Origins of components of class locations in Hungary:
Parental effects on capital accumulation

Péter Róbert

The "low" theory of the mobility studies

- Mobility theory is rooted in stratification theory
- Definition of social situation implies how its intergenerational change is approached and investigated
- Investigating the "from Origin to Destination" relationship can mean
  - analysis of occupational mobility table (Sorokin)
  - status attainment model (Blau & Duncan)
  - class mobility analysis (Erikson & Goldthorpe)
  - educational mobility analysis (Mare)
  - income mobility analysis (Corak)
- Mobility analysis: theoretically weak but pioneering in the sociological methodological innovation

International context
Bukodi et. al. (2017) Intergenerational Class Mobility in Europe

ESS data, ESEC-based class mobility analysis: low level of intergenerational social mobility

Log-linear / log-multiplicative models reveal high degree of inheritance (= low level of social fluidity)

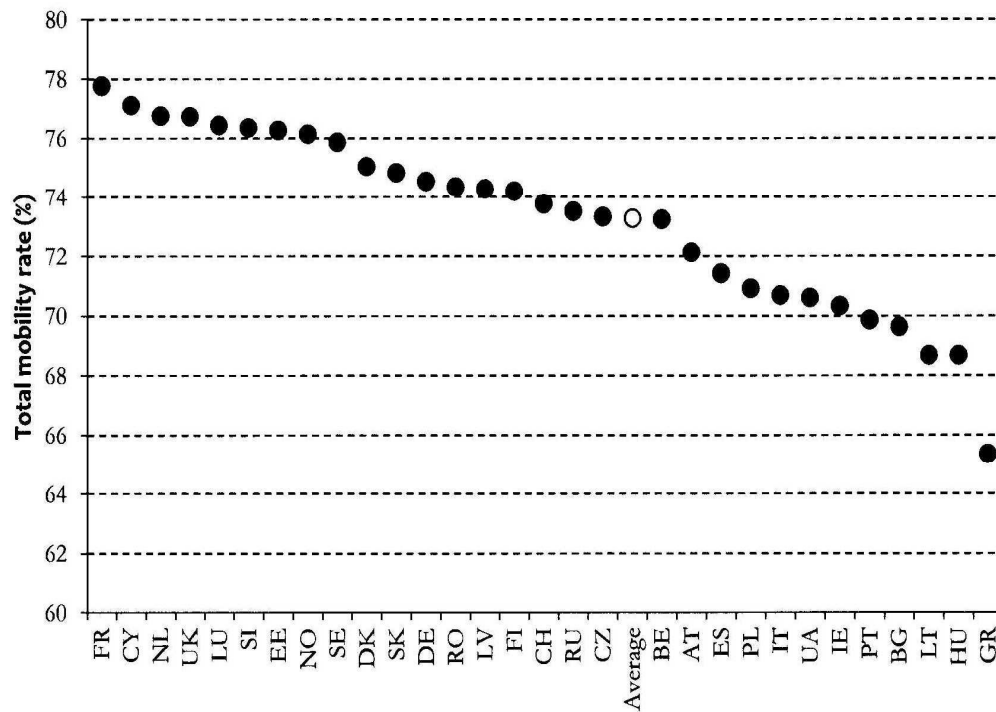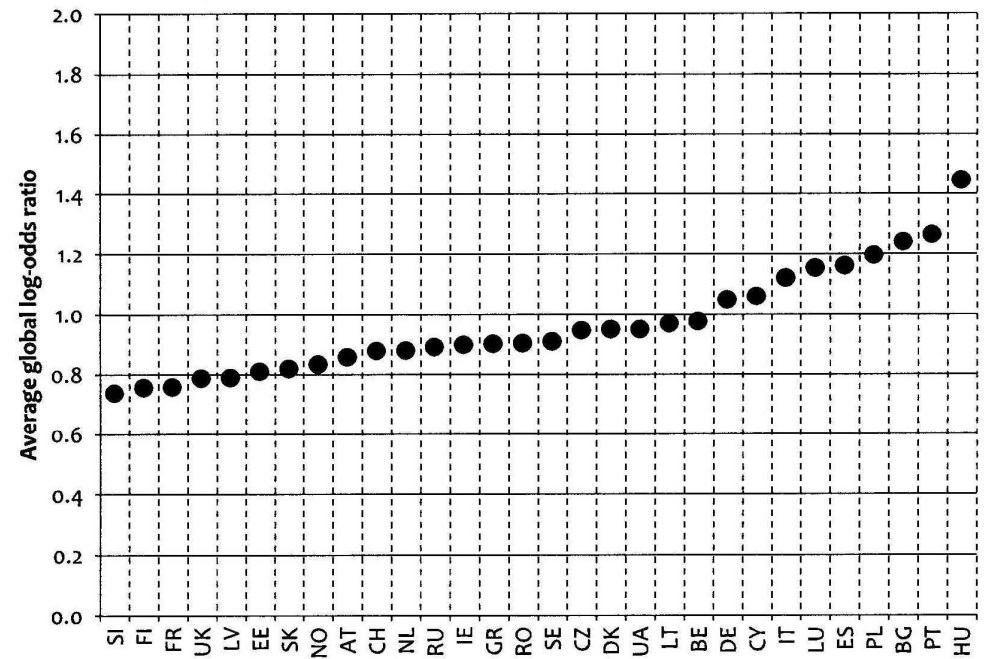**FIGURE 1: Total mobility rates, men aged 25-64 (%)**

