - It was developed for occupational structure for Great Britain in 1980s.

- ESeC is updated EGP
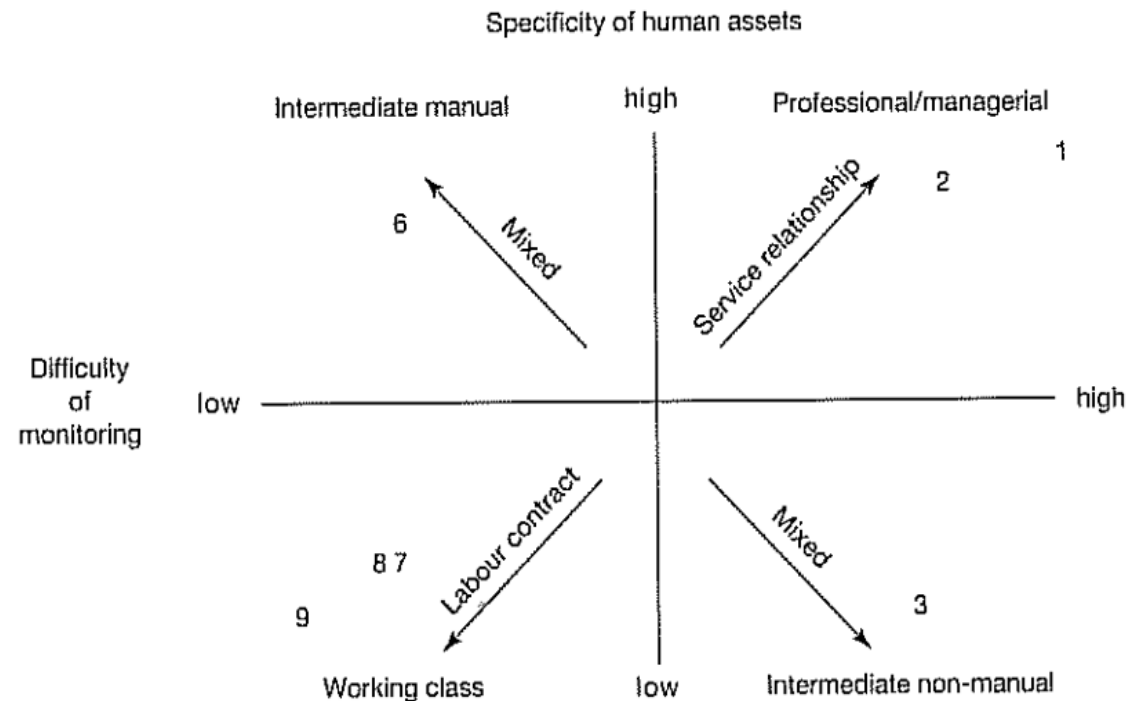
- ESeC is developed for contemporary european countries

What is the ESeC?

- A statistical tool for for understanding the differences in social structures and socioeconomic inequalities across the EU
- Completed in 2006 by Eurostat
- Consortium of academics from six different EU countries

- Goal of ESeC
  - to arrange a set of entities into groups, so that each group is:
    - as different as possible from all other groups
    - but each group is as internally homogenous as possible.

Primary distinctions in ESeC (derived from EGP)

1. *Employers* – who buy the labour of others and assume so level of authority and control over them
2. *Self-employed* – neither buy labour nor sell their own labour to an employer
3. *Employee* – who sell their labour thus placing themselves under control of an employer
4. *Excluded* – involuntary unemployed, long-term disability

