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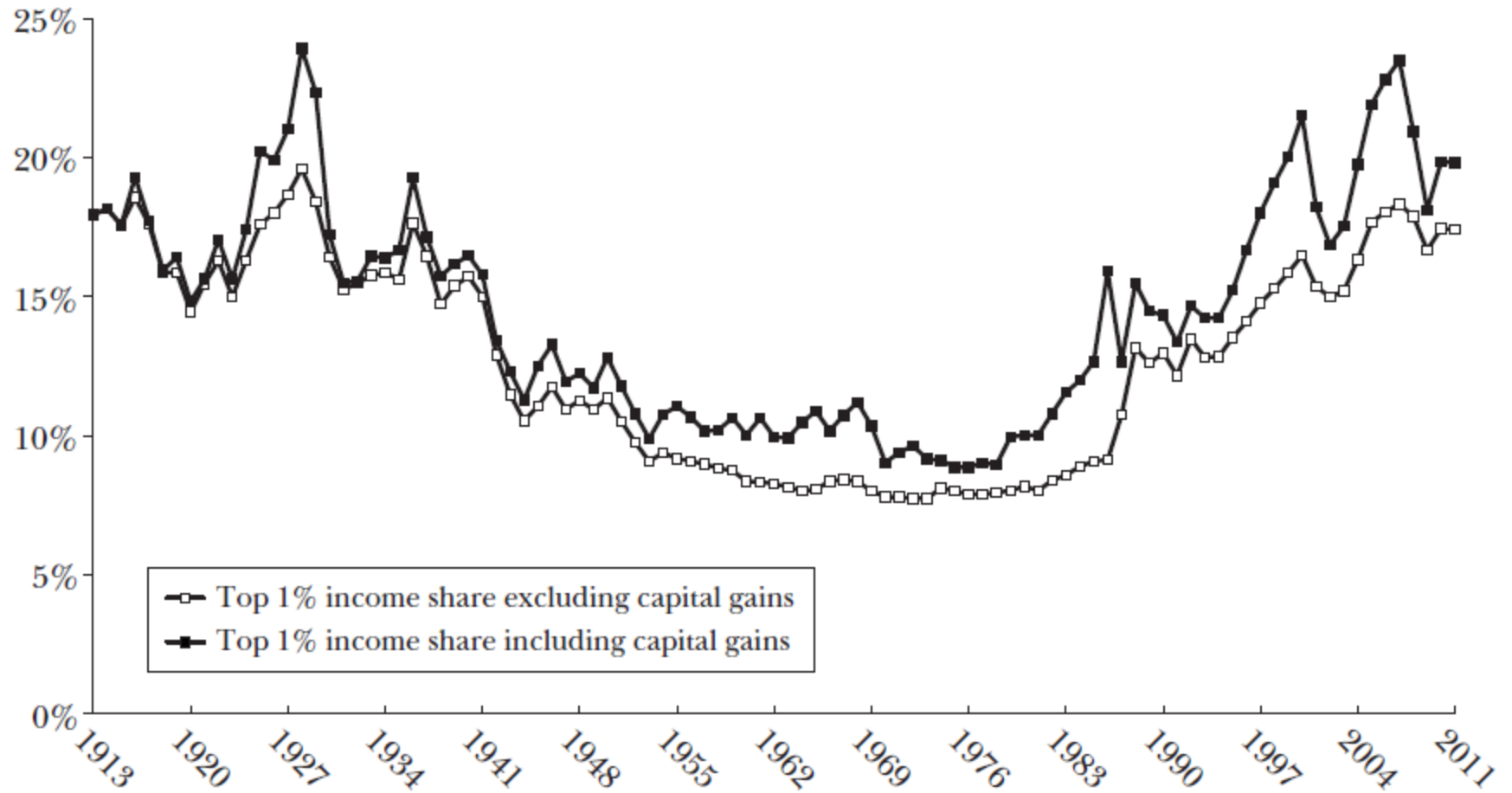
HOW IS INEQUALITY IN THE UNITED STATES CHANGING?