FIGURE 4: Average global log-odds ratios by countries, men aged 25-64

Background of the current study

- BBC's Great British Class Survey Experiment (GBCS - Savage 2013)
  - theoretical background: three forms of capital (Bourdieu)
  - online data collection on cultural, economic, social capital

- Hungarian adaptation by GfK (led by Ákos Kozák)
  - online fieldwork: January-April, 2014, platforms: Index, Heti Válasz
    N=13650, weighted by gender, age, education, residence

- Three forms of capital are based on two empirical measures
  - <u>cultural capital</u>: highbrow cultural consumption (theatre, museum, classical music, book reading) and everyday / emerging leisure activities (internet, social media, TV, doing hobbies)
  - <u>economic capital</u>: household income / consumption units and wealth (property value, savings)
  - <u>social capital</u>: N of contacts and prestige of contacts based on position generator method (= respondent knows people in certain occupations)

- The 3*2=6 indices are standardized (mean=0, SD=1)
  (indices serve as input for LCA models for defining classes)

Measuring intergenerational mobility

- **Dependent variables (Destination)**
  - accumulated capital: 6 indices measuring the 3 forms of capital

- **Explanatory variables (Origin)**
  - no data on family background in terms of "capitals"
  - two most traditional indicators of social origin:

    father's occupation (9 categories: high manager, professional, low manager, clerical, self-employed, skilled worker (ref), service worker, semi-/unskilled worker, agricultural worker)

    father's education (7 categories: university (MA), college (BA), upper vocational, secondary academic, secondary vocational, apprenticeship, primary school (ref)

- **Control variables:**
  gender, age, age squared, family status (single vs. in partnership), size of household, roma ethnicity, place of birth (capital, other city, smaller town, village)

Aim of the study

- Possible aim of the study:
the effect of social origin on accumulated capitals
defining classes for origin 'a la Bourdieu' as done for destination is impossible
a kind of status attainment analysis

- Method: a series of OLS regression model are fitted to the data
father's occupation / education are ordered categorical variables and are transformed into dummies

- Results 1: explained variance (adjusted R^2 values)

- Results 2: regression estimates (unstandardized coefficients) for social origin and demographic controls

Model building schema

	Model 1a	Model 1b	Model 2a	Model 2b	Model 3a	Model 3b
Parental education	X	X			X	X
Parental occupation			X	X	X	X
Demographic controls		X		X		X

1a. Parental education (main effect), 1b. 1a + controls
2a. Parental occupation (main effect), 2b. 2a + controls
3a. Parental education + occupation, 3b. 3a + controls

Explained variances (adj. R^2 values)
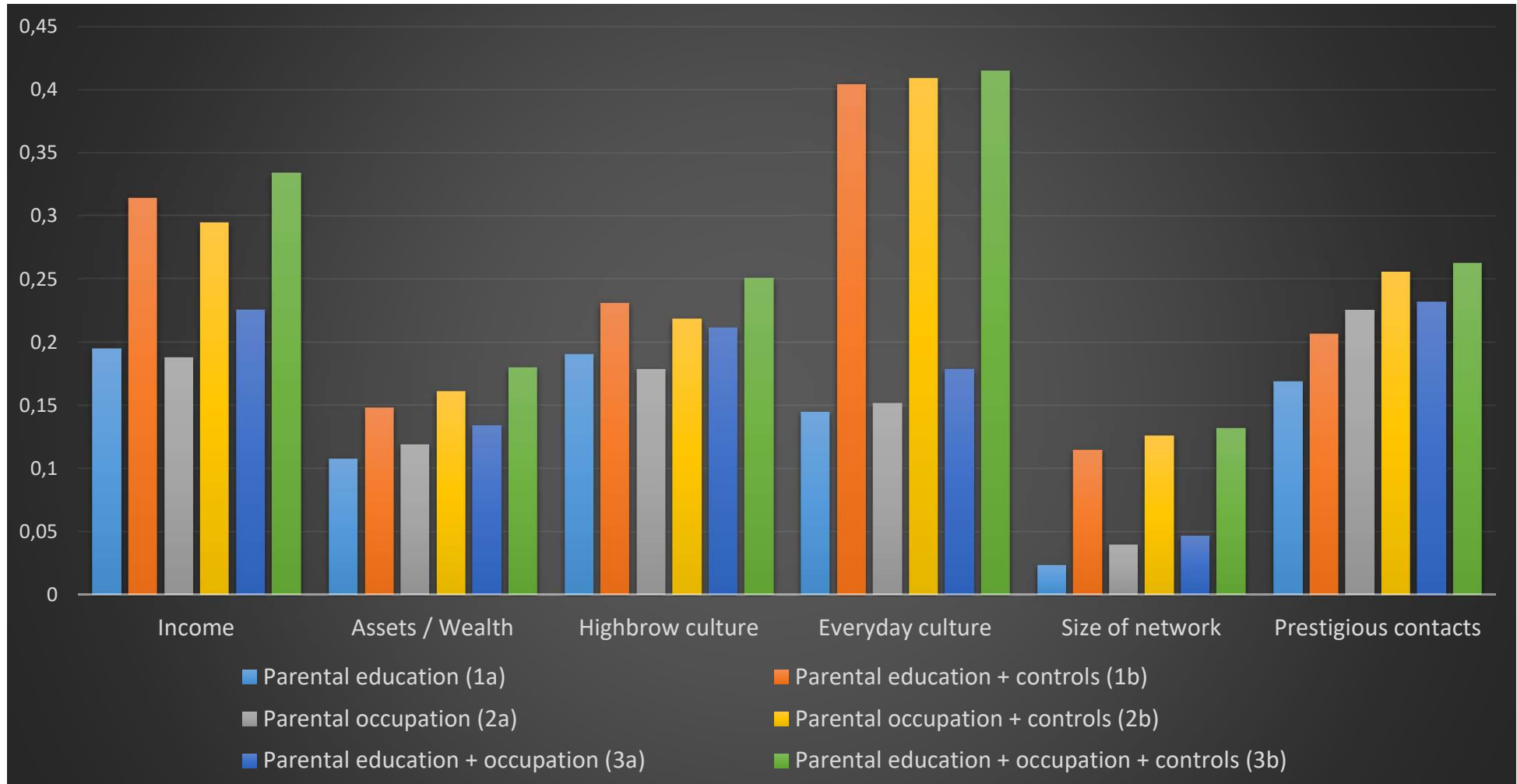
Regression estimates for social origin (Model 3b)

Social origin	Income	Assets/Wealth	Highbrow culture	Everyday culture	Size of network	Prestigious contacts
University (MA)	0.805***	0.695**	1.139***	0.314***	0.307***	0.107+
College (BA)	-0.024	0.036	1.245***	0.417***	-0.01	-0.106+
Upper vocational	0.610***	0.326***	0.682***	0.371***	0.191***	0.328***
Secondary academic	0.437***	0.416***	0.635***	0.413***	-0.217***	0.013
Secondary vocational	0.494***	0.431***	0.429**	0.235**	-0.041	0.211***
Apprenticeship	0.257***	0.306***	0.126***	0.102***	-0.071*	-0.011
High manager	0.564***	1.030***	0.507***	0.489***	0.558***	0.724***
Professional	0.774***	0.751***	-0.077	-0.038	0.200**	1.005***
Low manager	0.546***	0.526***	0.038	-0.084*	0.043	0.970***
Clerical worker	0.270***	0.122**	0.005	-0.021	-0.036	0.324***
Self-employed	-0.088*	0.078*	0.166***	-0.236***	0.114**	0.143***
Service worker	0.205***	0.157***	0.204***	0.101***	0.081*	0.234***
Semi-/unskilled worker	-0.168***	-0.046	-0.303***	-0.237***	-0.377***	-0.285***
Agricultural worker	-0.176***	-0.118**	-0.373***	-0.349***	-0.365***	-0.561***

Regression estimates for demographics (Model 3b)

Demographics	Income	Assets/Wealth	Highbrow culture	Everyday culture	Size of network	Prestigious contacts
Gender (Male)	0.054***	0.074***	-0.276***	0.023+	0.072***	-0.018
Age	0.000	0.007***	0.006***	-0.034***	0.003***	0.002***
Age squared	-0.020*	0.081***	-0.012	0.055***	-0.130***	-0.035***
In partnership	0.374***	0.322***	0.108***	0.098***	0.181***	0.144***
Size of household	-0.216***	0.002	0.017*	-0.007	0.039***	0.030***
Roma ethnicity	-0.281***	-0.360***	-0.188***	-0.190***	-0.602***	-0.573***
Place of birth						
Capital	0.093***	0.115***	0.250***	0.271***	-0.430***	0.153***
Other city	-0.114***	-0.007	-0.005	0.125***	-0.429***	-0.128***
Smaller town	-0.049**	-0.076***	-0.009	0.100***	-0.044*	-0.138***

Summary / Discussion

- Social origin strongly affects the accumulation of (high) cultural capital and the same holds for the accumulation of income and having contacts with high prestige

- Social origin seems to be less influential for everyday culture, quantity of contacts, as well as wealth (?)

- Limitations of the study:
  - the financial situation in the family background is not measured
  - father's occupation / education are better / worse proxies for capitals in the family
  - accumulation of wealth is strongly underestimated
  - the same may hold for the size of the network but to less extent
  - analyzing class mobility based on the three forms of capital was impossible

- Still: the whole exercise was not useless:
  - results on accumulation of various capitals are in line with other results on low level of intergenerational class mobility and social fluidity in Hungary
  - an addition to the descriptive mobility analyses based on mobility tables with some causal flavour
  - a step towards uncovering the mechanisms of social reproduction

Thank you for your attention

Péter Róbert

Tárki Social Research Institute

robert@tarki.hu