

Sociology of Art Students' Practices

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1. Introduction

Since Bourdieu (*La Distinction*, 1979), numerous studies have been carried out on the cultural practices of people depending on their social condition. Some subsequent studies have questioned the link between the two variables (Julien, Laflamme, 2008), while other studies introduced the social media variable, likely to modify their link by extending the social relationships of individuals (Cebula, Michal, 2020). We wanted to study specifically the case of art students, in that their field of activity is directly concerned by these questions, and that consequently their relationship to culture is perhaps different from that of individuals who are not in contact with it on a daily basis.

Does social condition have an influence on art students' practices and cultural preferences?

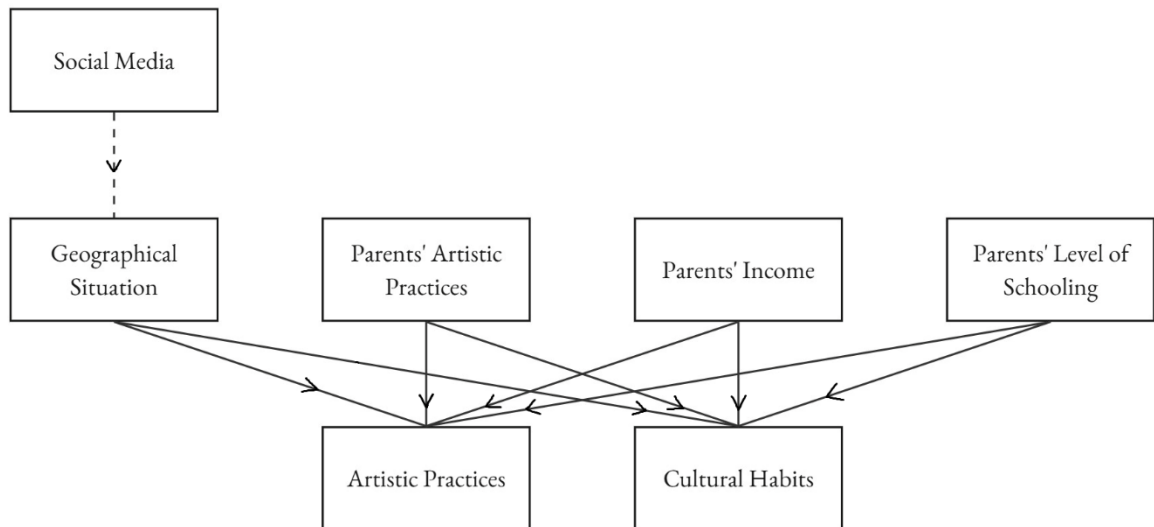


Fig. 1: Directed acyclic graph representing the hypothesised causal links between social media, geographical situation, parents' artistic practices, income and level of schooling, artistic practices and cultural habits.

We anticipate that if this is the case, we should observe:

- **P1** – Art Students with higher Parents' Income are more likely to have elitist Artistic Practices.
- **P2** – Art Students with higher Parents' Level of Schooling are more likely to have elitist Artistic Practices.
- **P3** – Art Students with higher Parents' Income are more likely to have elitist Cultural Habits.
- **P4** – Art Students with higher Parents' Level of Schooling are more likely to have elitist Cultural Habits.
- **P5** – Social media can minimize Geographical Situation's effect on Artistic Practices.

2. Data

We distributed a questionnaire about art practices and cultural habits to art students (see **Annex, Fig. 3, Fig. 4 and Fig. 5**). Each practice is associated with a score between 1 and 5, 1 symbolizing the lowest engagement with the practice and 5 the highest. We then classified the practices in two categories, “elitist” and “non-elitist” by using Chat GPT and our judgement, based on the criteria of accessibility, cost and social prestige, and calculated the “**elitism coefficient**” using the following formula:

$$\log_5\left(\frac{M_{elitist}}{M_{non-elitist}}\right)$$

With $M_{elitist}$ the weighted mean of elitist practices scores and $M_{non-elitist}$ the weighted mean of non-elitist practices scores. The highest possible coefficient is 1 and it corresponds to a maximal engagement with the elitist practices and a minimal engagement with the other practices. The lowest possible coefficient is -1 and it corresponds to the opposite situation. A coefficient of 0 is a perfect balance between elitist and non-elitist practices (see **Fig. 2**).

