

# What is Social Mobility?

## What Causes Social Mobility?

- defining / measuring mobility through time
- explaining the causes of the dynamic transitions which constitute mobility

# Outline

- Why does social mobility matter?
- When is social mobility?
  - Inter-generational
  - Intra-generational
- Who / What moves?
  - Individual
  - Household
- What is movement?
  - Income
  - Occupation
  - Education
- How do these combine to create trajectories of mobility?

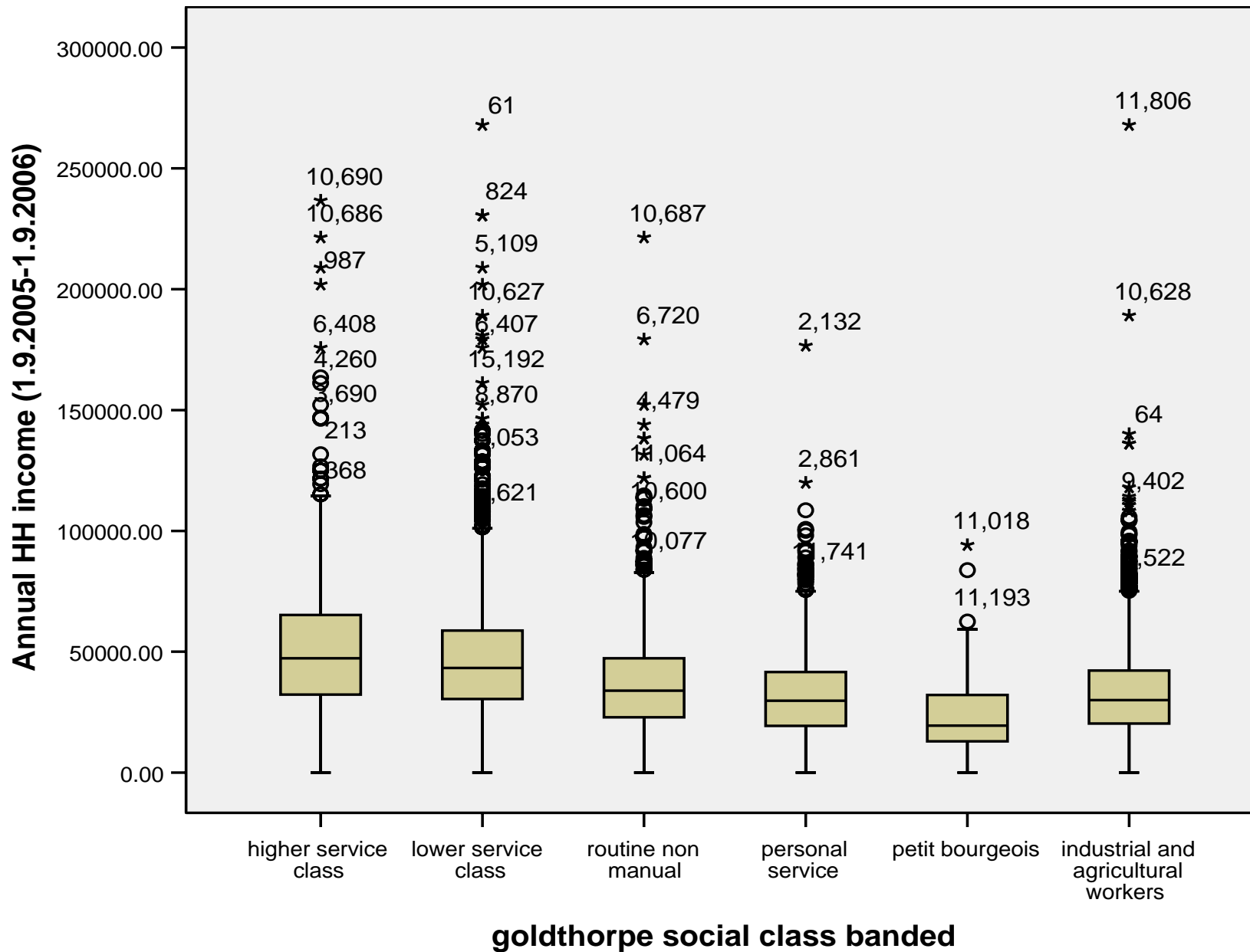
'Individual mobility is crucial to modernity. It is a functional prerequisite of change in social structures ... Mobility is also a powerful means by which people drive forward their ambitions in life. Irrespective of the actual mobility that occurs, the idea of mobility is fundamental to the legitimization of Western Societies. The promise of mobility allows "open societies" to maintain a system of firmly established structural inequalities. The optimism about macro-dynamics, the belief in societal progress, translates at the micro-level into the belief in individual progress.' (Leisering and Walker 1998: *The Dynamics of Modern Society* Bristol Policy Press 4-5)