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Top 1 Percent Income Share in the United States



Source: Alvaredo, Atkinson, Piketty, and Saez, *JEP*, Summer 2013

NARRATIVES: Marketization & Modernization ("M & M")

1. As social science theories, models, paradigms, hypotheses
2. As beliefs, rationalizations, ideologies, performance standards

INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

- Inequality: Social Hierarchies and the Positions and Rewards that Accompany Them (“rewards of game”)
- Stratification (and Social Mobility): Processes of Placing Individuals and Other Units into Hierarchies (“rules of game”)
 - Stratification Reproduces Inequality
 - Stratification partly reflects Modernization and Marketization
 - Gender and Racial Inequalities are Part of Stratification
 - Empirical, Analytical, and Ideological Interdependence of Stratification and Inequality

QUESTIONS ABOUT MODERNIZATION

1. What is it – transition from ascription to achievement or ... ?
2. A Hypothesis about Stratification or about Inequality?
3. Kuznets vs. Davis-Moore (functional theory)

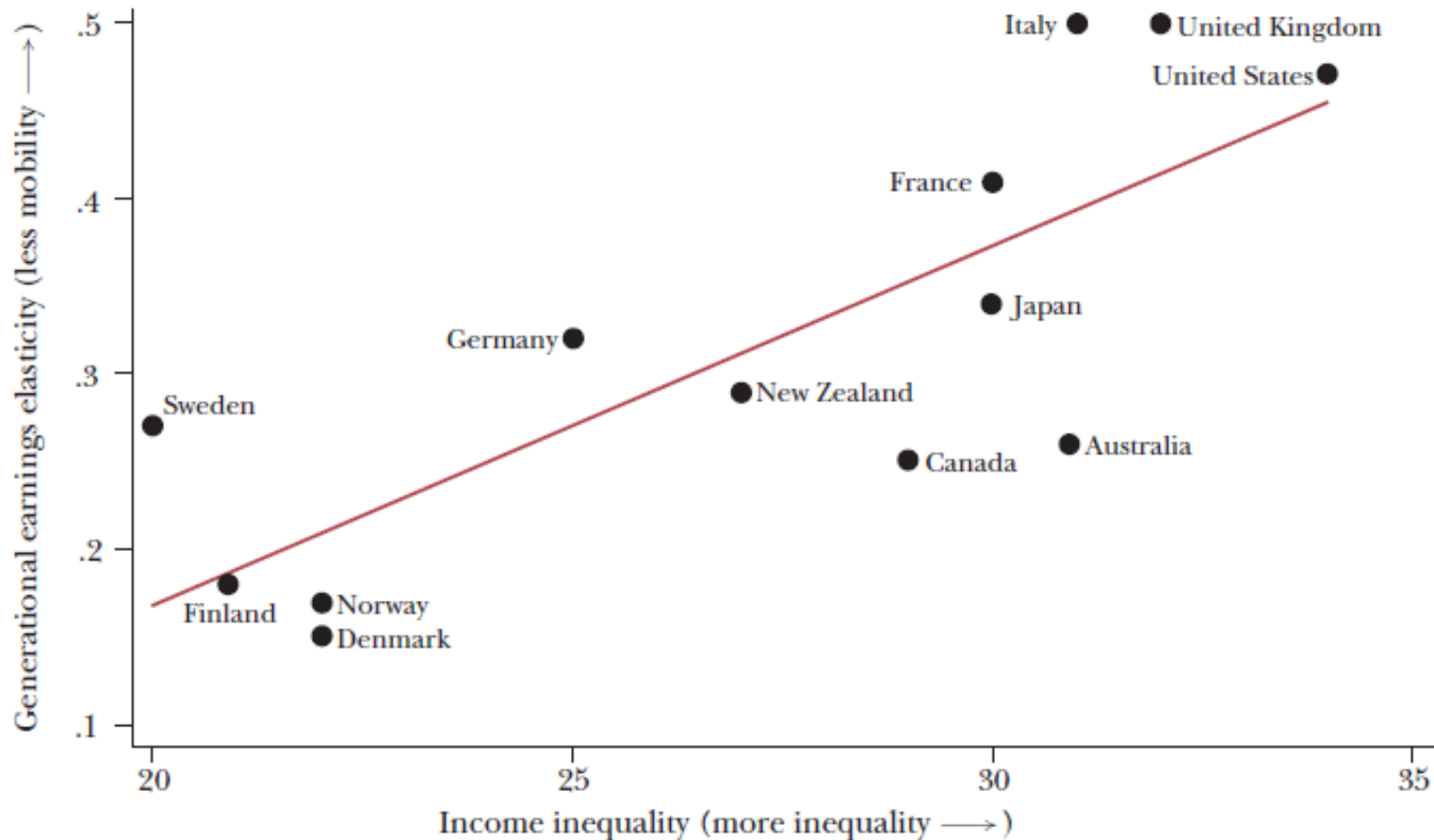
QUESTIONS ABOUT MARKETIZATION

1. All markets or just purely competitive ones? What about Oligopoly? Monopoly? Winner Take All?
2. A Process or a State?
3. Do rents at the top confirm or disconfirm marketization?
 - a. Compare to economic approaches
 - b. Maybe exploitation, opportunity hoarding, etc. (Tilly)?

