

Agenda Sociology 929 Week 6
Weber II: Goldthorpe
October 10, 2006

I. The “employment relations approach”

1. Is it legitimate to define class positions in terms of employment relations? (Adam, Hsing-Mei). Is this too narrow? Does it have the explanatory reach that “class” is supposed to have? (Elizabeth)
2. Class and life chances: What is the link between “employment relations” and “Life chances” in G? How do G’s class categories explain inequality? (Ann, Joe, Adrienne)
3. What happened to power/authority in the employment relations framework? (Fabian) What about collective forms of power, like unions. (Johannes)
4. How would G deal with the fact that state policy, unions, norms affect the employment relation? If manual workers have lifetime contracts are they in the service class? What happens if the threat of strikes generate high wages – how does this affect the class location? (Jorge, Charity, Johannes)
5. The mixed types: how should these be understood? Does this really revolve mainly around the authority/monitoring dimension? (You-Geon)
6. The skill dimension: what exactly is meant by “asset specificity” of skills?
7. How should we apply G’s scheme to teachers? Are different kinds of teachers in different sorts of class positions? Why are they all in a single class? (Sarbani)

II. Goldthorpe, Weber, and Marx

8. Goldthorpe seems really to be a mixture of Marxist & Weberian traditions: isn’t the monitoring problem basically like labor extraction/exploitation? (Assaf)
9. Goldthorpe’s core questions (life chances) seem very Weberian (Michael)
10. Exploitation what is G’s justification for ignoring exploitation? Is this justified? (Joe)

III. Gender

11. Unit of Analysis problem: individuals or families; class location of married women (Ann, Joe, Adrienne, Charity, Rahul)

IV. Methodological issues

12. Measurement strategies and issues: Are their alternatives for Weberians to the occupation-based schema? (Rudolfo)
13. Comparative validity of classifications: How transportable cross nationally are class schemes? Is it even possible to have a scheme that is valid across countries? (Rudolfo)

