



# HHS Public Access

Author manuscript

*Am Sociol Rev.* Author manuscript; available in PMC 2017 September 29.

Published in final edited form as:

*Am Sociol Rev.* 2017 June ; 82(3): 568–599. doi:10.1177/0003122417706391.

## Rising Intragenerational Occupational Mobility in the United States, 1969 to 2011

Benjamin F. Jarvis<sup>a</sup> and Xi Song<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Linköping University

<sup>b</sup>University of Chicago

### Abstract

Despite the theoretical importance of intragenerational mobility and its connection to intergenerational mobility, no study since the 1970s has documented trends in intragenerational occupational mobility. The present article fills this intellectual gap by presenting evidence of an increasing trend in intragenerational mobility in the United States from 1969 to 2011. We decompose the trend using a nested occupational classification scheme that distinguishes between disaggregated micro-classes and progressively more aggregated meso-classes, macro-classes, and manual and nonmanual sectors. Log-linear analysis reveals that mobility increased across the occupational structure at nearly all levels of aggregation, especially after the early 1990s. Controlling for structural changes in occupational distributions modifies, but does not substantially alter, these findings. Trends are qualitatively similar for men and women. We connect increasing mobility to other macro-economic trends dating back to the 1970s, including changing labor force composition, technologies, employment relations, and industrial structures. We reassert the sociological significance of intragenerational mobility and discuss how increasing variability in occupational transitions within careers may counteract or mask trends in intergenerational mobility, across occupations and across more broadly construed social classes.

### Keywords

intragenerational mobility; occupation; micro-class; intergenerational mobility

---

Measures of intergenerational mobility—the degree to which offspring reproduce their parents' social statuses—are indicators of fairness in systems of social stratification. Higher mobility is thought to be a central feature of meritocratic societies with permeable class boundaries and equality of opportunity, leading to the normative view of mobility as a relatively unambiguous good (Hauser et al. 1975; Hout 1988; Mitnik, Cumberworth, and

---

**Corresponding Author:** Benjamin Jarvis, Institute for Analytical Sociology, Linköping University, S-601 74, Norrköping, Sweden, benjamin.jarvis@liu.se.

We are grateful to Peter Bearman, Richard Breen, Danielle Callendar, Siwei Cheng, Yinon Cohen, Thomas DiPrete, Gil Eyal, John Goldthorpe, Peter Hedström, Shamus Khan, Antonie Knigge, Rahim Kurwa, Yao Lu, Ineke Maas, Sung Park, Christine Percheski, Judith Seltzer, Seymour Spilerman, John Sullivan, Van Tran, Amber Villalobos, Mark Western, and participants at the 2015 RC28 Conference in Tilburg, 2016 RC28 Conference in Bern, 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in Seattle, and the CWI seminar at Columbia University, as well as the anonymous reviewers and *ASR* editors for their helpful comments and suggestions. Any remaining errors are the sole responsibility of the authors.

Grusky 2016; Torche 2015a, 2015b; Xie and Killewald 2013). This view has inspired concerns among social scientists and policymakers that rising income and wealth inequality will lead to declining social mobility in the twenty-first-century United States. Much of this concern stems from the “Great Gatsby Curve,” which illustrates that levels of mobility tend to be lower in countries with higher levels of social inequality (Corak 2013; Krueger 2012). The recent upswing of inequality in the United States would seem to predict increasing intergenerational persistence of social status, and hence declining equality of opportunity. Yet, recent evidence suggests only weakly negative or null trends in intergenerational mobility across occupations (Beller and Hout 2006; Mitnik et al. 2016) and no distinct trend for income mobility (Aaronson and Mazumder 2008; Bloome 2015; Chetty et al. 2014; Lee and Solon 2009).

This apparent disconnect between trends in inequality and trends in intergenerational mobility might be understood by paying closer attention to trends in intragenerational mobility—mobility between labor market positions within individual careers. We build on evidence of increasing job instability across U.S. cohorts (Bernhardt et al. 2001; Hollister 2011, 2012), but we focus attention on occupations, which are important foci in the determination of unequal economic rewards (Mouw and Kalleberg 2010a). In particular, we propose that a rising intragenerational occupational mobility trend in the United States may have forestalled declines in intergenerational occupational mobility that might be expected based on recent increases in inequality.

Understanding how increasing intragenerational mobility may defuse nascent decreases in intergenerational mobility requires viewing the latter as a chained process made up of at least three interlocking links that connect individuals’ social origins to their social destinations: educational attainment, the school-to-work transition, and within-career mobility (Blau and Duncan 1967). There is evidence that mobility has declined in the first two links. Rising inequality seems to have strengthened the relationship between parents’ socioeconomic status and offspring’s scholastic achievement: children whose parents have more socioeconomic resources, especially income, are now more likely to have high scholastic achievement compared to 40 years ago (Reardon 2011). At the same time, education, especially a college degree, has become increasingly important for job placement and job rewards (Breen and Chung 2015; Lemieux 2006). Ignoring intragenerational mobility, these intensifying associations suggest declining intergenerational mobility. But if intragenerational mobility, the last link in the chain, is increasing, this may have counteracted declining mobility in the first two links. This reasoning guides our main research question: has intragenerational occupational mobility increased in recent decades?

More generally, we ask whether occupation, by itself, remains the best measure for comparing patterns of intergenerational mobility across places and times. Social stratification researchers typically operationalize intergenerational mobility in terms of occupational mobility, because occupation, assessed at mid-career, is assumed to be a relatively stable indicator of social status. Using snapshots of parents’ and offspring’s occupational attainments to evaluate levels of mobility requires accepting that individuals’ occupations are stable indicators of social status in both generations. Comparative research requires further assuming that occupation is equally stable across societies. If these

assumptions do not hold, mobility studies relying on cross-sectional assessments of occupation may underestimate the degree of intergenerational persistence of status, in ways analogous to measurement error problems affecting income mobility studies (reviewed in Black and Devereux 2011; Solon 1999). Intergenerational mobility research should pay more attention to life-cycle variations in occupational mobility and whether occupational mobility across generations provides an adequate picture of equality of opportunity when careers are erratic.

Intragenerational mobility is also important in its own right. Mobility within internal labor markets and across institutional boundaries shapes human capital accumulation and wage trajectories (Farber 1999; Fuller 2008; Rosenfeld 1980, 1992). More mobility may lead to faster wage growth for some, but disrupt growth for others, leading to diverging life chances and rising economic inequality among workers over time (DiPrete and McManus 1996; Kambourov and Manovskii 2009; Mouw and Kalleberg 2010b). Levels of intragenerational mobility also indicate opportunity and coherence in careers. Mobility signals whether there are sufficient vacancies and connections between occupations to allow workers to progress in their careers or make desired career transitions (Breiger 1981, 1990; White 1970). Intragenerational mobility is a double-edged sword: too much mobility may indicate highly unstable and unpredictable labor markets that discourage workers and undermine productivity.

Despite its importance, few studies have examined trends in intragenerational occupational mobility since the 1970s. Instead, we have accumulated substantial knowledge about career mobility primarily through single or pooled cohort studies that investigate the life-course events, job progressions, promotions, and work disruptions that make up careers (Johnson and Mortimer 2002; Kronberg 2013; Sørensen 1974, 1975; Sørensen and Grusky 1996; Spilerman 1977; Wegener 1991) and identify individual, labor market, and industrial characteristics that shape diverse career trajectories (DiPrete 1993, 2002; Hachen 1992; Haveman and Cohen 1994). However, macro-economic changes—such as skill-biased technological change (Autor, Levy, and Murnane 2003), de-unionization (Western and Rosenfeld 2011), and precarious labor (Kalleberg 2009), as well as globalization, declining occupational gender segregation (Blau, Brummund, and Liu 2012), rising educational attainments, and increasing female labor force participation—have substantially restructured the U.S. labor market since the 1970s. These changes suggest shifting rates of intragenerational mobility that are made visible only by zooming out from individual cohorts and considering the full labor force.

In this article, we examine evidence of macro-economic changes to motivate expectations for trends in mobility from 1969 to 2011, a four-decade period characterized by rising economic inequality (Piketty and Saez 2006) and widening opportunity gaps among social classes (Grusky and Kricheli-Katz 2012; Putnam 2015). Because of increases in labor force participation among women and declining occupational sex segregation, we produce separate estimates for men and women. We adopt a multilevel, stratified view of the occupational structure that allows us to observe whether mobility is increasing at the highly aggregated class level or at the level of more detailed occupations (Jonsson et al. 2009). We group together closely related occupations into 75 relatively disaggregated micro-classes.

We then define a level of 10 meso-classes by tying together related micro-classes, connect these meso-classes in five macro-classes, and allocate these macro-classes to two sectors following the manual/nonmanual divide.

Drawing on data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, our results show that intragenerational occupational mobility, even after structural changes in the labor market are controlled, has increased over time, especially after the 1990s, and especially among men. Mobility is inconsistently increasing for closely related micro-classes nested within meso-classes. Rather, we see more consistent increases in mobility involving larger steps across the occupational distribution, as workers more frequently shift between meso- and macro-classes, and between manual and nonmanual sectors. The rise in mobility is fairly general: incumbents in nonroutine professional, managerial, and craft micro-classes, and routine occupations in clerical, service, and lower nonmanual micro-classes, have all experienced rising mobility chances. These findings provide preliminary evidence that rising intragenerational occupational mobility may be masking the dampening effects of income and wealth inequality on intergenerational mobility. Social inequality may be undermining equality of opportunity, but occupational snapshots by themselves may no longer be sufficient for operationalizing lifetime socioeconomic standing and reading off changes in social mobility. We leverage these findings into a discussion of how a better understanding of intragenerational mobility can help guide future research on the intergenerational front.

## A PERIOD APPROACH TO INTRAGENERATIONAL MOBILITY TRENDS

Despite a large and fast-growing literature on trends in economic inequality and intergenerational mobility, very little is known about trends in intragenerational occupational mobility since the 1970s. Most studies have taken a cohort or age approach that asks how patterns of mobility change across individuals' early-, mid-, and late-career stages, rather than a period approach that shows how cross-sectional occupational mobility has evolved over time. The goal of the present study is to remedy this gap in the literature and provide a nuanced picture of how occupational mobility patterns have been changing over the past four decades, to suggest how these trends are related to broader changes in the U.S. economy and labor force, and to examine their implications for trends in intergenerational mobility.

The dearth of knowledge about trends in intragenerational occupational mobility is not for lack of scholarly attention to mobility processes. Analyses of longitudinal data for single cohorts or pools of cohorts show how occupational mobility is associated with individual-, firm-, occupation-, and industry-level characteristics, as well as overall economic conditions. At the individual level, mobility is generally suppressed by age, work experience, education, and job tenure (Carroll and Mayer 1986; Manzon, Härkönen, and Mayer 2014; Mayer and Carroll 1987; Robst 1995; Sicherman and Galor 1990). At the occupation level, workers in occupations requiring skills that are easily transferable to other occupations tend to have higher mobility rates (Shaw 1987). Industries with higher rates of turnover and lower rates of growth typically have higher rates of occupational mobility (DiPrete et al. 1997; DiPrete and Nonnemaker 1997). Overall labor market conditions also influence career patterns, depressing occupation switching during recessions and enhancing switching during

economic expansions (Blossfeld 1986; Kambourov and Manovskii 2008; Moscarini and Thomsson 2008). This research is invaluable in providing insights into how careers evolve, but it tells us relatively little about large-scale social changes in occupational mobility patterns.

In contrast to these cohort-based studies, we adopt a period approach to consider macro-level changes in mobility patterns. A period approach has been a fixture in studies of trends in intergenerational mobility (e.g., Featherman and Hauser 1978; Hout 1988; Long and Ferrie 2013; Torche 2011), but only two studies have examined period trends in intragenerational mobility since the 1970s. These studies show either a substantial increase in mobility between 1970 and 1997 (Kambourov and Manovskii 2008) or weak positive trends overlaid with pro-cyclical mobility patterns (Moscarini and Thomsson 2008). This prior work eschews the structural analysis of mobility tables common to the sociological literature, exclusively focusing on overall mobility rates. This work ignores a key advantage of the period approach: the ability to examine mobility net of substantial changes in the marginal distributions of occupations that define the opportunity structure for all cohorts (DiPrete and Forristal 1995).<sup>1</sup>

To put it another way, our period approach allows us to hone in on trends in *exchange mobility*, separating this key component of mobility from trends in *structural mobility*. In a trend analysis, structural mobility stems from changes in the sizes of occupational origins and destinations across and within periods. A between-period shift in the distribution of workers toward occupational origins with higher (or lower) rates of mobility will increase (or decrease) overall mobility rates *ceteris paribus*. For example, a shift away from low-mobility occupations (e.g., lawyers and judges) to higher mobility occupations (e.g., accountants) should yield increased mobility. In addition, periods characterized by greater within-period changes in the occupational structure will have higher rates of mobility. For example, if employment in manufacturing is flat in one period but declines in a subsequent period, the latter period should display higher mobility as workers depart manufacturing occupations and find employment elsewhere. In contrast, exchange mobility indicates mobility net of changes in the occupational structure within and across periods. It tells us, for example, who would be more likely to become an accountant: a former lawyer or a former welder, if each occupation were to contain a fixed number of workers with perfectly balanced employment inflows and outflows. Structural mobility may be overwhelmingly upward or downward, but exchange mobility is directionless: it encompasses upward, downward, and lateral mobility. Finding increasing (or decreasing) exchange mobility would indicate more (or less) circulation between positions in the occupational structure net of changes in that structure.

A few single-period studies of intragenerational mobility address the distinction between structural and exchange mobility (Rosenfeld and Sørensen 1979; Sørensen and Grusky

---

<sup>1</sup>Trends can be examined using a cohort approach as well. Hollister (2012) compares two cohorts of men and women from the National Longitudinal Surveys, showing greater occupational switching for the younger cohort. This study provides evidence of increasing mobility, although the approach ignores changes in the occupational structure. It is possible to control for changes in the occupational structure within cohorts, but this is conceptually difficult, as it implies an assumption that cohorts are isolated from each other on the labor market and have separate opportunity structures. For this reason, we prefer our period approach.

1996; Stier and Grusky 1990), but prior research on trends in intragenerational mobility ignores the distinction and confounds trends in structural and exchange mobility. This can lead to an overstatement of how mobility chances (i.e., exchange mobility) have changed, or prevent one from seeing changes in mobility chances that are disguised by changes in the occupational structure (Hauser et al. 1975; Sobel, Hout, and Duncan 1985). The intergenerational mobility literature has long looked to exchange mobility as an appropriate indicator of changes in stratification systems. Structural mobility is an important area of research, but we align our inquiry with the intergenerational literature and focus on changes in exchange mobility, and we see whether these trends closely follow trends in gross mobility.

## A MULTILEVEL SCHEME FOR DETECTING MOBILITY TRENDS

We use a nested class scheme to examine period trends in exchange mobility at multiple levels of occupational aggregation. There are two ideal-typical approaches to aggregation: big-classes and micro-classes (Jonsson et al. 2009; Sørensen and Grusky 1996; Weeden and Grusky 2005, 2012). Big-classes join together many occupations and aim to represent broad differences in kind in the social relations of production, or in the types of tasks performed by incumbents (e.g., Breen 2004; Erikson and Goldthorpe 1992; Wright and Perrone 1977). Micro-classes are narrowly defined clusters of occupations sharing similar tasks, duties, and responsibilities and around which formal and informal institutions—licensing bodies, trade groups, unions, clubs—have organized (Weeden 2002; Weeden and Grusky 2005).<sup>2</sup>

In this article, we adopt a micro-meso-macro class scheme developed by Jonsson and colleagues (2009) that integrates the big-class and micro-class views. Jonsson and colleagues' occupational structure features four nested levels of aggregation: a sectoral level pertaining to the manual-nonmanual divide, within which are nested macro-classes, meso-classes, and micro-classes.<sup>3,4</sup> Table 1 illustrates the nesting structure of the occupational classifications with an abbreviated list of the micro-classes.

