Occupational Changes in a Generation in the United States, 1994-2016: Medians Show Strong Persistence from Origins to Destinations

Supplementary Information

Supplementary information for this paper includes descriptive statistics, comparison figures from classic studies (Blau and Duncan, 1967; Featherman and Hauser 1978) that show that median regression estimates are higher in those data as well as in the GSS data, comparison figures that repeat Figs. 2-5 of the main paper replacing SEI with Hauser-Warren credential scores, and density plots to complement Fig. 5 in the main paper.

Table S1. Means and Medians for Current and Parents' SEI by Gender, Parents' Employment Status, and Occupation: Persons 25-69 Years Old, Living in the United States Currently and at the Time They Were in High School, 1994-2016

Parents' status	Occupation	Men			Women		
		Mean	Median	Count	Mean	Median	Count
Father not missing	Current	49.0	45.4	8,196	47.5	41	9,462
	Father	46.8	41.0		45.8	39.9	
Mother not missing	Current	48.2	45.0	6,574	46.7	39.7	8,024
	Mother	38.8	35.8		38.0	35.5	
Two-earners	Current	49.3	46.0	5,218	48.1	41.1	6,182
	Combined	44.1	41.2		43.0	40.0	
Father-only	Current	48.6	45.1	2,978	46.3	39.7	3,280
	Father	46.1	39.9		45.6	39.9	
Mother-only	Current	44.0	38.8	1,356	42.0	38.3	1,842
	Mother	36.1	31.9		35.7	27.0	

Source: Author's calculations from General Social Surveys, 1994-2016.

Table S2. Percentage of Men Working in the Same Occupation as Their Father by Father's Occupation (Outflow) and the Son's Current Occupation (Inflow): Men 25-69 Years Old, Living in the United States Currently and at the Time They Were in High School, 1994-2016

Occupation	Same	Score	Count
Father's occupation (outflow)			
Pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, & steamfitters	19.8	36	79
Dentists	16.0	92	20
Physicians & surgeons	15.0	93	68
Lawyers	14.0	91	71
Truck drivers & driver-sales workers	14.0	32	360
Police & sheriff's patrol officers	12.4	65	86
Carpenters	11.7	29	158
Grounds maintenance workers	11.0	19	53
Construction managers	10.8	68	120
Brickmasons, blockmasons, & stonemasons	10.6	25	40
Electricians	10.6	45	82
Son's current occupation (inflow)			
Farmers, ranchers, & agricultural managers	68.0	40	70
Physicians & surgeons	24.0	93	45
Brickmasons, blockmasons, & stonemasons	19.9	25	26
Pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, & steamfitters	16.5	36	92
Logging workers	16.0	20	21
Clergy	15.7	63	37
Police & sheriff's patrol officers	14.6	65	75
Miscellaneous agricultural workers	14.2	14	50
Truck drivers & driver-sales workers	13.2	32	361
Carpenters	12.9	29	147

Source: Author's calculations from General Social Surveys, 1994-2016.

Table S3. Larger Mostly Female Occupations: Credential Rank, Percent Women, and Sample Size, Persons 25-69 Years Old, Living in the United States Currently and at the Time They Were in High School, 1994-2016

Occupation	Women %	SEI score	Count
Registered nurses	92	84	360
Elementary and middle school teachers	88	81	475
Special education teachers	78	72	71
Medical and health services managers	77	72	92
Diagnostic related technologists and technicians	76	69	52
Business operations specialists, all other	81	64	56
Social workers	82	63	163
Paralegals and legal assistants	86	60	64
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	98	47	101
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	100	41	106
Secretaries and administrative assistants	94	39	742
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks	86	39	51
Customer service representatives	75	38	293
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	94	38	243
Health practitioner support technologists and technicians	88	37	83
Office clerks, general	89	36	170
Billing and posting clerks	95	33	78
Data entry keyers	88	33	70
Medical assistants	93	29	57
Teacher assistants	92	26	150
Receptionists and information clerks	96	26	141
Hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists	90	25	143
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	92	24	512
Electrical, electronics, and electromechanical assemblers	75	23	53
Cashiers	93	22	306
Childcare workers	97	22	238
Tellers	94	21	65
Personal care aides	89	20	99
Waiters and waitresses	87	20	259
Combined food preparation and serving workers	82	14	70
Food preparation workers	80	14	62
Sewing machine operators	91	13	64
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	95	13	238

Note: The criteria for being included in this list were occupations that were at least 75 percent women and a count of at least 50 cases.
Source: Author's calculations from General Social Surveys, 1994-2016.