ESeC
classs scheme I

ESeC class	Common term	Employment regulation
1 Large employers, higher-grade professional, administrative, and managerial occupations	Higher salariat	Service relationship
2 Lower grade professional, administrative, and managerial occupations and higher grade	Lower salariat	Service relationship (modified)
3 Intermediate occupations	Higher-grade white collar workers	Mixed
4 Small employer and self-employed occupations (except agriculture, etc.)	Petite bourgeoisie or independents	Not applicable
5 Self-employed occupations (agriculture etc.)	Petite bourgeoisie or independents	Not applicable
6 Lower supervisory and lower technician occupations	Higher-grade blue collar workers	Mixed
7 Lower services, sales, and clerical occupations	Lower white collar	Labour contract (modified)
8 Lower technical occupations	Skilled workers	Labour contract (modified)
9 Routine occupations	Semi- and non-skilled workers	Labour contract
10 Never worked and long-term unemployed	Unemployed	Not applicable

ESeC
classs scheme II

ESeC classes	10-class version	6-class version	5-class version	3-class version
Higher salariat	1	1+2	1+2	1+2
Lower salariat	2			
Higher-grade white collar	3	3+6	3+6	3+4+5+6
Petite bourgeosie or independent	4	4+5	4+5	
Petite bourgeosie or independent	5			
Higher blue collar	6			
Lower blue collar	7	7	7	7+8+9
Skilled manual workers	8	8	8+9	
Semi- and un-skilled manual workers	9	9		
Unemployed	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)

Why is the ESeC needed?

- A way to compare economic prosperity internationally

- Monitor social structure change

- Observe the pace of "climbing the social hierarchy"

  - Relevant to governments and politicians

- Determine if there are factors such as age, race or sex that make an individual more disposed to be in a certain socioeconomic classification

- Harmonization makes comparison easier and more statistically significant

Empirical variables for identification of ESeC positions

- Questions for questionnaire

- ISCO

In your main job, what kind of work do/did you do most of the time?
WRITE IN

_____

_____

- Additional questions:

In your main job are/were you... **READ OUT...**

...an employee,

self-employed,
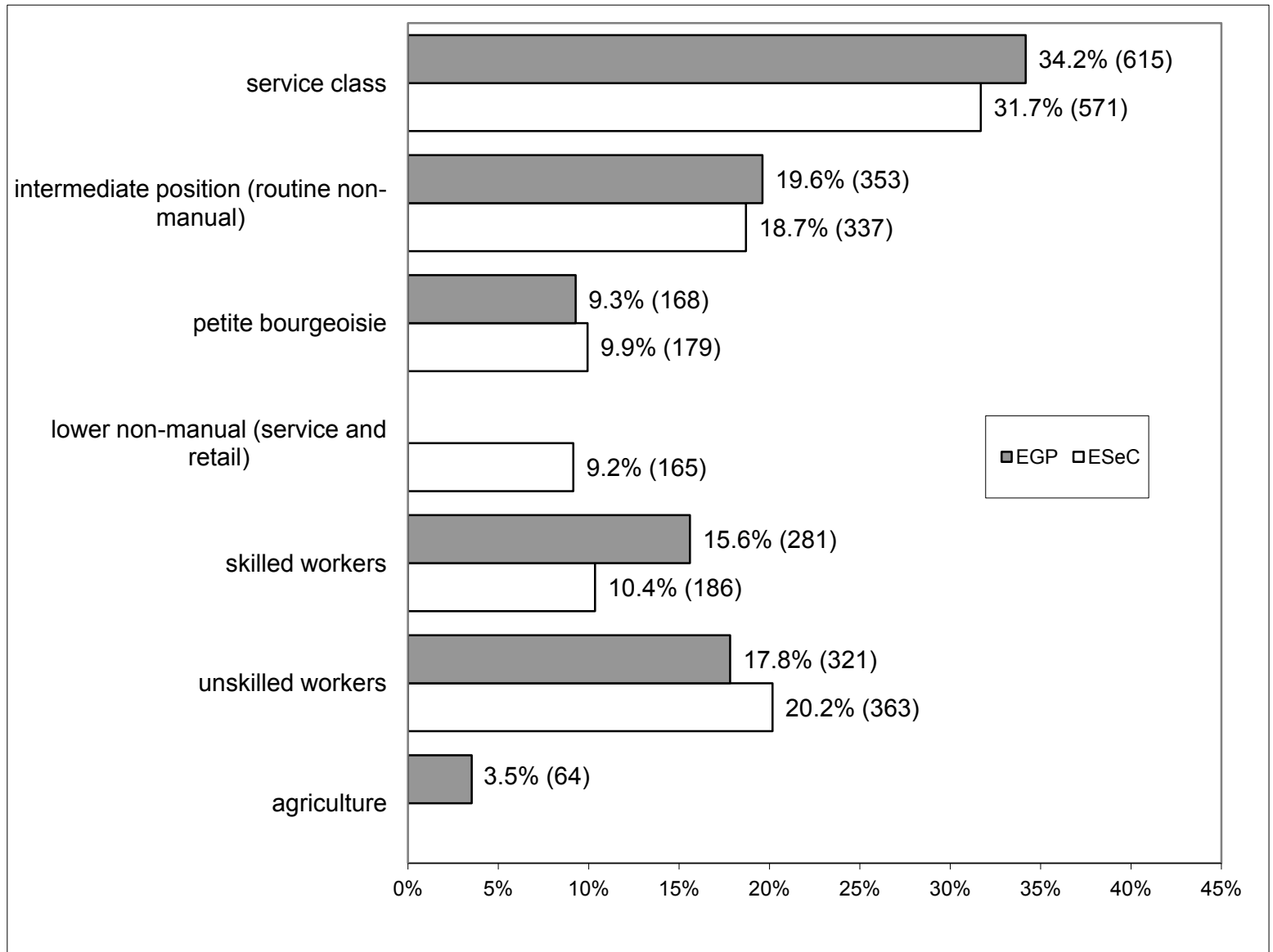
or, working for your own family's business?