It's all about class so:  
What has class when we attribute class  
to a case?

' ... the family, not the individual, is the appropriate unit of class analysis because individuals' life chances are determined by their membership of families or households and not simply by their own relationship to the labour market.' (Breen Social Mobility in Europe Oxford: Oxford University Press 2004 8)

# Argument against existing class classification schemes

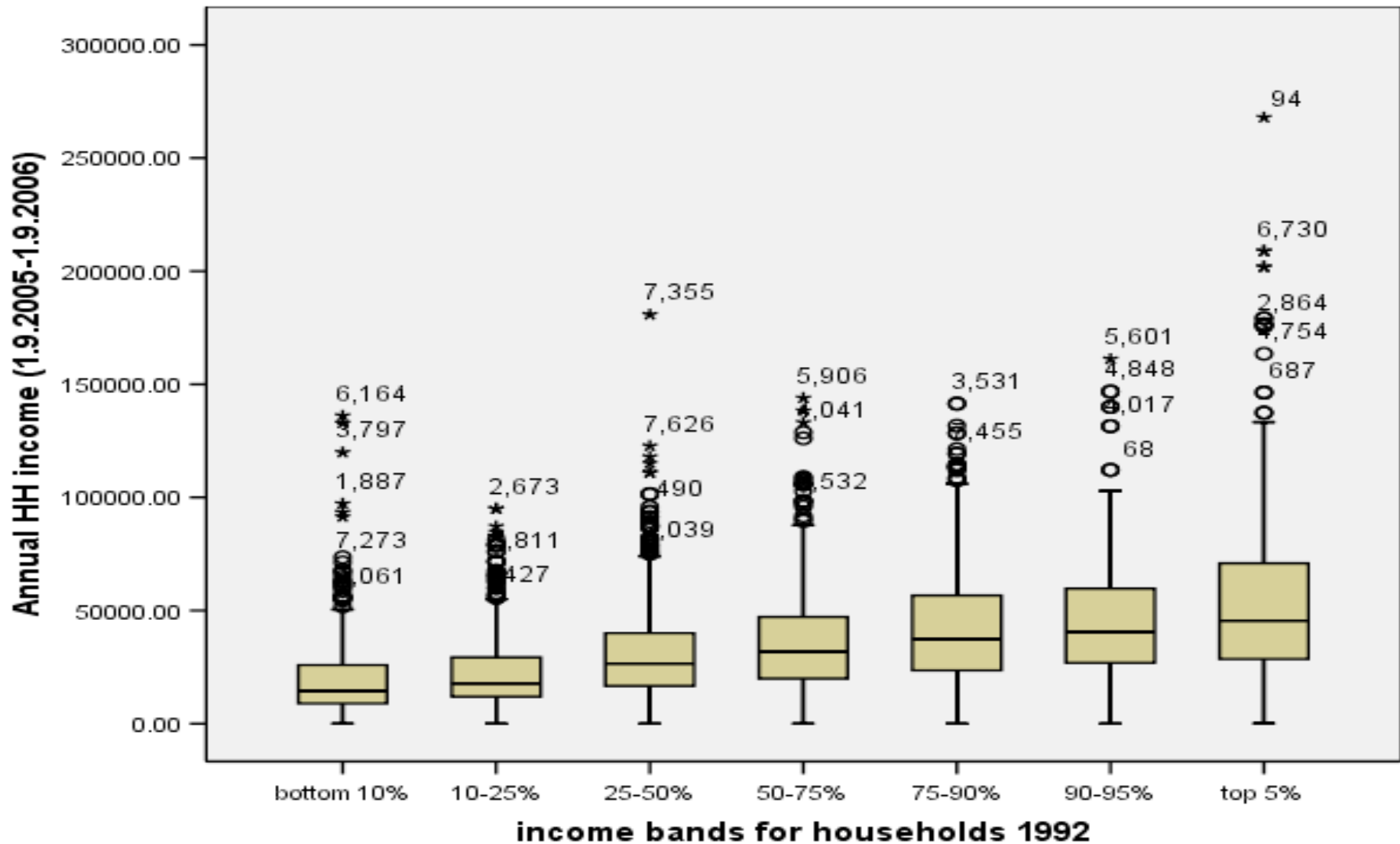
- Such schemes, particularly those associated with Goldthorpe, focus on occupation and work relations and take these as providing an adequate proxy for economic resources, which they don't.
- Typically they describe mobility in terms of the attributes of individuals, not of households
- In relation to studies of social mobility, those working with such schemes have assumed that occupationally based classifications have the same social meaning and implications at different time points in fundamentally different social periods