Our decision to use Jonsson and colleagues' scheme is driven by our expectation that some of the macro-economic trends affecting the U.S. labor market, discussed in greater detail in the following sections, have produced different mobility trends at different levels of aggregation. The nesting of the micro-meso-macro scheme allows us to differentiate between micro-class mobility within narrow meso-classes (e.g., short-distance mobility between professor and engineer) and mobility between meso-classes, macro-classes, and sectors (e.g., long-distance mobility between professor and sales worker). This allows us to decompose mobility rates to show the extent to which changes in mobility are occurring at

<sup>2</sup>Estimated mobility patterns are sensitive to the degree of aggregation used to define occupational or class categories. More aggregated schemes usually hide some mobility that occurs within aggregated categories, but may cut down on classification errors. Less aggregated schemes reveal more mobility, but often at the expense of introducing more noise and measurement error.

<sup>3</sup>We use classes and occupations interchangeably in our description of occupational schemes without differentiating the subtle differences between the two (for a review, see Wright 1997).

<sup>4</sup>The meso-class level in the micro-meso-macro scheme, which features 10 classes, approximates schemes typically used in analyzing intergenerational mobility, such as EGP (Erikson and Goldthorpe 1992) and that of Featherman and Hauser (1978, see also Hauser et al. 1975). However, there is evidence that further aggregation may provide a better representation of class structure in intragenerational cases and that the manual/nonmanual divide is salient to career mobility (e.g., Snipp 1985).



the macro-, meso-, and micro-levels, and whether these changes are moving in the same directions.

The nested class scheme offers two additional advantages. First, it provides insight into whether changes in mobility chances are shifting for vertical or lateral dimensions of the mobility table. For example, if changes in mobility predominantly stem from increasing mobility between macro-classes, but with constant mobility within meso-classes, the result would suggest that lateral relationships between micro-classes (within meso-classes) are holding, but that vertically arranged macro-classes are becoming less coherent. Second, the multilevel scheme is sufficiently disaggregated to allow us to discern persistence in relatively detailed occupations, a likely consequence of job immobility. Failing to account for occupational persistence at the disaggregated micro-class level may cause us to misattribute micro-class persistence to persistence at the level of meso- or macro-classes. This misattribution could confound our attempts to relate observed mobility trends to recent changes in the U.S. economy.

## **INTRAGENERATIONAL MOBILITY AND MACRO-SOCIAL CHANGES**

The United States has experienced dramatic changes in macro-social conditions over the past four decades, all of which might bear on trends in intragenerational occupational exchange mobility. We review these changes in terms of macro-level shifts in (1) the social and demographic composition of the labor force, (2) technologies and employment relationships in the workplace, and (3) industrial structures. Our goal is not to assemble specific, testable hypotheses based on explicit measures of these phenomena—the temporal pattern is not yet well established—but to situate possible changes in mobility against the backdrop of broader shifts in the labor market.

### **Changing Labor Force Composition**

The United States labor force has become older, more educated, and more female since the 1970s. Cohort studies suggest that these compositional shifts should change patterns of occupational mobility. First, the gradual aging of the U.S. labor force would suggest declining occupational mobility. The proportion of the working-age population older than 55 has increased from 15 to 19 percent for men and 13 to 20 percent for women from 1980 to 2010 (Lee and Mather 2008; U.S. Census Bureau 2012). Micro-economic models of job and occupational mobility suggest that this aging should lead to less mobility across levels of the class structure, as older workers with longer job tenures may avoid risk more than younger workers, and enjoy less time over which to realize returns from new occupational investments (Miller 1984; Mincer and Jovanovic 1981; Neal 1999). In contrast, sociological theories of vacancy chains suggest that labor force aging can spur mobility in some circumstances, as retirements among older workers create occupational vacancies for younger workers to fill, resulting in cascades of mobility events (e.g., Chase 1991; Sørensen 1974, 1975; White 1970). Our study covers the prime working (i.e., pre-retirement) ages of the baby boom generation. We thus expect the mobility suppressing effects of age to dominate, leading to declining mobility across all levels of occupational aggregation.

Increasing levels of educational attainment in the United States labor force also suggest declining mobility, although with subtle differences between genders. College completion rates rose for young men and women during the 1960s, with men enjoying a distinct advantage. However, while college completion rates among men topped out in the mid-1970s and stagnated until the late-2000s, completion rates continued to rise for women throughout the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, surpassing the rate for men in the 1990s (Bailey and Dynarski 2011; DiPrete and Buchmann 2006; Ryan and Bauman 2016). Both economic and sociological research suggests that higher educational attainments, involving greater pre-labor market investments in training and human capital as well as better chances of obtaining a job match, lead to less mobility across jobs and occupations (e.g., Mincer and Jovanovic 1981; Robst 1995; Rosen 1972; Sicherman and Galor 1990; Sørensen and Grusky 1996; Stier and Grusky 1990). Net of changes in the occupational structure, we expect rising levels of education will tend to reduce mobility rates at all levels of aggregation, perhaps more so for women because they have experienced more consistent increases in educational attainment.

Finally, labor force participation among women continued its long-run, twentieth-century increase through the 1970s and 1980s before plateauing in the 1990s (Juhn and Potter 2006; Killingsworth and Heckman 1986). How increasing labor force participation has affected mobility for women will depend on new participants' educational attainments, their labor force commitments, and shifting barriers to occupational entry (Farber 1994; Felmler 1982; Hollister and Smith 2014). Such trends might also influence men's labor market experiences and job mobility, because of the widely observed phenomena of labor supply adjustment within couples and risk pooling within families (Cheng 2016; Chiappori 1992; Killingsworth 1983; Western et al. 2012). It is difficult to generate a priori expectations as to how increasing female labor force participation would affect mobility for women and men. At the very least, the trends militate against pooling men and women in our analysis. We thus analyze men and women separately.

### Changing Employment Relationships

The changing composition of the labor force coincided with changes in work conditions at “the site of production” (Weeden and Grusky 2005:142). Weeden and Grusky (2012) argue that recent economic and social trends have reduced the institutional hold of highly aggregated classes, but that selection into occupations and workplaces, and socialization in these units of labor market organization, have allowed micro-classes to maintain an institutional hold on their incumbents. Empirically, these trends have resulted in declining homogeneity of workers' social characteristics—their “life chances, attitudes, behaviors, and consumption practices” (Weeden and Grusky 2012:1726)—within macro-classes, but stability within micro-classes. Weeden and Grusky's findings do not address mobility, but they suggest a restructuring of relationships among workers and between workers and employers that, at the very least, undermines career retention in aggregated classes. In our view, this restructuring involves three important changes.

First, recent decades have seen a dramatic influx of new computer and automation technologies into the workplace (Autor et al. 2003; Cappelli 1993; Green, Felstead, and



Gallie 2003; Kristal 2013; Spitz-Oener 2006). Scholars of skill-biased technological change argue that computer technologies complement nonroutine cognitive tasks and replace routine cognitive tasks, while mechanical automation continues to displace routine manual tasks (Goldin and Katz 1998). We are not aware of any cohort studies that examine how technological changes in the workplace have influenced mobility for occupational incumbents, but we tentatively draw out two implications. First, the increasing prevalence of computer technologies has made computer use a common denominator across many occupations, potentially creating a new set of transferable skills and weakening barriers to mobility (Shaw 1987). Yet, technological change also may have created a digital divide between highly skilled and unskilled/semiskilled workers, creating distinctions between workers who design and maintain computer architectures, or use these architectures for analytic tasks, and workers who are primarily operators, like data entry clerks or cashiers. These two considerations lead us to expect lower mobility across sectors and macro-classes, but increasing mobility between closely related micro-classes nested in the same meso-classes.

Declining union membership also may have affected mobility, especially for workers in the private sector (Farber and Western 2001; Kristal and Cohen 2015; Rosenfeld 2014). Private sector union membership rates declined from 33 percent in the early 1970s to less than 10 percent in the mid-2000s (Western and Rosenfeld 2011). Unionization has traditionally been an occupational closure strategy that protects the positions and wages of occupational incumbents (Weeden 2002). Unions have offered benefits, set predictable wage grades, and insulated workers from turbulent labor markets (Rosenfeld 2014). One effect of these worker protections is to reduce rates of job mobility (Mincer 1983). We expect that by eroding institutional worker protections and attenuating workers' attachments to jobs and industries, de-unionization has led to greater likelihood of short-range occupational switching between micro- and meso-classes within the manual sector, where union density has undergone the most change. It is unclear if de-unionization should affect switching across the manual/nonmanual divide.

Related to de-unionization, forms of precarious labor have been gradually spreading to many classes of workers (Kalleberg 2009, 2011). Contract, fixed-term, temporary, and part-time work all stand under the precarious work banner and are generally on the rise, especially for workers with few labor market resources (Hollister 2011; Valletta and Bengali 2013). Many workers can no longer work for the same employer for decades, but have to change employers frequently to build careers (Kronberg 2013). The advent of precarious labor may increase rates of occupational mobility through at least two channels. On the one hand, the expiration of employment contracts forces workers to make job and employer switches, with each switch entailing some risk of occupational mobility. On the other hand, precarious job conditions may destabilize gradual and predictable patterns of human capital accumulation and career development, while simultaneously short-circuiting the accumulation of job tenure—a strong predictor of immobility (Farber 1999). Increasing prevalence of temporary and short-term contracts thus suggests rising occupational mobility, potentially across all classes and at all levels of aggregation.

## Changing Industrial Structure

Changing employment relationships have accompanied a broader shift in the U.S. industrial and occupational structure. Manufacturing occupations have undergone a long-term and persistent decline, while service, professional, and technical occupations have grown (Dwyer 2013; Featherman and Hauser 1978; Lee and Mather 2008). A considerable literature in labor economics examines how skill-biased technological change has induced changes in the occupation structure (Acemoglu 2002; Autor et al. 2003; Card and DiNardo 2002). These changes should manifest primarily in the form of structural mobility, which is not the focus of the present study.

Economic research has also examined how globalization—including international offshoring, import penetration, and international migration—has been a force in reshaping the U.S. labor market. International trade has substantial negative effects on employment in manufacturing and related occupations (Autor, Dorn, and Hanson 2013; Berman, Bound, and Griliches 1994), but it also affects employment in professional, technical, and clerical occupations (Ebenstein et al. 2013; Goos, Manning, and Salomons 2014). Immigration is another key aspect of globalization's impact on the U.S. labor market. As select work activities have been offshored, the United States has also received a large number of foreign workers, primarily from countries in Asia and Latin America (Pew Research Center 2015). Immigrants, especially those arriving since 1970, have been highly polarized in education and expertise, flowing into occupations at both the bottom and top of the skill distribution (Portes and Rumbaut 2014). Previous work has extensively discussed the wage and unemployment consequences of rising international trade and immigration for native workers, but much of this research focuses on overall changes in labor market opportunities for natives, including changes in the occupational structure, rather than flows of native workers among specific occupations (for a review, see Okkerse 2008). The available evidence is suggestive of mobility effects, but it is too thin to offer much guidance for how globalization has affected patterns of exchange mobility.

Finally, decreases in the segregation of men and women across occupations at the end of the twentieth century have uncertain implications for changes in mobility for both genders (Bielby and Baron 1986; Blau et al. 2012; Jacobs 1989; Reskin 1993). On one hand, declining gender segregation suggests declining barriers to occupational mobility for women, and therefore increasing exchange mobility. On the other hand, women entering male-dominated occupations often find persistence difficult (Cha 2013; Maume 1999; Torre 2014). Increasing representation of women in (some) traditionally male-dominated occupations may have increased retention rates for women in these occupations, and hence reduced exchange mobility for women. No existing studies show how changes in gender segregation are altering mobility chances for men. As with rising female labor force participation, these gendered changes in the economy lead us to provide separate descriptions of mobility for men and women.

Table 2 provides an overview of these rough expectations. To summarize, previous studies suggest that labor force aging and rising educational attainment might reduce exchange mobility at all levels of aggregation across the occupational distribution. In the workplace, technological change, de-unionization, and precarious labor suggest increasing exchange

mobility within meso- and macro-classes, but with conflicting implications for changes in long-range mobility across macro-classes and sectors. Globalization and skill-biased technological change should increase structural mobility, but it is unclear what their implications are for changes in exchange mobility. Finally, the role of decreasing gender segregation in shifting exchange mobility for women is ambiguous.

## DATA, SAMPLE, AND MEASURES

### Data

We pool data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) to assess the trend in intragenerational occupational mobility (Institute for Social Research 2015).<sup>5</sup> The PSID survey asked household heads and wives to report their occupations every year from 1968 to 1997 and biennially thereafter. These data have been coded into detailed Census categories, with the data for 1968 to 1980 only recently coded as part of a retrospective project. Whereas most studies use the PSID dataset for longitudinal analysis by restricting the sample to include only those respondents who are followed over years, we use it as repeated cross-sectional data by including both followable and non-followable sample members. These data provide a representative picture of the nonimmigrant U.S. population in each year because of the PSID rules for sampling individuals and families (Institute for Social Research 2013).<sup>6</sup>

### Sample

We draw on PSID data from the years 1969 to 2011. We use only the baseline PSID samples, dropping observations from the immigrant and Hispanic supplementary samples. Because the PSID sampling design changed from annual to biennial in 1997, we keep only odd years in our sample, and we additionally limit the sample to individuals reporting occupations at both the beginning and end of each resulting two-year interval.<sup>7</sup> Instead of measuring intragenerational mobility by first job to current job, a common approach adopted in previous mobility studies based on cross-sectional data (e.g., Blau and Duncan 1967; Featherman, Jones, and Hauser 1975; Sørensen and Grusky 1996), we fix the time interval between the occupational origin and destination at two years. One reason we use a fixed interval is that with the increase in college attendance and completion over the past several decades, the time difference between first and current jobs for individuals at a given age has supposedly declined as individuals extend the number of years spent in school.

We restrict our analysis to male and female workers who were 25 to 64 years old at the beginning of each two-year interval. We reweight our sample by age and race within sex

<sup>5</sup>The computer codes, occupational crosswalks, and data references needed to re-create our analyses are available online via the Open Science Framework at <http://osf.io/wjbdc/>.

<sup>6</sup>The PSID data are limited in that they are nationally representative only of native-born individuals whose families have lived in the United States beginning prior to 1969. This limitation is compensated for by the fact that the PSID includes data from many cohorts and follows respondents regardless of geographic mobility.

<sup>7</sup>We drop transitions into and out of employment, as this represents a potentially qualitatively different phenomenon in processes of intragenerational mobility. Other authors have addressed unemployment and spells out of the labor force by carrying forward prior occupational attainments when observing a gap in occupational histories (Kambourov and Manovskii 2008). This step seems to require assumptions just as questionable, if not more questionable, than simply dropping these observations. Thus, we opt to retain only observations with occupational reports at both ends of the two-year observation interval.

groups based on the 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010 Census counts for employed individuals born in the United States or arriving to the United States prior to 1970, with interpolation of counts in intercensal years (Ruggles et al. 2015). For analysis, we add a very small number (i.e., .01) to cells with zeros, under the assumption that these are sampling zeros and not structural zeros.<sup>8</sup>

## Measures

We code each worker's occupation at the beginning and end of each two-year interval into Jonsson and colleagues' micro-meso-macro scheme to obtain occupational codes that are consistent across the study period. To take an example, the 1970 occupation codes for bulldozer operators, cranemen, derrick-men, hoist men and excavating, grading, and road machine operators are grouped into a "heavy machine operators" micro-class, which is nested in the craft meso-class, the nonmanual macro-class, and the nonmanual sector. We omit the 2001 to 2003 interval from our mobility table analysis because of the PSID's switch from 1970 to 2000 Census occupation codes in the 2003 survey year. Besides switching between occupational codes, the PSID also changed its coding procedures over time. Table S1 in the online supplement summarizes these changes. In particular, 1969 to 1977 shows systematically lower mobility compared to the other years primarily because the detailed occupation codes in these years were assigned as part of a retrospective coding project that used a dependent coding procedure. We include 1969 to 1977 in our tables and figures, but our interpretation focuses on 1979 and later years.