CHANGES IN INEQUALITY/STRATIFICATION AND THE STUDY OF INEQUALITY/STRATIFICATION

1. Inseparability of Stratification and Inequality
2. Breakdown of “Blau-Duncan Paradigm”
 - a. Family Complexity (Multigenerational, Non Co-Residential)
 - b. No Single Model – Especially at extremes
 - c. Demography and Mobility
 - d. Two-Sex Model
3. Stratification and “Segregation” How are Families, Neighborhoods Created – Not Just Their Effects
 - a. Assortative Mating
 - b. Residential and Other Forms of Segregation
4. Less Intergenerational Mobility – More Intragenerational Mobility?

The Great Gatsby Curve: More Inequality is Associated with Less Mobility across the Generations



Source: Corak, *JEP*, Summer 2013

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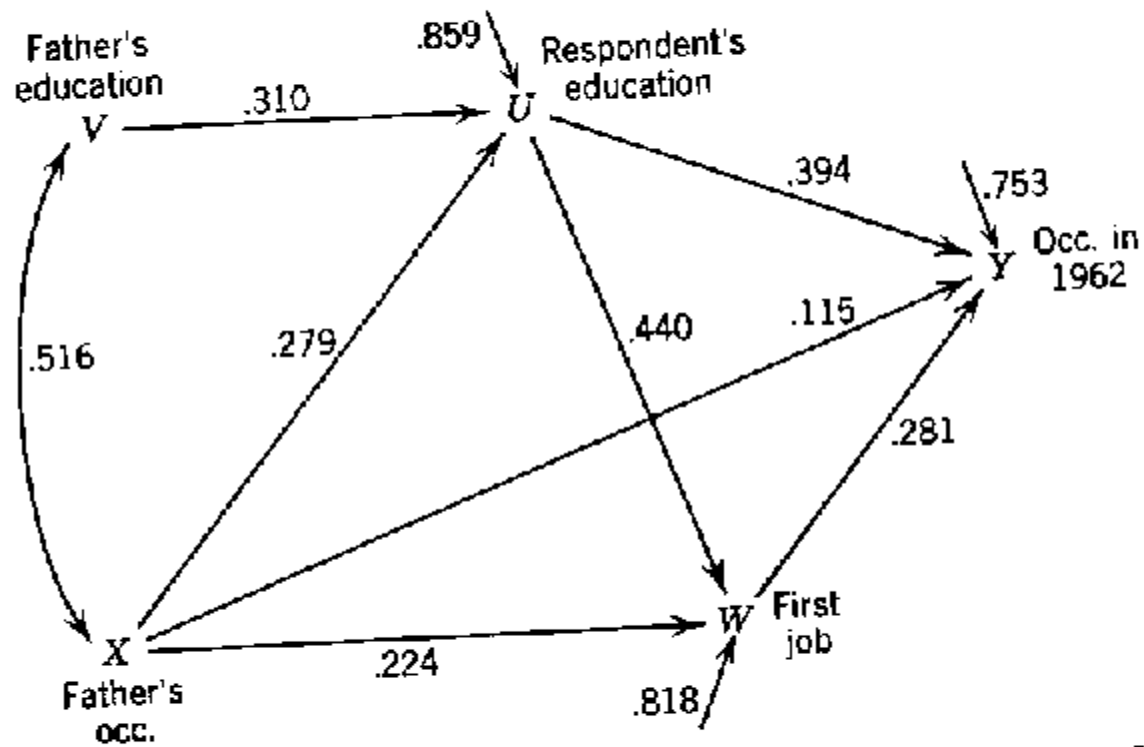
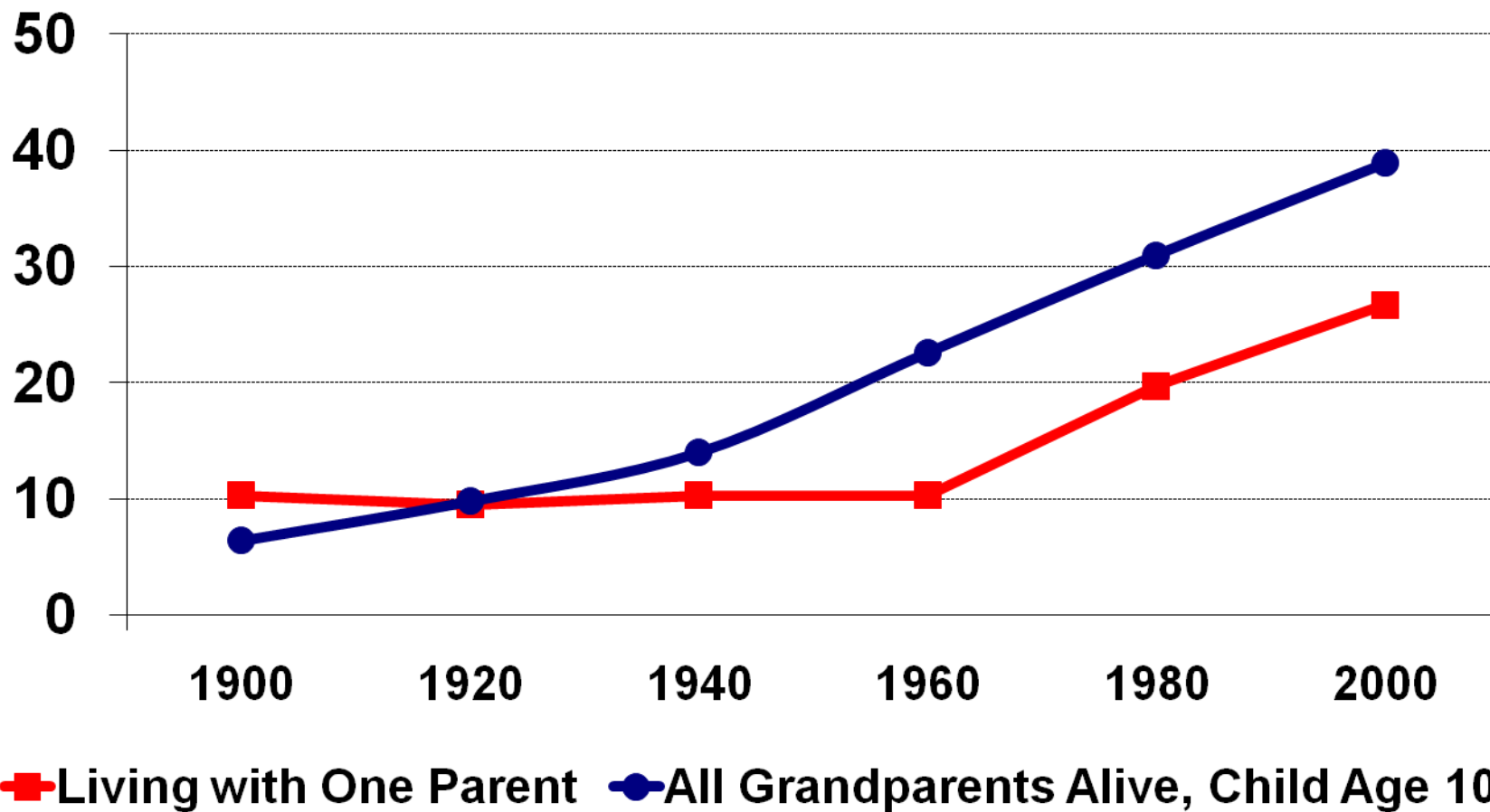


