

Special session proposal

Social mobility & Inequality

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Improving upward social mobility is a goal all nations desire, and such concern has given rise to a flourishing literature at the interface of economics, sociology, and political science. In general, social mobility is thought as intragenerational mobility and intergenerational mobility. The latter is the movement in social position across generations; the former is how a person moves up or down the social ladder during her lifetime. In both cases, most studies indicate the family background and its financial resources as the main drivers of moving up in social position.

This session focuses on intergenerational social mobility and investigates the role played by city where offspring grew up. The aim is to determine whether the resources provided by cities in terms of economic conditions, human capital and social capital affect the individuals' probability to reach higher socioeconomic status than their parents. The session also investigates the relationship between social mobility and income inequality in European countries.