Because of the limited number of biennial observations, we represent the time dimension with five periods aggregated based on the year when the occupational *origin* is measured: 1969 to 1977, 1979 to 1985, 1987 to 1993, 1995 to 1999, and 2003 to 2009. These periods roughly correspond to different economic and political eras in the United States: the era of stagflation, the Reagan administration, the pre- and post- 1990 to 1991 recession era, the Clinton economic expansion, and the post-9/11 years. From a practical point of view, these periods are of roughly equal length. We also combine survey years with consistent Census occupation codes and coding procedures.

We collapse the two-year mobility data into separate mobility tables by period and, to test trends separately for men and women, by gender.<sup>9</sup> Figure 1 displays the intragenerational mobility matrices over all years. Each circle represents a cell in the mobility table, with the size of the circle determined by the number of individuals in the origin-destination micro-class pair. The circle shades indicate different levels of aggregation. Darker shades are micro- and meso-classes, and lighter shades are higher levels of aggregation. A comparison

<sup>8</sup>When adding .01 to the zero cells, we introduce 168.6 and 188.7 additional cases for men and women, respectively, to our analysis. The impact of these additional cases is minimal, given the total number of cases in our sample (56,200 for men and 47,180 for women). We inflate the male sample by .3 percent and the female sample by .4 percent. We also conducted sensitivity analyses (results available on request) based on different increment values, but our main substantive conclusions were unaffected.

<sup>9</sup>Because we separate the analysis for men and women, we do not believe our analysis to be subject to the same comparability problems faced by studies of occupational gender segregation (e.g., Blau et al. 2012). Nonetheless, we also used log-linear models to explicitly test the differences between men and women. These results are available from the authors on request. We hypothesized that male-female exchange mobility patterns and trends may be identical, with men and women only differing in their marginal distributions across occupations, as found by Rosenfeld and Sørensen (1979), but our results suggest that patterns of exchange mobility, not just marginal distributions, differed for men and for women.

of the two graphs suggests that occupational distributions differ by gender, with women much less likely to engage in certain occupations, such as those in the manual macro-class. Also, more men than women are located on the diagonal of the graphs, suggesting that micro-class immobility is more prevalent among men. We discuss trends in these occupational mobility tables in the next section.

## TRENDS IN GROSS MOBILITY

We begin by confirming and extending previous evidence of rising gross mobility (i.e., the proportion of workers switching occupation) for men and women in the PSID (Kambourov and Manovskii 2008). This analysis ignores the difference between structural and exchange mobility, but in this section we also develop a decomposition that helps us consider mobility trends across different levels of aggregation in subsequent exchange mobility analyses. Figure 2 depicts a steady increasing trend since the 1990s for both men and women at almost all levels of aggregation. We adjusted these trend lines for changes in the PSID's coding procedures using an "affine shift" method detailed in the online supplement. The lines for meso- and macro-classes reflect trends similar to those that would be calculated based on conventional big occupational classes (e.g., EGP class). Focusing on trends in micro-class mobility, we find that the proportion of occupational switchers among men increased by nearly 10 percentage points, which represents a substantial *proportional* increase in mobility rates of approximately 50 percent. Among women, the increase in mobility is similar. The trends are roughly consistent across different levels of aggregation, although the trend disappears for women when we define occupations by the highly aggregated manual-nonmanual binary. Finally, the figure shows how mobility rates are lower at higher levels of occupational aggregation, and less aggregation allows us to observe more mobility.

We use the nested design of our class scheme to decompose the gross-mobility shown in Figure 2 into mobility across multiple levels of aggregation. First, let  $Y^{Micro}$ ,  $Y^{Meso}$ ,  $Y^{Macro}$ , and  $Y^{M/NM}$  be indicator variables taking the value 1 if a worker changed occupation at the given level of occupational aggregation and 0 otherwise. Second, observe that the sum of the mobility probabilities and the micro-class immobility probability must be one:

$$1 = P(Y^{Micro}=0) + \sum_{i,j,k=\{0,1\}} P(Y^{Micro}=1, Y^{Meso}=i, Y^{Macro}=j, Y^{M/NM}=k),$$

where the overall probability of mobility is expressed as the sum of mobility probabilities at the micro-class, meso-class, macro-class, and sectoral levels. Note that mobility between aggregated classes requires mobility between less aggregated classes as well (but not vice versa), and thus many terms implied by the above equation are inherently zero. For example, it is not possible for a worker to change his macro-class but not his meso-class, namely,

$$P(Y^{Micro}=1, Y^{Meso}=0, Y^{Macro}=1, Y^{M/NM}=1) \equiv 0.$$

Therefore, the above equation can be reduced to Thus, the gross mobility is a mixture of (2) mobility between micro-classes within meso-classes (net micro-class mobility); (3) mobility between meso-classes within macro-classes (net meso-class mobility); (4) mobility between macro-classes within manual or nonmanual sectors (net macro-class mobility); and (5) mobility between manual and nonmanual sectors (net manual/nonmanual mobility).

$$\begin{aligned}
 1 &= P(Y^{\text{Micro}}=0) && (1)\text{Micro-Class Immobility} \\
 +P &\left( Y^{\text{Micro}}=1, Y^{\text{Meso}}=0, Y^{\text{Macro}}=0, Y^{M/NM}=0 \right) && (2)\text{Net Micro-Class Mobility} \\
 +P &\left( Y^{\text{Micro}}=1, Y^{\text{Meso}}=1, Y^{\text{Macro}}=0, Y^{M/NM}=0 \right) && (3)\text{Net Meso-Class Mobility} \\
 +P &\left( Y^{\text{Micro}}=1, Y^{\text{Meso}}=1, Y^{\text{Macro}}=1, Y^{M/NM}=0 \right) && (4)\text{Net Macro-Class Mobility} \\
 +P &\left( Y^{\text{Micro}}=1, Y^{\text{Meso}}=1, Y^{\text{Macro}}=1, Y^{M/NM}=1 \right) && (5)\text{Net Manual/NM Mobility}
 \end{aligned}$$

Table 3 provides a picture of rising mobility chances based on calculating net mobility probabilities by period and gender. The percentage of workers who stay in the same micro-class during a two-year observation interval declined from 1969 to 2009 for both men and women. The most dramatic decline happened during the 1969 to 1977 and 1979 to 1985 periods. Much of this change is likely attributable to the PSID's switch from dependent to independent occupation coding. But even after excluding observations before 1979, we still observe a decline in immobility rates of 8.8 percentage points for men and 7.5 points for women from the 1979 to 1985 period to the 2003 to 2009 period. Among respondents who changed their occupations at the micro-class level, the percentage of mobility occurring between micro-classes within meso-classes slightly increased from 8.5 to 9.5 percent for men and fluctuates between 7.6 and 9.0 percent for women from the 1980s to the 2010s. For both sexes, we observe more notable increases in meso-class mobility within macro-classes, macro-class mobility within manual/nonmanual sectors, and mobility across the manual/nonmanual divide regardless of whether the 1969 to 1977 period is included. Together, these descriptive trends suggest that increasing intragenerational occupational mobility is driven by increases at almost all levels of aggregation, but especially increasing medium- and long-range mobility between meso-classes, macro-classes, and sectors.

## MODELING TRENDS IN EXCHANGE MOBILITY

The descriptive analyses only show mobility trends resulting from the combination of structural and exchange mobility. We implement topological, “overlapping persistence” (Stier and Grusky 1990) models to explicitly test whether descriptive mobility trends still hold after we control for marginal changes in occupational distributions. Our main aim is to test a model of no exchange mobility trend against a model that allows for differences in exchange mobility over time. We describe the model specifications in more detail below.

### A Topological Mobility Model

We first posit a baseline model that assumes patterns of exchange mobility have not changed over time, while accounting for changes in the marginal distributions of occupations within and across periods. Model 2, presented in Table 4, corresponds to this constant-association-over-time model. It includes all two-way interactions among micro-class occupational



origin, occupational destination, and period dummy variables. Model 2 builds on two, more parsimonious models, also shown in Table 4—Model 0 that omits all two-way interactions, and Model 1 that omits the two-way interaction between occupational origin and destination. Model 2 takes the following log-additive form:

$$\log F_{ijt} = \mu + \mu_i + \mu_j + \mu_t + \mu_{it} + \mu_{jt} + \mu_{ij} \quad (1)$$

where  $i$  indexes occupational origins,  $j$  indexes destinations, and  $t$  indexes periods with five categories.  $F_{ijt}$  refers to the expected value in cell  $ijt$ . The parameter  $\mu$  refers to the overall mean, and  $\mu_i$ ,  $\mu_j$ , and  $\mu_t$  refer to origin, destination, and period marginal effects, respectively. The parameters  $\mu_{it}$  and  $\mu_{jt}$  are time-varying origin and destination marginal effects that capture structural mobility caused by changes in the relative sizes of micro-classes.  $\mu_{ij}$  refers to the occupation origin-destination association effect capturing the time-constant pattern of exchange mobility. Because the two-way interaction,  $\mu_{ij}$ , involves too many parameters, and many of these parameters fall on cells with zero counts, we simplify the full occupational origin-destination interactions with four topological matrices:

$$\log F_{ijt} = \mu + \mu_i + \mu_j + \mu_t + \mu_{it} + \mu_{jt} + \delta_{ij}^A + \delta_{ij}^B + \delta_{ij}^C + \delta_{ij}^D \quad (2)$$

The term  $\delta_{ij}^A$  refers to micro-class immobility parameters covering the micro-class diagonal; the term  $\delta_{ij}^B$  refers to net micro-class mobility parameters, which capture mobility within meso-classes. We specify distinct net micro-class mobility parameters for each meso-class.

The term  $\delta_{ij}^C$  refers to net meso-class mobility within macro-classes, with a unique parameter for each macro-class. Finally, the term  $\delta_{ij}^D$  denotes unique net macro-class mobility parameters for the manual and nonmanual sectors. Because of the constraint that the sum of the micro-level immobility probability and net mobility probabilities equals 1, we need to choose one reference group. Thus, we omit the manual/nonmanual mobility term. Model fit statistics (not shown) suggest that the model in Equation 2 provides a reasonable and substantially more parsimonious fit than that in Equation 1. Table S10 in the online supplement provides an illustrative sketch of the model design matrix.

We use Models 3, 4, 5, and 6 to test for evidence of changes in exchange mobility across periods. These models incorporate time-varying occupation origin-destination association parameters. They take the following form:

$$\log F_{ijt} = \mu + \mu_i + \mu_j + \mu_t + \mu_{it} + \mu_{jt} + \delta_{ij}^A + \delta_{ij}^B + \delta_{ij}^C + \delta_{ij}^D + \delta_{ijt}^A + \delta_{ijt}^B + \delta_{ijt}^C + \delta_{ijt}^D \quad (3)$$

Here the parameters  $\delta_{ijt}^A$ ,  $\delta_{ijt}^B$ ,  $\delta_{ijt}^C$ , and  $\delta_{ijt}^D$  allow us to test whether micro-class immobility, net micro-class mobility, net meso-class mobility, and net macro-class mobility are changing over time, respectively. Because job persistence, and hence micro-class persistence, is such a key aspect of intragenerational mobility, we layer in period-varying topological parameters

from the bottom up. Model 3 adds period-varying micro-class immobility effects ( $\delta_{ijt}^A$ ); Model 4 adds period-varying net micro-class mobility effects ( $\delta_{ijt}^B$ ); Model 5 adds period-varying net meso-class mobility effects ( $\delta_{ijt}^C$ ); and Model 6 adds period-varying net macro-class mobility effects ( $\delta_{ijt}^A$ ). Table 4 distinguishes identical model specifications fit separately to data for men and women using the suffixes “a” and “b,” respectively.

### Model Fit

We use three statistics that are commonly used as criteria for assessing model fit in the stratification literature (Hout 1983).  $L^2$ , also commonly known as the model deviance, can be used to perform chi-square tests of model fit. An insignificant test statistic suggests that the more parsimonious model is preferred. BIC provides an alternative indicator of fit that is more stringent than  $L^2$  because it penalizes models that use large numbers of parameters. Smaller BIC values indicate better fit. Finally,  $d$  is the dissimilarity index, which runs from 0 to 100, with values closer to zero indicating better agreement between the model and the data.

According to BIC, Models 7a and 7b, which constrain the period differences to be the same across classes at each level of aggregation, are the most strongly favored among all the models.<sup>10</sup> However,  $L^2$  and  $d$  favor Models 6a and 6b, more complicated models that assume period heterogeneity across occupational classes. In the sections that follow, we focus on Models 6a and 6b, which allow us to examine whether there has been polarization in mobility chances across different occupations at each level of aggregation.<sup>11</sup>

## RESULTS

Overall, results from our preferred models (Table 4, Models 6a and 6b) suggest that intragenerational occupational mobility is changing across periods, even after controlling for potentially confounding structural mobility. But the model fit statistics do not tell us directly whether mobility is increasing, decreasing, or fluctuating, or which occupations and which levels of aggregation are most strongly affected. To this end, we present mobility changes graphically, in terms of both observed and counterfactually predicted mobility rates. We estimated the observed mobility rates from model coefficients in Models 6a and 6b, which perfectly match the observed levels of net mobility for each sex in each period. We obtained counterfactual mobility rates by assuming the occupational structure remained fixed as observed in the 1979 to 1985 period, and only the exchange mobility coefficients evolved over time.<sup>12</sup> Overall, we find evidence of declining micro-class persistence, but not simply

<sup>10</sup>On first glance it appears that BIC does not favor models that include time heterogeneity (Models 3 through 6) over models that omit time heterogeneity (Model 2). A possible reason is that Models 3 through 6 expend many parameters in fitting separate period-varying parameters for each class at each level of aggregation. A more parsimonious model would constrain the period differences to be the same across classes at each level of aggregation. Model 7 does just this: it simplifies the trends in Model 6 by constraining period changes in micro-class immobility to be the same across all micro-classes, the net micro-mobility changes to be the same across meso-classes, the net meso-mobility changes to be the same across macro-classes, and so on.

<sup>11</sup>We also tested models that excluded the first period of observation, out of concern that the change from a dependent coding procedure in the 1969 to 1977 period to an independent coding procedure in the periods spanning 1979 to 2009 would be solely responsible for the significant time trends, as represented by the period-by-class mobility interactions. However, excluding the early period and producing fit statistics did not qualitatively alter our results (see results in Table S9 in the online supplement).

because of substantial increases in mobility between micro-classes within meso-classes. Instead, mobility between meso-classes, macro-classes, and sectors has been on the rise. Close alignment between observed and counterfactual mobility suggests that changes in exchange mobility are driving these patterns.

### Trends in Mobility between Manual and Nonmanual Sectors

The trend in mobility between manual and nonmanual sectors is increasing for both men and women, indicating more switching back and forth between sectors. Figure 3 depicts the trend from 1969 forward, but as discussed earlier, changes in PSID coding procedures make comparisons between 1969–1977 and later periods suspect. Whether we ignore the first period or not, Figure 3 clearly shows an increase in between-sector mobility that is most pronounced from 1987 onward. Observed rates of sectoral mobility increased from approximately 10 percent to nearly 14 percent for men, and from just above 7 percent to about 9.5 percent for women between the 1979–1985 and 2003–2009 periods. Once we account for changes in the marginal distributions (the dotted, counterfactual lines in Figure 3), the trend for women is more pronounced, and the trend for men is mostly unaffected. These trends suggest that changes in the distribution of women across occupations (i.e., structural mobility) have partly obscured increases in exchange mobility for women.

### Trends in Net Macro-Class Mobility

Figure 4 presents net macro-class mobility trends calculated for the observed data and in our counterfactual scenarios with the margins fixed at the 1979 to 1985 levels. Net macro-class mobility includes mobility between three macro-classes (professional-managerial, proprietor, and sales and clerical) within the nonmanual sector, and between two macro-classes (manual and farming) within the manual sector. This includes both upward and downward mobility (e.g., moving from professional-managerial occupations to sales and clerical occupations, and in the other direction). Both observed and counterfactual mobility for men and women suggest increasing mobility between macro-classes within the nonmanual sector, but low and relatively flat mobility chances between macro-classes within the manual sector.