Table S4. Coefficients for Regression of Current Occupation on Parent's Occupation by Estimator, Gender, Parents' Employment, Parent, and Measure: Persons 25-69 Years Old, Living in the United States Currently and at the Time They Were in High School, 1994-2016

Parents' employment	Parent	OLS		Median	
		Men	Women	Men	Women
		A. Socioeconomic index (SEI)			
Father not missing	Father	0.312	0.285	0.492	0.396
		(0.014)	(0.013)	(0.020)	(0.018)
Mother not missing	Mother	0.214	0.252	0.356	0.356
		(0.014)	(0.014)	(0.023)	(0.020)
Two-earner	Combined	0.369	0.370	0.569	0.530
		(0.019)	(0.020)	(0.029)	(0.029)
Father-only	Father	0.357	0.315	0.529	0.409
		(0.028)	(0.024)	(0.034)	(0.029)
Mother-only	Mother	0.175	0.275	0.265	0.384
		(0.032)	(0.031)	(0.048)	(0.039)
		B. Credential score			
Father not missing	Father	0.332	0.272	0.443	0.256
		(0.015)	(0.013)	(0.018)	(0.013)
Mother not missing	Mother	0.245	0.251	0.331	0.224
		(0.015)	(0.013)	(0.014)	(0.012)
Two-earner	Combined	0.396	0.356	0.522	0.353
		(0.020)	(0.019)	(0.024)	(0.018)
Father-only	Father	0.378	0.307	0.507	0.254
		(0.028)	(0.024)	(0.028)	(0.023)
Mother-only	Mother	0.178	0.245	0.272	0.232
		(0.033)	(0.029)	(0.038)	(0.020)

Notes: Father's and mother's occupational scores were combined by weighting father's score by 0.6 and mother's score by 0.4, and adding the weighted scores. Models include dummy variables for farm origin and year.
Source: Author's calculations from General Social Surveys, 1994-2016.

Table S5. Coefficients for Regression of Current SEI on Father's SEI and Farm Origin, Using 1970 Occupational Classification and 1970 SEI Scores, by Gender and Time Period: Persons, 25-69 Years Old, 1972-1990

	Time Period			
	1972-1975	1976-1980	1982-1985	1986-1990
Variable				
A. Men				
Father's SEI	0.526	0.599	0.477	0.533
	(0.043)	(0.052)	(0.061)	(0.049)
Farm origin	-4.750	-3.521	-4.787	-6.416
	(0.720)	(0.744)	(0.780)	(1.041)
Constant	16.025	13.058	17.237	17.530
	(1.391)	(1.613)	(1.819)	(1.784)
R^2	0.118	0.113	0.088	0.098
Number of cases	1,772	1,664	1,718	2,046
A. Women				
Father's SEI	0.345	0.355	0.326	0.359
	(0.040)	(0.042)	(0.032)	(0.033)
Farm origin	-4.748	-5.316	-6.467	-3.587
	(0.878)	(1.031)	(1.424)	(1.459)
Constant	17.478	18.326	22.099	21.693
	(1.109)	(1.275)	(1.074)	(1.074)
R^2	0.073	0.066	0.050	0.054
Number of cases	1,776	1,828	2,091	2,451