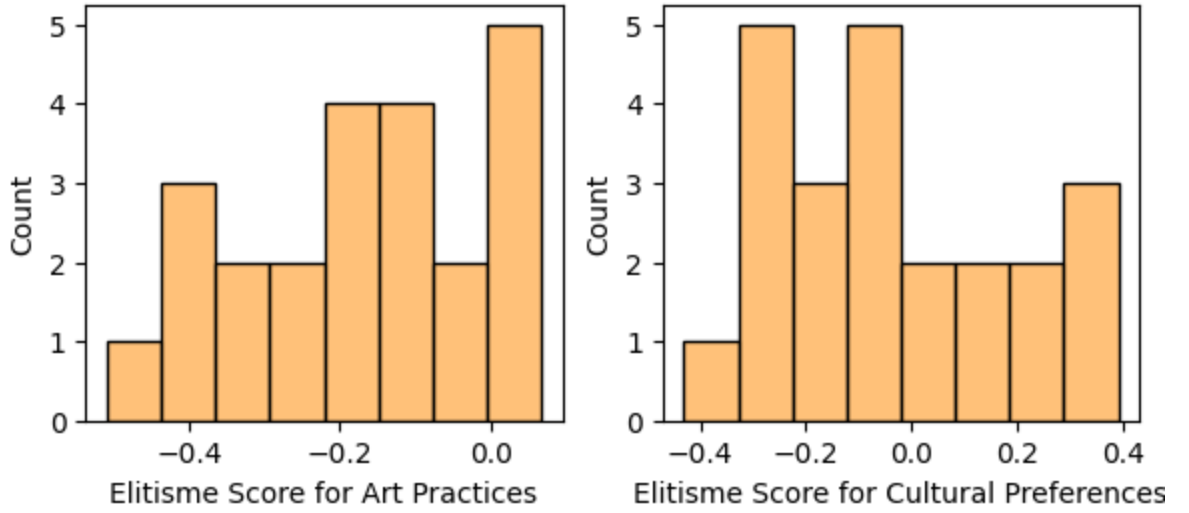


Fig. 2: Distribution of Elitism Scores.

3. Methods

To test prediction **P1**, **P2** and **P5**, we performed a multivariate logistic regression with interaction with the following formula:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Artistic Practices} &\sim \text{Parents' Artistic Practices} + \text{Parents' Income} \\ &+ \text{Parents' Level of Schooling} + \text{Geographical Situation} + \text{Social Media} \\ &+ \text{Geographical Situation} * \text{Social Media} \end{aligned}$$

To test prediction **P3** and **P4**, we performed a multivariate logistic regression with the following formula:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cultural Habits} &\sim \text{Parents' Artistic Practices} + \text{Parents' Income} \\ &+ \text{Parents' Level of Schooling} + \text{Geographical Situation} + \text{Social Media} \end{aligned}$$

4. Results

Our models indicate that there are **no significant relationships** between any of our variables (every p-values are above 0.05, see **Table 1** and **Table 2**).

Variable	coef	std err	t	p-val
Parents' Income	0.0071	0.038	0.184	0.857
Geographical Situation	0.5825	0.365	1.596	0.133
Geographical Situation * Social Media	-0.1348	0.080	-1.694	0.112
Parents' Level of Schooling	-0.0297	0.028	-1.049	0.312
Parents' Artistic Practices	0.0614	0.069	0.888	0.389

Table 1: Result of multivariate logistic regression predicting Artistic Practices.

Variable	coef	std err	t	p-val
Parents' Income	0.0481	0.058	0.823	0.423
Geographical Situation	0.0338	0.069	0.489	0.631
Parents' Level of Schooling	-0.0067	0.046	-0.146	0.885
Parents' Artistic Practices	-0.0049	0.105	-0.047	0.963

Table 2: Result of multivariate logistic regression predicting Cultural Habits.

5. Conclusion

Our results are not significant enough to conclude on the relationship between art students' artistic practices, cultural preferences and social condition. Thus, **we cannot confirm any of our five predictions**. To go deeper into this topic, we could try to collect more data by distributing the questionnaire during school periods.

6. References

- JULIEN, LAFLAMME, « Les pratiques culturelles sont-elles vraiment définies par l'origine de classe sociale ? », *Sociologie de l'Art*, 2008/1-2 (OPuS 11 & 12), p. 171-193. DOI : 10.3917/soart.011.0171.
- CEBULA, MICHAŁ. "Traditional vs. Modern Art: The Status and Network Antecedents of Visual Art Preferences." *Polish Sociological Review*, no. 209, 2020, pp. 41–64.

