

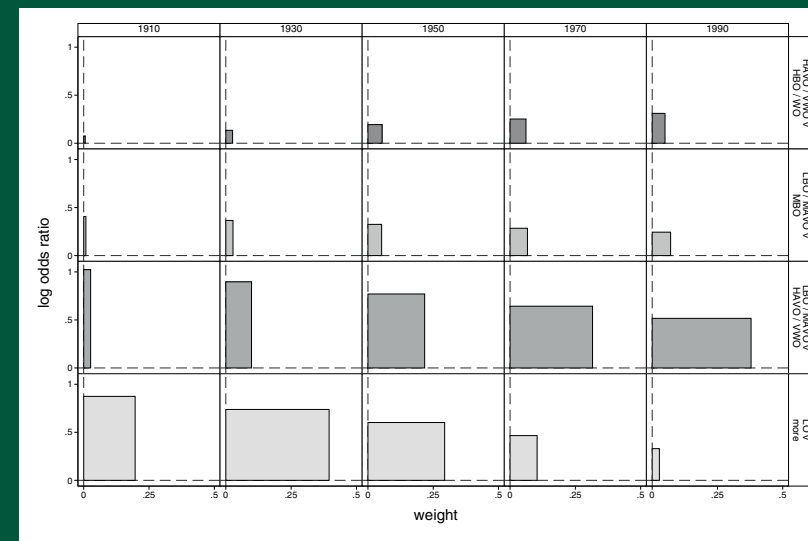
The influence of social background on educational attainment involves a paradox: On the one hand, it is a good thing that parents care about their children and want to help them attain the best possible educational outcome. On the other hand, it seems unfair to many that children would have an educational advantage only because they have the “right” parents. One of the tasks of the education system is to alleviate this paradox by providing resources independent of the parents, which can counteract the disadvantage faced by children of parents with fewer social and economic resources. The extent to which the education system fails in reaching this goal – that is, the inequality of access in education – is the subject of this dissertation.

An important characteristic of education is that it takes place in stages: a child first finishes primary education, than continues or not to secondary education, etc. This means there are two types of educational inequality: the association between social background and the probabilities of passing from one stage to the next, and the association between social background and the highest achieved level of education. The key finding of this dissertation is that in the course of the 20th century, inequality in terms of the highest achieved level of education declined in the Netherlands. This decline was not caused by an increase in equality of the steps between the stages of the educational process, but because the more unequal first step – whether or not to get more education after primary education – has become irrelevant, because passing it has become virtually universal.

Maarten L. Buis (1976) studied economics at Utrecht University, in the Netherlands. The present study was conducted at the Faculty of Social Sciences, VU University Amsterdam. Currently, he is a researcher at the Department of Sociology at Tübingen University, in Germany.

Maarten L. Buis

Inequality of Educational Outcome and Inequality of Educational Opportunity in the Netherlands during the 20th Century



Uitnodiging Invitation

Voor het bijwonen van de openbare verdediging van mijn proefschrift

To attend the public defence of my dissertation

Inequality of Educational Outcome and Inequality of Educational Opportunity in the Netherlands during the 20th Century

Op vrijdag 2 juli 2010 om 13.45 in de aula van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam,

On Friday July 2nd, 13.45 in the aula of the VU University Amsterdam,

De Boelelaan 1081, 1081 HV Amsterdam

Na afloop is er een receptie. Graag nodig ik u uit hiervoor aanwezig te zijn.

Afterwards there will be a reception, for which you are also invited.

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Anne Potters

