

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [The Class Gap in Career Progression: Evidence From US Academia](#)

Article Link: https://annastansbury.github.io/website/StansburyRodriguez_The_Class_Gap_in_Career_Progression_Evidence_from_academia.pdf

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Tweet: [. @annastansbury finds 1st-gen college grads are 13% less likely to be tenured at a high-ranked university than PhD classmates whose parents held a non-PhD grad degree. Detailed measures of research productivity explain around a third of the “class gap.”](#)

Summary: Using parental education to proxy for socioeconomic background, we compare career outcomes of people who got their PhDs in the same institution and field. First-generation college graduates are 13% less likely to end up tenured at an R1 [institution with very high research activity according to the 2015 Carnegie Classification], and are on average tenured at institutions ranked 9% lower, than their PhD classmates with a parent with a (non-PhD) graduate degree. [The dashed lines in Figure 2] incorporate research controls - second-order polynomials in publications, impact factors, and average number of authors per paper, all interacted with PhD field group. Our most detailed measures of research quantity and quality explain around a third of the class gap. Strikingly, the class gap in the likelihood of ending up tenured at an R1 is as large or larger than the analogous race or gender gaps. Our analyses of coauthor characteristics suggest networks likely play a role. [Similarly,] examining PhDs who work in industry we find a class gap in pay and in managerial responsibilities which widens over the career.

Related Articles: [The Inheritance Of Social Status: England, 1600 to 2022](#) and [The Life-Cycle Dynamics of Wealth Mobility and The Economics of Inequality in High-Wage Economies](#)

Primary Topic: Inequality

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

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