

Call for contributions

RSSM Special Issue “Mechanisms of Educational Stratification”

Guest editors: [Steffen Schindler](#) and [Vikki Boliver](#)

A large body of literature has been devoted to the question how the design of educational systems influences the formation of social inequality. A key variable of educational systems is their level of educational stratification or differentiation, i.e. the separation of students into separate groups, tracks or streams for instructional purposes (cf. Sørensen, 1970). In almost all educational systems, this separation takes place in secondary education. Therefore, much of the literature has been concerned with comparing secondary educational systems with differing degrees of stratification and evaluating their performance against various indicators of inequality (Bol and van de Werfhorst, 2013; Brunello and Checchi, 2007; Hanushek and Wößmann, 2006). The conclusion from these comparisons is that educational stratification in secondary education fosters higher levels of social inequality than comprehensive schooling (Esser, 2016). While this association between stratification and social inequality seems to be a stable regularity, we know much less about the social mechanisms that produce this pattern. Even if theoretical speculations have been formulated, they have seldom been tested empirically.

For that reason, we want to dedicate a special issue of *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* to the social mechanisms of educational stratification. We invite papers that investigate into the processes that link educational stratification to the formation of social inequality. Potential topics can be school-level or peer-group effects on factors that are known to be important mediators of social reproduction, such as educational and occupational aspirations or the development of cognitive or non-cognitive competences. Preferably, paper proposals for the special issue should be based on individual-level longitudinal data or any other adequate database that allows for the identification of causal mechanisms.

The submission deadline for contributions is **31 October 2020**. Please submit your papers via RSSM’s online submission system at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/RSSM/default.aspx>. To ensure that all manuscripts are correctly identified for inclusion into the special issue, it is important that authors select *SI: Mechanisms of educational* when they reach the “Article Type” step in the submission process.

References:

- Bol, T. and van de Werfhorst, H. G. (2013). Educational Systems and the Trade-Off between Labor Market Allocation and Equality of Educational Opportunity, *Comparative Education Review*, 57, 285-308.
- Brunello, G. and Checchi, D. (2007). Does School Tracking Affect Equality of Opportunity? New International Evidence, *Economic Policy*, 22, 781-861.
- Esser, H. (2016). The Model of Ability Tracking – Theoretical Expectations and Empirical Findings on How Educational Systems Impact on Educational Success and Inequality. In Blossfeld, H.-P., Buchholz, S., Skopek, J. and Triventi, M. (Eds.), *Models of Secondary Education and Social Inequality. An International Comparison*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp. 25-41.
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