Source: Author's calculations from General Social Surveys, 1972-1990.
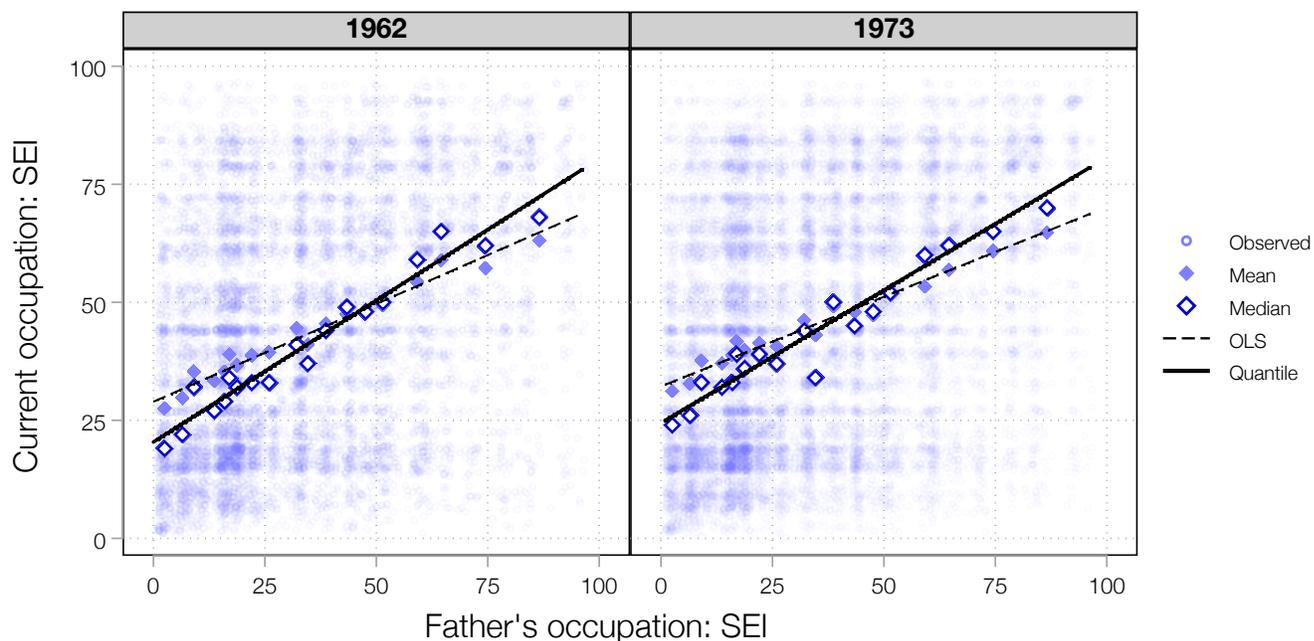
Figure S1. Current SEI by father's SEI by year: Men, 25-64 years old, experienced civilian labor force, nonfarm origins, 1962 and 1973

Note: Occupations were coded according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 1960 protocol; socioeconomic scores (SEI) were assigned according to procedures described by Featherman and Hauser (1978). Observed data were jittered slightly to reveal overlapping observations; 1962 data are 5% transparent and 1973 data are 4% transparent so areas with more cases appear darker. Means and medians for current occupations were calculated for 19 roughly equal-sized bins.

Source: Author's calculations from the Occupational Changes in a Generation Surveys (OCG-I and OCG-II), Supplements to the March 1962 and March 1973 Current Population Surveys.
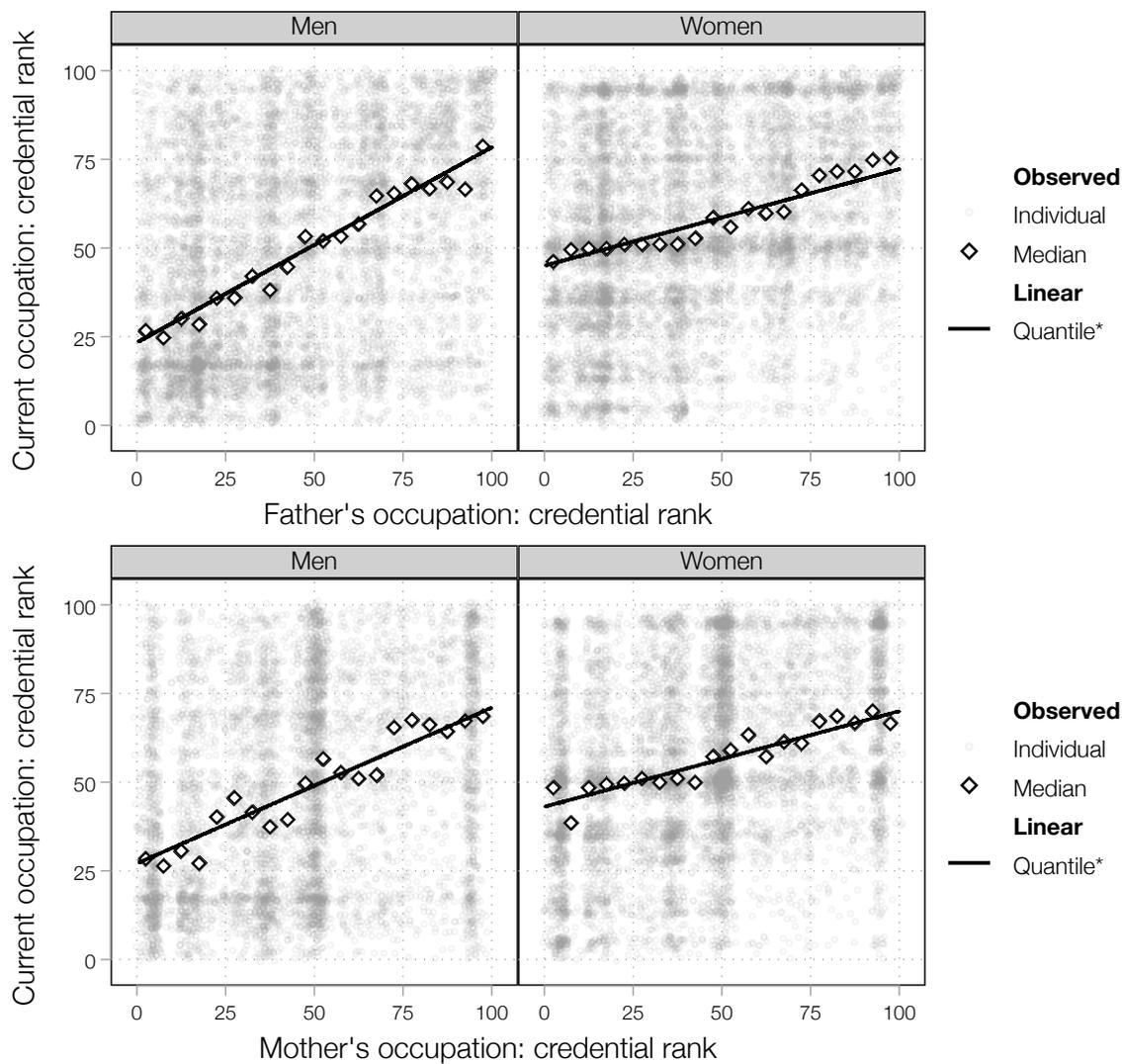
Figure S2. Current credential score by father's or mother's credential score by gender: Persons, 25-69 years old, living in the United States at the time they were in high school and currently, 1994-2016

