

SOS4100 – Spring 2017

Social Inequality in the 21st Century: Egalitarian Norway in Comparative Perspective

This course provides a comprehensive presentation of key dimensions of social inequality in contemporary societies in the early 21st century. We address core issues such as economic inequality and intergenerational mobility, immigration and ethnic inequalities, and gender inequality in education and work.

The aim of the course is two-fold: First, we provide students with an empirical understanding of how patterns of social inequality in the Norwegian welfare state society compares to other rich, developed countries. Second, we provide students with a set of theoretical perspectives and analytical tools to make sense of both cross-national variations in inequality patterns at the macro level and the mechanisms that shape social regularities and individual outcomes at the micro level.

The course will address these and related questions: What are driving forces behind increasing socioeconomic inequalities in Western societies since the latter quarter of the 20th century? To what extent is the impact of “the birth lottery” – i.e., which parents you are born to – on future life chances and social mobility related to the level of economic inequality in a given society? Do ethnic inequalities relative to native majority populations tend to widen or narrow when we compare immigrants who arrived as adults to their native-born children, and what are the key mechanisms behind immigrant socioeconomic integration? Why do men still earn higher wages than women despite the fact that women now complete more education than men in most developed countries? Throughout, we focus on how societal institutions, such as a strong welfare state, shape countries’ level and dynamics of inequality related to socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and gender.

The syllabus primarily focuses on recent empirical studies and state-of-the-art literature reviews but also covers some foundational theoretical texts. We emphasize the link between good research questions and suitable empirical research designs to address these, which will be useful for later work on your master thesis. The course will provide you with knowledge that is highly relevant for your employment opportunities, such as employers’ hiring policy, authority relations, organizational analysis, economic growth, human capital, and equal opportunities. While the lectures and the readings are in English, you are allowed to write your exams in Norwegian.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

This course will provide:

- An overview of recent empirical studies of inequality related to ethnicity, gender and socioeconomic status
- An analytical perspective on the links between sociological theories on inequality and empirical research

Skills

You will be able to:

- Extract the most central concepts from a scientific article
- Provide a critical discussion on choice of theory and analytical design, given the topic of investigation
- Provide a critical discussion on the topics covered in the empirical studies included in the syllabus
- Give a written and oral presentation of an empirical study, and provide a justification of your choice
- design solid empirical studies of social inequalities
- Develop a master thesis topic associated with this course

Competences

- Gain a deeper respect for the distinction between academic knowledge based on solid empirical evidence versus perceptions based on opinions and other personal perceptions
- Gain a deeper respect for ethical considerations involved in scientific work in general and studies of social inequality in particular

Overview of lectures

- 1: Introduction**
- 2-3: Structures of Inequality and Cross-National Perspectives on Macro-Level Patterns**
- 4-5: Perspectives on Labor Market Inequality: Human Capital, Matching, and Discrimination**
- 6-7: Social Origin, Education and Intergenerational Mobility**
- 8-9: Immigration and Ethnic Inequality in Education, the Labor Market, and Spatial Dimensions**
- 10-11: Gender Equality: Education, Work, and Family**
- 12: Summary**

Grand total: 989 pages

1: Introduction

- Grusky, D. B. og Wiesshaar, K. R. (2014) "Ch. 1a. The Questions We Ask About Inequality" in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (17 pages)
- Davis, K. (2014 [1945]) "Ch. 2. Some Principles of Stratification" in D. B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (3 pages)
- Tumin, M. M. (2014 [1953]) "Ch. 3. Some Principles of Stratification: A Critical Analysis" in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (8 pages)
- Fischer, C. S. et al. (2014 [1996]) «Ch. 4. Inequality by Design» in D. B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (4 pages)
- INN @ Jencks, C. (2002). Does Inequality Matter? *Daedalus*, 131(1), 49-65. (17 sider)
- * Esping-Andersen, G. and Myles, J. (2009). "Economic Inequality and the Welfare State" Pp. 639-664 in W. Salverda, B. Nolan, and T. M. Smeeding *The Oxford Handbook of Economic Inequality*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [26 pages]

- INN @ Grusky, D. B., Mattingly, M.B., and Varner, E. B. (2016). "Executive Summary" Pathways, State of the Union 2016: 3-9 (7 pages)
- INN @ Hout, M. (2016). "Labor Markets" Pathways, State of the Union 2016: 10-14 (5 pages)
- INN @ Gornick, J.C. & Jäntti, M. (2013). "Poverty" Pathways, State of the Union 2016: 15-24 (10 pages)
- INN @ Jusko, K. (2016). "Safety Net" Pathways, State of the Union 2016: 25-31 (7 pages)
- INN @ Fisher, J. and Smeeding, T. M. (2016). "Income Inequality" Pathways, State of the Union 2016: 32-38 (7 pages)
- INN @ Zucman, G. (2016). "Wealth Inequality" Pathways, State of the Union 2016: 39-45 (7 pages)
- INN @ Chiemelowski, A. K. and Reardon, S. F. (2016). "Education" Pathways, State of the Union 2016: 45-50 [6 pages]
- INN @ Corak, M. (2016). "Economic Mobility" Pathways, State of the Union 2016: 51-58 (8 pages)
- INN @ Beckfield, J. and Morris, K. (2016). "Health" Pathways, State of the Union 2016: 51-58 (8 pages)
- INN @ Lichter, D. T., Parisi, D., and de Valk, H. (2016). "Residential Segregation." Pathways, State of the Union 2016:65-75. [11 pages]