In the nonmanual sector, increases in net macro-mobility differ somewhat between men and women. For men, we observe a monotonic increase in mobility between macro-classes. Between the 1979–1985 and 2003–2009 periods, macro-class mobility for men increased from just above 11 percent to nearly 14 percent, a proportional increase of over 20 percent. The increase is insensitive to our counterfactual assumptions about the marginal distributions of men across occupations, suggesting that increasing exchange mobility is the main source of the trend. For women, the trends are more complex. Overall, women's mobility between macro-classes in the nonmanual sector is higher than for men, but increases are less dramatic and non-monotonic. The steepest increases in mobility for women occur between the 1987–1993 period and the 1995–1999 period, and we see slightly

---

<sup>12</sup>Procedurally, this amounts to producing predictions from our models with exchange mobility parameters ( $\delta_{ijt}^A$ ,  $\delta_{ijt}^B$ ,  $\delta_{ijt}^C$  and  $\delta_{ijt}^D$ ) changing as in our models, but with the marginal effects ( $\mu_{it}^A$  and  $\mu_{it}^B$ ) fixed at the 1979 to 1985 levels. We then used these predictions to recalculate trends in net mobility as in Equation 3.

declining mobility chances in the final period. We observe a smaller increase in mobility when we hold the marginal distributions fixed at their 1979–1985 levels. This suggests that a portion of the observed increase in mobility for women is due to structural change in the distribution of women across occupations within the nonmanual sector. The results indicate that the career holding power of macro-classes has declined for both sexes, but especially for men.

### **Trends in Net Meso-Class Mobility**

Net meso-class mobility, which we depict in Figure 5, is also increasing for men and women. Net meso-class mobility involves switching between meso-classes within macro-classes. This includes, for example, mobility between classical professions, managerial occupations, and other professions within the professional-managerial macro-class. We omit meso-class mobility within two macro-classes, proprietors and farming, because these macro-classes contain only one meso-class.

For men, rates of mobility between meso-classes within macro-classes have increased across all macro-classes. Observed increases were largest in the sales/clerical macro-class, followed by the professional-managerial macro-class and then the manual macro-class. The counterfactual lines, which assume that the marginal distributions of origins and destinations are fixed at their 1979 to 1985 levels, fall only slightly below the lines for observed mobility. This result suggests that the changes in net meso-class mobility for men are primarily driven by changes in exchange mobility, not structural mobility.

We observe similar, but weaker, net meso-class mobility trends for women. Trends in the professional-managerial macro-class stand out. The observed meso-class mobility of women within professional-managerial occupations increased from nearly 9 percent to nearly 12 percent between the 1979–1985 and 2003–2009 periods. However, if the occupational structure had remained unchanged, the counterfactual results show almost no trend in mobility chances for professional-managerial women. This flat trend suggests that increasing mobility is mainly driven by changes in the distribution of women across occupations, rather than changes in exchange mobility. In the manual macro-class, mobility trends are also noticeably weaker for women. Controlling for changes in the marginal distributions, the trend was essentially null, mainly because of a downturn in the last period. Overall, the trends imply a weakening of the barriers between meso-classes for men, but more enduring barriers for women.

### **Trends in Net Micro-Class Mobility**

If barriers between occupations are breaking down, as suggested by the patterns of mobility we have shown, we might expect the erosion of these barriers to be most apparent among occupations nested together within meso-classes. Presumably lateral mobility within meso-classes is more vulnerable to changing macro-economic conditions than is vertical mobility (both upward and downward) between meso- and macro-classes. However, our results for net micro-class mobility, displayed in Figure 6, do not entirely bear this out.

Trends in net micro-class mobility for men differ across meso-classes, but generally range from null to weakly positive. Disregarding the 1969–1977 period, we see no clear mobility

trends within classical professions, managerial occupations, other professions, and service meso-classes; mild increases within sales, clerical, and lower-manual meso-classes; and larger increases in mobility in the craft (nearly 14 to 18 percent) and farming (less than 3 to nearly 9 percent) meso-classes. Changes in the marginal distributions of men across occupations are not leading us to misinterpret mobility trends: differences between the observed and counterfactual lines are negligible.

Among women we observe consistently increasing mobility only within the sales meso-class. Women in other meso-classes—including classical professions, other professions, clerical occupations, craft occupations, and lower manual occupations—endured uneven increases in mobility, including occasional mobility declines. Mobility changes in the manager meso-class are highly erratic and give the impression of no strong trend. Finally, women appear less mobile within service occupations. The close alignment of the counterfactual and observed lines indicates that these patterns reflect changes in exchange mobility.

These results suggest that whatever forces are acting to increase mobility are not inducing substantially more mobility between micro-classes within the professional, managerial, and service meso-classes, but are affecting this mobility in sales, clerical, craft, and lower manual meso-classes. This trend is suggestive of some polarization in the mobility experiences of the top and bottom of the occupational distribution, but primarily because individuals at the bottom of the distribution, especially men, are becoming more mobile, not because people at the top are becoming less mobile.

### **Trends in Micro-Class Immobility**

Declining trends in micro-class *immobility* are suggested by previously discussed rising trends in mobility within and between more aggregated classes. Because there are too many micro-classes to display, we average micro-class immobility rates at their respective meso-class levels in Figure 7. Each figure is a weighted average of several micro-class immobility rates.

Three points stand out. First, men have experienced declining micro-class immobility across all meso-classes, but there are some meso-classes, such as managers and officials, proprietors, and craft occupations, in which women show no change, or even slightly increasing immobility. Second, our results for women are more sensitive to changes in the marginal distributions, which suggests a stronger role of structural mobility for women. Finally, declines in micro-class immobility have been most stark in the clerical occupations for both men and women. Persistence in clerical micro-classes among men declined from around 60 percent in the 1979–1985 period to near 40 percent in the 2003–2009 period, and for women, from nearly 70 percent to nearly 60 percent persistence. In general, the results suggest that despite the overall rising trends in mobility, some occupations have experienced more substantial transformations in mobility chances than others, even after structural changes in occupations are accounted for.

## SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

### Measurement errors and changing coding schemes

The PSID changed occupational coding procedures several times between 1968 and 2011. Even though we mapped the PSID's occupation codes into a comparable micro-meso-macro class scheme, the changes in coding procedures introduce potential measurement errors that can lead to biased mobility estimates. Table S1 in the online supplement summarizes the coding changes. In estimating trends in gross mobility (Figure 2), we accounted for coding procedure changes using an "affine shift" method (Kambourov and Manovskii 2008). The details of this analysis are contained in the online supplement. The results suggest that potential measurement errors may bias the mobility rate estimates to some degree, but the overall trends of increasing mobility are still significant for both men and women. It is less clear if other multilevel approaches to aggregating occupations, besides the micro-meso-macro scheme we adopt here, would reveal similar changes in mobility patterns as in our log-linear analyses. The restriction to a single occupation coding scheme is a limitation of the present study that future research should scrutinize.

### Effect of the two-year mobility interval

The amount of mobility we detect may depend on the time interval we use to identify moves between occupational origins and destinations (Mouw and Kalleberg 2010b). In the present study, we chose a two-year interval to maximize our usable sample, but we also experimented with four- and six-year intervals. The results for longer intervals are consistent with those presented here regarding an upward trend in mobility over time, but the degree of mobility increases and the sample size declines as a function of the increasing length of the observation interval. Tables S6 and S7 in the online supplement contain relevant fit statistics, and the results are consistent with those presented in Table 5, suggesting changing associations between occupational origins and destinations at all four aggregation levels.

### Composition effects of demographic trends

We suggested that demographic trends, including aging and educational upgrading, might be responsible for changing mobility. Indeed, descriptive statistics for the PSID reweighted sample indicate a mild aging of the working population from the 1980s onward (Table S4 in the online supplement). To test the sensitivity of our results to the age definition of the analytic sample (age 25 to 64), we replicated our analyses by including younger workers (respondents age 18 to 24; Table S8 in the online supplement) and excluding older workers (respondents older than 54; Table S9 in the online supplement). To some degree, we can also explicitly examine the effects of changing labor force demographics using multinomial logistic regression models (Breen 1994). The multinomial models are roughly equivalent to our topological log-linear models but account for individual characteristics—such as age, education, gender, and race—that may influence the likelihood of occupational immobility. Using these models, we find qualitatively similar trends in mobility at the micro-class, meso-class, macro-class, and sectoral levels (results available upon request).



## DISCUSSION

Our analysis shows increasing trends in intragenerational occupational mobility that emerge most strongly around 1990. The trends do not appear to result simply from changes in the relative numbers of workers in each occupation. Whether we speak of men or women, routine or nonroutine occupations, or the bottom, middle, or top of the occupational distribution, intragenerational occupational exchange mobility has generally been on the rise. Some occupations have resisted the trend more than others, but very few occupations have defied it. We summarize these major findings in Table 5. These findings offer some hints about which macro-social factors—labor force aging, increasing educational attainment, computerization, de-unionization, precarious labor practices, or occupational gender desegregation—are the most likely sources of change, suggesting limitations of the present study and directions for future research.

Our results suggest that we cannot easily pin changes in mobility on changes in the demographic composition of the labor force. The rising trends in mobility defy expectations, derived from micro-economic models, that labor force aging and increasing educational attainment would reduce mobility. We tentatively dismiss demographic change as driving the changes in mobility, but we must note that labor force-wide levels of mobility may result from more than a simplistic aggregating-up of individual-level changes in mobility propensities. For example, if the mobility of younger workers depends on the retirement of older workers, then labor force aging may lead to greater mobility under some circumstances. Our lack of attention to complex interdependencies between older and younger workers, or between workers with similar levels of educational credentials, is a limitation that future research should seek to remedy.

Our results are largely consistent with technological changes, de-unionization, and precarious employment practices that are loosening the bonds between employers and employees. In favor of technological change, we found the strongest decreases in the odds of micro-class persistence and strongest increases in net micro-class mobility occurred within the clerical, craft, and sales meso-classes, where computer automation has had a potentially disruptive impact (e.g., computer databases, sales software, and CNC machining). However, we do not find strong evidence of polarization in mobility chances between workers who use computers for analytic purposes, primarily in the professional macro-classes, and workers who are mainly operators, in the lower nonmanual and manual macro-classes, as is suggested by skill-technology complementarities postulated by theories of skill-biased technological change. This suggests that computer technologies are becoming occupational common denominators that increase short- and long-range mobility. Evidence for de-unionization's role is offered by increasing mobility, especially for men, at three levels of class aggregation in the manual sector where union decline has been most prominent: declining persistence in lower manual and craft micro-classes, increasing mobility between micro-classes within the craft and lower manual meso-classes, and increasing mobility between meso-classes in the manual sector. Finally, our findings of widespread increases in intragenerational mobility across levels of aggregation and tiers of the class structure are consistent with the rise of precarious labor (Kalleberg 2009).

Sociologists have long maintained that technological change, de-unionization, and precarious work are integrally related (Braverman 1974; Fernandez 2001; Hanley 2014; Kristal 2013; Kristal and Cohen 2015). Which occupations are targeted for computerization or automation and how new technologies are deployed in the workplace are often related to management efforts to obtain a better bargaining position relative to their labor force, control the labor process, and defuse labor organization. The present study is primarily concerned with identifying the mobility trend, not disentangling the relative contributions of computerization, de-unionization, and precarious employment practices, which all seem to point in the direction of increasing mobility. Future research should consider occupation- or industry-level measures of these three trends affecting employee-employer relationships and their effects on mobility.

We mentioned globalization and declining occupational sex segregation as prominent macro-social changes with unclear implications for changes in patterns of exchange mobility. We presumed that if these factors affected mobility at all, they would primarily induce structural mobility. Yet, we found that trends in exchange mobility and structural mobility were often closely aligned. Our results do not seem to leave much space for explanations of mobility trends that hinge on changes in the occupational structure. That said, we observed more differences, and more substantial differences, between observed and counterfactual mobility patterns for women, sometimes in the direction of more mobility in the counterfactual case, sometimes in the direction of less. These results suggest that the shift of women into occupations previously dominated by men is interacting in complex ways with changes in the U.S. industrial mix to alter patterns of mobility for women.

We issue two final cautions in interpreting our results. First, we have not seriously considered the implications of spells spent in unemployment and out of the labor force for trends in mobility. It is possible that both structural and exchange mobility are channeled through spells of unemployment, or through temporary disengagement from the labor force. Understanding how out-of-work spells contribute to patterns of occupational mobility is a worthwhile subject of study, but outside our present scope. Second, our use of the PSID precluded us from considering the experiences of immigrants who arrived after 1969, including many recently arrived immigrants from Latin America and Asia. These groups now compose significant portions of the U.S. labor force, and our depiction of changes in mobility is admittedly incomplete without them.

## CONCLUSIONS

Over the past four decades, economic inequality and insecurity in the United States have increased dramatically (Atkinson and Piketty 2007; Gottschalk and Moffitt 2009; McCall and Percheski 2010; Western et al. 2012), but discussions of the implications of such trends predominantly focus on mobility between generations (Bloome 2015; Chetty et al. 2014; Ferrie, Massey, and Rothbaum 2016). The present study provides evidence about rising mobility within generations. Increasing mobility is both a short- and long-range phenomenon, touching on many occupations and pushing workers across narrow and broad occupational boundaries. Rising mobility is probably not a consequence of changes in the age and education composition of the labor force, nor of changes in the occupation mix in

the U.S. labor force brought on by industrial restructuring and globalization. It is more likely related to technological change, precarious work, and de-unionization. The increase in intragenerational mobility provides three important implications for research on the dynamics of social inequality that have been ignored previously.

First, our findings suggest exercising some caution in using occupations as a measure of socioeconomic status in temporal and cross-national comparisons of intergenerational mobility. If individuals' occupations change frequently within working lives, then our understandings of intergenerational mobility may be skewed by substantial measurement error. This is not a new argument, as economists have noted that intergenerational correlations in earnings are much higher when earnings are measured by earnings histories rather than earnings snapshots for parents and offspring (Mazumder 2005). This argument has been viewed as less relevant to studies of occupational mobility, because many researchers believe individuals' occupational statuses are relatively stable beyond a certain amount of work experience. But our findings of increasing intragenerational occupational mobility belie this stability assumption. Career instability can confound inferences about changes in mobility across generations and differences in mobility across times and places. Detecting declining intergenerational occupational mobility might require considering multiple points in parents' and offspring's careers. Or occupation alone may not be a reliable proxy of class standing, and more career socioeconomic statuses need to be considered.

Second, our results suggest it may be time to give categorical reconsideration to the links between intergenerational and intragenerational mobility. Social stratification is a dynamic, multistage process that plays out over the course of both generations and lives. Whatever its technical faults, the status attainment perspective elegantly lays out how intragenerational occupational mobility is one link, along with educational attainment and school-to-work transitions, in the chained processes generating intergenerational mobility (Blau and Duncan 1967). Holding educational attainment and school-to-work transition processes constant, changes in patterns of intragenerational occupational mobility can alter the association between parents' and offspring's occupations. All else being equal, a more open intragenerational occupational structure may contribute to a more open intergenerational occupational structure. Alternatively, greater intragenerational mobility may counteract increasing inheritance of educational attainment and tighter coupling of educational attainment and early career outcomes. In addition, patterns of intragenerational mobility may be heritable across generations, leading to parent-offspring resemblance reflected not only in overall occupational attainments, but also in life-course occupational trajectories. The life-course perspective is rarely incorporated into the study of intergenerational mobility, but it warrants future consideration given the rising occupational variability within generations.

Finally, rising occupational mobility may be both cause and consequence of rising economic inequality (Mouw and Kalleberg 2010b) and increasing economic uncertainty in the form of job loss (Hacker 2006; Hollister 2011; Uchitelle 2007), income volatility (Gottschalk and Moffitt 2009; Shin and Solon 2011), and downward mobility into poverty (Sandoval, Rank, and Hirschl 2009). Our results add another dimension to these trends, which point to the same conclusion: individuals' working lives have become more unstable and unpredictable. To what extent do concurrent trends in inequality and mobility reinforce one another, as

suggested by Bernhardt and colleagues' (2001) work on income and job mobility, and reproduce themselves across generations? To what extent can these trends be explained by compositional shifts in education and work experience in the population? And to what degree are these dual trends the result of continued industrial restructuring and the changing organization of work? We leave these important questions and challenges for future investigation.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

## Acknowledgments

We thank David Grusky for generously sharing occupational coding schemes used for micro-class analysis with us. We thank Michael Hout, Robert Mare, and Yu Xie for providing feedback on earlier versions of this paper.

