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# Swiss Journal of Sociology

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## Persistent Social Inequalities

Edited by Robin Tillmann and Marieke Voorpostel

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153 Temporal Trends in Intergenerational Social Mobility in Switzerland: A Cohort Study of Men and Women Born Between 1912 and 1974 [E] | Julie Falcon

The central question addressed in this paper is to what extent the influence of social origin on life chances has changed over time for both men and women. In order to capture this change, intergenerational social mobility of eight different birth-cohorts, covering most of the entire twentieth century, is analysed using a unique collection of twelve Swiss national population sample surveys. The main results show that social mobility has remained constant across cohorts born in 1912 and those born in 1974. This suggests that unlike some other industrialised countries, inequality based on social origin is persistent in Switzerland.

Keywords: Social mobility, stratification, inequality, change, gender

177 On the Development of Intergenerational Mobility in Switzerland [G] | Ben Jann and Benita Combet

The transmission of social positions from parents to children is a core topic in the analysis of social stratification. Despite the widespread interest in the topic and notwithstanding a strong international literature, there is only little empirical evidence for Switzerland on the development of effects of social origin. We provide a systematic analysis of the process of intergenerational status transmission and its development over time, drawing on a total of nineteen datasets and quantifying the effects of social origin based on the concept of proportional reduction of error (PRE). The results reveal declining effects of social origin on educational achievement for men and women up until birth cohorts 1950–1960. After that, effects start to rise again. With respect to class we find a similar pattern in the case of women, whereas for men the effects remained stable.

Keywords: Inequality, social mobility, intergenerational status transmission, proportional reduction of error, PRE

**201 Parental Background, Upper Secondary Transitions and Schooling Inequality in Switzerland [E] | Jean-Marc Falter**

Transitions to upper secondary education may shape inequalities in Switzerland, which is characterized by early tracking and an extensive vocational track. Yet, pathways inside the schooling system may lower the impact of schooling decisions taking place at age 15. We use micro-data from TREE, a follow-up of the Swiss sample of PISA 2000, where upper secondary school choices can be observed together with cognitive ability and family background variables. We estimate a sequential model, which allows breaking down educational outcomes between inequality of opportunities at various transitions inside and the weights of these transitions. We show that the importance of educational transitions heavily depends on ability and gender.

Keywords: Social stratification, transitions, education, intergenerational links, schooling inequality

**223 The Gap Widens. The Effects of Social Background on School Performance Increase in the Course of Primary School [G] | Domenico Angelone and Erich Ramseier**

The reproduction of social inequalities in education is primarily due to disparities in performance in the early stages of an individual's school career. The emergence and evolution of these disparities deserve special attention. Using a longitudinal sample of 1 714 primary school pupils, we examine how the German language and mathematics performance evolves in the last three years of primary school, considering the educational attainment of their parents. Disparities in performance due to social background increase markedly as the transition to secondary school draws closer. This effect is present even if the pupils had the same cognitive capabilities and knowledge upon school entry. So not only are the chances of individuals upon school entry unequally distributed according to social background, so too are their opportunities for educational development.

Keywords: Social background, educational inequalities, reproduction of social inequalities, school performance, longitudinal analysis

**245 Educational Success and Adolescents' Well-Being in Switzerland [E] | Irene Kriesi and Marlis Buchmann with the collaboration of Andrea Jaberg**

Adolescents' well-being is an important indicator of their successful development. Educational success is a likely but little investigated source for well-being. This paper will examine whether different components of educational success in the transition from lower-secondary to post-obligatory education affect young people's well-being in late adolescence. Based on the Swiss Survey of Children and Youth COCON, including a birth cohort of adolescents who were between 15 and 18 years old at the time points of data collection (2006–2009; N=952), results of structural equation and multiple linear regression models show that educational success does indeed affect well-being at the age of 18.

Keywords: Adolescence, education, educational success, social inequality, well-being

**267 Are There Patterns of Poverty Trajectories? The Dynamics of Deprivation Between Classes, Individualization, and Cumulative Disadvantage [E] | Jean-Luc Heeb and Elisabeth Gutjahr**

Recent research on the dynamics of poverty emphasizes both temporalized and democratized poverty, resulting in largely individualized and oscillating trajectories. However, methodological shortcomings have been criticized for creating an excessive number of changes in

trajectories. To overcome these difficulties, growth mixture modelling is used to substantiate patterns of poverty trajectories. Four clear-cut patterns, which are closely related to social inequalities, but also to life events or situations and biography, were identified: a widespread pattern of stable non-deprivation and three patterns of increasing, decreasing, and stable deprivation. These patterns appear to incorporate and perpetuate social inequalities and the dynamics of poverty seem to be widely embedded in the macrostructure of social inequalities. Thus, the individualization of poverty trajectories should be questioned.