Total: 151 pages

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- Grusky, D. B. og Szélenyi, S. (2014) "Ch. 1b. The Stories We Tell About Inequality" in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (9 pages)
- Grusky, D. og Weisshaar, K. R. (2014) "Ch. 5. A Compressed History of Inequality" in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (9 pages)
- Esping-Andersen, Gøsta og Myles, John (2014 [2008]) "Ch. 6 The Welfare State and Redistribution" in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed (7 pages)
- Fischer, Claude S. et al. (2014 [1996]) «Ch. 4. Inequality by Design» in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (4 pages)
- *Krueger, Alan B. (2008 [2003]) «Inequality, Too Much of a Good Thing» in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 3rd ed. (p. 53-60) (7 pages)

2-3: Structures of Inequality and Cross-National Perspectives on Macro-Level Patterns

- INN @ Neckerman, K. M., & Torche, F. (2007). Inequality: Causes and consequences. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 33, 335-357. (23 sider)
- INN * Gornick, J.C. and Jäntti, M. (2013). "Income Inequality in Cross-National Perspective: A look at Levels and Trends", in Gornick & Jäntti (eds): *Income Inequality*, Stanford Univ Press, pp 15-22 (8 pages).
- @ Alderson, A. S. og Nielsen, F. (2002) Globalization and the Great U-Turn: Income Inequality Trends in 16 OECD Countries. *American Journal of Sociology*, 107: 1244-1299. (56 pages)
- Atkinson, A. B., Piketty, T., and Saez, E. (2014) "Ch. 7. Top Incomes in the Long Run of History" in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (14 pages)
- @ Autor, D. (2014) "Skills, education, and the rise of earnings inequality among 'the other 99 percent'" in *Science* (9 pages)
- Firebaugh, G. (2014) "Ch. 132. The New Geography of Global Income Inequality" in D. B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (12 pages)
- Treiman, D. J. (2014 [1976]) "Ch. 24. Occupational Prestige in Comparative Perspective" " in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (4 pages)
- * Goldthorpe, J. H. (2007) « Social Class and the Differentiation of Employment Contracts» in John Goldthorpe: *On Sociology. Volume Two—Illustration and Retrospect* (s. 101-124) 2. ed. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press (24 sider)
- @ Chan, T. W. og J. H. Goldthorpe (2007) "Class and Status: The Conceptual Distinction and its Empirical Relevance". *American Sociological Review*, 72 (4): 512–532. 21 pages

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- Goldin, C. and L. F. Katz (2014 (2008)) "Ch. 8. The Race Between Education and Technology" in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (7 pages)
- Weeden, K. A., and D. B. Grusky (2014 [2012]) "Ch. 23. The Changing Form of Inequality" " in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (11 pages)

4-5: Perspectives on Labor Market Inequality: Human Capital, Matching, and Discrimination

- INN @ Becker, G. (1962). "Investment in Human Capital: A Theoretical Analysis. *Journal of Political Economy*, 9-49. (41 pages)
- Sørensen, A. B. and Kalleberg, A. L. "Ch. 71. An Outline of a Theory of the Matching of Persons to Jobs" in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (9 pages)
- * Stovel, K. og C. Fountain (2010). "Matching." I: P. Hedström og P. Bearman (red.) *The Oxford Handbook of Analytical Sociology*. Oxford University Press, pp. 365-390. 25 pages.
- Granovetter, M. S. (2014) «Ch. 74. The Strength of Weak Ties" " in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (5 pages)
- Lin, N. (2014) "Ch. X. Social Networks and Status Attainment"" in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (3 pages)
- INN * England, P. (1992). *Comparable Worth: Theory and Evidence*. New York: Aldine de Gruyter. Excerpt, 54-68. (15 pages)
- Reskin, B. (2014 [2002]) Ch. 98 Rethinking Employment Discrimination and Its Remedies. I: David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (p. 849-858). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [10 pages]
- Petersen, Trond (2014) «Discrimination: Conscious or Nonconscious?» I: David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective*. 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [7 pages]
- Bertrand, M., and S. Mullainathan (2014 [2004]) "86 Are Emily and Greg More Employable Than Lakisha and Jamal? A Field Experiment on Labor Market Discrimination" (5 pages)
- INN @ Birkelund, G.E.; Heggebø, K. & Rogstad, J. (2016). Additive or Multiplicative Disadvantage? The Scarring Effects of Unemployment for Ethnic Minorities. *European Sociological Review*. doi: 10.1093/esr/jcw030 [13 pages]