### Funding

The authors benefited from facilities and resources provided by the California Center for Population Research at UCLA (CCPR), which receives core support (R24-HD041022) from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). The research was also supported by the European Research Council under the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007–2013) / ERC grant agreement no. 324233, the Swedish Research Council (DNR 445-2013-7681), and Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (DNR M12-0301:1).

## References

- Aaronson, Daniel, Mazumder, Bhashkar. Intergenerational Economic Mobility in the United States, 1940 to 2000. *Journal of Human Resources*. 2008; 43(1):139–72.
- Acemoglu, Daron. Technical Change, Inequality, and the Labor Market. *Journal of Economic Literature*. 2002; 40(1):7–72.
- Atkinson, Anthony B., Piketty, Thomas. *Top Incomes over the Twentieth Century: A Contrast between Continental European and English-Speaking Countries*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press; 2007.
- Autor, David H., Dorn, David, Hanson, Gordon H. The China Syndrome: Local Labor Market Effects of Import Competition in the United States. *American Economic Review*. 2013; 103(6):2121–68.
- Autor, David H., Levy, Frank, Murnane, Richard J. The Skill Content of Recent Technological Change: An Empirical Exploration. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 2003; 118(4):1279–1333.
- Bailey, Martha J., Dynarski, Susan M. Inequality in Postsecondary Education. In: Duncan, GJ., Murnane, RJ., editors. *Whither Opportunity? Rising Inequality, Schools, and Children's Life Chances*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation; 2011. p. 117-31.
- Beller, Emily, Hout, Michael. Intergenerational Social Mobility: The United States in Comparative Perspective. *The Future of Children*. 2006; 16(2):19–36.
- Berman, Eli, Bound, John, Griliches, Zvi. Changes in the Demand for Skilled Labor within U.S. Manufacturing: Evidence from the Annual Survey of Manufactures. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 1994; 109(2):367–97.
- Bernhardt, Annette D., Morris, Martina, Handcock, Mark S., Scott, Marc A. *Divergent Paths: Economic Mobility in the New American Labor Market*. New York: Russell Sage; 2001.
- Bielby, William T., Baron, James N. Men and Women at Work: Sex Segregation and Statistical Discrimination. *American Journal of Sociology*. 1986; 91(4):759–99.
- Black, Sandra E., Devereux, Paul J. Recent Developments in Intergenerational Mobility. In: Ashenfelter, OC., Card, D., editors. *Handbook of Labor Economics*. Vol. 4B. Amsterdam: North-Holland; 2011. p. 1487-1541.

- Blau, Francine D., Brummund, Peter, Liu, Albert Yung-Hsu. Trends in Occupational Segregation by Gender 1970–2009: Adjusting for the Impact of Changes in the Occupational Coding System. *Demography*. 2012; 50(2):471–92.
- Blau, Peter M., Duncan, Otis Dudley. *The American Occupational Structure*. New York: Wiley; 1967.
- Bloome, Deirdre. Income Inequality and Intergenerational Income Mobility in the United States. *Social Forces*. 2015; 93(3):1047–80.
- Blossfeld, Hans-Peter. Career Opportunities in the Federal Republic of Germany: A Dynamic Approach to the Study of Life-Course, Cohort, and Period Effects. *European Sociological Review*. 1986; 2(3):208–225.
- Braverman, Harry. *Labor and Monopoly Capital: The Degradation of Work in the Twentieth Century*. New York: Monthly Review Press; 1974.
- Breen, Richard. Individual Level Models for Mobility Tables and Other Cross-Classifications. *Sociological Methods & Research*. 1994; 23(2):147–73.
- Breen, Richard. *Social Mobility in Europe*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press; 2004.
- Breen, Richard, Chung, Inkwan. Income Inequality and Education. *Sociological Science*. 2015; 2:454–77.
- Breiger, Ronald L. The Social Class Structure of Occupational Mobility. *American Journal of Sociology*. 1981; 87(3):578–611.
- Breiger, Ronald L. *Social Mobility and Social Structure*. New York: Cambridge University Press; 1990.
- Cappelli, Peter. Are Skill Requirements Rising? Evidence from Production and Clerical Jobs. *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*. 1993; 46(3):515–30.
- Card, David, DiNardo, John E. Skill-Biased Technological Change and Rising Wage Inequality: Some Problems and Puzzles. *Journal of Labor Economics*. 2002; 20(4):733–83.
- Carroll, Glenn R., Mayer, Karl U. Job-Shift Patterns in the Federal Republic of Germany: The Effects of Social Class, Industrial Sector, and Organizational Size. *American Sociological Review*. 1986; 51(3):323–41.
- Cha, Youngjoo. Overwork and the Persistence of Gender Segregation in Occupations. *Gender & Society*. 2013; 27(2):158–84.
- Chase, Ivan D. Vacancy Chains. *Annual Review of Sociology*. 1991; 17:133–54.
- Cheng, Siwei. Risk Pooling in the Family: Within-Couple Inter-Temporal Responsiveness in Labor Market Activity. Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting; Seattle, WA. 2016.
- Chetty, Raj, Hendren, Nathaniel, Kline, Patrick, Saez, Emmanuel. Where Is the Land of Opportunity? The Geography of Intergenerational Mobility in the United States. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 2014; 129(4):1553–1623.
- Chiappori, Pierre-André. Collective Labor Supply and Welfare. *Journal of Political Economy*. 1992; 100(3):437–67.
- Corak, Miles. Income Inequality, Equality of Opportunity, and Intergenerational Mobility. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 2013; 27(3):79–102.
- DiPrete, Thomas A. Industrial Restructuring and the Mobility Response of American Workers in the 1980s. *American Sociological Review*. 1993; 58(1):74–96.
- DiPrete, Thomas A. Life Course Risks, Mobility Regimes, and Mobility Consequences: A Comparison of Sweden, Germany, and the United States. *American Journal of Sociology*. 2002; 108(2):267–309.
- DiPrete, Thomas A., Buchmann, Claudia. Gender-Specific Trends in the Value of Education and the Emerging Gender Gap in College Completion. *Demography*. 2006; 43(1):1–24. [PubMed: 16579206]
- DiPrete, Thomas A., Forristal, Jerry D. Socioeconomic Change and Occupational Location for Successive Cohorts of American Male and Female Workers. *Social Science Research*. 1995; 24(4):390–438.

- DiPrete, Thomas A., de Graaf, Paul M., Luijkx, Ruud, Tählin, Michael, Blossfeld, Hans-Peter. Collectivist versus Individualist Mobility Regimes? Structural Change and Job Mobility in Four Countries. *American Journal of Sociology*. 1997; 103(2):318–58.
- DiPrete, Thomas A., McManus, Patricia A. Institutions, Technical Change, and Diverging Life Chances: Earnings Mobility in the United States and Germany. *American Journal of Sociology*. 1996; 102(1):34–79.
- DiPrete, Thomas A., Nonnemaker, K Lynn. Structural Change, Labor Market Turbulence, and Labor Market Outcomes. *American Sociological Review*. 1997; 62(3):386–404.
- Dwyer, Rachel E. The Care Economy? Gender, Economic Restructuring, and Job Polarization in the U.S. Labor Market. *American Sociological Review*. 2013; 78(3):390–416.
- Ebenstein, Avraham, Harrison, Ann, McMillan, Margaret, Phillips, Shannon. Estimating the Impact of Trade and Offshoring on American Workers Using the Current Population Surveys. *Review of Economics and Statistics*. 2013; 96(4):581–95.
- Erikson, Robert, Goldthorpe, John H. *The Constant Flux: A Study of Class Mobility in Industrial Societies*. Oxford, UK: Clarendon Press; 1992.
- Farber, Henry S. The Analysis of Interfirm Worker Mobility. *Journal of Labor Economics*. 1994; 12(4): 554–93.
- Farber, Henry S. Mobility and Stability: The Dynamics of Job Change in Labor Markets. In: Card, D., Ashenfelter, OC., editors. *Handbook of Labor Economics*. Vol. 3B. Amsterdam: North-Holland; 1999. p. 2439-83.
- Farber, Henry S., Western, Bruce. Accounting for the Decline of Unions in the Private Sector, 1973–1998. *Journal of Labor Research*. 2001; 22(3):459–85.
- Featherman, David L., Hauser, Robert M. *Opportunity and Change*. New York: Academic Press; 1978.
- Featherman, David L., Jones, F Lancaster, Hauser, Robert M. Assumptions of Social Mobility Research in the U.S.: The Case of Occupational Status. *Social Science Research*. 1975; 4(4):329–60.
- Felmlee, Diane H. Women's Job Mobility Processes within and between Employers. *American Sociological Review*. 1982; 47(1):142–51.
- Fernandez, Roberto M. Skill-Biased Technological Change and Wage Inequality: Evidence from a Plant Retooling. *American Journal of Sociology*. 2001; 107(2):273–320.
- Ferrie, Joseph P., Massey, Catherine, Rothbaum, Jonathan. NBER Working Paper No. 22635. National Bureau of Economic Research; 2016. Do Grandparents and Great-Grandparents Matter? Multigenerational Mobility in the US, 1910–2013.
- Fuller, Sylvia. Job Mobility and Wage Trajectories for Men and Women in the United States. *American Sociological Review*. 2008; 73(1):158–83.
- Goldin, Claudia, Katz, Lawrence F. The Origins of Technology-Skill Complementarity. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 1998; 113(3):693–732.
- Goos, Maarten, Manning, Alan, Salomons, Anna. Explaining Job Polarization: Routine-Biased Technological Change and Offshoring. *American Economic Review*. 2014; 104(8):2509–26.
- Gottschalk, Peter, Moffitt, Robert. The Rising Instability of U.S. Earnings. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 2009; 23(4):3–24.
- Green, Francis, Felstead, Alan, Gallie, Duncan. Computers and the Changing Skill-Intensity of Jobs. *Applied Economics*. 2003; 35(14):1561–76.
- Grusky, David, Kricheli-Katz, Tamar. *The New Gilded Age: The Critical Inequality Debates of Our Time*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press; 2012.
- Hachen, David S. Industrial Characteristics and Job Mobility Rates. *American Sociological Review*. 1992; 57(1):39–55.
- Hacker, Jacob S. *The Great Risk Shift: The New Economic Insecurity and the Decline of the American Dream*. New York: Oxford University Press; 2006.
- Hanley, Caroline. Putting the Bias in Skill-Biased Technological Change? A Relational Perspective on White-Collar Automation at General Electric. *American Behavioral Scientist*. 2014; 58(3):400–415.



- Hauser, Robert M., Dickinson, Peter J., Travis, Harry P., Koffel, John N. Structural Changes in Occupational Mobility among Men in the United States. *American Sociological Review*. 1975; 40(5):585–98.
- Haveman, Heather A., Cohen, Lisa E. The Ecological Dynamics of Careers: The Impact of Organizational Founding, Dissolution, and Merger on Job Mobility. *American Journal of Sociology*. 1994; 100(1):104–152.
- Hollister, Matissa N. Employment Stability in the U.S. Labor Market: Rhetoric versus Reality. *Annual Review of Sociology*. 2011; 37(1):305–324.
- Hollister, Matissa N. Employer and Occupational Instability in Two Cohorts of the National Longitudinal Surveys. *Sociological Quarterly*. 2012; 53(2):238–63.
- Hollister, Matissa N., Smith, Kristin E. Unmasking the Conflicting Trends in Job Tenure by Gender in the United States, 1983–2008. *American Sociological Review*. 2014; 79(1):159–81.
- Hout, Michael. *Mobility Tables*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publications; 1983.
- Hout, Michael. More Universalism, Less Structural Mobility: The American Occupational Structure in the 1980s. *American Journal of Sociology*. 1988; 93(6):1358–1400.
- Institute for Social Research. Survey Research Center. PSID Main Interview User Manual: Release: 2013. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan; 2013.
- Institute for Social Research. Survey Research Center. Panel Study of Income Dynamics, Public Use Dataset. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan; 2015.
- Jacobs, Jerry A. *Revolving Doors: Sex Segregation and Women's Careers*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press; 1989.
- Johnson, Monica Kirkpatrick, Mortimer, Jeylan T. Career Choice and Development from a Sociological Perspective. In: Brown, D., Brooks, L., editors. *Career Choice and Development*. 4th. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass; 2002. p. 37-81.
- Jonsson, Jan O., Grusky, David B., Di Carlo, Matthew, Pollak, Reinhard, Brinton, Mary C. Microclass Mobility: Social Reproduction in Four Countries. *American Journal of Sociology*. 2009; 114(4): 977–1036.
- Juhn, Chinhui, Potter, Simon. Changes in Labor Force Participation in the United States. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 2006; 20(3):27–46.
- Kalleberg, Arne L. Precarious Work, Insecure Workers: Employment Relations in Transition. *American Sociological Review*. 2009; 74(1):1–22.
- Kalleberg, Arne L. *Good Jobs, Bad Jobs: The Rise of Polarized and Precarious Employment Systems in the United States, 1970s to 2000s*. New York: Russell Sage; 2011.
- Kambourov, Gueorgui, Manovskii, Iourii. Rising Occupational and Industry Mobility in the United States: 1968–97. *International Economic Review*. 2008; 49(1):41–79.
- Kambourov, Gueorgui, Manovskii, Iourii. Occupational Mobility and Wage Inequality. *Review of Economic Studies*. 2009; 76(2):731–59.
- Killingsworth, Mark R. *Labor Supply*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press; 1983.
- Killingsworth, Mark R., Heckman, James J. Female Labor Supply: A Survey. In: Ashenfelter, OC., Layard, R., editors. *Handbook of Labor Economics*. Vol. 1. Amsterdam: North-Holland; 1986. p. 103-204.
- Kristal, Tali. The Capitalist Machine: Computerization, Workers' Power, and the Decline in Labor's Share within U.S. Industries. *American Sociological Review*. 2013; 78(3):361–89.
- Kristal, Tali, Cohen, Yinon. What Do Computers Really Do? Computerization, Fading Pay-Setting Institutions and Rising Wage Inequality. *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*. 2015 Dec. 42:33–47.
- Kronberg, Anne-Kathrin. Stay or Leave? Externalization of Job Mobility and the Effect on the U.S. Gender Earnings Gap, 1979–2009. *Social Forces*. 2013; 91(4):1117–46.
- Krueger, Alan B. *Remarks delivered to the Center for American Progress*. Washington, DC: 2012. *The Rise and Consequences of Inequality*.
- Lee, Chul-In, Solon, Gary. Trends in Intergenerational Income Mobility. *Review of Economics and Statistics*. 2009; 91(4):766–72.
- Lee, Marlene A., Mather, Mark. US Labor Force Trends. *Population Bulletin*. 2008; 63(2):1–16.