Keywords: Poverty, trajectories, social inequalities, modelling, Switzerland

291 **Health Inequality Across Time: A Growth Curve Analysis of Self Assessed Health in Contemporary Switzerland [E] | Sara Della Bella, Mario Lucchini and Jenny Assi**

Although many studies have shown the persistence of the social gradient in health, previous explanations in this domain are often questionable because they usually assume this gradient to be constant across time and are based on data and models that are unable to correctly estimate what is essentially a developmental process. Different hypotheses regarding the relationship over time between health and socio-economic status have been proposed and need to be tested. This study uses longitudinal data from the Swiss Household Panel to examine individual health trajectories over time. Our results only confirm a reduction of the heterogeneity in the individual health trajectories across income as people age (at least in younger cohorts), although data limitations suggest some caution.

Keywords: Self rated health, socio-economic status, inequalities in health, longitudinal data, growth curves

311 **Development of Income Inequality in Germany and Switzerland Since the Turn of the Millennium [G] | Markus M. Grabka and Ursina Kuhn**

This contribution presents and compares trends in income inequality in Switzerland and Germany from 2000 to 2009 using harmonized data from the SOEP and the SHP. While inequality increased strongly in Germany, it increased only little for market income and decreased even slightly for disposable income in Switzerland. Decomposing inequality by age groups, household types and educational level shows different structures between both countries that partly explain the differences. Finally, also redistribution by the government plays a role: while redistribution has slightly decreased in Germany, it has slightly increased in Switzerland.

Keywords: Income inequality, inequality decomposition, income mobility, SOEP, SHP

335 **German and French Abstracts**

**Reihe Gesundheit und Integration –  
 Beiträge aus Theorie und Praxis**

Herausgeber:  
**Schweizerischen Rotes Kreuz (SRK)**

Das Schweizerische Rote Kreuz (SRK) engagiert sich seit vielen Jahren in der Grundlagen- und Projektarbeit zu Gesundheit und Integration. Mit regelmässig erscheinenden Publikationen leistet das SRK in diesen gesellschaftlich relevanten Bereichen einen Beitrag zur aktuellen Diskussion.



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**Transkulturelle Public Health**  
 Ein Weg zur Chancengleichheit

Gesundheitliche Chancengleichheit ist ein international verbürgtes Menschenrecht. Dennoch haben Menschen – in der Schweiz wie international – völlig unterschiedliche Chancen, gesund zu sein und zu bleiben. Eine Migrationsbiografie, verbunden mit sozialer Benachteiligung, kann die Gesundheitschancen beeinträchtigen. Umso wichtiger ist es, dass wir allen Menschen in ihrer individuellen Situation vorurteilsfrei begegnen. Dazu braucht es transkulturelle Kompetenz – eine zentrale Ressource für Fachpersonen im Sozial- und Gesundheitswesen.

Dieser Sammelband weitet die Bedeutung der transkulturellen Kompetenz aus auf Public Health, die bevölkerungsbezogene Perspektive von Gesundheit und Krankheit. Die Autorinnen und Autoren veranschaulichen diesen Zugang mit theoretischen Überlegungen und praktischen Beispielen.

**Einschluss und Ausschluss**  
 Betrachtungen zu Integration und sozialer Ausgrenzung in der Schweiz



*Mit zahlreichen  
 Fotos von  
 Peter Dammann*

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 SFr. 38.–  
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Das vom Schweizerischen Roten Kreuz (SRK) 2010 – dem Europäischen Jahr zur Bekämpfung von Armut und sozialer Ausgrenzung – herausgegebene Fotobuch setzt sich für die Anliegen der Verletzlichsten unserer Gesellschaft ein. Sieben reich bebilderte Lebensgeschichten von Migrantinnen und Migranten zeigen sehr unterschiedliche und eindrucksvolle Erfahrungen mit Ausgrenzung auf: beispielsweise ein junger Asylsuchender, der nach über acht Jahren in der Migration den Kontakt zu seiner Mutter endlich wieder herstellen konnte; eine Flüchtlingsfrau, die trotz ihres sicheren Status unter dem Fremdsein in der Schweiz leidet; oder ein Sans-Papiers, der seit über zehn Jahren in der Schweiz lebt und in dieser Zeit eindrücklich gelernt hat, mit der ständigen Angst und der Armut im Alltag umzugehen. Vier Beiträge beleuchten das Thema «Sozialer Einschluss und Ausschluss» aus wissenschaftlicher Perspektive.