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- @Petersen, T., Saporta, I., og Seidel, M. D. L. (2000) Offering a Job: Meritocracy and Social Networks. *American Journal of Sociology*, 106: 763–816. 54 pages.
- Burt, Ronald S. (2014) "Structural Holes" " in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (5 pages)

6-7: Social Origin, Education and Intergenerational Mobility

- INN * Björklund, A. and Jäntti, M. (2011). "Intergenerational Income Mobility and the Role of Family Background" Pp. 491-522 in Salverda, W., Nolan, B. and Smeeding, T. M. *The Oxford Handbook of Economic Inequality*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [31 pages]
- INN @ Breen, R., & Jonsson, J. O. (2005). "Inequality of opportunity in comparative perspective: Recent research on educational attainment and social mobility." *Annual Review of Sociology*, 223-243. [21 pages]
- INN @ Van de Werfhorst, H. G., and Mijs, J. J.B. "Achievement inequality and the institutional structure of educational systems: A comparative perspective." *Annual Review of Sociology* 36 (2010): 407-428. (22 sider)
- Breen, R., Luuikx, R. Müller, W. and Pollak R. (2014). "Nonpersistent Inequality in Educational Attainment" " in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (12 pages)
- Breen, R. (2014). "Social Mobility in Europe" in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (16 pages)
- Jonsson, J. O., Grusky, D. B., Di Carlo, M., and Pollak, M. (2014). "It's a Decent Bet Our Children Will Be Professors Too" " in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (16 pages)
- INN @ Chan, T. W., and Boliver, V. (2013). "The Grandparents Effect in Social Mobility: Evidence from British Birth Cohort Studies." *American Sociological Review* 78(4):662-678, (17 sider)
- @ Mastekaasa, A. (2011) "Social Origins and Labour Market Success – Stability and Change over Norwegian Birth Cohorts 1950–1969." *European Sociological Review* 27(1):1-15. [15 pages]
- Lareau, A. (2014) «Ch. 116. Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life» in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (11 pages)
- INN @ Knudsen, E. I., Heckman, J. J., Cameron, J. L., & Shonkoff, J. P. (2006). Economic, neurobiological, and behavioral perspectives on building America's future workforce. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 103(27), 10155-10162. [8 pages]
- INN @ Nielsen, F, and Roos, J. M. "Genetics of Educational Attainment and the Persistence of Privilege at the Turn of the 21st Century." *Social Forces* 94 (2): 535-561. (27 sider)

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- * Duncan, G, J., Telle, K., Ziol-Guest, K. M., and Kalil, A. (2011). "Economic Deprivation in Early Childhood and Adult Attainment: Comparative Evidence from Norwegian Registry Data and the U.S. Panel Study of Income Dynamics." Pp. 209-234 in *Persistence, Privilege, and Parenting: The Comparative Study of Intergenerational Mobility*, edited by Timothy M. Smeeding, Robert Erikson, and Markus Jäntti. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. [35 pages]
- Jackson, M. (2014). "Determined to Succeed" " in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (8 pages)
- *Tach, Laura and Christopher Jencks (2006) «Would Equal Opportunity Mean More Mobility?» in Stephen L. Morgan, David B. Grusky and Gary S. Fields (eds.) "Mobility and Inequality: Frontiers of Research in Sociology and Economics" Palo Alto: Stanford University Press (p. 23-58) (35 pages)
- @Hansen, Marianne Nordli. (2008) Rational Action Theory and Educational Attainment. Changes in the Impact of Economic Resources. *European Sociological Review*, 24: 1-17. 17 pages.
- @Farkas, George. (2003). "Cognitive Skills and Noncognitive Traits and Behaviors in Stratification Processes." *Annual Review of Sociology*29:541-562. [22 sider]
- * Björklund, T., M. Jäntti, og G. Solon. (2008) "Influences of Nature and Nurture on Earnings Variation: A Report on a Study of Various Sibling Types in Sweden." (pp. 145-164) in Samuel Bowles, Herbert Gintis, & Melissa Osborne Groves (eds.) *Unequal Chances: Family Background and Economic Success*. Princeton University Press. [20 pages.]
- * Ermisch, John, and Chiara Pronzato. (2011). "Causal Effects of Parents' Education on Children's Education." Pp. 237-260 in *Persistence, Privilege, and Parenting: The Comparative Study of Intergenerational Mobility*, edited by Timothy M. Smeeding, Robert Erikson, and Markus Jäntti. New York: Russel Sage Foundation. [24 pages]
- @Mare, Robert (2011). A Multigenerational View of Inequality, *Demography*, 48: 1–23. 22 pages.
- @Schwartz, Christine R. (2013). "Trends and Variation in Assortative Mating: Causes and Consequences." *Annual Review of Sociology*39:451-470. [20 pages]

