

Intergenerational social and spatial mobility: Insights from marriage acts in Geneva, 1830-1880

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Our paper discusses issues of social status endogamy:

- To what extent stay children in their parent social status ?
- Which are the differences between statuses ?
- What are the differences between enrooted population and newcomers (in-migrants) ?
- Does the origin affect the social ascension possibilities ?
- How are social transitions working inside families, among brothers for instance ?

This presentation focuses on the 3 first points, and more specifically on the original method we have used for the mobility through three generations.

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Table of Content

- 1 Geneva in the 19th century: historical background
- 2 The data sources
- 3 Two subpopulations: enrooted people and newcomers
- 4 One generation social transitions
- 5 Three generations social transitions

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1 Geneva in the 19th century: historical background

- Eventful political, economic and demographic development
- City enclosed inside walls: lack of lands ⇒ prevents development of agricultural sector.
⇒ turns to trade and production of luxury items: textile (→ beginning 19th) and clocks, jewelery, music boxes (Fabrique)
- Sector turned to exportation, hence sensitive to all the 19th political and economic crises.

[1798-1816] French period (period of crises)

[1816-1846] “Restauration” (annexation of the surrounding French parishes), economic boom during the 30’s

[1849- ...] Modernization of economic structure, destruction of the fortifications

Demographic evolution

- 1798: 21'327 inhabitants (larger than Bern 12000, Zurich, 10500 and Basel, 14000)
Mainly natives (64%)
- French period: stagnation of population growth
- Positive growth by degrees after the 20's, boosted after the destruction of the walls (1850)
1880: City 50'000, agglomeration 83'000
- High growth of immigrant population,
lower growth of natives
1860: 45% natives
end of the century: 33% natives)

2 The data sources

- City of Geneva, 1800-1880
- Marriage registration acts
- All individuals with a name beginning with letter B (socially neutral)
⇒ 4865 acts
- Rebuild father - son histories by seeking the marriage act of the father for all marriages celebrated after 1829
⇒ 3974 cases (1830-1880)

The social statuses

6 statuses build from the professions

unskilled : unskilled daily workmen, servants, labourer, ...

craftsmen : skilled workmen

clock makers : skilled persons working for the “Fabrique”

white collars : teachers, clerks, secretaries, apprentices, ...

petite et moyenne bourgeoisie : artists, coffee-house keepers, writers, students, merchants, dealers, ...

élites : stockholders, landlords, householders, businessmen, bankers, army high-ranking officers, ...

3 Two subpopulations: enrooted people and newcomers

enrooted population :

those for which the father of the groom also married in Geneva

newcomers :

