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Challenges in a world in transition- M2

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Social stratification and mobility

Last lesson

- Differences and inequalities
- Intersectionality
- Stratification (social class and social status)
- Global inequalities (example: powerful passports)



Social class

How do we rank individuals (or groups) in society?

- Social class and social status
- Social class: Hierarchy based on occupation
- Marx and Engels
 - They were focused on two classes:
 - Capitalists and laborers
 - Industrialization came hand in hand with unequal distribution between the rich businessmen who own the factories and machines (capital) and the laborers who worked for a low income
 - Capitalists had more favourable social class positions than laborers

Income and Wealth



- Individual and groups can be ranked in a hierarchy (a social ladder) in particular regarding income and wealth
- What about the degree of stratification according this valuable good?

Gini-coefficient

- Range: **0** – **100**
 - **0** = everyone in a country has the same income or wealth
 - **100** = all the income or wealth is in the hands of one single person
- It summarizes the **overall stratification** within a society
- If in a country 10% of the population hold the 40% of the total income of that population → there is income stratification

Countries	Gini coefficient (year)
North America	
United States	41.5 (2016)
Canada	34.0 (2013)
Mexico	43.4 (2016)
South America	
Argentina	42.4 (2016)
Brazil	51.3 (2015)
Asia	
China	42.2 (2012)
India	35.1 (2011)
Indonesia	39.5 (2013)
Japan	32.1 (2008)
Pakistan	33.5 (2015)
Africa	
Nigeria	43.0 (2009)
Egypt	31.8 (2015)
South Africa	63.0 (2014)
Europe	
Denmark	28.2 (2015)
France	32.7 (2015)
Germany	31.7 (2015)
United Kingdom	33.2 (2015)
Italy	35.4 (2015)
Russia	37.7 (2015)
Sweden	29.2 (2015)
Oceania	
Australia	34.7 (2010)

Income stratification

Source: World Bank, 2017b.

Super rich and democracy

- Tech & Billionaires' influence on politics and democracy
- Recent example: election of New York Mayor
- Financing groups Anti- (newly elected mayor) Mamdani
- First three donors:
 - **Michael Bloomberg (\$13.3 million) (financial services)**
 - **Lauder Family (\$2.6 million) (cosmetics industry)**
 - **Joe Gebbia (\$2 million) (co-founder of Airbnb)**
 - **(more...)**
- source: <https://time.com/7331119/zohran-mamdani-billionaires-ackman-bloomberg/>



Health and social problems are worse in more unequal countries



Intersection of Global inequalities



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Watch the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rx-hD2fHCE>

Social mobility

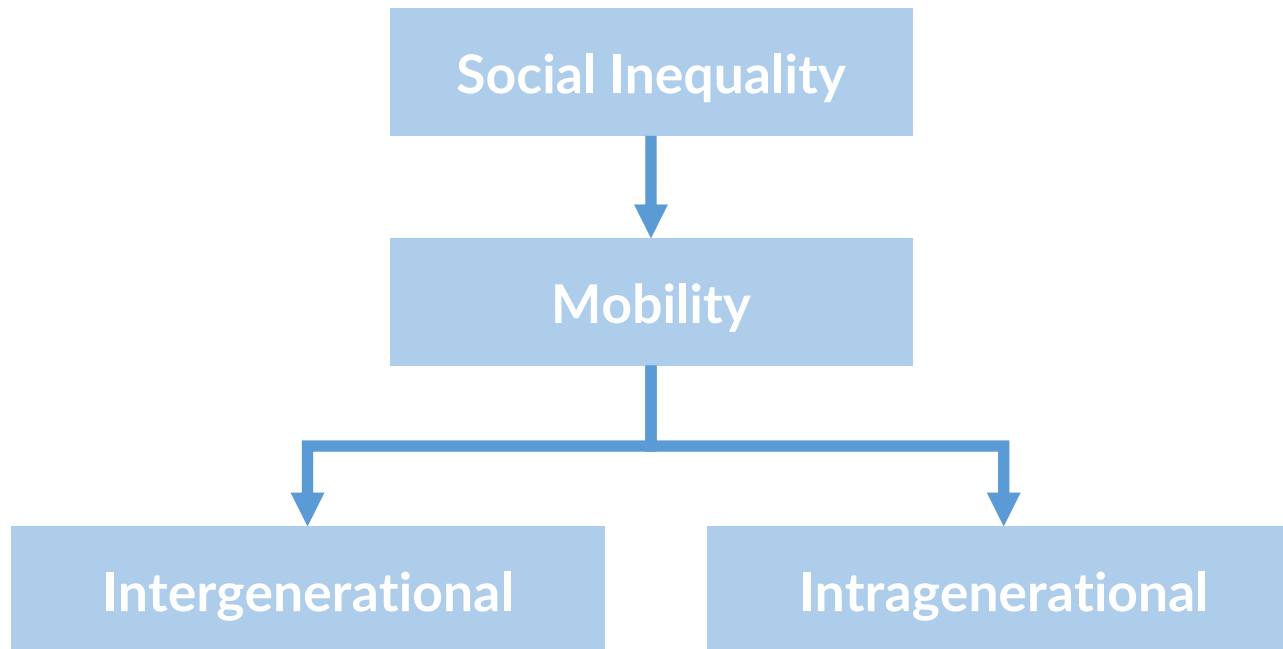
- Social inequality is not only about stratification
- But also about the opportunity to move between social positions



Mobility

- Intergenerational mobility
 - Changing social position between parents and their children. Examples:
 - Occupational status
 - Wealth
 - Life expectancy
- Intragenerational mobility
 - Changing social position over the life course

Mobility: two subdimensions



How the «social lift» can work?

- I have resources and access to opportunities
 - Ascription/Achievement
- Intergenerational transmission



Ascription and achievement

- Ascription: characteristics set at birth, such as family origin
- Achievement: personal effort, skills, talent, performance

Resources

- Human capital
- Social capital
- (Economic capital)



Human capital

- **Human capital** refers to people's knowledge and skills insofar these are relevant to the labor market
- Education, work experience and health
- The higher people's human capital, the better their labor market position. (*human capital and job outcomes*)

Social capital

- Several social capital theories
- Social capital
 - the potential of individuals to secure benefits and solve problems through membership in social networks.
 - Social capital revolves around three dimensions: **interconnected networks** of relationships between individuals and groups (social ties or social participation), levels of **trust** that characterize these ties, and **resources or benefits** that are both gained and transferred by virtue of social ties and social participation.
- Granovetter: The strenght of the weak ties
- Putnman: social capital as a public good—the amount of participatory potential, civic orientation, and trust in others available to cities, states, or nations

Social capital

- Not a single social capital theory
- Social capital paradigm: family of theories
- Core ideas:
 - Social capital (social networks) have value
 - Networks matter for certain outcomes
 - Outcomes might be different
 - Well being
 - Opportunities
 - Trust
 - Health



Group belonging, social capital, discrimination

- Scholars explain inequalities according to resources:
 - What you can do (human capital)
 - Who you know (social capital)
 - Who you belong to (group membership)
 - Social categories: age, gender, ethnic group, religion..
 - Group affiliation is a resources, but can be also a barrier
 - Discrimination on the basis of group affiliation
 - Labor market discrimination is about decision made by employers not based on human capital characteristics
 - Strongly related to in-group favoritism tendency
 - Cumulative discrimination

