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Prestige and Association in an Urban Community

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Prestige
and Association
in an
Urban Community

An Analysis of an Urban Stratification System

EDWARD O. LAUMANN
University of Michigan

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ROBERT McGINNIS
Cornell University
CONSULTING EDITOR

To my wife, Susan

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Designed by Julia Schoeck
Section 1. Interview Schedule

Q1. Some people say there is not much opportunity in America today—that the average man doesn't have much chance to really get ahead. Others say that there's plenty of opportunity, and anyone who works hard can go as far as he wants. How do you feel about this?

- much opportunity
- not much opportunity
- some opportunity
- no real opportunity
- undecided (don't know)

Q2. During the last ten years there have been a number of corporations that sold one billion dollars or more of goods each year. Which of these four statements comes closest to describing your feeling about a corporation that does this much business? (Hand respondent card.)

a. (1) It is dangerous for the welfare of the country for any companies to be this big, and they should be broken up into small companies.

b. (2) While it may be necessary to have some very large companies, we should watch their activities very closely and discourage their activities as much as possible.

c. Don't know or undecided.

d. (3) There may be some drawbacks to having such large companies, but on the whole, they do more good than harm to the country.

e. (4) It is foolish to worry about a company just because it is big; large companies have made America the kind of country it is today.

Q3. With which of these four statements do you come closest to agreeing? (Hand card.)

a. (1) Labor unions in this country are doing a fine job.

b. (2) While they do make some mistakes, on the whole unions are doing more good than harm.

c. Don't know or undecided.

d. (3) Although we need labor unionism in this country, the way they are run now they do more harm than good.

e. (4) This country would be better off without any labor unions at all.

Q4. Do you believe that the big business interests (as represented by the N.A.M. or the National Association of Manufacturers, and the U. S.
Q10. Here is a set of interesting questions. I would like you to check your own answers in this booklet. You can answer these questions quite quickly because the same question is asked for each of a number of people in different jobs (only the jobs change). Don’t spend much time in thinking carefully about each question. We are really interested in your most immediate reaction. We are interested in your personal preferences in your relationships with other people. You can tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of these questions by just putting a circle at the right place. (Hand booklet and pencil.)

Q11. There’s quite a bit of talk these days about different social classes. If you were asked to use one of these four names for your social class, which would you say you belonged in—the middle class, the lower class, the working class, or the upper class?

|upper class| lower class|
|middle class| don’t know|
|working class| don’t believe in the existence of classes|

Q12. Would you say that you are about an average (middle or working class) person or that you are in the upper part of the (middle or working class)?

|average| upper| don’t know or undecided|

Q13. In talking with your family, friends, or neighbors, do you ever use these class names or names like them to talk about yourself or other people?

|yes| don’t remember| no|

Q14. In deciding whether a person belongs to your class or not, which of these things do you think is most important to know: who his family is, how much money he has (or makes), what sort of education he has, what his occupation is, or how he believes and feels about certain things? (Note primary one if respondent picks more than one.)

|family| beliefs and feelings|
|money| don’t know or undecided|
|education| all|
|occupation| |

Q15. Which kind of social club or informal social group (like a bowling team or bridge club) would you rather belong to: one whose members are all of your own social class or one whose members are persons of various classes?

|same social class| don’t know or undecided|
|as your own| various classes|
Q16. If you have children, which social class do you think they will be in when they have families of their own? (Give middle, lower, working, and upper alternatives if asked.)

same class as mine

higher class than mine

lower class than mine

various classes (depends on their ability etc.)

Q17. To what extent do you think the people in the following groups stick together on matters or issues that affect them all, like automation or tax increases? (Hand card.)

White collar workers

always

nearly always

frequently

don't know or undecided

sometimes

rarely (not often)

Big businessmen

always

nearly always

frequently

don't know or undecided

sometimes

rarely (not often)

Blue-collar workers (labor, working people)

always

nearly always

frequently

don't know or undecided

sometimes

rarely (not often)

Physicians (medical doctors)

always

nearly always

frequently

don't know or undecided

sometimes

rarely (not often)

Small businessmen

always

nearly always

frequently

don't know or undecided

sometimes

rarely (not often)

Q18. Do you think people of your own group should stick together on matters or issues that may affect all of them more than they do now, or is it just about the right amount, or should they do less?

more than they do now

don't know or undecided

just about right

less than they do now

Q19. Could you tell me your age? ____________

Q20. Are you married, single, or what?