all others

Age at first marriage

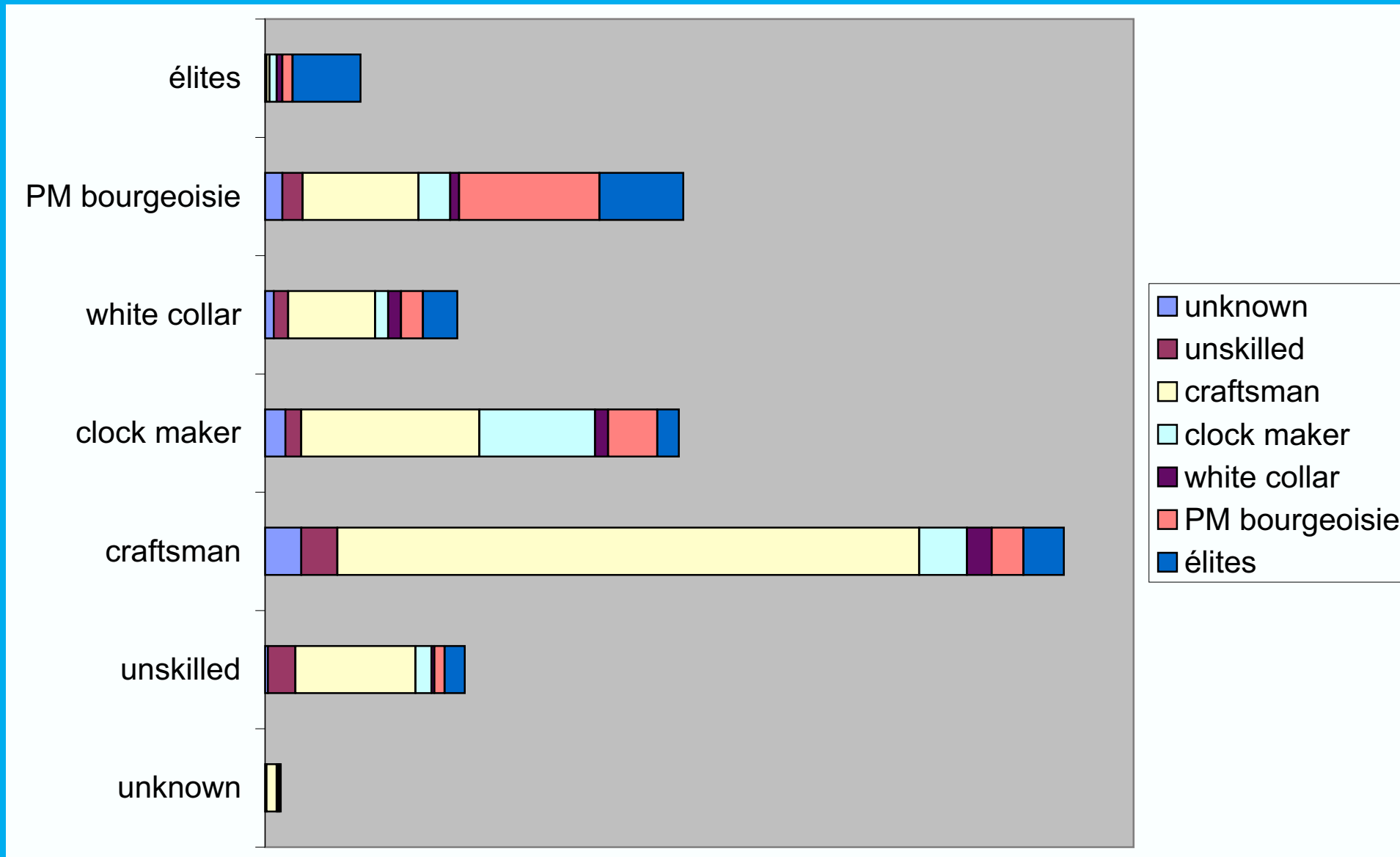
	enrooted		newcomers		deviation (stdev)
	mean age	n	mean age	n	
men	28.9	572	31.9	3402	3 (.32)
women	25.1	572	28.5	3402	3.4 (.27)

4 One generation social transitions

Father to son social transition rates, Geneva 1830-1880, newcomers (3402 cases)

Father	Son							Total
	unkwn	unskil	craft	clock	wcollar	PMB	élite	
unkown	1.6	3.3	41.0	23.0	9.8	19.7	1.6	100
unskilled	.	24.1	31.6	13.9	12.7	17.7	.	100
craftsman	0.9	11.0	53.1	16.2	7.9	10.6	0.3	100
clock maker	.	6.9	20.6	50.0	5.6	13.8	3.1	100
white collar	2.1	4.2	35.4	18.8	18.8	12.5	8.3	100
PMB	0.5	3.8	12.0	18.6	8.2	53.0	3.8	100
élite	0.5	7.5	15.0	8.0	12.8	31.0	25.1	100
deceased	0.8	10.7	39.2	20.9	6.6	15.8	5.9	100
Total	0.8	10.1	38.4	20.3	7.6	17.5	5.3	100