# Household Income Component Clusters – Individuals 2005-6

		Cluster			
		Middle Mostly Labour	Highest, Includes Significant Investment	Lowest, mix Labour and Benefit	All Cases
Annual HH income (1.9.2005-1.9.2006)	Mean	46,698	82,249	19,988	38,178
Annual household labour income	Mean	43,752	61,879	11,043	32,035
Annual household benefit income	Mean	1,438	2,373	7,350	3,769
Annual household transfer income	Mean	88	2,933	288	309
Annual household investment income	Mean	748	14,086	355	1,270
Number of Cases in Cluster		5,001	449	3,430	8,880

# Income Mobility – Household Income in 2005-6 against Income category in 1992





# Tabular Presentation

## income bands for households 2005-6 \* income bands for households 1992 Crosstabulation

% within income bands for households 2005-6

		income bands for households 1992							Total
		bottom 10%	10-25%	25-50%	50-75%	75-90%	90-95%	top 5%	
income bands for households 2005-6	bottom 10%	32.4%	25.5%	19.2%	14.4%	5.5%	1.6%	1.4%	100.0%
	10-25%	15.1%	27.6%	25.8%	19.3%	8.7%	2.0%	1.6%	100.0%
	25-50%	9.3%	16.7%	30.0%	23.5%	13.8%	3.3%	3.3%	100.0%
	50-75%	5.5%	10.3%	27.9%	27.4%	17.6%	6.5%	4.9%	100.0%
	75-90%	3.6%	6.7%	23.0%	28.7%	24.7%	5.9%	7.4%	100.0%
	90-95%	2.4%	5.9%	13.4%	29.2%	30.4%	8.3%	10.3%	100.0%
	top 5%	2.4%	5.5%	12.3%	16.2%	28.9%	15.8%	19.0%	100.0%
Total		10.0%	15.0%	25.0%	23.6%	16.4%	5.0%	5.0%	100.0%



## Nagalkerke R Squares with Income Band in 2005-6: Ordinal Regression

- With Income Band in 92 = 0.163
- With Income Band in 92 + Has higher Education qualification = 0.214
- With Income Band in 92 + Has Higher Education Qualification + Age in 2006 (banded) = 0.345
- With Income Band in 92 + Has Higher Education Qualification + Age in 2006 + Interaction Age in 2006 (banded) / Has Higher Education Qualification = 0.353
- With Has Higher Education Qualification + Age in 2006 (banded) + Interaction Age in 2006 (banded) / Has Higher Education Qualification = 0.258