Figure 5.1. Path coefficients in basic model of the process of stratification.

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Children in Single Parent Households and Children with All Grandparents Alive (%), United States, 1900-2000

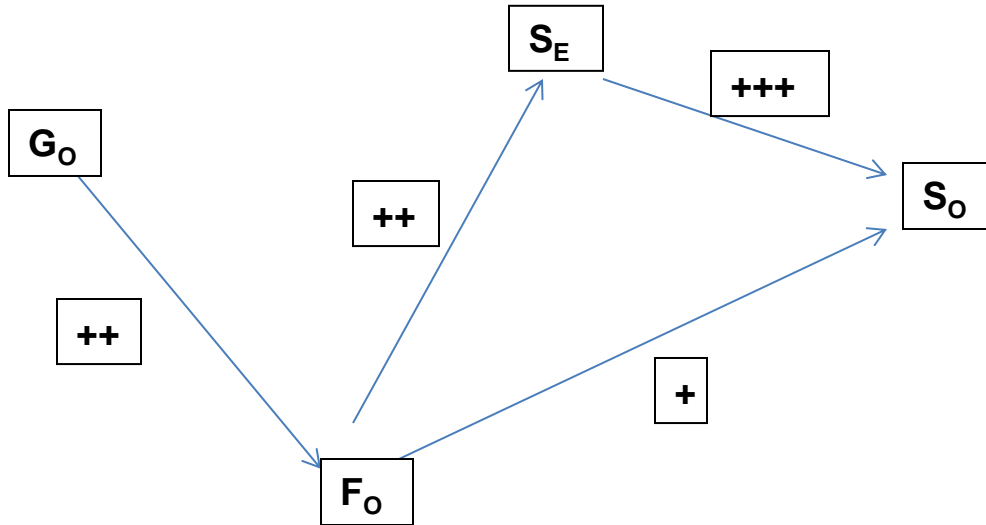


Sources: Peter Uhlenberg, "Mortality Decline in the Twentieth Century and Supply of Kin Over the Life Course." *The Gerontologist* 36, 5, 681-685, 1996. Selected IPUMS, CPS, 2000 Census