- Lemieux, Thomas. Postsecondary Education and Increasing Wage Inequality. *American Economic Review*. 2006; 96(2):195–99.
- Long, Jason, Ferrie, Joseph P. Intergenerational Occupational Mobility in Great Britain and the United States since 1850. *American Economic Review*. 2013; 103(4):1109–37.
- Manzoni, Anna, Härkönen, Juho, Mayer, Karl Ulrich. Moving On? A Growth-Curve Analysis of Occupational Attainment and Career Progression Patterns in West Germany. *Social Forces*. 2014; 92(4):1285–1312.
- Maume, David J. Occupational Segregation and the Career Mobility of White Men and Women. *Social Forces*. 1999; 77(4):1433–59.
- Mayer, Karl U., Carroll, Glenn R. Jobs and Classes: Structural Constraints on Career Mobility. *European Sociological Review*. 1987; 3(1):14–38.
- Mazumder, Bhashkar. Fortunate Sons: New Estimates of Intergenerational Mobility in the United States Using Social Security Earnings Data. *Review of Economics and Statistics*. 2005; 87(2):235–55.
- McCall, Leslie, Percheski, Christine. Income Inequality: New Trends and Research Directions. *Annual Review of Sociology*. 2010; 36:329–47.
- Miller, Robert A. Job Matching and Occupational Choice. *Journal of Political Economy*. 1984; 92(6):1086–1120.
- Mincer, Jacob. Union Effects: Wages, Turnover, and Job Training. In: Ehrenberg, RG., editor. *Research in Labor Economics*. Greenwich, CT: JAI Press; 1983. p. 217-52.
- Mincer, Jacob, Jovanovic, Boyan. Labor Mobility and Wages. In: Rosen, S., editor. *Studies in Labor Markets*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press; 1981. p. 21-64.
- Mitnik, Pablo A., Cumberworth, Erin, Grusky, David B. Social Mobility in a High-Inequality Regime. *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 2016; 663(1):140–84.
- Moscarini, Giuseppe, Thomsson, Kaj. Occupational and Job Mobility in the US. *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*. 2008; 109(4):807–836.
- Mouw, Ted, Kalleberg, Arne L. Occupations and the Structure of Wage Inequality in the United States, 1980s to 2000s. *American Sociological Review*. 2010a; 75(3):402–431.
- Mouw, Ted, Kalleberg, Arne L. Do Changes in Job Mobility Explain the Growth of Wage Inequality among Men in the United States, 1977–2005? *Social Forces*. 2010b; 88(5):2053–77.
- Neal, Derek. The Complexity of Job Mobility among Young Men. *Journal of Labor Economics*. 1999; 17(2):237–61.
- Okkerse, Liesbet. How to Measure Labour Market Effects of Immigration: A Review. *Journal of Economic Surveys*. 2008; 22(1):1–30.
- Pew Research Center. *Modern Immigration Wave Brings 59 Million to U.S., Driving Population Growth and Change Through 2065*. Washington, DC: Pew Research Center; 2015.
- Piketty, Thomas, Saez, Emmanuel. The Evolution of Top Incomes: A Historical and International Perspective. *American Economic Review*. 2006; 96(2):200–205.
- Portes, Alejandro, Rumbaut, Rubén G. *Immigrant America: A Portrait*. 4th. Oakland: University of California Press; 2014.
- Putnam, Robert D. *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*. New York: Simon and Schuster; 2015.
- Reardon, Sean F. The Widening Academic Achievement Gap between Rich and Poor: New Evidence and Possible Explanations. In: Duncan, GJ., Murnane, RJ., editors. *Whither Opportunity? Rising Inequality, Schools, and Children’s Life Chances*. New York: Russell Sage; 2011. p. 91-115.
- Reskin, Barbara. Sex Segregation in the Workplace. *Annual Review of Sociology*. 1993; 19:241–70.
- Robst, John. Career Mobility, Job Match, and Over-education. *Eastern Economic Journal*. 1995; 21(4):539–50.
- Rosen, Sherwin. Learning and Experience in the Labor Market. *Journal of Human Resources*. 1972; 7(3):326–42.
- Rosenfeld, Jake. *What Unions No Longer Do*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press; 2014.
- Rosenfeld, Rachel A. Race and Sex Differences in Career Dynamics. *American Sociological Review*. 1980; 45(4):583–609.

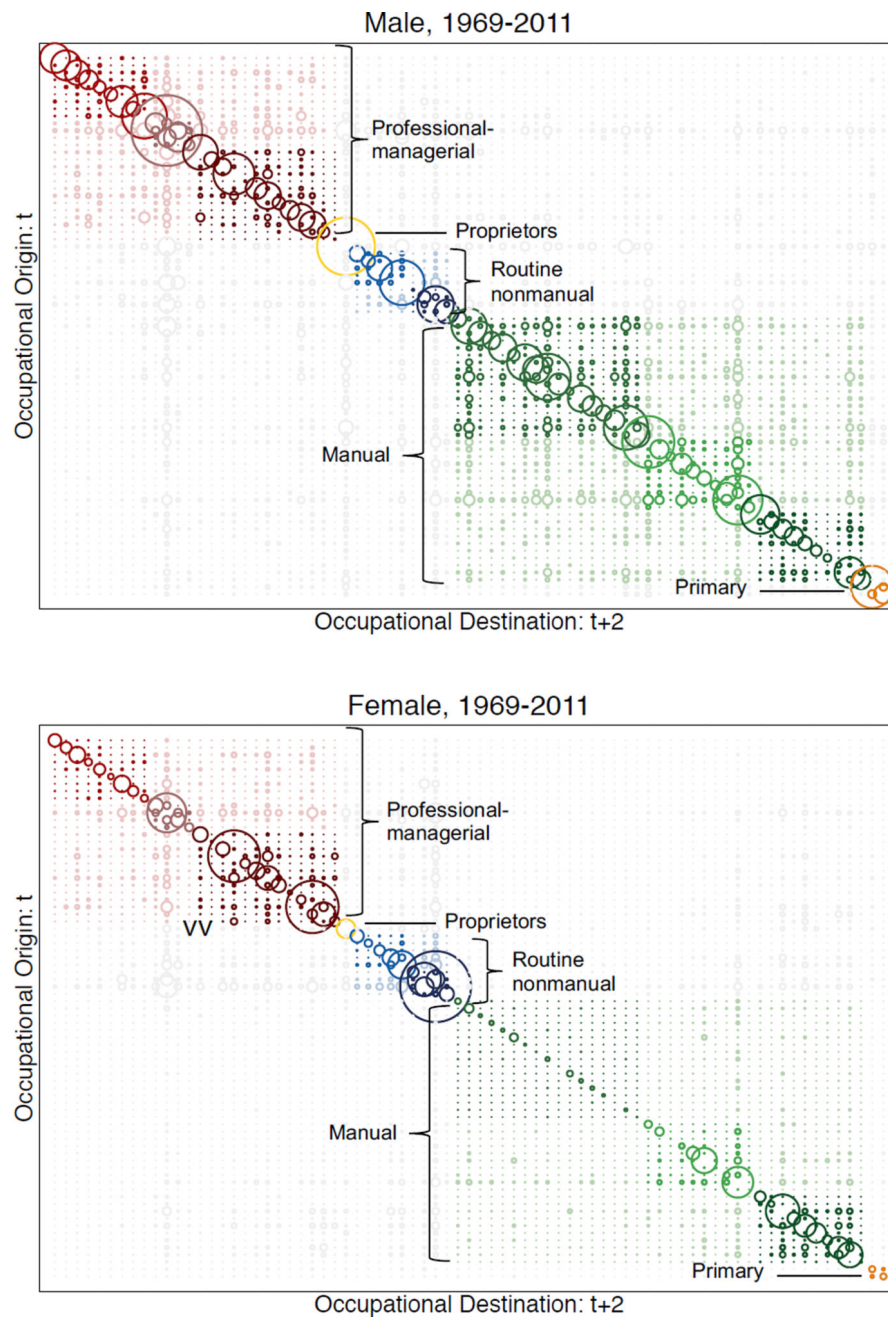
- Rosenfeld, Rachel A. Job Mobility and Career Processes. *Annual Review of Sociology*. 1992; 18:39–61.
- Rosenfeld, Rachel A., Sørensen, Aage B. Sex Differences in Patterns of Career Mobility. *Demography*. 1979; 16(1):89–101. [PubMed: 428609]
- Ruggles, Steven, Genadek, Katie, Goeken, Ronald, Grover, Josiah, Sobek, Matthew. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 6.0. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota; 2015. <http://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V6.0>
- Ryan, Camille L., Bauman, Kurt. Educational Attainment in the United States: 2015. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau; 2016.
- Sandoval, Daniel A., Rank, Mark R., Hirschl, Thomas A. The Increasing Risk of Poverty across the American Life Course. *Demography*. 2009; 46(4):717–37. [PubMed: 20084826]
- Shaw, Kathryn L. Occupational Change, Employer Change, and the Transferability of Skills. *Southern Economic Journal*. 1987; 53(3):702–719.
- Shin, Donggyun, Solon, Gary. Trends in Men's Earnings Volatility: What Does the Panel Study of Income Dynamics Show? *Journal of Public Economics*. 2011; 95(7–8):973–82.
- Sicherman, Nachum, Galor, Oded. A Theory of Career Mobility. *Journal of Political Economy*. 1990; 98(1):169–92.
- Snipp CM. Occupational Mobility and Social Class: Insights from Men's Career Mobility. *American Sociological Review*. 1985; 50(4):475–93.
- Sobel, Michael E., Hout, Michael, Duncan, Otis Dudley. Exchange, Structure, and Symmetry in Occupational Mobility. *American Journal of Sociology*. 1985; 91(2):359–72.
- Solon, Gary. Intergenerational Mobility in the Labor Market. In: Ashenfelter, OC., Card, D., editors. *Handbook of Labor Economics*. Vol. 3A. Amsterdam: North-Holland; 1999. p. 1761-1800.
- Sørensen, Aage B. A Model for Occupational Careers. *American Journal of Sociology*. 1974; 80(1): 44–57.
- Sørensen, Aage B. The Structure of Intragenerational Mobility. *American Sociological Review*. 1975; 40(4):456–71.
- Sørensen, Jesper B., Grusky, David B. The Structure of Career Mobility in Microscopic Perspective. In: Baron, JN, Grusky, DB., Treiman, DJ., editors. *Social Differentiation and Social Inequality: Essays in Honor of John Pock*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press; 1996. p. 83-114.
- Spilerman, Seymour. Careers, Labor Market Structure, and Socioeconomic Achievement. *American Journal of Sociology*. 1977; 83(3):551–93.
- Spitz-Oener, Alexandra. Technical Change, Job Tasks, and Rising Educational Demands: Looking Outside the Wage Structure. *Journal of Labor Economics*. 2006; 24(2):235–70.
- Stier, Haya, Grusky, David B. An Overlapping Persistence Model of Career Mobility. *American Sociological Review*. 1990; 55(5):736–56.
- Torche, Florencia. Is a College Degree Still the Great Equalizer? Intergenerational Mobility across Levels of Schooling in the United States. *American Journal of Sociology*. 2011; 117(3):763–807.
- Torche, Florencia. Analyses of Intergenerational Mobility: An Interdisciplinary Review. *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 2015a; 657(1):37–62.
- Torche, Florencia. Intergenerational Mobility and Equality of Opportunity. *European Journal of Sociology*. 2015b; 56(3):343–71.
- Torre, Margarita. The Scarring Effect of 'Women's Work': The Determinants of Women's Attrition from Male-Dominated Occupations. *Social Forces*. 2014; 93(1):1–29.
- Uchitelle, Louis. *The Disposable American: Layoffs and Their Consequences*. New York: Vintage; 2007.
- U.S. Census Bureau. *Statistical Abstract of the United States: Section 12 Labor Force, Employment, and Earnings*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office; 2012.
- Valletta, Rob, Bengali, Leila. FRBSF Economic Letters 2013–24. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco; 2013. What's Behind the Increase in Part-Time Work?.
- Weeden, Kim A. Why Do Some Occupations Pay More Than Others? Social Closure and Earnings Inequality in the United States. *American Journal of Sociology*. 2002; 108(1):55–101.

- Weeden, Kim A., Grusky, David B. The Case for a New Class Map. *American Journal of Sociology*. 2005; 111(1):141–212.
- Weeden, Kim A., Grusky, David B. The Three Worlds of Inequality. *American Journal of Sociology*. 2012; 117(6):1723–85.
- Wegener, Bernd. Job Mobility and Social Ties: Social Resources, Prior Job, and Status Attainment. *American Sociological Review*. 1991; 56(1):60–71.
- Western, Bruce, Bloome, Deirdre, Sosnaud, Benjamin, Tach, Laura. Economic Insecurity and Social Stratification. *Annual Review of Sociology*. 2012; 38:341–59.
- Western, Bruce, Rosenfeld, Jake. Unions, Norms, and the Rise in U.S. Wage Inequality. *American Sociological Review*. 2011; 76(4):513–37.
- White, Harrison C. *Chains of Opportunity: System Models of Mobility in Organizations*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press; 1970.
- Wright, Erik Olin. *Class Counts: Comparative Studies in Class Analysis*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press; 1997.
- Wright, Erik Olin, Perrone, Luca. Marxist Class Categories and Income Inequality. *American Sociological Review*. 1977; 42(1):32–55.
- Xie, Yu, Killewald, Alexandra. Intergenerational Occupational Mobility in Great Britain and the United States since 1850: Comment. *American Economic Review*. 2013; 103(5):2003–20. [PubMed: 23970805]

## Biographies

**Benjamin F. Jarvis** is Senior Lecturer in the Institute for Analytical Sociology at Linköping University. His research interests include residential mobility, the persistence of racial and ethnic segregation, the link between geographic and social mobility, and the formation and dissolution of social ties that influence mobility. He currently studies these issues using Swedish population registers in conjunction with discrete choice models, social network analysis, and simulation methods.

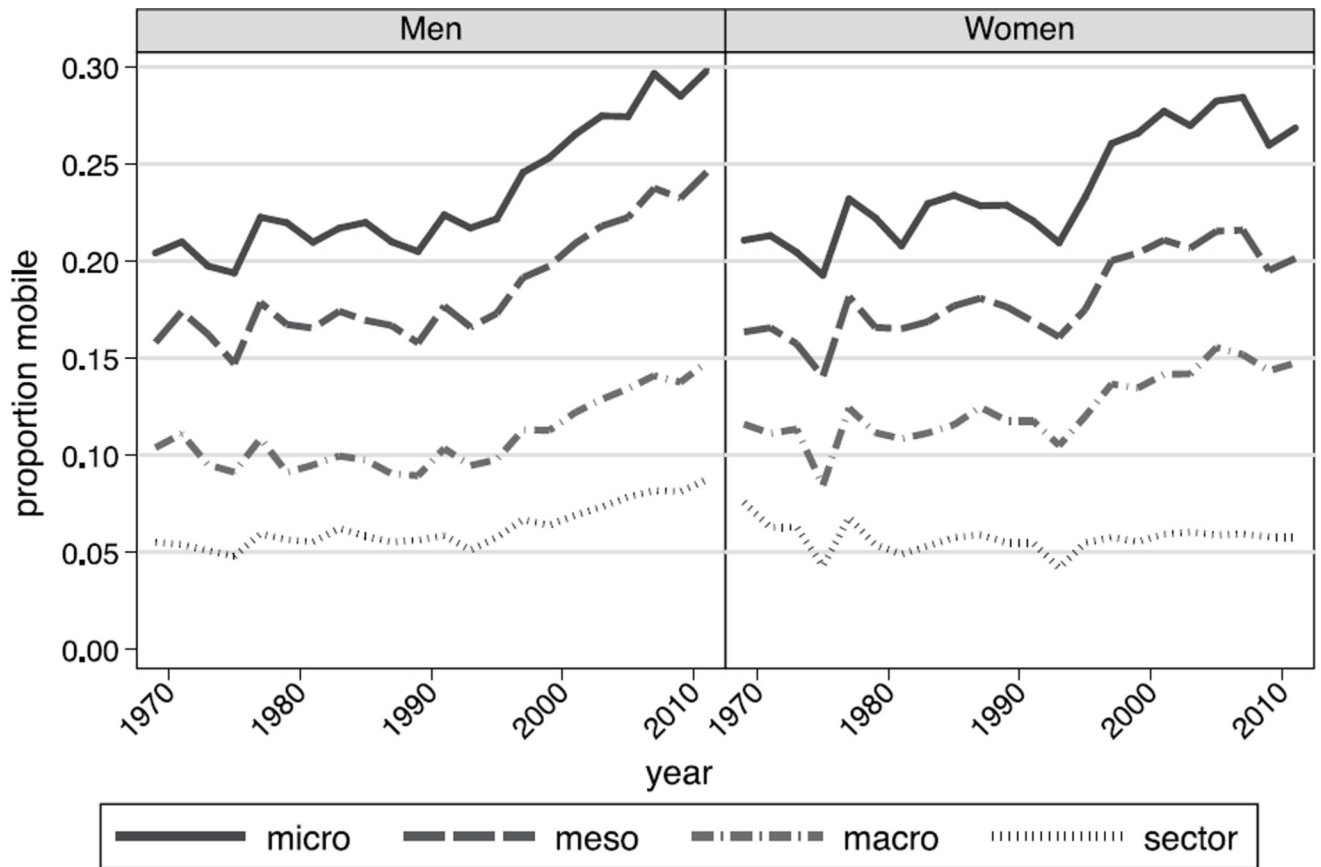
**Xi Song** is Assistant Professor of Sociology and the College at the University of Chicago. Her current research uses demographic, statistical, and computational tools to study (1) long-term social inequality among families, (2) the demography of family growth and extinction, (3) social mobility within and between generations, and (4) the sociological basis of evolutionary demography and population dynamics.



