



Education and Intergenerational Social Mobility in Europe and the United States

EDITED BY RICHARD BREEN & WALTER MÜLLER

Series: Studies in Social Inequality

February 2020
9781503610163
360pp £60.00* HB

*price subject to change

30% discount code:
CSFF2019

Combined Academic Publishers Ltd
Windsor House
Cornwall Road
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 2PW
Tel: +44 (0) 1423 526350

Order online:
www.combinedacademic.co.uk

This volume examines the role of education in shaping rates and patterns of intergenerational social mobility among men and women during the twentieth century. Focusing on the relationship between a person's social class and the social class of his or her parents, each chapter looks at a different country—the United States, Sweden, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland. Contributors examine change in absolute and relative mobility and in education across birth cohorts born between the first decade of the twentieth century and the early 1970s. They find a striking similarity in trends across all countries, and in particular a contrast between the fortunes of people born before the 1950s, those who enjoyed increasing rates of upward mobility and a decline in the strength of the link between class origins and destinations, and later generations who experienced more downward mobility and little change in how origins and destinations are linked. This volume uncovers the factors that drove these shifts, revealing education as significant in promoting social openness. It will be an invaluable source for anyone who wants to understand the evolution of mobility and inequality in the contemporary world.

Richard Breen is Professor of Sociology and Fellow of Nuffield College, University of Oxford.

Walter Müller is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Mannheim University.

Reviews

"This book is a must-read for anyone interested in educational policy and social mobility. This team of leading international scholars use innovative comparative analysis to corroborate the claim that the expansion and equalization of education enhances mobility between social classes."

–Yossi Shavit, Tel Aviv University

"Breen and Müller confront the belief that equalizing opportunity can solve Western nations' problems with inequality. Their sophisticated analysis shows why equalizing opportunity may be good in itself, but is not the solution to today's problems. Western nations must confront rising inequalities in employment, income, and political voice directly and soon."

–Michael Hout, New York University

"In this book, first-rate scholars show how social mobility among women and men has changed in the twentieth century, and how this change was influenced by educational expansion and by changes in the association between social origin and education. Their reliable analyses will be of great value to professionals and political actors with interest in social mobility and educational attainment."

**–Robert Erikson, Swedish Institute for Social Research
Stockholm University**