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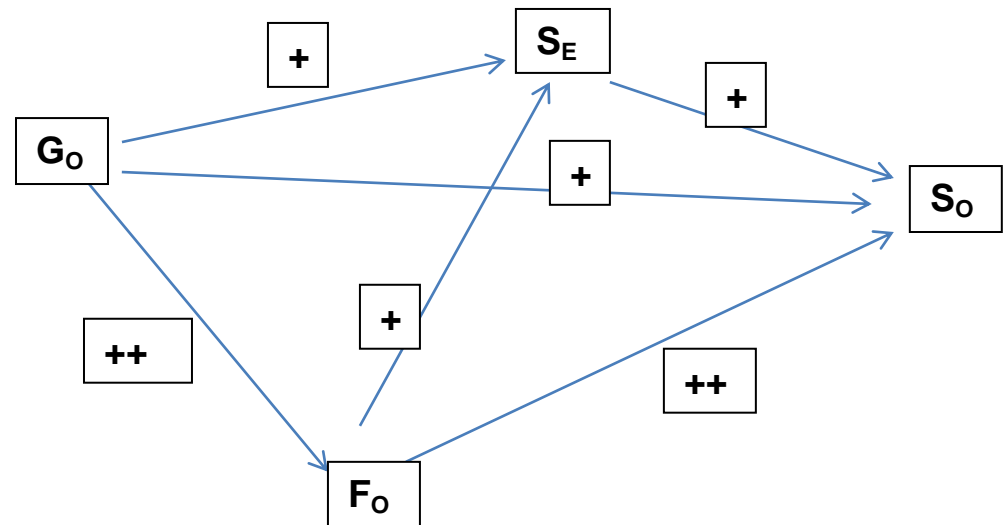
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INTERGENERATIONAL MOBILITY AS A MIXED PROCESS



Strong Education Effects
No Grandparent Effects

Weaker Education Effects
Grandparent Effects



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		Mobility					
		Father	Grandfather	Great Grandfather+	Unspecified Remote		
Generations	None	Standard 2-Generation Mobility Studies	Chan-Boliver, Zeng-Xie, Warren-Hauser, etc.	Mare-Song			
	Ego	Mare-Maralani, Preston, Matras, Lam, etc.					
Net Fertility	Father	Mare-Song					
	Grandfather+						
	Unspecified Remote						