married

divorced or separated

unanswered

widowed

Q21a. (If ever married): Do you have any children? ______

yes

no

Q21b. (If ever married): How old are they? ________________

Q21c. (If ever married): What is (was) your father-in-law’s main job or occupation? ________________________

Q22. Last week, were you working, going to school, looking for work, or what?

working for pay or profit or doing unpaid family work in business

looking for work

had job or business, but did not work because of illness, bad weather, labor dispute (strike), or temporary lay-off

going to school

summer employment, regularly a student

permanently unable or too old to work

retired or voluntarily idle

Q23. What do you do for a living? (Probe to clarify ambiguous answers.) ________________

Q24. Are you employed or self-employed? (Determine principal source of income if both.)

self-employed (commissions, __________

employed

profits, fees)

both

Q25. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your present job? (Probe for degree.)

very satisfied

somewhat dissatisfied

satisfied

dissatisfied

somewhat satisfied

very dissatisfied

Q26. Do you think you have a good chance to get ahead in your present line of work?

very good chance

don't know or undecided

good chance

no chance, no opportunities

fair chance

no chance, too old, not qualified
Q27a. (Ask employer only): About how many people do you employ?

Q27b. (Ask supervisors, managers, foremen only): About how many people do you have working under your direction?

Q27c. (Ask employed people only—this excludes people answering 27b): Do you sometime hope or expect to own your own business?
   yes, expect to own business no, do not expect to own business
don’t know or undecided yes, already have business part time

Q27d. (Ask those who answered 27c): Do you ever hope or expect to be a foreman, manager, or executive of some kind?
   yes don’t know or undecided no

Q28a. (Ask all employed people): Do you belong to a union?
   yes no

Q28b. (Ask only members of unions): Suppose there is a section of the country where very few workers are unionized. A drive is started to unionize the companies there. Union workers all over the country are asked to give some money to support the drive. Some union people think they should give money; others think they shouldn’t. How do you think you would feel about this?
   think would give don’t think would give
   unsure, undecided, don’t know

Q29. What is (was) your father’s job or occupation? (Get specific answers.)

Q30. (Ask everyone): How important is it to you to have opportunities for advancement in your present line of work? (Probe for degree.)
   very important don’t know or undecided
   important not too important
   fairly important not important at all

Q31. What was your job or occupation before you got your present job or occupation?
   always had present job or worked for different people but essentially same job
   Other

Q32. Could you tell me the jobs or occupations of three of your closest friends whom you see most often? Don’t tell me their names. They can be relatives of yours.

Q33. Could you tell me the jobs or occupations of your next-door neighbors?
   Occupation A Relative
   Occupation B Relative
   Occupation C Relative

Q34. Which of the following would best describe the kind of relations you have with your neighbors? (Hand card.)
   a. Good friends of the family.
   b. Often visit one another in each other’s homes.
   c. Casual chatting in the yard or if you happen to run into each other on the street.
   d. Hardly know my neighbors.
   e. Other

Q35. How long have you been living in this neighborhood?

Q36a. Do you ever have people over for supper in your home?
   yes no

Q36b. (If yes to 36a): How many times a month (year) would you say you have people over for supper?

Q36c. Are these people usually relatives or friends?
   relatives friends both

Q37. Do you belong to any social clubs, fraternities, lodges, or informal social groups?
   yes no

Q38. (If yes to 37): Which ones?

Q39a. What was the last year (or grade) you completed in school?
   no formal schooling technical or vocational school
   grammar school (1–6) some college (1–9)
   grammar school (7–8) finished college
   some high school (9–11) graduate or professional school
   completed high school

Q39b. Did you go to public, private or parochial grade or high school?
   public private parochial

Q39c. (If college): Which college did you attend?
Q39d. (If graduate or professional school): Graduate or professional school? 

Q40. In what country was your grandfather on your father's side born? 

Q41a. Do you have any religious preference? 

___ yes ___ no

Q41b. (If yes to 41a): Is it Catholic, Protestant (specify denomination), or Jewish? 

___ Catholic 
___ Protestant Denomination ____________________________ 
___ Jewish 
___ Other ____________________________ 

Q42a. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what? 

___ Republican 
___ Democrat 
___ Independent (tending toward: ___ Republican ___ Democrat) 
___ Other (specify) ____________________________ 
___ Don't know or unanswered ____________________________ 

Q42b. Would you say you had a strong, moderate, or relatively weak (Republican, Democratic or Other) party preference? 

___ strong ___ moderately weak 
___ moderate ___ don't know or unanswered 

Nota bene: Is this respondent in your open-ended probe SUBSAMPLE? 

INTERVIEWER'S NOTES 

Interviewer ____________________________ Date ____________________________ 
Respondent's Name ____________________________ Address ____________________________ 

Q43. ___ Original sample ___ Substitute sample 
Q44. ___ First call ___ Second call ___ Third call 
Q45. ___ Census tract number 
Q46. Type of dwelling: 
___ single detached house ___ duplex-triplex ___ apartment building 

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Q47. House type: 

___ Excellent ___ Average ___ Very poor 
___ Very good ___ Fair ___ Good ___ Poor 

Q48. Interviewer's rating of ecological area: 

High status area, generally (based on estimate of quality of dwelling units) 
___ ecologically homogeneous ___ ecologically mixed 
Middle status area 
___ ecologically homogeneous ___ ecologically mixed 
Lower status area 
___ ecologically homogeneous ___ ecologically mixed 

OPEN-ENDED SUBSAMPLE 

Carpenter 
High-school teacher 
Doctor 
Machine operator in factory 
Top executive of a large business firm 

Section 2. Social Distance Booklet 

Interview number 

SA = Strongly agree U = Undecided D = Disagree 
A = Agree SD = Strongly disagree 

1. I believe I would like to have a carpenter 

a. as my son-in-law 
SA A U D SD 
b. as my father-in-law 
SA A U D SD 
c. as my closest, personal friend 
SA A U D SD 
d. as a person I would have over for supper in my home 
SA A U D SD 
e. as a person I might often visit with 
SA A U D SD 
f. as a member of one of my social clubs, lodges, or informal social groups 
SA A U D SD 
g. as my next-door neighbor 
SA A U D SD 

2. I believe I would like to have a high-school teacher 

a. as my son-in-law 
SA A U D SD 
b. as my father-in-law 
SA A U D SD 
c. as my closest, personal friend 
SA A U D SD
d. as a person I would have over for supper in my home  
SA A U D SD

e. as a person I might often visit with  
SA A U D SD

f. as a member of one of my social clubs, lodges, or informal social groups  
SA A U D SD

g. as my next-door neighbor  
SA A U D SD

5. I believe I would like to have a banker  
SA A U D SD

a. as my son-in-law  
SA A U D SD

b. as my father-in-law  
SA A U D SD

c. as my closest, personal friend  
SA A U D SD

d. as a person I would have over for supper in my home  
SA A U D SD

e. as a person I might often visit with  
SA A U D SD

f. as a member of one of my social clubs, lodges, or informal social groups  
SA A U D SD

g. as my next-door neighbor  
SA A U D SD

4. I believe I would like to have a factory foreman  
SA A U D SD

a. as my son-in-law  
SA A U D SD

b. as my father-in-law  
SA A U D SD

c. as my closest, personal friend  
SA A U D SD

d. as a person I would have over for supper in my home  
SA A U D SD

e. as a person I might often visit with  
SA A U D SD

f. as a member of one of my social clubs, lodges, or informal social groups  
SA A U D SD

g. as my next-door neighbor  
SA A U D SD

5. I believe I would like to have a truck driver  
SA A U D SD

a. as my son-in-law  
SA A U D SD

b. as my father-in-law  
SA A U D SD

c. as my closest, personal friend  
SA A U D SD

d. as a person I would have over for supper in my home  
SA A U D SD

e. as a person I might often visit with  
SA A U D SD

f. as a member of one of my social clubs, lodges, or informal social groups  
SA A U D SD

g. as my next-door neighbor  
SA A U D SD

6. I believe I would like to have a salesclerk in a department store  
SA A U D SD

a. as my son-in-law  
SA A U D SD

b. as my father-in-law  
SA A U D SD

c. as my closest, personal friend  
SA A U D SD

d. as a person I would have over for supper in my home  
SA A U D SD

7. I believe I would like to have an electrical engineer  
SA A U D SD

a. as my son-in-law  
SA A U D SD

b. as my father-in-law  
SA A U D SD

c. as my closest, personal friend  
SA A U D SD

d. as a person I would have over for supper in my home  
SA A U D SD

e. as a person I might often visit with  
SA A U D SD

f. as a member of one of my social clubs, lodges, or informal social groups  
SA A U D SD

g. as my next-door neighbor  
SA A U D SD

8. I believe I would like to have a garage mechanic  
SA A U D SD

a. as my son-in-law  
SA A U D SD

b. as my father-in-law  
SA A U D SD

c. as my closest, personal friend  
SA A U D SD

d. as a person I would have over for supper in my home  
SA A U D SD

e. as a person I might often visit with  
SA A U D SD

f. as a member of one of my social clubs, lodges, or informal social groups  
SA A U D SD

g. as my next-door neighbor  
SA A U D SD

9. I believe I would like to have a physician (doctor)  
SA A U D SD

a. as my son-in-law  
SA A U D SD

b. as my father-in-law  
SA A U D SD

c. as my closest, personal friend  
SA A U D SD

d. as a person I would have over for supper in my home  
SA A U D SD

e. as a person I might often visit with  
SA A U D SD

f. as a member of one of my social clubs, lodges, or informal social groups  
SA A U D SD

g. as my next-door neighbor  
SA A U D SD

10. I believe I would like to have an unskilled construction worker  
SA A U D SD

a. as my son-in-law  
SA A U D SD

b. as my father-in-law  
SA A U D SD

c. as my closest, personal friend  
SA A U D SD

d. as a person I would have over for supper in my home  
SA A U D SD

e. as a person I might often visit with  
SA A U D SD
11. I believe I would like to have a college professor
   a. as my son-in-law
   b. as my father-in-law
   c. as my closest, personal friend
   d. as a person I would have over
      for supper in my home
   e. as a person I might often visit with
   f. as a member of one of my social clubs,
      lodges, or informal social groups
   g. as my next-door neighbor

12. I believe I would like to have a machine operator in a factory
   a. as my son-in-law
   b. as my father-in-law
   c. as my closest, personal friend
   d. as a person I would have over
      for supper in my home
   e. as a person I might often visit with
   f. as a member of one of my social clubs,
      lodges, or informal social groups
   g. as my next-door neighbor

13. I believe I would like to have a street sweeper
   a. as my son-in-law
   b. as my father-in-law
   c. as my closest, personal friend
   d. as a person I would have over
      for supper in my home
   e. as a person I might often visit with
   f. as a member of one of my social clubs,
      lodges, or informal social groups
   g. as my next-door neighbor

14. I believe I would like to have a bank teller
   a. as my son-in-law
   b. as my father-in-law
   c. as my closest, personal friend
   d. as a person I would have over
      for supper in my home
   e. as a person I might often visit with
   f. as a member of one of my social clubs,
      lodges, or informal social groups
   g. as my next-door neighbor

15. I believe I would like to have an owner-manager of a small store
   a. as my son-in-law
   b. as my father-in-law
   c. as my closest, personal friend
   d. as a person I would have over
      for supper in my home
   e. as a person I might often visit with
   f. as a member of one of my social clubs,
      lodges, or informal social groups
   g. as my next-door neighbor

16. I believe I would like to have a janitor
   a. as my son-in-law
   b. as my father-in-law
   c. as my closest, personal friend
   d. as a person I would have over
      for supper in my home
   e. as a person I might often visit with
   f. as a member of one of my social clubs,
      lodges, or informal social groups
   g. as my next-door neighbor

17. I believe I would like to have a top executive of a large business firm
   a. as my son-in-law
   b. as my father-in-law
   c. as my closest, personal friend
   d. as a person I would have over
      for supper in my home
   e. as a person I might often visit with
   f. as a member of one of my social clubs,
      lodges, or informal social groups
   g. as my next-door neighbor

18. I believe I would like to have a high school graduate
   a. as my son-in-law
   b. as my father-in-law
   c. as my closest, personal friend
   d. as a person I would have over
      for supper in my home
   e. as a person I might often visit with
   f. as a member of one of my social clubs,
      lodges, or informal social groups
   g. as my next-door neighbor

19. I believe I would like to have a person who had professional training
    after college
   a. as my son-in-law
Section 3. Occupational Friends and Acquaintances

Please circle your answer. __________ Interview number

Have you ever had a friend who was a:

- carpenter
- high-school teacher
- banker
- factory foreman
- truck driver
- salesclerk in a department store
- electrical engineer
- garage mechanic
- physician (doctor)
- unskilled construction worker
- college professor
- machine operator in a factory
- street sweeper
- bank teller
- owner-manager of a small store
- janitor
- top executive of a large business firm

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<th>Occupation</th>
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