

APPENDIX G:

PRESTIGE SCORE AND SOCIOECONOMIC INDEX (SEI) DISTRIBUTIONS

(OCC, PRESTIGE, WRKSLF, WRKGOVT, COMMUTE, INDUSTRY, OCC80, PRESTG80, INDUS80, SPOCC, SPPRES, SPWRKSLF, SPIND, SPOCC80, SPPRES80, SPIND80, PAOCC16, PAPRES16, PAWRKSLF, PAIN16, PAOCC80, PAPRES80, PAIN80, MAOCC80, MAPRES80, MAWRKSLF, MAIND80, SEI, FIRSTSEI, PASEI, MASEI, SPEI)

Prestige

The prestige scores assigned to occupations in this study were taken from rating systems developed at NORC in 1963-1965 in a project on occupation prestige directed by Robert W. Hodge, Paul S. Siegel, and Peter H. Rossi and updated on the 1989 GSS. The 1989 update scale was prepared by Robert W. Hodge, Judith Treas, and Keiko Nakao. This concept of prestige is defined as the respondents' estimation of the social standing of occupations. The prestige scores in the Hodge-Siegel-Rossi and GSS studies were generated by asking respondents to estimate the social standing of occupations via a nine-step ladder, printed on cardboard and presented to the respondent.

The boxes on the ladder were numbered 1-9 from bottom to top. In addition, the first, fifth, and ninth boxes were labeled "bottom," "middle," and "top," respectively. The occupational titles were printed on small cards and the occupational prestige ratings were collected by requesting respondents to sort the cards into boxes formed by the rungs of the ladder. [P. 35.]¹

Significance testing between two prestige scores, or among a group of scores, requires knowledge about the standard errors. Since there is a different standard error term for each pair of scores, Siegel has provided a few values which are likely to exceed most actual standard errors. For more detail on standard error, sources of the prestige scores, and the method of translating the respondents' rankings into a standardized metric system, see Siegel, Prestige in the American Occupational Structure.

1970

The prestige score was originally designed for use with the 1960 U.S. Census occupational codes and has been adapted to the 1970 listing as follows:

- 1) If the occupation was a new one assigned to a previously existing subdivision (e.g., Engineers within the major category "Professional, Technical, and Kindred Workers"), it received the prestige score for the general n.e.c.² category of that subdivision.
- 2) If the occupation was grouped with a like occupation in 1960 but divided from it in 1970, both occupations received the same 1960 prestige score.
- 3) If this occupation was completely new to the list and was not assigned to an existing subdivision, it received the prestige score of the n.e.c. category for the major occupational division.

All adaptations are marked with a "*" next to the occupational classifications. (See Appendix F.)

- 4) The craft score was used for apprentices when the craft score was less than 41. If the craft score was greater than 41, the apprentice score of 41 was used.

For an alternative means of assigning prestige codes to 1970 Census categories see Robert M. Hauser and David L. Featherman, The Process of Stratification: Trends and Analysis. New York: Academic Press, 1977.

¹Paul S. Siegel, Prestige in the American Occupational Structure. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago. March, 1971. (Available from Photoduplication Department, University of Chicago Libraries, Chicago, 60637.)

²Not elsewhere classified.

1980

In 1989 General Social Survey replicated and extended the earlier Hodge-Siegel-Rossi ratings of occupational prestige. The prestige module was designed by the late Robert W. Hodge, Judith Treas and Keiko Nakao in consultation with Smith and Davis. Hodge died in February, 1989 during data collection. Analysis of the data and construction of the NORC/GSS Occupational Prestige Scale was carried out by Nakao and Treas. Their work was supported by NSF. The GSS Board of Overseers Sub-Committee on Occupational Prestige provided advice and guidance to both sets of PIs. Committee members included Richard Campbell, Robert Hauser, Patricia Roos, Paul Siegel, Joe Spaeth, and Andrea Tyree.

The occupational prestige module and the NORC/GSS Occupational Prestige Scale are discussed in detail in GSS Methodological Reports No. 69 and 70.³ The NORC/GSS Occupational Prestige scores for the 1980 Census Occupational Classification are given in Appendix F. A machine-readable file that lists prestige score, occupational code, and title of occupational categories is available from ICPSR. A raw data file and SPSS-X control cards that contain the raw prestige ratings that respondents assigned to occupational titles (and not the summary prestige scores for the 1980 Census Occupational Classification) is also available from ICPSR. This file is called "Ratings of Occupational Prestige on the 1989 General Social Survey."

SEI

SEI scores were originally calculated by Otis Dudley Duncan based on NORC's 1947 North-Hatt prestige study and the 1950 U.S. Census. Duncan regressed prestige scores for 45 occupational titles on education and income to produce weights that would predict prestige. This algorithm was then used to calculate SEI scores for all occupational categories employed in the 1950 Census classification of occupations. Similar procedures have been used to produce SEI scores based on later NORC prestige studies and censuses.