Taxonomy of One-Sex Multigenerational Effects

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Two-Sex Models

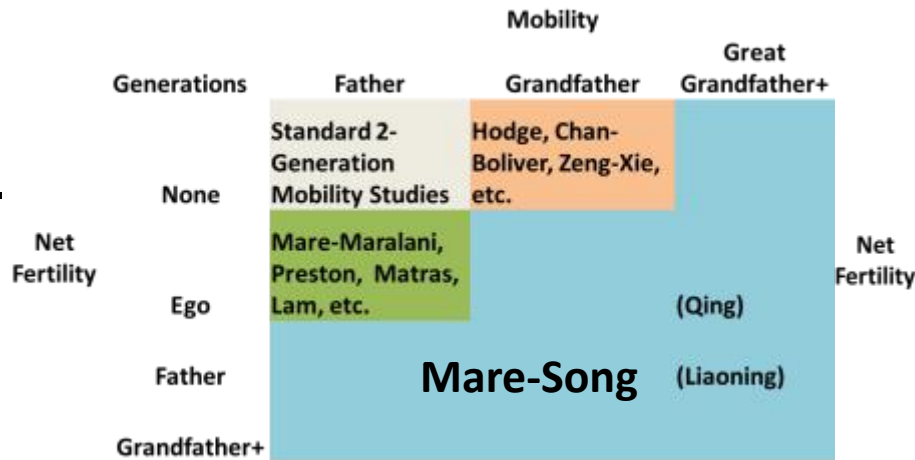
Marriage Market

One-sex

Two-sex

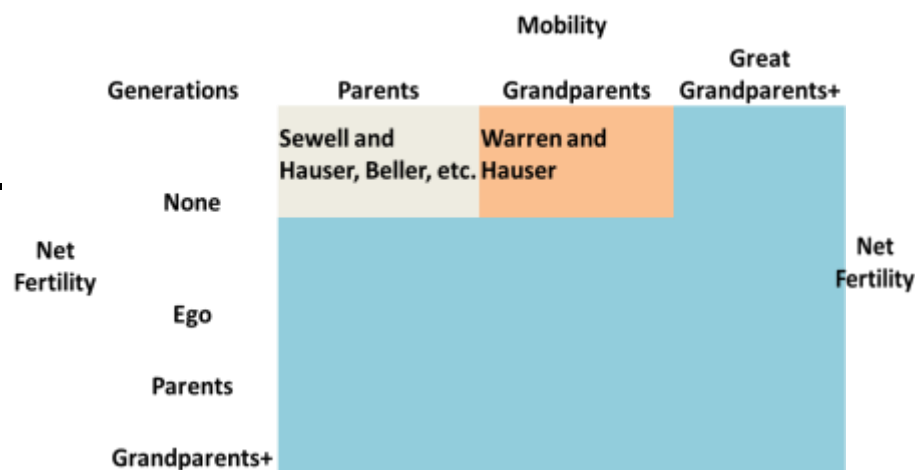
Mobility

One-
sex



Net Fertility

Two-
sex



Net Fertility

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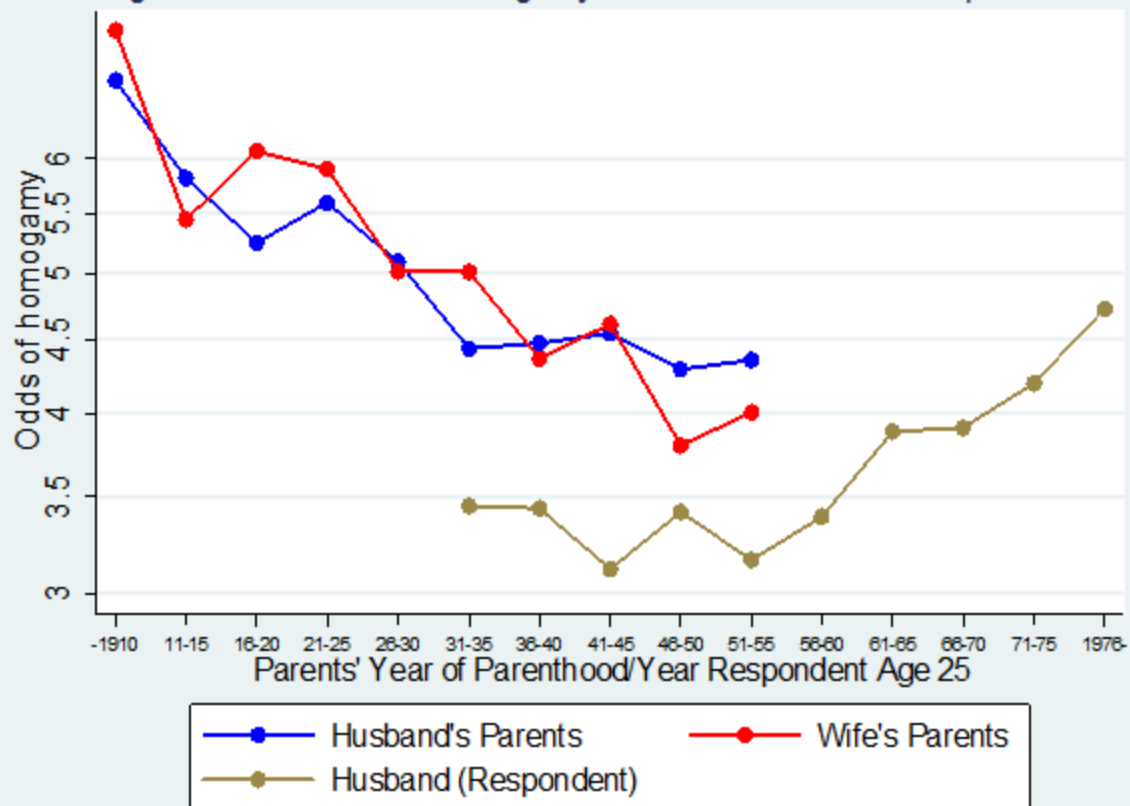


Notes: Education categories are < 10, 10–11, 12, 13–15, and ≥ 16 years of schooling. For newlyweds, available CPS years are grouped as follows: 1971–1974, 1975–1979, 1980–1984, 1985–1989, and 1990–1995. They are graphed at their mid-points.

Source: Current Population Survey and U.S. census data (IPUMS).

