

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [The Inheritance Of Social Status: England, 1600 to 2022](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.pnas.org/doi/full/10.1073/pnas.2300926120#abstract>

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**Tweet:** Gregory Clark @PNASNews finds that social status in England was strongly correlated across generations between 1600 and 2022, consistent with a theory of genetic transmission of characteristics influencing status.

**Summary:** Using a large genealogical database of 422,374 people with rarer surnames in England the paper examines patterns of inheritance of social status in England. These correlations reveal four things. First status persists strongly across even very distant relatives, across all measures of status. Second the decline in status correlations with each step outward in the lineage is a constant 0.79, for different measures of status, and epochs from 1600 to 2022. Third of the correlations conform closely to those predicted by Ronald Fisher in 1918, for familial correlations in the presence of strong assortment in mating. In particular, the correlation in mating in the genetics underlying social outcomes [must] be 0.57 to generate the persistence rate of 0.79. Since these are observational data, there is no proof that additive genetic transmission causes social status. [Only] that whatever social processes are producing the observed outcomes have a form of transmission which mimics that of additive genetic effects, in the presence of the important social institution of strong assortative mating. [Fourth,] the constancy of status persistence across the interval 1600 to 2022 does suggest social interventions have surprisingly modest effects.”

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**Primary Topic:** Family/Marriage

**Topics:** Academic paper, Database, Family/Marriage, Inequality, Mobility/Assortive Mating, Weekly, Workforce

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