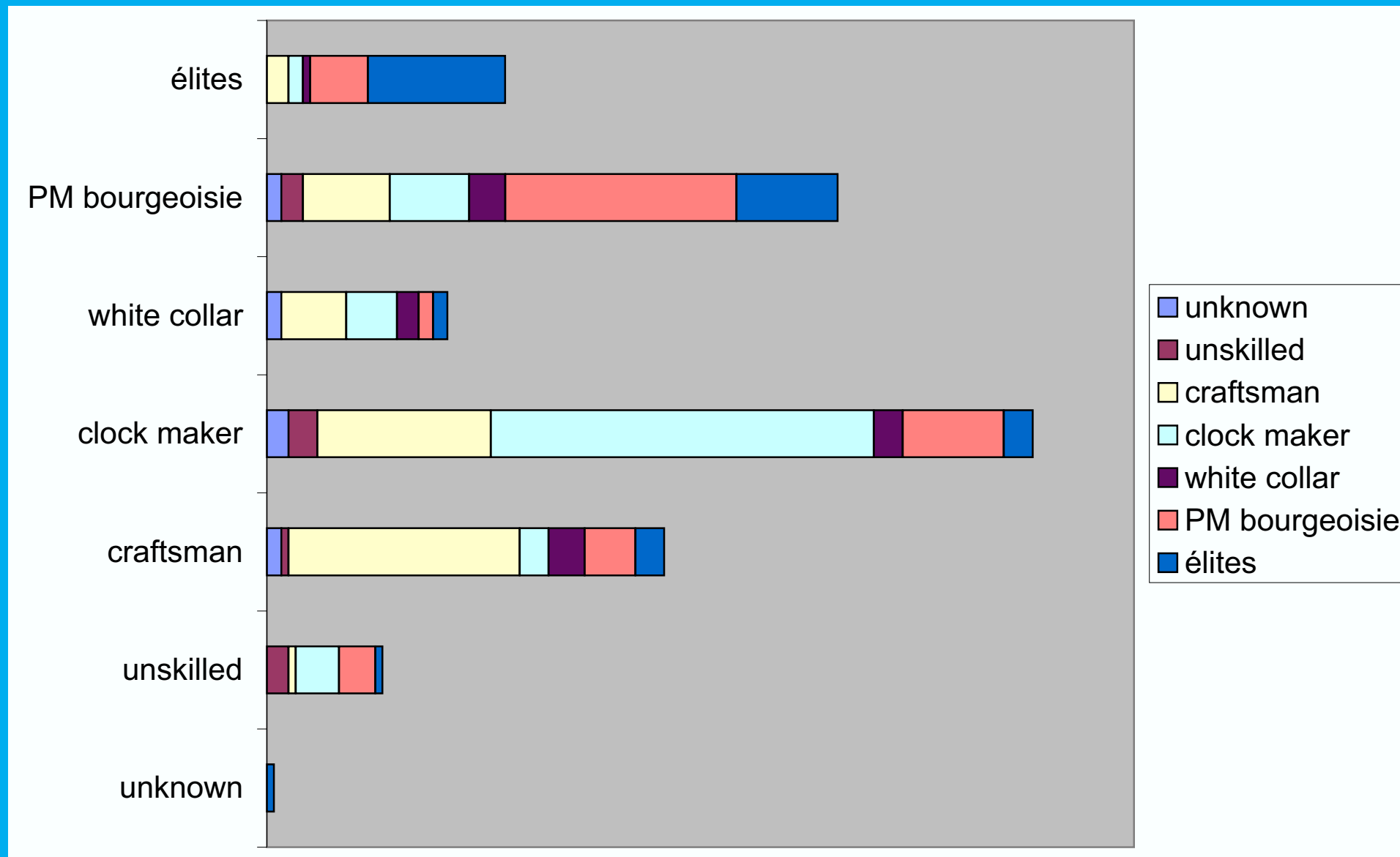
Newcomers (3402 cases), without deceased fathers