Source: Schwartz and Mare, *Demography*, 2005

Figure 3. Educational Homogamy of OCG Parents and Respondents



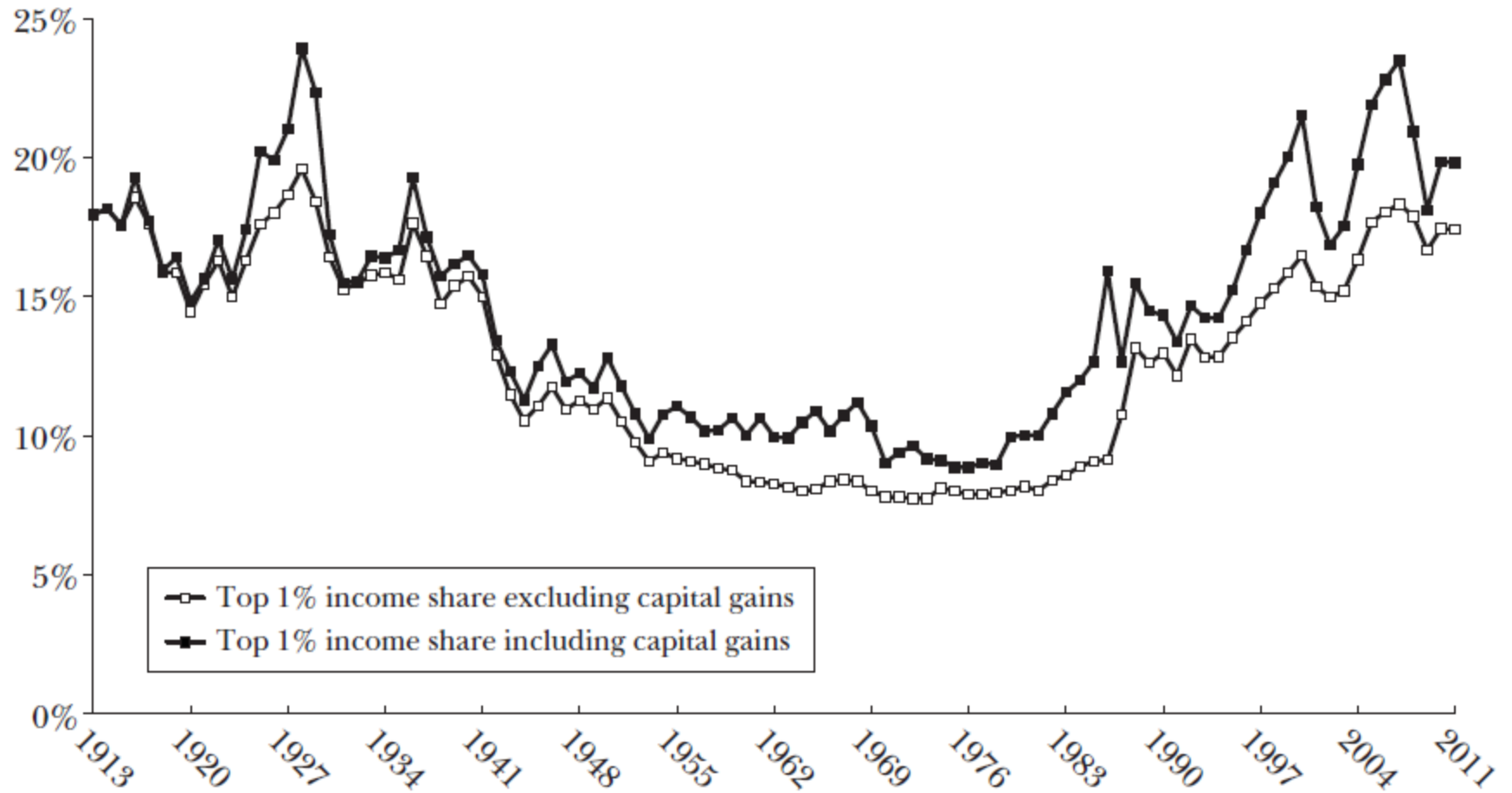
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CONCLUSIONS

- M & M are useful but are very incomplete ideas (and always have been). Their use as legitimating ideologies will outlast their use as scientific theories
- A lot more of American social life is affected by economic inequality, especially social mobility and arrangements such as marriage, neighborhoods, and other clusters
- The role of education in inequality and stratification has changed: A larger effect, but more stratified by family socioeconomic backgrounds
- We face a “Stratification Uncertainty Principle:” our units of analysis (families, individuals, etc.) are created by the very processes that we seek to understand
- We should attend to units other than individuals and households: non co-resident kin, remote ancestors, “dynasties,” etc. when we study the income and wealth hierarchies created in our new gilded age.

Top 1 Percent Income Share in the United States



Source: Alvaredo, Atkinson, Piketty, and Saez, *JEP*, Summer 2013

MODERNIZATION

Ascription → Achievement

Particularism → Universalism

Diffuseness → Functional specificity

Expressive → Instrumental

Affective → Affect neutrality

Also Urbanization, Industrialization, Enlightenment, Individualism, etc.

