Analysis of Occupational Change Data 1950-1990

Part II. The Organization and Presentation of the Data

We will be spending considerable time discussing race, class, and gender inequalities the rest of the semester. As we will see in the text and in class, **sociologists conceptualize these inequalities on the structural, rather than the individual, level**. In this writing assignment, you will have the opportunity to apply this structural perspective to census data and to your family’s experiences with social mobility.

In ths part you will use U.S. Census data from 1950 to 1990 to analyze shifts in occupational structures over these 40 years in a state assigned to you and how these shifts vary by race, sex, or education. This analysis is macro (state) level, so keep this in mind as you are thinking about and writing about your research. Detailed instructions are provided below.

**Learning Objectives of this first part of the assignment:**

• To recognize the existence of social structure by observing occupational shifts and how they vary by social group

* To learn how to analyze Census data

• To understand the logic of control variables in bivariate tables

• To understand how sociologists use empirical data, such as the U.S. Census, to generate knowledge

**Variables:**

You will analyze trends in state occupational distributions (dependent variable) by year (independent variable), and then with controls for race, sex, and education (control variables). Below are descriptions of these variables as **operationalized in this dataset:**

***Occupation:***

TopWC: Top white collar: professional workers, executives, administrators, and managers

OtrWC: Other white collar: administrative support, clerical & sales workers, technicians, & related support

Service: private household, protective service, and other service workers

TopBC: Top blue collar: "skilled" blue collar jobs such as precision production, craft, and repair workers

OtrBC: Other blue collar: workers in less skilled blue collar jobs

Farm: workers in the farm, forestry, and fishery occupations  
***Race:***

Nonblack: all persons who did not report race as black

Black: all persons who reported race as black  
***Education:***

Less than high school (LTHS): persons who have not graduated from high school

High school graduate (HSGrad): persons who have graduated from high school

Some college (SomeColl): persons who have completed some college or attained an Associate Deg.

College graduate (CollGrad): persons who have graduated from 4-year college  
***Sex:***

Male

Female

**Data Analysis**

**Before** **starting the analysis open the following on your computer:**

* Your browser (ie: Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, etc.)
* MS Excel
* MS Word

**Preliminary Step: Go to MyCourses, My Grades and State. This will tell you what state you are to analyze for this assignment.**

1. Go to www.ssdan.net/ Click on “Online Media”>"DataCounts" then “DataCounts”in the Links box on the left side of the page.
2. Click on “Data” and then click on “Browse” in the second row of options.
3. From the “Choose a Collection or Dataset” box, choose geography from the drop-down menu. Click “Submit”.
4. Now select “oced5090” from the menu. Click “Submit”.
5. Now select the dataset for your state (i.e., the dataset for Mississippi is oced5090.ms). Look for state abbreviation for your state. Click “Submit”. This will open the dataset. The state that you are supposed to analyze is listed in mycourses. You must analyze the correct state data.
6. Now click on “WebCHIP 3.0 beta”. Be patient—your computer may need to download Java.
7. Go to the menus at the top of the page. Click on Command and then Crosstab. A new window will open asking you to ‘Select row variable’. Scroll down to Occ and click on it and click Ok. Then select the column variable, Year and click Ok. Now click on Table and then click Percent Down. Now you will see your table.
8. Now choose race, sex, and education as control variables, one at a time. Click on Table and then Control. Then click and the appropriate control variable, for example race. Then click on Table again and the Percent Down and you will get two tables, one for black and one for nonblack. Do the same thing for sex and education. You will have 2 tables each for both race and gender (a total of four) and four tables for education. (NOTE: Do not use the control variable of age.)
9. When you have obtained the results of a crosstab analysis put the cursor on the top row with the years 1950-1990 and left click and drag the cursor down to the first row entitled Farm. Highlight all the data over to the column headed by Total. Let go of the cursor and then right click and click copy for what you have highlighted.
10. Click on Excel and paste what you have copied from the analysis program to the upper left hand cell of the spreadsheet. Make sure that everything copied correctly.
11. Still in Excel, delete the entire Total column.
12. Now highlight the whole table and copy it and then paste it in Word. You then must put a title on the table and make it pretty in whatever ways you wish. The title needs to be a complete description of what it contains.
13. Go back to Excel and put your cursor on the cell with the abbreviation in it labeled TopWC. Highlight that row and all the rows beneath it. Keeping the table highlighted, click on the **Insert** tab at the top of the page. Click on the **Line** icon option found in the Charts group. You will have a choice of types of Line charts—Select the first one in the second row called “Line with markers” under the 2-D option. A line graph should pop up.
14. Since your chart does not look right click on the **Switch Row/Column** icon in the upper left part of the page. Now your chart looks better but now click on the **Select Data** icon in the upper left and a Select Data Source window will open automatically. Click **Edit** just beneath the words **Horizontal (Category**). Now another smaller window titled **Axis Labels** will open. Now move the cursor to the year 1950 in the top row of your table and left click and drag the cursor over to 1990. Release the cursor and click OK in the smaller window and in the larger window. Now the years will be displayed on the bottom of the chart.
15. Next, add a title to your graph. To do this, choose **Chart Title** (under chart tools, layout tab 🡪 you should already be there) and select **Above Chart**. Type in a chart title something like “Figure 1. Distribution of Occupations Among the Male Adult Population of Michigan, 1950-1990.” Make sure to format it so that it fits.
16. Finally, left click on any outer edge of the chart and then right click and then left click Copy. This will copy the entire chart. Now open Word and place your cursor where you want the chart to be on the page and click paste. That’s it for your first chart!
17. Follow the same procedures for the tables and charts that you create for Race (Nonblacks, Blacks), Gender (Males, Females), and the four categories of education. You should have 9 tables and 9 charts in all:

1 table and 1 chart for the original relationship between Occupation and Year

2 tables and 2 charts for Occupation and Year by Race

2 tables and 2 charts for Occupation and Year by Gender

4 tables and 4 charts for Occupation and Year by Education.

This part of the paper will be graded using the following rubric. Read it carefully as it tells you what you need to do to get a good grade.

# Rubric-Evaluation of Paper on Stratification Part II

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| **Requirements** | **Excellent (10-9 pts)** | **Good (8-7 pts)** | **Needs Improvement (6 pts)** | **Failed to meet requirement (0)** |
| **Followed Directions** | Student followed all directions and had few to no grammatical/spelling errors. | Student followed all directions but had more than three grammatical/spelling errors. | Student did not follow all directions and/or had four or more grammatical/spelling errors. | Student did not complete assignment by assigned due date. Results in 0 for entire assignment. |
| **Table Development** | Data was converted correctly for all 9 required tables and charts with the IVs and DVs in columns and rows respectively. | Data was converted for all 9 tables/charts but on some variables were not placed correctly. | Data was not converted for all tables and charts or the variables were not correctly placed on several. | Data was not converted for less than 4 required tables/charts the variables were incorrectly placed or the wrong variables were used. |
| **Table presentation and Conversion of Data** | All tables and charts were presented in a neat, reader friendly professional manner with full titles and correctly labeled variables and values. | All tables and charts were presented in a neat, reader friendly professional manner but a few did not contain full titles and correctly labeled variables and values. | Less than half of the tables and charts were presented in a neat, reader friendly professional manner and did not contain full titles and correctly labeled variables and values. | Tables presented in spreadsheet form and both tables and charts did not contain full titles nor variable names. |