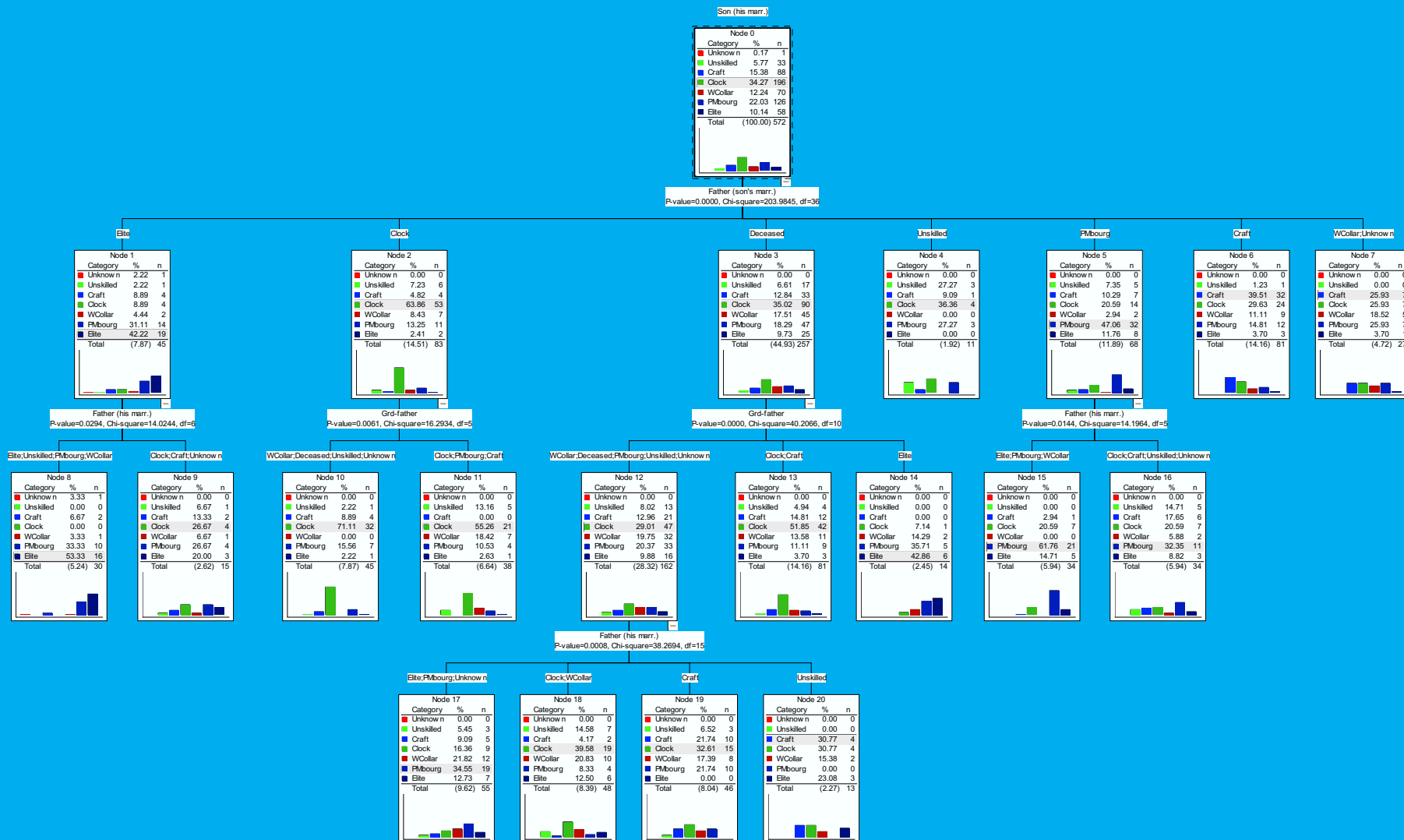
Father to son social transition rates, Geneva 1830-1880, enrooted population (572 cases)

