

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

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Session FAM33: Endogamy and partnerchoice in comparative perspective

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.

## 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)

## 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, ...

## 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)

## 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

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 collar	.	.	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

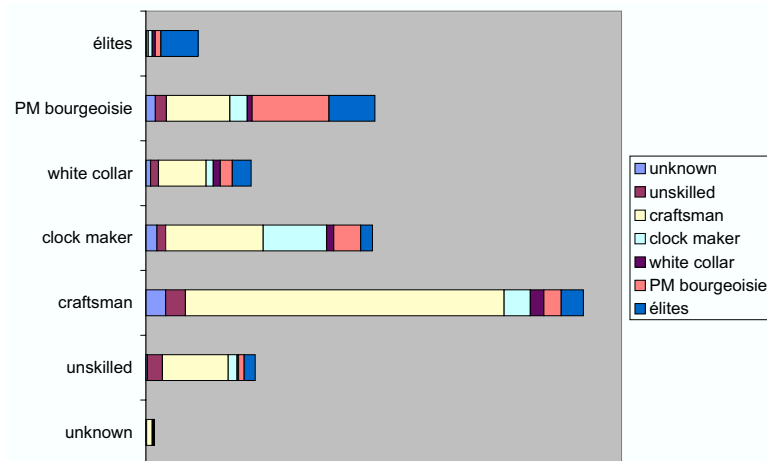
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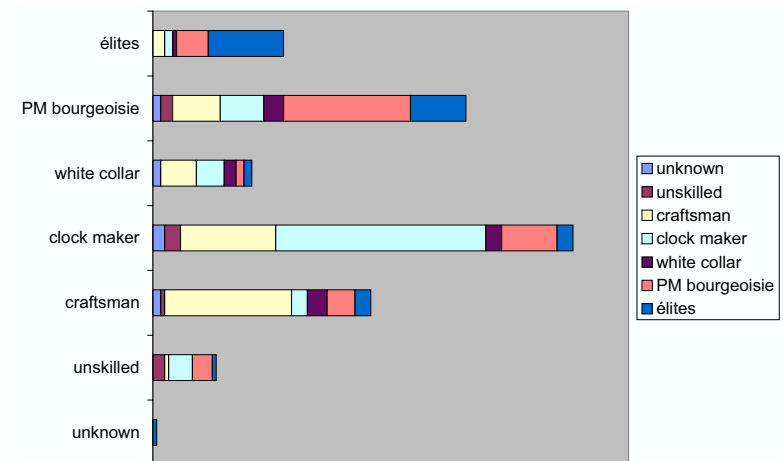
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Newcomers (3402 cases), without deceased fathers



Stable population (572 cases), without deceased fathers



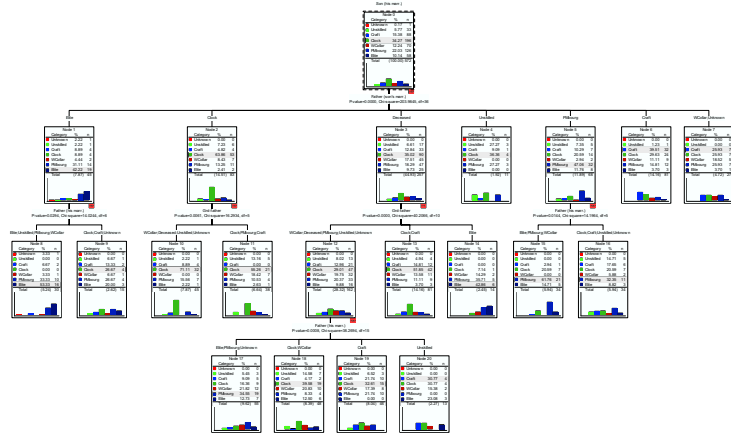
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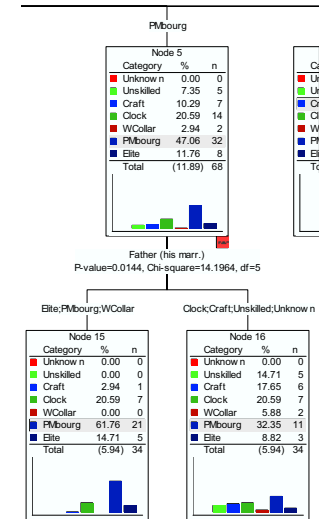
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## 5 Three generations social transitions



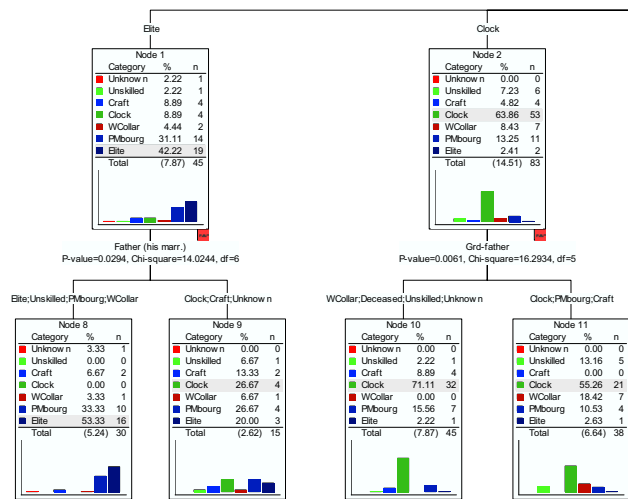
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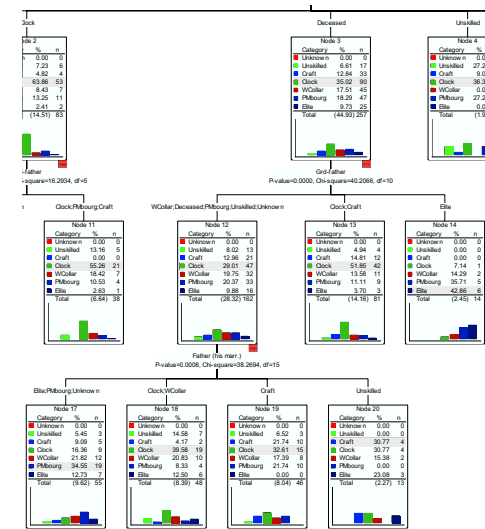
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## Tree quality

- Error rate: 55.7%, i.e. 15% reduction of the classification error rate of the initial node
- Goodness-of-fit. See [Ritschard and Zighed \(2003\)](#)

Tree	Variation of the LR Chi-square				pseudo $R^2$
	level 1	level 2	level 3	saturated	
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

## References

Ritschard, G. and D. A. Zighed (2003). Goodness-of-fit measures for induction trees. In N. Zhong, Z. Ras, S. Tsumo, and E. Suzuki (Eds.), *Foundations of Intelligent Systems, ISMIS03*, Volume LNAI 2871, pp. 57–64. Berlin: Springer.