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EDUCATION, OCCUPATION AND SOCIAL ORIGIN

A Comparative Analysis of the Transmission of Socio-Economic Inequalities

Edited by **Fabrizio Bernardi**, Department of Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute and **Gabriele Ballarino**, Department of Social and Political Sciences, University of Milan, Italy

'Education, Occupation and Social Origin is a must-read book for anyone even faintly interested in social inequality. Comparing across many cohorts in 14 nations, the disheartening conclusion that here emerges is the lack of any genuine equalization of life-chances. Advantage breeds advantage and, alas, educational expansion has not proven to be the great social leveller. This volume delivers the most up-to-date evidence, and it does it with scientific rigour and bravura. From the first to the last page this is world-class scholarship that will define our research agenda for many years to come.'

— Gøsta Esping-Andersen, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain

'Is education the great social equalizer – do individuals with similar levels of education have equal life-chances, especially in labour markets and workplaces? It is widely supposed that in modern societies this is the case. But the research brought together in this outstanding collection, and the editors' penetrating commentaries, call the conventional wisdom into serious doubt. Essential reading for all social scientists and for anyone interested in the leading social policy and political issues of the present day.'

— John Goldthorpe, Nuffield College, Oxford

Questioning the assumption that education is the 'great social equalizer', this book takes a comparative approach to the social origin–education–destination triangle by examining advantage in 14 different countries, including case studies from Europe, Israel, the USA, Russia and Japan.

Contributions from leading experts examine the relation between family background, education and occupational achievement over time and across educational levels, focusing on the relationship between individuals' social origins and their income and occupational outcomes. Providing new theoretical insights, this book eloquently analyzes a variety of barriers to social mobility. Using concepts of compensatory and boosting advantage to explain the intergenerational transmission of social inequality, it refutes the notion of contemporary societies as education-based and meritocratic, showing that in most of the countries studied there is no sign of decreasing intergenerational association, despite the expansion of education.

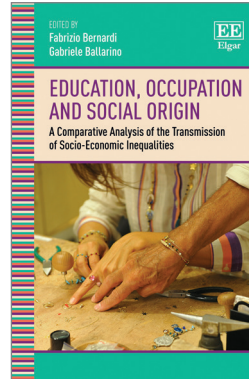
With its multitude of pertinent case studies, *Education, Occupation and Social Origin* will be of interest to academics and students of social policy as well as those interested in social inequalities and their evolution over time. It will also be a useful reference for governmental policymakers in the wake of the current economic crisis.

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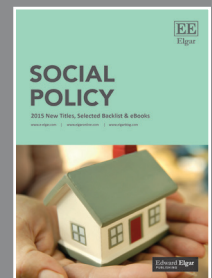
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