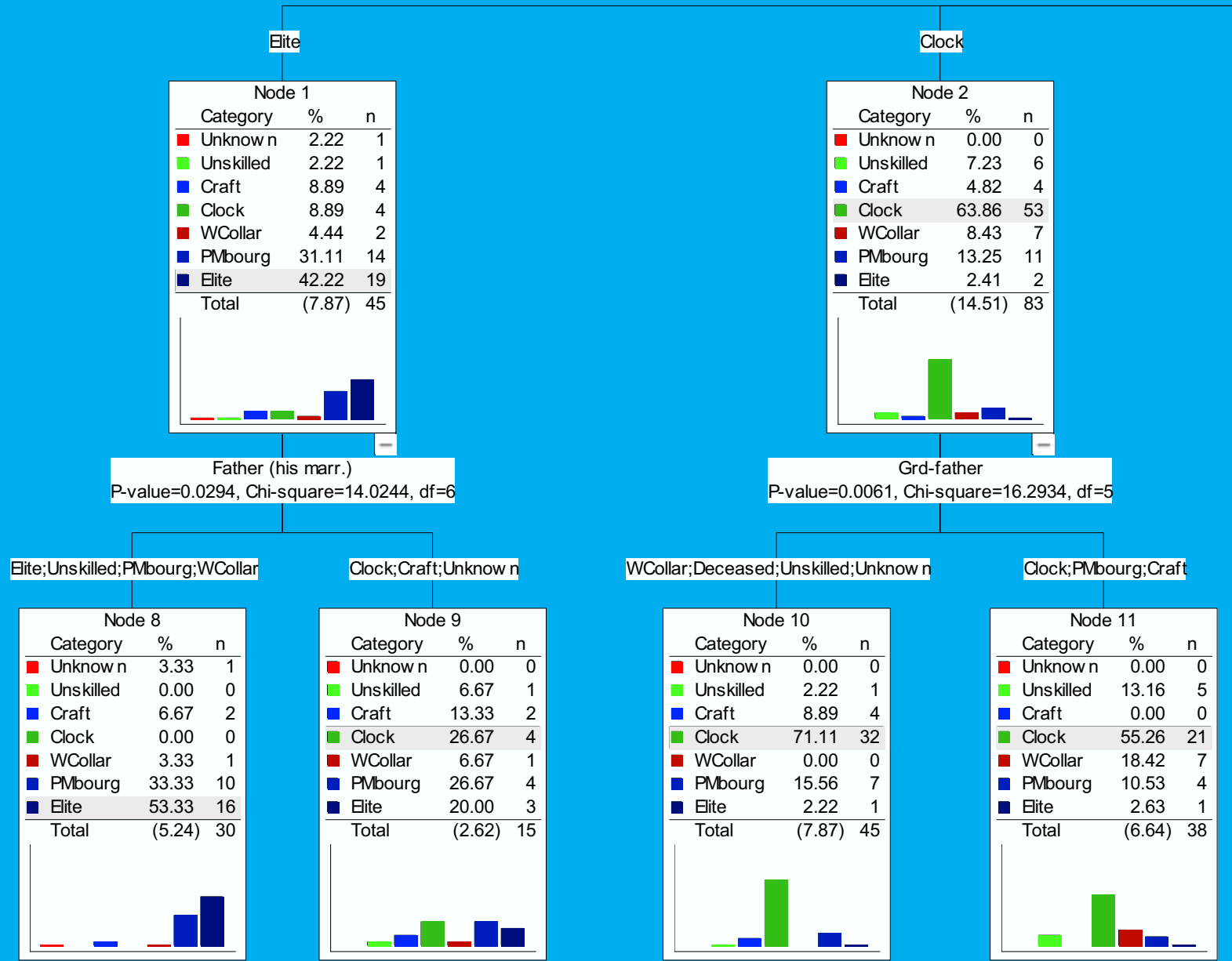
Father	Son							Total
	unkwn	unskil	craft	clock	wcolar	PMB	élite	
unkown	.	.	22.2	33.3	22.2	22.2	.	100
unskilled	.	27.3	9.1	36.4	.	27.3	.	100
craftsman	.	1.2	39.5	29.6	11.1	14.8	3.7	100
clock maker	.	7.2	4.8	63.9	8.4	13.3	2.4	100
white colar	.	.	27.8	22.2	16.7	27.8	5.6	100
PMB	.	7.4	10.3	20.6	2.9	47.1	11.8	100
élite	2.2	2.2	8.9	8.9	4.4	31.1	42.2	100
deceased	.	6.6	12.8	35.0	17.5	18.3	9.7	100
Total	0.2	5.8	15.4	34.3	12.2	22.0	10.1	100