(Don't know)

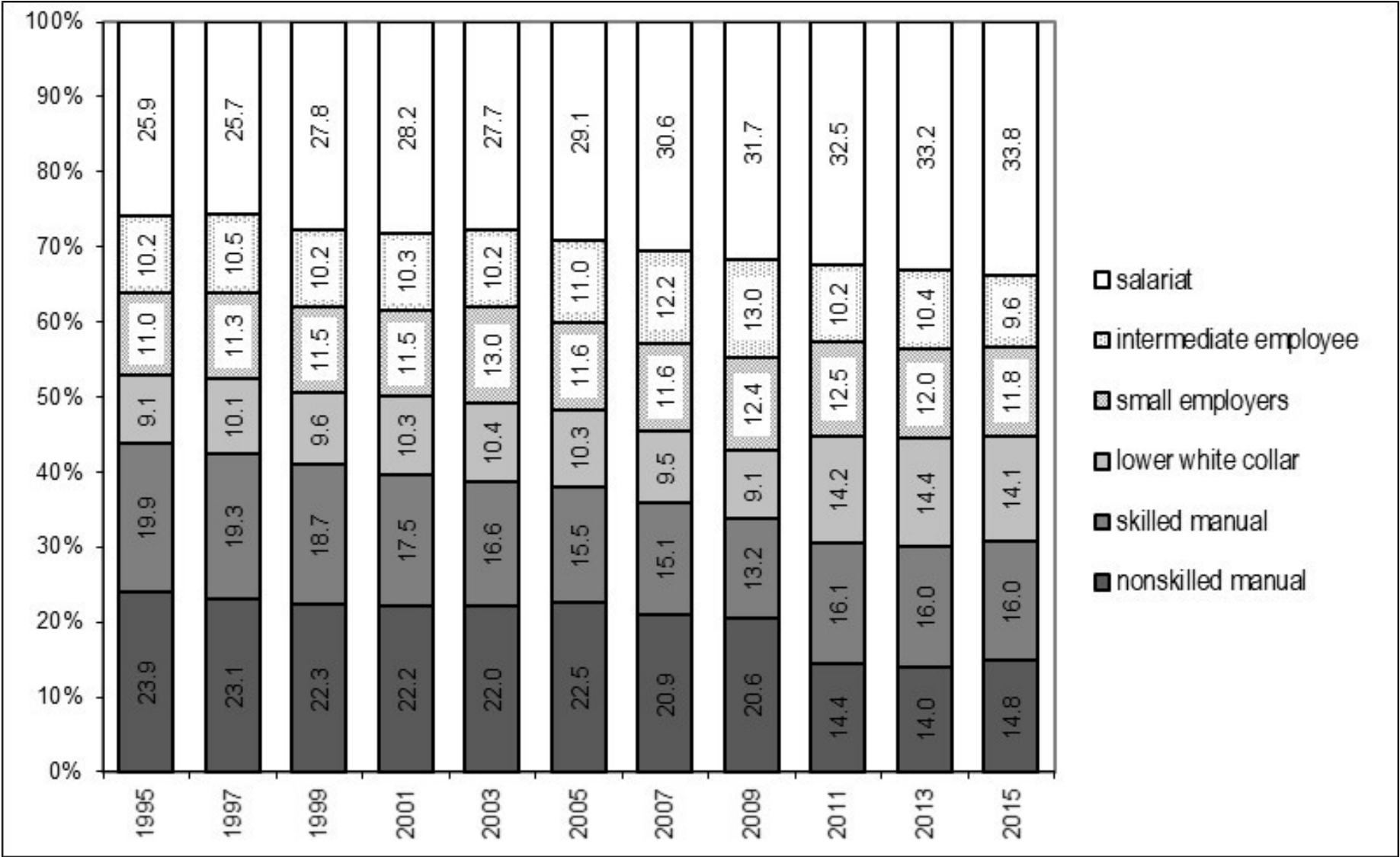How many people are/were you responsible for?