Note: Observed data jittered slightly to reveal overlapping observations. Regressions included a dummy variable for farm origins; that variable was set to zero (nonfarm origins) in drawing the lines. This figure supplements Figs. 1 and 2 in the main part of the paper by using an alternative scale of occupational status.

Source: Author's calculations from the General Social Surveys, 1994-2016.
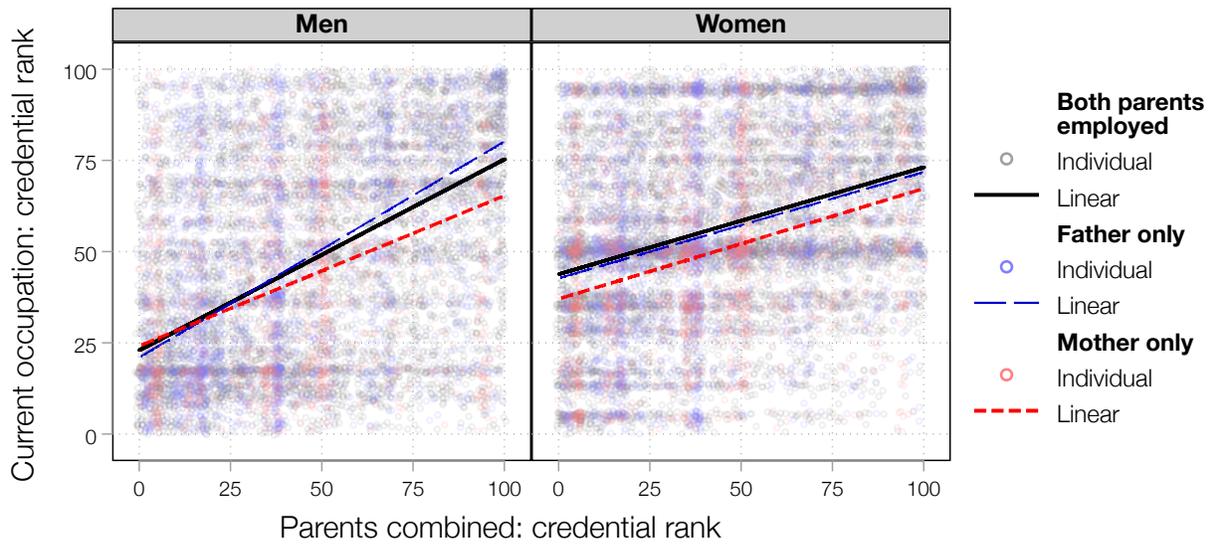
Figure S3. Current credential score by father's and mother's combined credential score by gender and parents' employment status: Persons, 25-69 years old, living in the United States at the time they were in high school and currently, 1994-2016

Note: Observed data jittered slightly to reveal overlapping observations. Regressions included a dummy variable for farm origins; that variable was set to zero (nonfarm origins) in drawing the lines. This figure supplements Fig. 3 in the main part of the paper by using an alternative scale of occupational status.