7. Annex

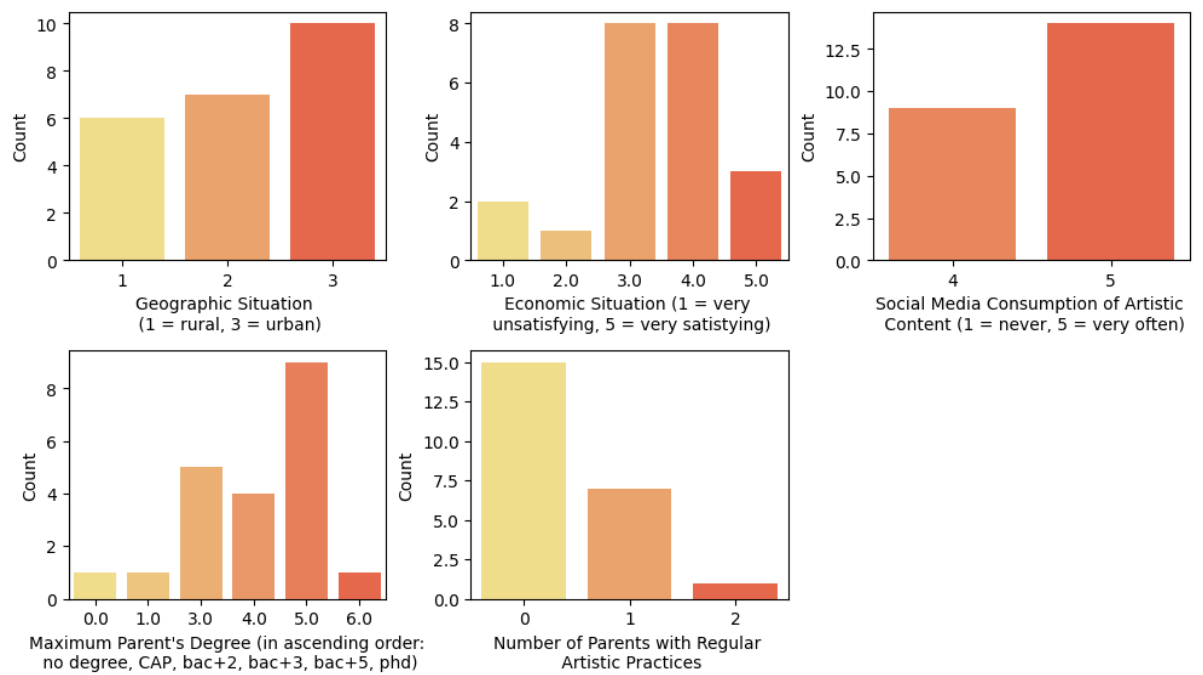


Fig. 2: Distribution of answers to general questions in the questionnaire.

