

# **The Analysis of Occupational Change Data, 1950-2008**

## **Overall Structure of the Assignment and Part I: Developing Your Hypotheses**

There are four parts to this assignment. There are separate due dates for each part of the assignment.

Part I: Develop hypotheses about occupational change over time 1950-2008

Part II: Get and organize data for presentation

Make tables and charts for original and partial relationships

Part III: Analysis and Write Up

Part IV: Family Intergenerational Mobility

### **PART I. DEVELOPING YOUR HYPOTHESES**

A Hypothesis is a statement of the relationship between two or more variables. Keep this definition in mind as you complete this assignment! You will be developing three hypotheses about occupational change in the United States 1950-2008 and the rationale for them. One of the objectives of this assignment is to give you some practical understanding of the sociological imagination. Recall that the sociological imagination refers to understanding how individual biographies intersect with larger social phenomena. This means that elements or aspects of the social context in which people live may shape their behavior by shaping the options that people confront at any particular time and place in history. In this assignment you will develop three hypotheses about how larger social events occurring in the U.S. between 1950 and 2008 might affect the occupations in which people choose to work. Specifically, how might these events affect the occupations of men and women, blacks and non-blacks, and people with different levels of education over time.

Some examples of hypotheses:

Group or societal social integration is inversely related to the rate of suicide,

or

The greater the social integration of a group the lower the suicide rate.

The more people are equal in rank the more they will associate with each

other.

The older potential voters are the more likely they are to vote.

The higher one's level of education the greater one's income.

The more students study for an exam the higher their exam score.

The larger the group the more impersonal are members' relationships.

The more technology changes the greater the need for new occupations & more educated workers.

Your specific task is to develop three hypotheses about likely changes in the occupational distribution of

Females and males over time

Blacks and non-blacks over time

People with different levels of education over time

In addition to the hypotheses you will need to write a rationale for each hypothesis. A rationale is an explanation for why the variables are related.

In developing your rationale think about your dependent variable. It is the proportion of people in your state whose occupations fit in one of the following categories:

- Top white collar
- Other white collar
- Service occupations
- Top blue collar
- Other blue collar
- Farm workers

Top white collar occupations receive the most income and have the most power and prestige and farm workers the least of these and the others have amounts of these in between the extremes.

You should assume that the % of people in these categories will change from 1950-2008. Now think about what larger social factors/events occurred during that time period of 1950-2008 that may:

Affect opportunities to obtain new qualifications for jobs

Shape job opportunities available to them

Shape the jobs people choose

Some possible larger social events include but may not be limited to:

Technological & economic changes (advances)

Social/political movements

Increased educational opportunities

See Timeline in Macionis text; MySocLab for other ideas

How will these events affect the occupations of people of different:

Gender? See chapter 13

Race? See chapter 14

Educational attainment levels? See chapter 20

Assignment:

1-2 pages stating three hypotheses and your rationale for each hypothesis. In short, your task is to explain How the occupational distributions of each subgroup will change and why?