WRITE IN:

How many employees (if any) do/did you have?

WRITE IN number of employees:

Proportion of ESeC and EGP in the Czech Republic (6 class version, 2012)

Class	EGP	ESeC
service class	34.2% (615)	31.7% (571)
intermediate position (routine non-manual)	19.6% (353)	18.7% (337)
petite bourgeoisie	9.3% (168)	9.9% (179)
lower non-manual (service and retail)		9.2% (165)
skilled workers	15.6% (281)	10.4% (186)
unskilled workers	17.8% (321)	20.2% (363)
agriculture	3.5% (64)	

Trends in ESeC in the Czech Republic (6 class version)

Prestige ratings - SIOPS

- SIOPS - Standard International Occupational Prestige Scale (SIOPS) scores
- constructed by Donald J. Treiman: *Occupational Prestige in Comparative Perspective* (1977)
- averaging the results of prestige evaluations from 60 countries
  - evaluative judgments
  - sample of population or experts
  - prestige judgments of occupations
  - general desirability of occupations
- ISCO code = prestige rating code

```
/* SPSS comments:
** recode of isko-88 into treimans prestige scale
** Date of last revision: Summer 1996

** Please cite use of our conversion tools as:
** "Ganzeboom, Harry B.G.; Treiman, Donald J.,
** International Stratification and Mobility
** File: Conversion Tools. Utrecht: Department of Sociologie,
** http://www.fss.uu.nl/soc/hg/ismf." Date of last revision.
*/

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Quantitative Studies in Social Relations

Occupational Prestige in Comparative Perspective

Donald J. Treiman

ISEI: International Socio-economic Index of Occupational Status

- ISEI is generated on the base of optimal scaling procedure

- EDUCATION -> occupation -> INCOME

- EDUCATION -> ISEI -> INCOME

- Zero correlation EDU-INCOME

- ISEI is empirical concept without theoretical support

```
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New class scheme?

- YT video with Mike Savage about research of social classes in Britain: https://youtu.be/m1rSJedkoQ4

The BBC Great British Class Survey: Professor Mike Savage, LSE

7 974 zhlédnutí • 24. 7. 2015 • Professor Mike Savage, LSE, discusses the results of the BBC's great British class survey.