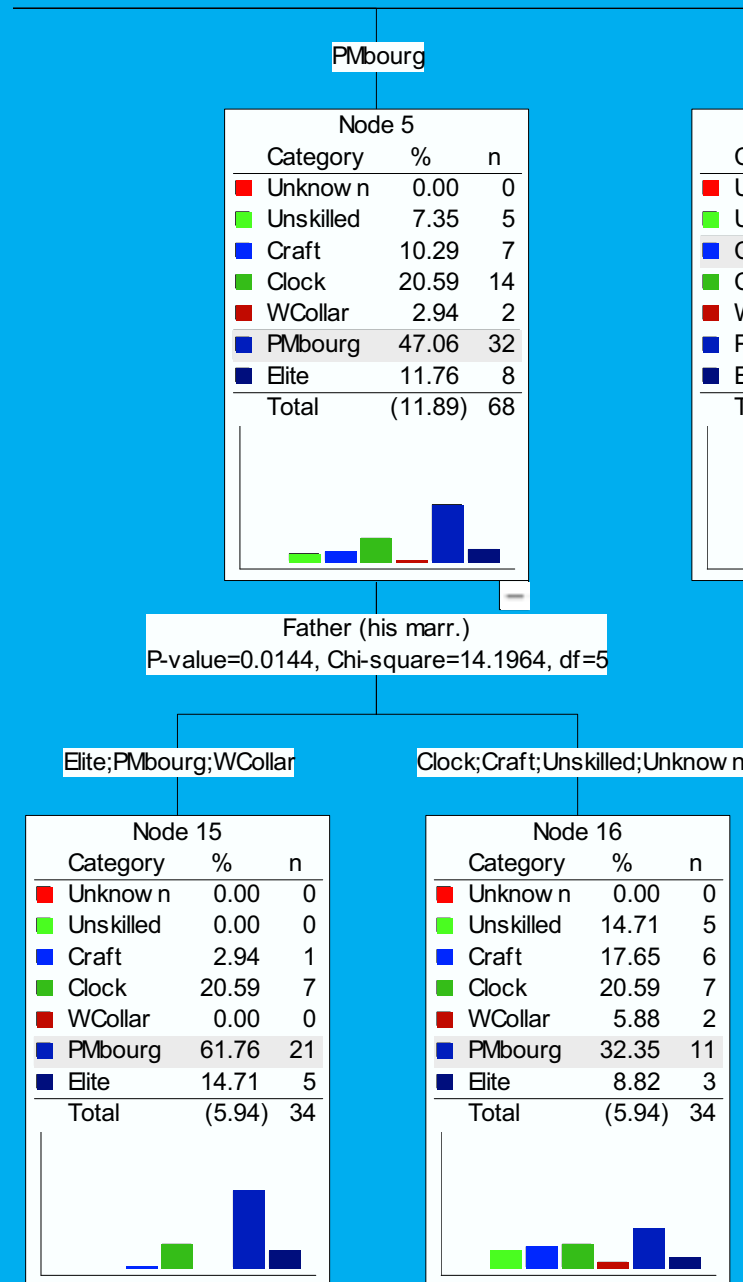
Stable population (572 cases), without deceased fathers