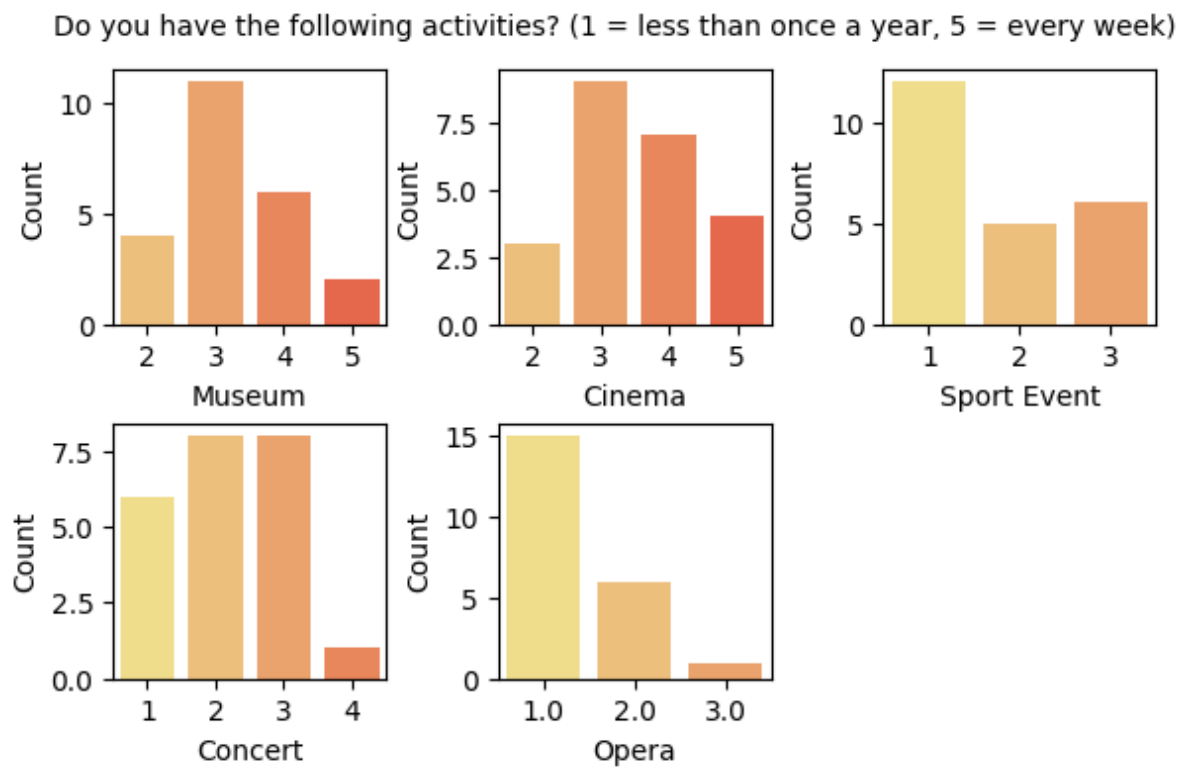


Fig. 3: Distribution of answers to questions about cultural habits in the questionnaire.

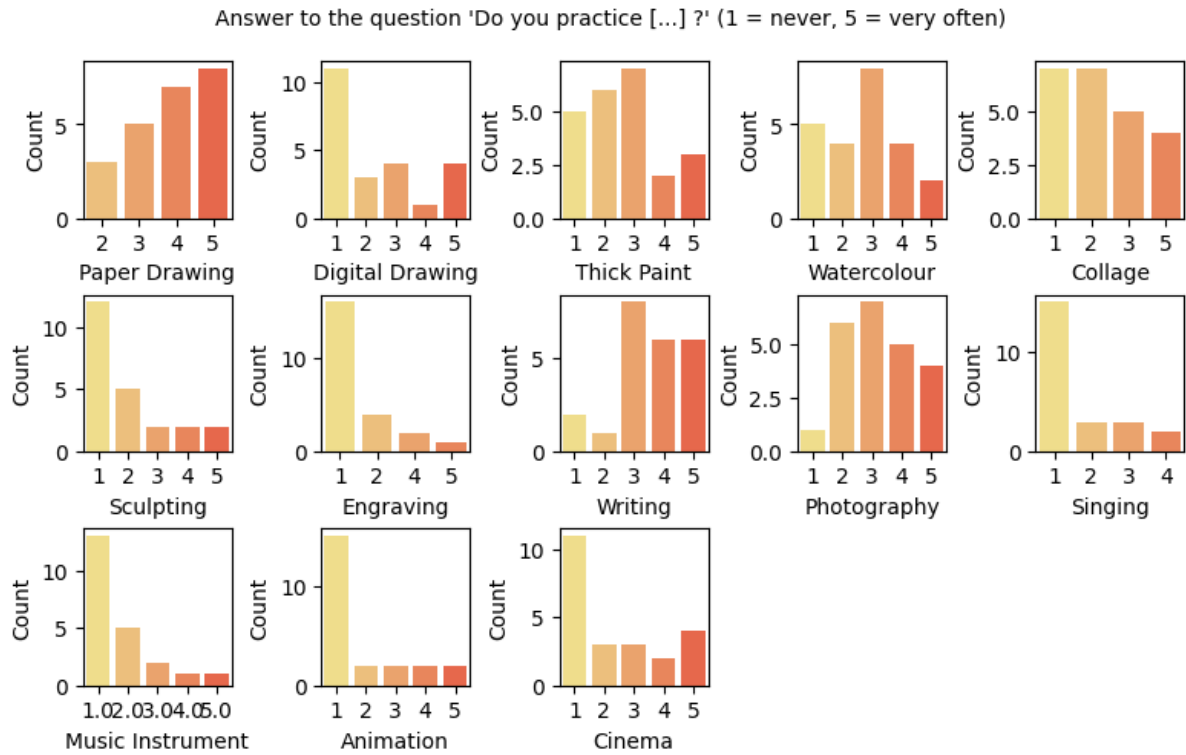


Fig. 4: Distribution of answers to questions about artistic practices in the questionnaire.