**Figure 1. Observed Intragenerational Mobility by Pooling All PSID Years**

*Note:* Macro-class occupations are labeled in the graph. Occupations with various shades within the same macro-class refer to different meso-classes. The 10 meso-class clusters from top to bottom include classical professions, managers, other professions, proprietors, sales, clerical, craft, lower manual, service workers, and farmers. The size of the circles is proportionate to the number of workers within each origin-destination pair of micro-classes.



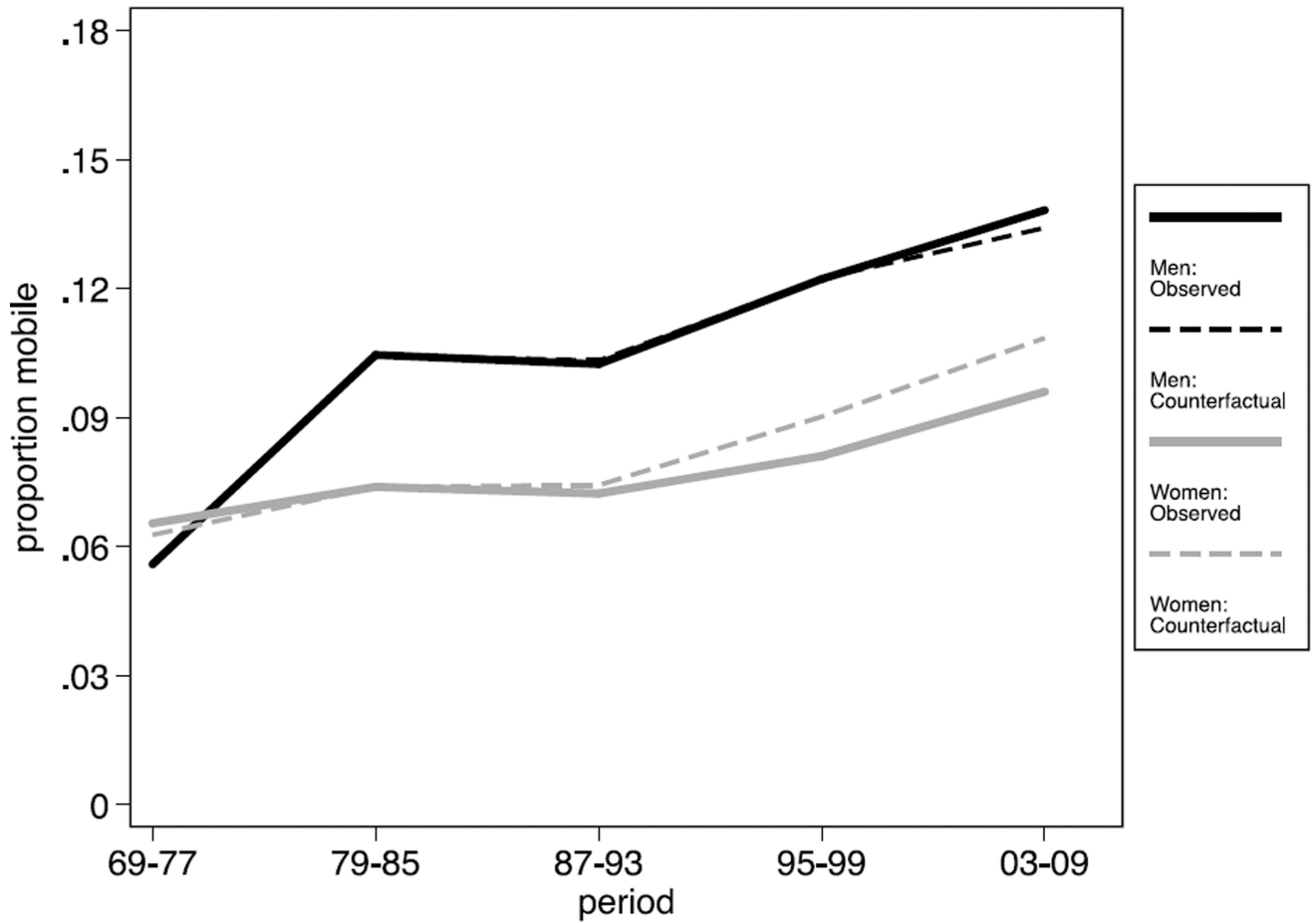


**Figure 2. Trends in Intragenerational Gross Mobility Rates by Gender, 1969 to 2011**

*Data source:* Panel Study of Income Dynamics, 1969 to 2011.

*Note:* The trends refer to adjusted mobility rates estimated after removing the effect of potential measurement errors caused by coding procedures (“affine shift” method). We adjust mobility rates to what would have been expected for dependent coding procedures, as discussed in the online supplement. The trends show gross (or crude) mobility for men and women based on occupational schemes that vary by levels of aggregation.

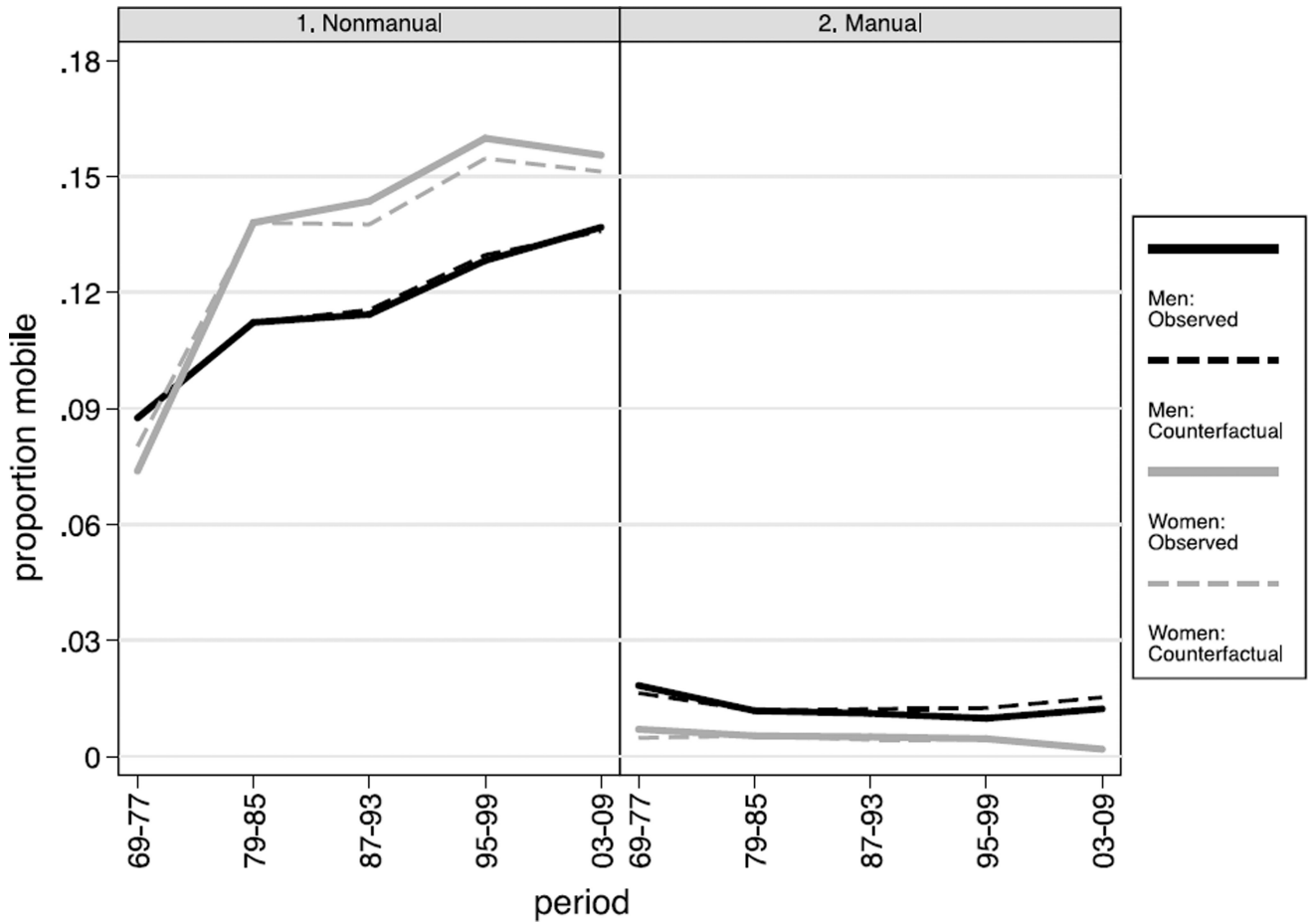




**Figure 3. Trends in Observed and Counterfactual Intragenerational Mobility between Manual and Nonmanual Sectors by Gender**

*Data source:* Panel Study of Income Dynamics, 1969 to 2011.

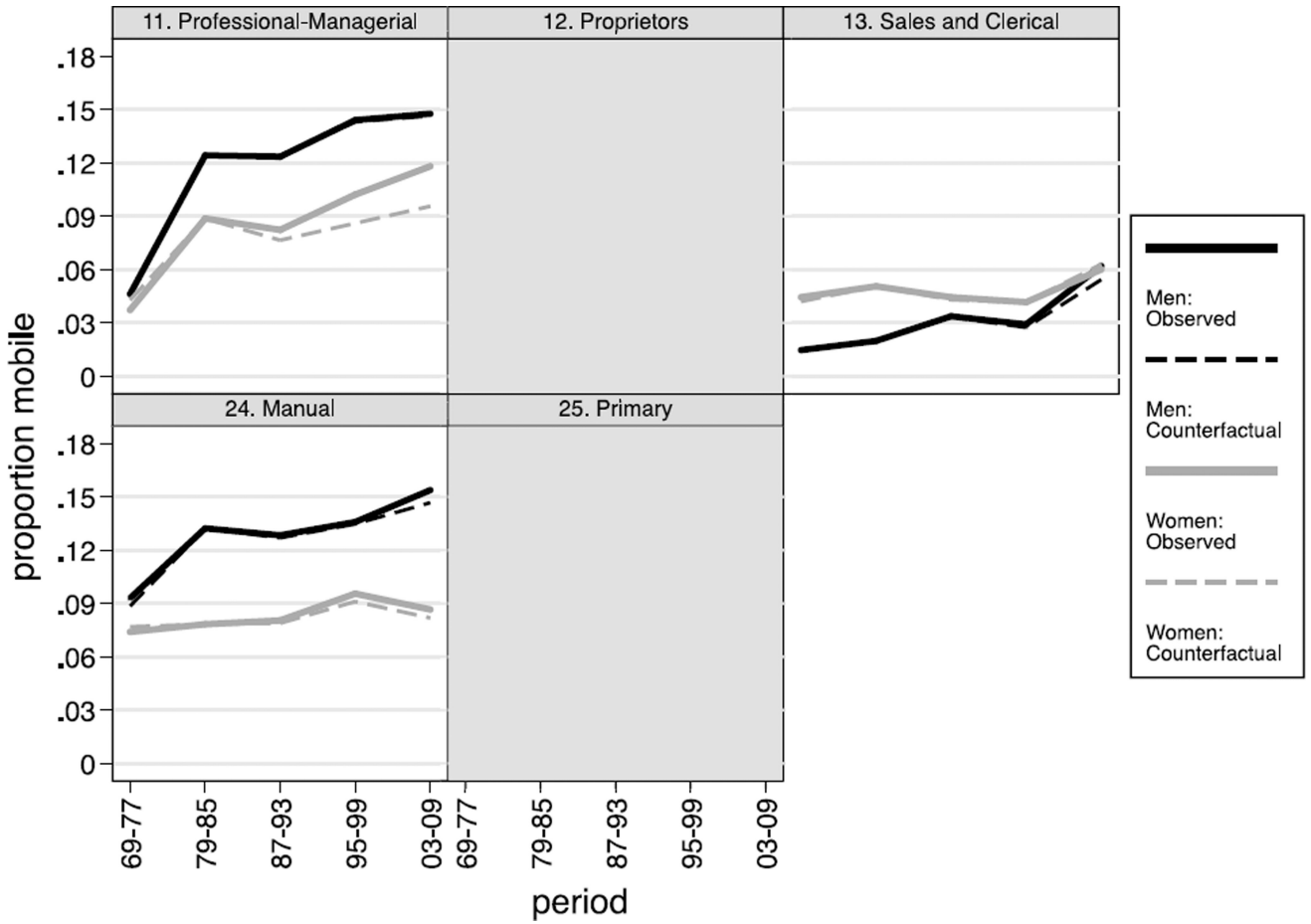
*Note:* Proportion mobile is the share of persons moving between manual and nonmanual sectors over two-year mobility intervals within the periods indicated on the  $x$ -axis. The years correspond to the starts of the two-year intervals making up the period. The 2001 to 2003 interval is omitted because of PSID's switch from 1970 to 2000 occupation codes in this interval. The solid lines correspond to predictions from the full model, which fit observed mobility. The dashed lines are based on counterfactual predictions in which the relative mobility rates are fixed at levels predicted in each period, but the marginal distributions of origin and destination occupations are fixed at levels observed in the 1979 to 1985 period. Margins are treated separately for men and women.



**Figure 4. Trends in Observed and Counterfactual Net Intragenerational Mobility between Macro-Classes (within Sectors) by Gender**

*Data source:* Panel Study of Income Dynamics, 1969 to 2011.

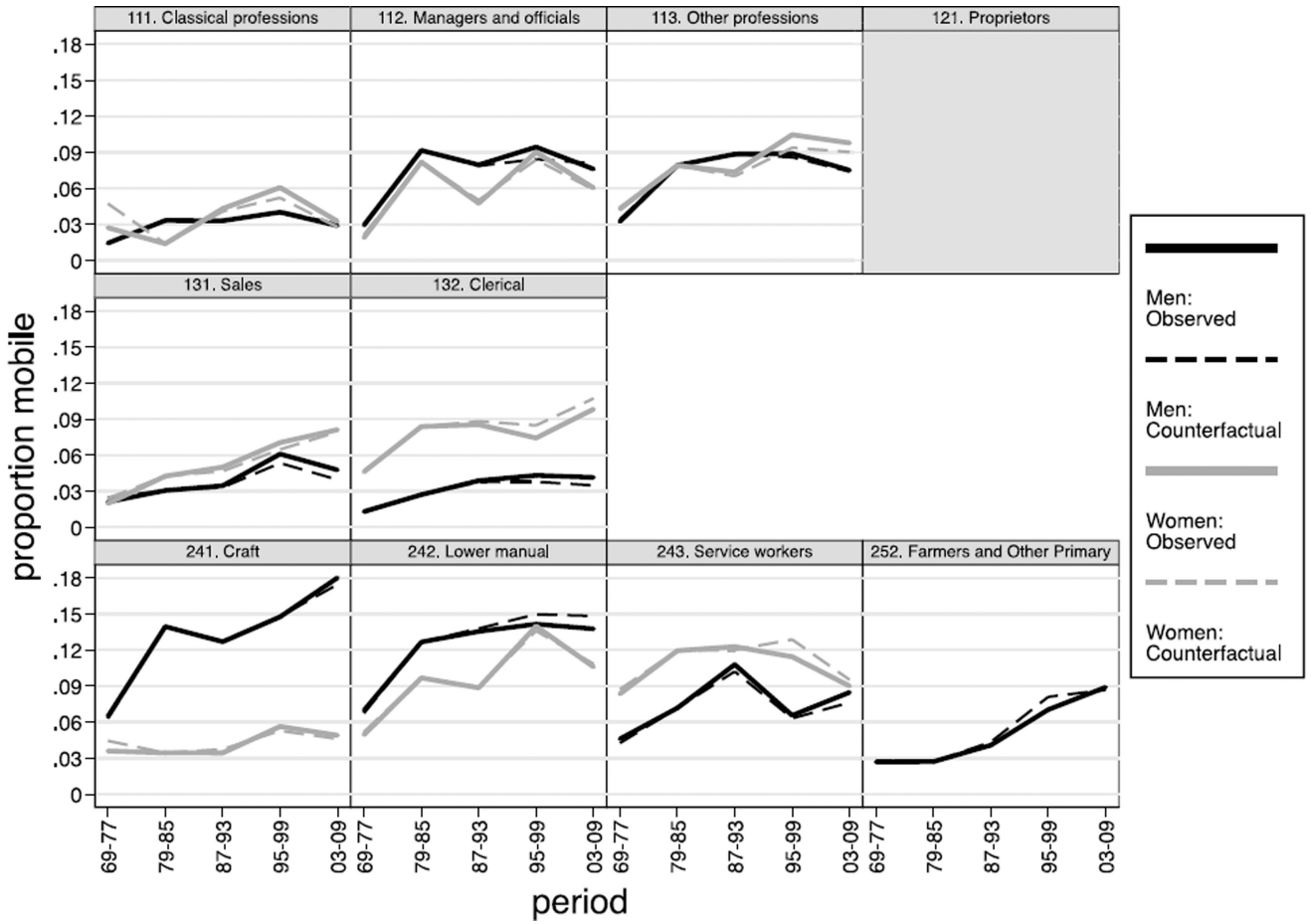
*Note:* Proportion mobile is the share of persons with the given sector origins moving between macro-classes within those sectors over two-year mobility intervals within the periods indicated on the *x*-axis. The years correspond to the starts of the two-year intervals making up the period. The 2001 to 2003 interval is omitted because of PSID's switch from 1970 to 2000 occupation codes in this interval. The solid lines correspond to predictions from the full model, which match the observed data. The dashed lines are based on counterfactual predictions in which the relative mobility rates are fixed at levels observed in each period, but the marginal distributions of origin and destination occupations are fixed at the numbers observed in the 1979 to 1985 period. Margins are treated separately for men and women.