The GSS contains two sets of SEI scores. Both used procedures similar to those employed by Duncan. For cases coded according to the 1970 US Census codes there are SEI scores developed by Lloyd V. Temme (See Appendix G). These exist for respondent (DOTPRES), spouse (SPDOTPRE), and father (PADOTPRE). For cases coded according to the 1980 US Census codes there are SEI scores developed by Nakao and Treas as part of the GSS's 1989 occupational prestige study (see above). These exist for respondent (SEI), respondent's first occupation (FIRSTSEI), father (PASEI), mother (MASEI), and spouse (SPSEI). These scores are discussed in GSS Methodological Report No. 74.⁴

³Nakao, Keiko; Hodge, Robert W.; and Treas, Judith, "On Revising Prestige Scores for All Occupations," GSS Methodological Report No. 69. Chicago: NORC, 1990 and Nakao, Keiko and Treas, Judith, "Computing 1989 Occupational Prestige Scores," GSS Methodological Report No. 70. Chicago: NORC, 1990.

⁴Nakao, Keiko and Treas, Judith, "The 1989 Socioeconomic Index of Occupations: Construction from the 1989 Occupational Prestige Scores," GSS Methodological Report No. 74. Chicago: NORC, 1992.

1970 OCCUPATIONAL PRESTIGE SCORE DISTRIBUTIONS

Prestige Score (Punch)	Respondent's Occupation (N)	Father's Occupation (N)	Spouse's Occupation (N)
9	0	2	0
12	216	52	78
13	0	0	0
14	147	15	43
15	130	16	51
16	256	205	179
17	699	1100	387
18	634	540	259
19	253	90	132
20	536	72	237
21	7	7	2
22	447	196	190
23	336	184	185
24	35	54	17
25	640	74	304
26	544	811	294
27	361	220	207
28	194	320	147
29	584	384	337
30	201	252	124
31	519	166	251
32	1169	1509	820
33	531	571	382
34	979	648	627
35	209	300	141
36	1875	617	934
37	389	520	307
38	108	174	69
39	493	390	306
40	657	958	446
41	874	4445	552
42	294	215	170
43	265	101	130
44	195	262	129
45	621	706	473
46	1245	34	713
47	632	586	468
48	954	606	612
49	208	234	110
50	1913	2476	1396
51	401	218	229
52	149	31	83
53	13	12	8
54	70	58	47
55	75	24	47
56	208	114	122
57	307	193	193
58	51	44	26

59	0	0	0
60	683	149	422
61	346	172	169
62	422	109	249
63	322	74	165
64	0	0	0
65	1	1	2
66	14	4	5
67	71	67	48
68	67	85	49
69	152	309	118
70	11	11	12
71	58	69	33
72	137	91	84
73	0	0	0
74	29	45	20
75	0	0	0
76	101	102	74
77	0	0	0
78	176	94	96
79	0	0	0
80	0	0	0
81	0	0	0
82	53	112	49
(Not applicable: Unemployed, No father substitute, Not married, Disabled, Re- tired, No answer, and Don't know)	22243	24210	31946

1980 OCCUPATIONAL PRESTIGE SCORE DISTRIBUTIONS

Prestige Score (Punch)	Respondent's Occupation (N)	Father's Occupation (N)	Spouse's Occupation (N)	Mother's Occupation (N)
17	152	11	36	129
19	51	31	23	14
20	190	12	65	190
21	145	46	47	36
22	744	367	298	330
23	559	489	176	693
24	432	731	224	254
25	242	65	82	136
26	40	54	24	15
27	292	168	128	31
28	818	216	284	868
29	938	192	328	425
30	1094	1371	596	275
31	743	387	309	476
32	994	423	429	603
33	603	501	284	370
34	799	642	348	317
35	793	842	411	472
36	1329	1077	624	648
37	159	141	76	25
38	246	165	111	47
39	861	806	416	135
40	914	3433	486	259
41	346	219	133	57
42	1255	792	510	594
43	498	337	289	231
44	864	1074	509	258
45	412	525	252	80
46	1131	91	576	1061
47	1186	1107	648	520
48	342	191	154	66
49	860	867	441	207
50	354	372	217	34
51	2499	2292	1440	535
52	412	74	167	147
53	219	217	119	19
54	276	316	171	62
55	114	20	70	77
56	58	16	32	41
57	257	22	107	70
58	90	26	44	18
59	283	168	167	51
60	511	282	265	197
61	358	159	167	58
62	112	74	65	9
63	135	55	64	15
64	1008	611	605	612
65	431	271	196	153
66	896	197	446	830
67	7	9	6	2
68	121	46	57	39
69	324	373	177	50
70	12	22	9	1
71	82	87	38	3
72	52	111	39	6
73	124	170	75	25
74	498	200	249	65
75	166	159	109	11
86	113	158	85	18
(Not applicable: Unemployed, No father/mother substitute, Not married, Disabled, Re- tired, No answer, and Don't know)	23499	29163	38540	40073