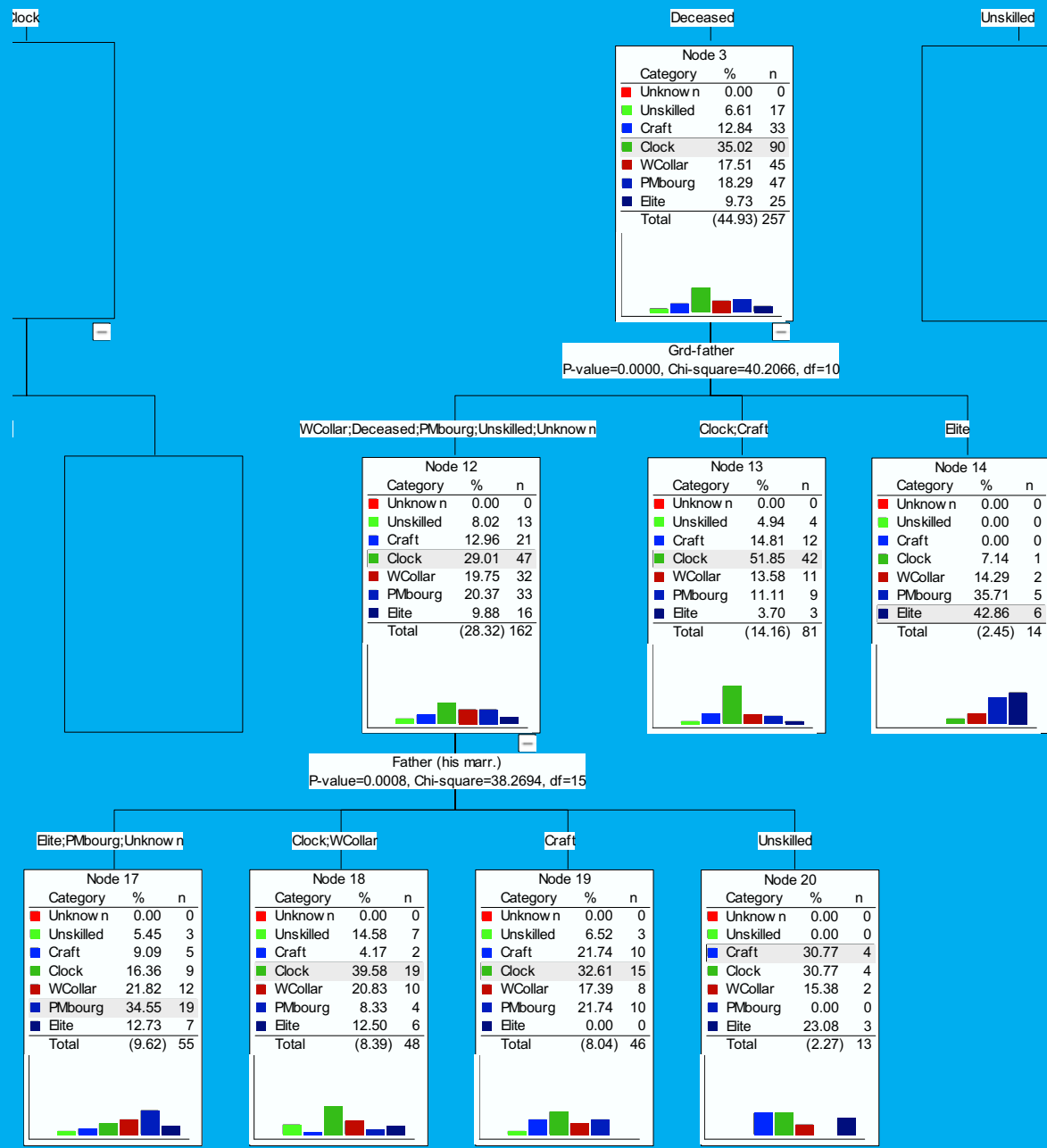


5 Three generations social transitions









Tree quality

- Error rate: 55.7%, i.e. 15% reduction of the classification error rate of the initial node
- Goodness-of-fit. See ?

Tree	Variation of the LR Chi-square				pseudo
	level 1	level 2	level 3	saturated	R^2
indep.	173.01 (36 <i>df</i>)	263.96 (66 <i>df</i>)	309.51 (84 <i>df</i>)	791.73 (852 <i>df</i>)	0
level 1		90.95 (30 <i>df</i>)	136.49 (48 <i>df</i>)	618.72 (816 <i>df</i>)	.18
level 2			45.55 (18 <i>df</i>)	527.77 (786 <i>df</i>)	.28
level 3				482.22 (768 <i>df</i>)	.32