Heckman, J. J. (2014 [2006]) "Ch. 48. Skill Formation and the Economics of Investing in Disadvantaged Children" in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (5 pages)

Evans, Gary W., Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, and Pamela Kato Klebanov (2014 [2011]) "Ch. 50. Stressing Out the Poor" " in David B. Grusky *Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective* 4th ed. (8 pages)

8-9: Immigration and Ethnic Inequality in Education, the Labor Market, and Spatial Domains

Alba, R. D., and V. Nee (2014) "Assimilation Theory for an Era of Unprecedented Diversity" I: David B. Grusky (red.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (p. 721-728). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. (8 pages)

Portes, A. og M. Zhou (2014) «The New Second Generation: Segmented Assimilation and Its Variants» I: David B. Grusky (red.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 729-740). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. (11 pages)

@ Heath, A. F., Rothon, C. og Kilpi, E. (2008) The Second Generation in Western Europe: Education, Unemployment, and Occupational Attainment. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 34: 211–35. 25 pages.

@ Ichou, M. (2014). "Who They Were There: Immigrants' Educational Selectivity and Their Children's Educational Attainment." *European Sociological Review* 30:750-765. 16 pages.

@ Hermansen, A. S., and Birkelund, G.E. (2015). "The Impact of Immigrant Classmates on Educational Outcomes." *Social Forces* 94(2):615-642. [32 pages]

INN @ Bratsberg, B., and Røed, K. (2016) "The Nordic Welfare Model in an Open European Labor Market". *Nordic Economic Policy Review: Whither the Nordic Welfare Model?* 2015 (2):19-42. (24 pages)

INN @ Hermansen, A. S. (2016). "Moving Up or Falling Behind? Intergenerational Socioeconomic Transmission among Children of Immigrants in Norway." *European Sociological Review*, jcw024. (15 pages)

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@Hermansen, Are Skeie (2013) Occupational Attainment Among Children of Immigrants in Norway: Bottlenecks into Employment—Equal Access to Advantaged Positions? *European Sociological Review*, 29: 517- 534. (17 pages.)

@Wodtke, G. T., David J. Harding & Felix Elwert (2011) Neighborhood Effects in Temporal Perspective. The Impact of Long-Term Exposure to Concentrated Disadvantage on High School Graduation, *American Sociological Review*, 76: 713-736. (23 pages.)

10-11: Gender Equality: Education, Work, and Family

- @ Buchmann, C. and T. A. DiPrete (2006) "The Growing Female Advantage in College Completion: The Role of Family Background and Academic Achievement," *American Sociological Review*, 71: 515-541. 26 pages.
- * Charles, M. and Grusky, D. B. (2004) "The Four Puzzles of Sex Segregation." I: Charles & Grusky (red.) *Occupational Ghettos* (Ch. 1). Stanford: Stanford University Press. 35 pages.
- @ Petersen, T., A. M. Penner, and G. Høgsnes (2014) From Motherhood Penalties to Husband Premia: The New Challenge for Gender Equality and Family Policy, Lessons from Norway, *American Journal of Sociology*, 119: 1434-1472. [39 pages]
- INN @ Charles, M. (2011). A world of difference: international trends in women's economic status. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 37, 355-371. [17 pages]
- INN * Polachek, S. (2012) "A Human Capital Account of the Gender Pay Gap", in Grusky, Davis & Tamar Kricheli-Katz (eds.) *The New Gilded Age. The Critical Inequality Debates of Our Time*. Stanford University Press, pp. 161-188 (27 pages)
- INN * Blau, F. D. (2012) "The Sources of the Gender Pay Gap", in Grusky, Davis & Tamar Kricheli-Katz (eds.) *The New Gilded Age. The Critical Inequality Debates of Our Time*. Stanford University Press, pp 189-208 (19 pages)
- INN * Harkness, S. (2013) "Women's Employment and Household Income Inequality", in Gornick & Jäntti (eds): *Income Inequality*, Stanford University Press, pp 207-230 (23 pages).

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- @Mastekaasa, A. og G. E. Birkelund (2011). "The Equalizing Effect of Wives' Earnings on inequalities in earnings among households. Exploring patterns and mechanisms, Norway 1974-2004." *European Societies*, in print 2011. 30 pages.

12: Summary

INN @ Hout, M., & DiPrete, T. A. (2006). What we have learned: RC28's contributions to knowledge about social stratification. *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 24(1), 1-20. [21 pages]

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