STANDARD CRITICISMS

1. Unilinear, Culture Bound
2. Unidirectional
3. Obscures Politics, Conflict, Contingency

ETHNICITY

Broad Ethnic Disparities Decline, Ceteris Paribus

- Consistent with “Modernization” of Stratification

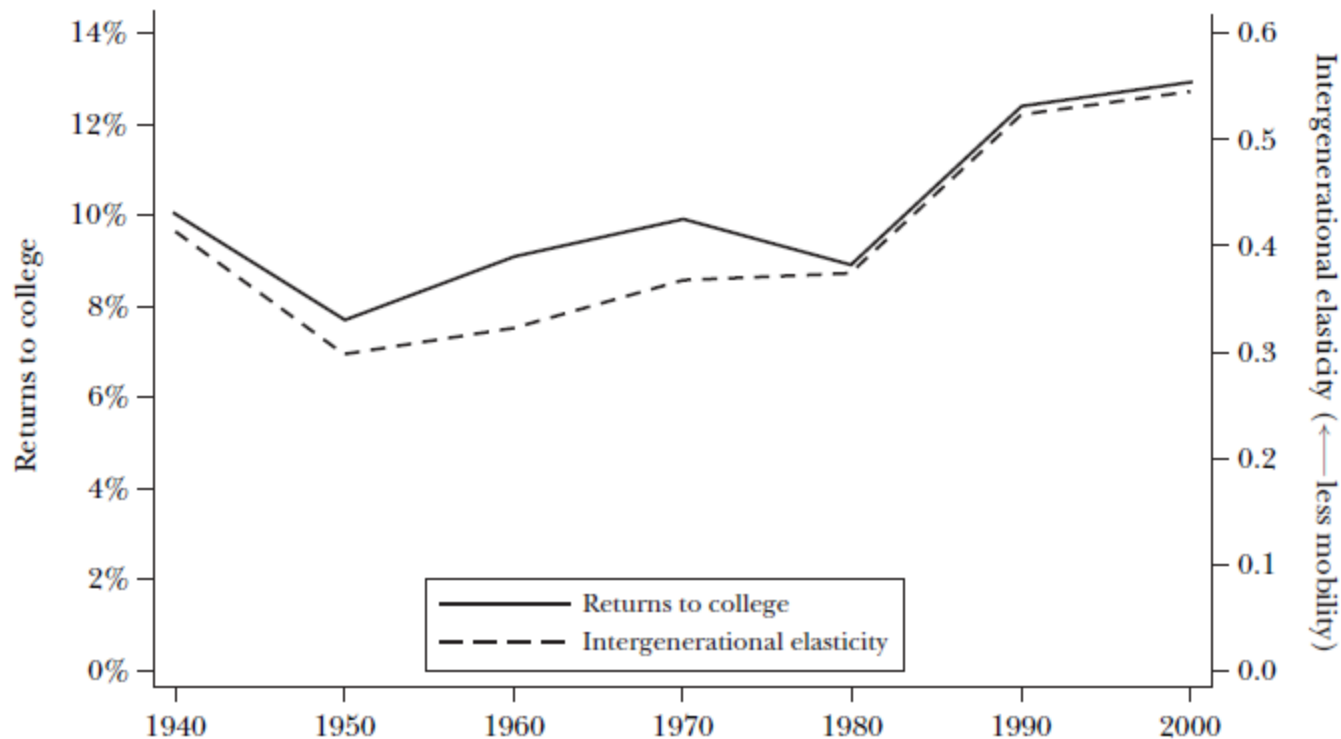
But Disparities and Distinctions Persist or are Created Anew

- Immigration, Other Categorizations of Difference
- Ethnic Groups are Internally Heterogeneous
- Ethnic Definitions and Stratification are Inherently Relational
- “New” Ethnic Distinctions are Reproduced at Multiple Levels
 - E.g., Cupertino High Schools, college admissions
- No New “Narrative” needed. But Neither Marketization Nor Modernization Predict New Distinctions and Disparities

GENDER

- Gender Economic Disparities Gradually Shrink, but Not at Uniform Pace
 - Consistent with “Modernization” and “Marketization” of Stratification
- Stalls and Slowdowns Consistent with Limits of Prevailing Organization of Household, Family, and Work.
- Socialization
- Legitimated by “Marketization” Ideologies

The Higher the Return to College, the Lower the Degree of Intergenerational Mobility: United States, 1940 to 2000



Source: Adapted by the author from Mazumder (2012, Figure 1).

Source: Corak, *JEP*, Summer 2013