**Figure 5. Trends in Observed and Counterfactual Net Intragenerational Mobility between Meso-Classes (within Macro-Classes) by Gender**

*Data source:* Panel Study of Income Dynamics, 1969 to 2011.

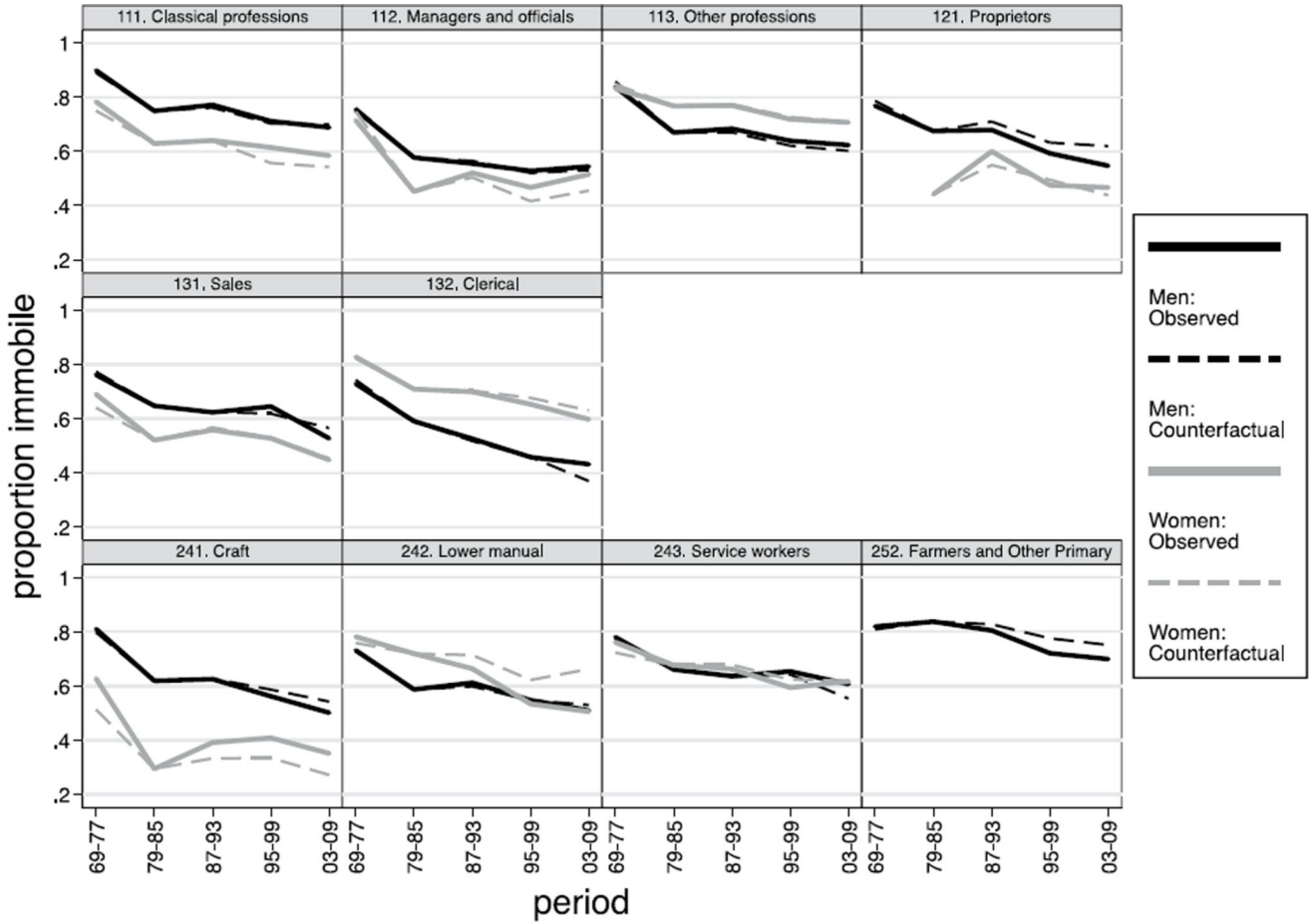
*Note:* Proportion mobile is the share of persons with the given macro-class origins moving between meso-classes within those macro-classes over two-year mobility intervals within the periods indicated on the x-axis. The years correspond to the starts of the two-year intervals making up the period. The 2001 to 2003 interval is omitted because of PSID’s switch from 1970 to 2000 occupation codes in this interval. The solid lines correspond to predictions from the full model, which match the observed data. The dashed lines are based on counterfactual predictions in which the relative mobility rates are fixed at levels observed in each period, but the marginal distributions of origin and destination occupations are fixed at the numbers observed in the 1979 to 1985 period. Margins are treated separately for men and women. The “proprietors” and “primary” macro-classes each contain only one meso-class, and so net meso mobility is undefined in these cases.



**Figure 6. Trends in Observed and Counterfactual Net Intragenerational Mobility between Micro-Classes (within Meso-Classes) by Gender**

*Data source:* Panel Study of Income Dynamics, 1969 to 2011.

*Note:* Proportion mobile is the share of persons with given meso-class origins moving between micro-classes within those meso-classes over two-year mobility intervals within the periods indicated on the *x*-axis. The years correspond to the starts of the two-year intervals making up the period. The 2001 to 2003 interval is omitted because of PSID’s switch from 1970 to 2000 occupation codes in this interval. The solid lines correspond to predictions from the full model, which match the observed data. The dashed lines are based on counterfactual predictions in which the relative mobility rates are fixed at levels observed in each period, but the marginal distributions of origin and destination occupations are fixed at the numbers observed in the 1979 to 1985 period. Margins are treated separately for men and women. Women are omitted from the “farmers and other primary” sub-plot because of low sample sizes. The “proprietors” meso-class contains only one micro-class, and so net micro mobility is undefined in this case.



**Figure 7. Trends in Observed and Counterfactual Micro-Class Immobility Averaged within Meso-Classes**

*Data source:* Panel Study of Income Dynamics, 1969 to 2011.

*Note:* Proportion immobile is the share of persons with the given meso-class origins who persist in their origin micro-classes over two-year mobility intervals within the periods indicated on the x-axis. The years correspond to the starts of the two-year intervals making up the period. The 2001 to 2003 interval is omitted because of PSID’s switch from 1970 to 2000 occupation codes in this interval. These immobility rates are averaged by meso-class. The solid lines correspond to predictions from the full model, which match the observed data. The dashed lines are based on counterfactual predictions in which the relative mobility rates are fixed at levels observed in each period, but the marginal distributions of origin and destination occupations are fixed at the numbers observed in the 1979 to 1985 period. Margins are treated separately for men and women. Women are omitted from the “farmers and other primary” graph because of low sample sizes that yield unreliable estimates in some periods. Likewise, very few women are observed in the “proprietors” micro-class in the 1969 to 1977 period, and so no point is drawn in this case.

**Table 1**

## Macro-, Meso-, and Micro-Class Occupational Schemes

Sectors (2 categories)	Macro-Classes (5 categories)	Meso-Classes (10 categories)	Micro-Classes (75 categories)
1. Nonmanual	11. Professional-managerial	111. Classical professions	11101. Jurists
			11102. Health professionals
			11103. Professors and instructors
		...	
		112. Managers and officials	11201. Officials, government and NGO
			11202. Other managers
			11203. Commercial managers
		...	
		113. Other professions	11301. Systems analysts and programmers
	11302. Aircraft pilots and navigators		
	11303. Personnel and labor relations workers		
	...		
	12. Proprietors	121. Proprietors	12101. Proprietors
13101. Real estate agents			
13. Routine nonmanual	131. Sales	13102. Agents, NEC	
		13103. Insurance agents	
		...	
	132. Clerical	13201. Telephone operators	
		13202. Bookkeepers	
13203. Office and clerical workers			
...			
2. Manual	24. Non-farm manual	241. Craft	24101. Craftsmen, NEC
			24102. Foremen
			24103. Electronics service and repair
		...	
		242. Lower manual	24201. Truck drivers
			24202. Chemical processors
			24203. Miners and related workers
		...	
		243. Service workers	24301. Protective service workers
			24302. Transport conductors
			24303. Guards and watchmen
	...		
25. Primary	252. Farmers, fishermen, and other primary	25201. Farmers, fishermen, and hunters	
		25202. Farm labours	

*Note:* This occupational scheme is adapted from Jonsson and colleagues (2009). A full list of the micro-classes is included in Table S2 in the online supplement and the descriptive statistics are presented in Table S3. Jonsson and colleagues' scheme originally included two meso-classes in the primary macro-class: 25201. fisherman and hunters and 25202. farming. The PSID contained very few fishermen and hunters, so we aggregated these micro-classes with the farmers micro-class.



**Table 2**

Summary of Possible Exchange Mobility Trends Resulting from Macro-Social Change

	Level of Class Aggregation	
	Sector or Macro-Class Mobility	Meso- or Micro-Class Mobility
Changing Labor Force Composition		
Labor force aging	–	–
Increasing levels of educational attainment	–	–
Rising female labor force participation	0	0
Changing Employment Relationships		
Technological change	–	+
De-unionization	?	+
Precarious labor	+	+
Changing Industrial Structure		
Globalization	?	?
Occupational gender segregation	?	?

*Note:* + indicates that the macro-social change would likely increase mobility, – indicates that the change would likely lead to a decrease in mobility, 0 indicates no change, and ? indicates that the effect on mobility is indeterminate.

Table 3

## Decomposition of Gross Mobility Rates

	Levels of Mobility					Period				
	Manual	Macro	Meso	Micro		1969 to 1977	1979 to 1985	1987 to 1993	1995 to 1999	2003 to 2009
Men										
(1) Immobility	No	No	No	No		79.4	64.6	64.5	59.7	55.8
(2) Net micro-class mobility	No	No	No	Yes		4.2	8.5	8.5	9.3	9.5
(3) Net meso-class mobility	No	No	Yes	Yes		6.1	10.4	10.4	11.5	12.9
(4) Net macro-class mobility	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		4.8	6.2	6.6	7.5	8.1
(5) Net manual/nonmanual mobility	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		5.4	10.3	10.1	12.0	13.7
Total						100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>N</i>						10,481	10,388	12,685	8,596	14,050
Women										
(1) Immobility	No	No	No	No		78.9	67.5	67.5	62.2	60.0
(2) Net micro-class mobility	No	No	No	Yes		4.9	8.2	7.6	9.0	8.3
(3) Net meso-class mobility	No	No	Yes	Yes		5.2	7.0	6.7	7.9	9.3
(4) Net macro-class mobility	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		4.8	10.2	11.2	13.1	12.9
(5) Net manual/nonmanual mobility	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		6.2	7.1	7.0	7.8	9.5
Total						100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>N</i>						7,534	7,933	10,564	7,585	13,564

*Data source:* Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), 1969 to 2011.

*Note:* We restrict the sample to the employed population age 25 to 64, excluding the military, unemployed, student, disabled, housekeeper, and retired populations from the analysis. The years shown for each period correspond to the starts of the two-year intervals making up the period. We dropped the 2001 to 2003 interval because of PSID's switch from 1970 to 2000 occupation codes in this interval.

Table 4

## Log-Linear Model Fit Statistics

Model	df	$L^2$	p-value	BIC
<i>Men (N = 56,200)</i>				
<i>Baseline Models</i>				
0a: Origin + Destination + Period	27,972	244,675	<.01	-61,245
1a: 0a + Origin×Period + Destination×Period	27,380	239,997	<.01	-59,449
2a: 1a + Parameter-ABCD	27,292	27,431	.28	-271,052
<i>Period-Varying Topological Mobility Models</i>				
3a: 2a + Period×Parameter-A	26,992	24,874	>.99	-270,328
4a: 2a + Period×Parameter-AB	26,956	24,723	>.99	-270,086
5a: 2a + Period×Parameter-ABC	26,944	24,661	>.99	-270,017
6a: 2a + Period×Parameter-ABCD	26,940	24,648	>.99	-269,986
7a: 2a + Period×Parameter-A'BC'D'	27,276	25,659	>.99	-272,650
<i>Women (N = 47,180)</i>				
<i>Baseline Models</i>				
0b: Origin + Destination + Period	27,972	174,593	<.01	-126,434
1b: 0b + Origin×Period + Destination×Period	27,380	166,191	<.01	-128,465
2b: 1b + Parameter-ABCD	27,292	19,635	>.99	-274,074
<i>Period-Varying Topological Mobility Models</i>				
3b: 2b + Period×Parameter-A	26,992	18,287	>.99	-272,193
4b: 2b + Period×Parameter-AB	26,956	18,154	>.99	-271,939
5b: 2b + Period×Parameter-ABC	26,944	18,102	>.99	-271,862
6b: 2b + Period×Parameter-ABCD	26,940	18,077	>.99	-271,844
7b: 2b + Period×Parameter-A'BC'D'	27,276	18,879	>.99	-274,657

Data source: Panel Study of Income Dynamics, 1969 to 2011.

Note:  $L^2$  is the log-likelihood ratio chi-square statistic with the degrees of freedom (df) reported in column df. The Bayesian Information Criteria (BIC) =  $L^2 - (df) \times \log(N)$ , where  $N$  is the total number of observations. A: micro-class immobility parameters; B: net micro-class mobility within meso-class parameters; C: net meso-class mobility within macro-class parameters; D: net macro-class mobility within manual/nonmanual sector parameters. Period×Parameter: interaction between period and mobility parameters. A', B', C', and D' indicate that trend parameters are constrained to be equal across classes at the micro-class, meso-class, macro-class, and sectoral levels, respectively.

**Table 5**

Summary of Mobility Trends at Various Levels of Aggregation from Log-Linear Models

Level of Aggregation	Trends	
	Overall	By Occupation
Manual–Nonmanual Sector Mobility	Increased	
Net Macro-Class Mobility	Increased	Increasing mobility in the nonmanual sector, not in the manual sector.
Net Meso-Class Mobility	Increased	Increasing mobility within macro-classes, especially for men in professional-managerial and sales-clerical macro-classes.
Net Micro-Class Mobility	Mixed	Stable in professional, managerial, and service meso-classes, increasing mobility elsewhere.
Micro-Class Immobility	Declined	Declining immobility, especially in clerical micro-classes, but no change for women in some meso-classes.

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript