

Soci 6420
Short Essay #3: The Implications of Structure
Due Tuesday, November 8

Assignment

In a concise essay (no more than 5 double-spaced pages) answer the two questions below.

1. Given the apparent usefulness of structural explanations of stratification (e.g., Blau 1994) to what extent is status attainment research (e.g., Blau and Duncan 1967) still useful to understand a person's life chances? (Food for thought: Do they examine different questions? Do they provide different but valuable perspectives on the same questions?)

2. Do researchers have to pick one or the other approach or are they compatible, at least theoretically? (Food for thought: Are their views of society different? Are their views of the process of mobility different? Do they arrive at different answers to the same questions?)