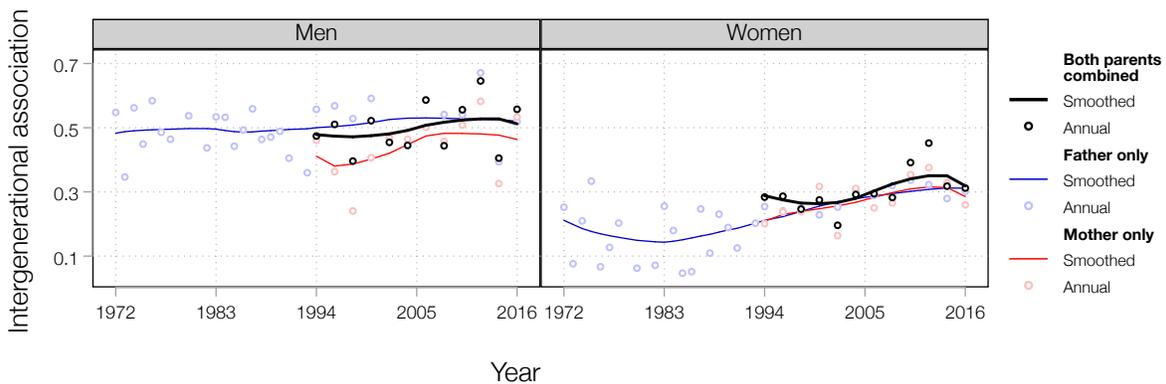Source: Author's calculations from the General Social Surveys, 1994-2016.

Figure S4. Association between the socioeconomic rank of current occupation and parents', father's, or mother's occupation by year and gender: Persons, 25-69 years old, living in the United States at the time they were in high school and currently, 1972-2016

Note: Annual estimates smoothed by locally estimated regressions (lowess). Mother's occupation was not asked before 1994 so the combined and mother's time series start in 1994. The father's occupation series was smoothed with a bandwidth set to 0.7; bandwidths for the shorter mother's and combined series were set to 0.99.

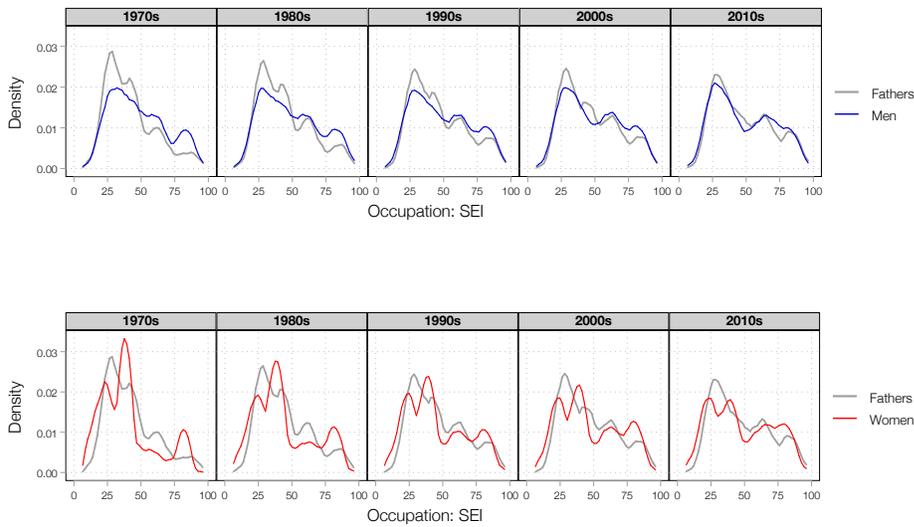Source: Author's calculations from the General Social Surveys, 1972-2016.

Figure S5. Comparison of current SEI distribution and father's SEI distribution by gender and decade: Persons with nonfarm origins, 25-69 years old, living in the United States at the time they were in high school and currently, 1972-2016

Source: Author's calculations from the General Social Surveys, 1994-2016.