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Class and Status: The Conceptual Distinction and its Empirical Relevance

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The starting point of our article is that class and status are related but distinct dimensions of social stratification in contemporary societies. On the basis of this premise, we conjecture that class and status have differing explanatory power in different domains of social life. Our empirical evidence supports our conjecture. We show that economic security and prospects are stratified more by class than by status, while the opposite is true for outcomes in the domain of cultural consumption. As for politics, we show that it is class rather than status that predicts the choice between voting Conservative or Labour in British general elections. Class also predicts Left–Right political attitudes, but it is status rather than class that predicts Libertarian–Authoritarian attitudes.

However, as class and status are moderately correlated with each other, class effect and status effect would overlap to some extent. The supplementary tables show what would happen if class and status are entered separately into the model, especially in relation to Tables 5, 6, and 7.

For our present purpose, the following tables can be summarised in a rather straightforward manner. If class is omitted from the model, then status will pick up some of the effect of class, and vice versa. This is to be expected because class and status are correlated. However, when both class and status are included in the model, then as we have shown in the main article, the dependent variables are stratified primarily on either class or status, in line with the Weberian perspective. Other parameters are mostly unaffected when class or status is dropped from the models.

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S1. Supplementary Tables for Table 5

S1.1 Music—Omnivore Versus Univore

	β	SE	β	SE	β	SE
Female ^a	.264*	(.135)	.111	(.134)	.156	(.137)
Married ^b	-.322	(.176)	-.307	(.176)	-.321	(.176)
Separated	-.089	(.214)	-.049	(.214)	-.065	(.214)
Age	.069**	(.006)	.067**	(.006)	.066**	(.006)
Child (0–4) ^c	-.386	(.214)	-.386	(.214)	-.391	(.214)
Child (5–10)	-.337	(.187)	-.343	(.187)	-.340	(.188)
Child (11–15)	-.396*	(.190)	-.396*	(.190)	-.397*	(.191)
The North ^d	-.520**	(.192)	-.476*	(.192)	-.470*	(.193)
Midlands	-.246	(.183)	-.196	(.184)	-.198	(.184)
South East	.035	(.197)	.059	(.198)	.060	(.198)
South West	-.267	(.238)	-.220	(.238)	-.224	(.238)
Income	.013	(.007)	.014*	(.006)	.012	(.007)
CSE/others ^e	1.042**	(.276)	.984**	(.274)	1.006**	(.276)
O-Levels	1.179**	(.241)	1.086**	(.239)	1.109**	(.242)
A-Levels	1.610**	(.263)	1.515**	(.260)	1.523**	(.265)
Subdegree	1.991**	(.263)	1.850**	(.261)	1.851**	(.266)
Degree	2.558**	(.251)	2.389**	(.252)	2.367**	(.256)
Class II ^f	-.264	(.169)			-.135	(.172)
Class III	-.589*	(.237)			-.329	(.247)
Class IV	-.201	(.259)			.299	(.291)
Class V	-.971**	(.328)			-.253	(.382)
Class VI	-.667*	(.279)			-.107	(.317)
Class VII	-.856**	(.329)			-.109	(.387)
Status			1.006**	(.215)	1.047**	(.287)
Constant	-5.743**	(.469)	-6.052**	(.419)	-5.906**	(.472)

^a Male as reference category

^b Single as reference category

^c Childless as reference category

^d London as reference category

^e No qualification as reference category

^f Class 1 as reference category

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$ (two-tailed tests).

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S1.2 Theater, Dance, and Cinema—Omnivore Versus Univore

	β	SE	β	SE	β	SE
Female ^a	.690**	(.089)	.603**	(.089)	.615**	(.092)
Married ^b	.150	(.111)	.157	(.111)	.148	(.112)
Separated	.178	(.138)	.201	(.138)	.188	(.139)
Age	.006	(.004)	.005	(.004)	.005	(.004)
Child (0–4) ^c	–.564**	(.113)	–.563**	(.113)	–.562**	(.113)
Child (5–10)	.077	(.100)	.050	(.099)	.070	(.100)
Child (11–15)	.086	(.105)	.079	(.104)	.088	(.105)
The North ^d	–.265*	(.123)	–.216	(.123)	–.231	(.124)
Midlands	–.240*	(.122)	–.197	(.122)	–.207	(.123)
South East	.063	(.134)	.096	(.134)	.083	(.135)
South West	–.223	(.152)	–.183	(.152)	–.189	(.153)
Income	.027**	(.005)	.029**	(.004)	.026**	(.005)
CSE/others ^e	.191	(.152)	.205	(.151)	.169	(.152)
O-Levels	.700**	(.128)	.711**	(.126)	.668**	(.128)
A-Levels	1.178**	(.145)	1.186**	(.143)	1.130**	(.145)
Subdegree	1.103**	(.158)	1.103**	(.157)	1.027**	(.160)
Degree	1.330**	(.148)	1.282**	(.149)	1.223**	(.151)
Class II ^f	–.019	(.123)			.078	(.126)
Class III	–.328*	(.153)			–.161	(.160)
Class IV	–.525**	(.182)			–.205	(.203)
Class V	–.570**	(.179)			–.134	(.218)
Class VI	–.552**	(.168)			–.199	(.195)
Class VII	–.964**	(.190)			–.507*	(.230)
Status			.882**	(.130)	.631**	(.179)
Constant	–2.000**	(.290)	–2.334**	(.250)	–2.118**	(.292)

Note: The last column of the table is the same as Column 2 of Table 5.

^a Male as reference category

^b Single as reference category

^c Childless as reference category

^d London as reference category

^e No qualification as reference category

^f Class 1 as reference category

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$ (two-tailed tests).

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S1.3 The Visual Arts—Omnivore Versus Inactive

	β	SE	β	SE	β	SE
Female ^a	.352	(.189)	.223	(.187)	.223	(.192)
Married ^b	-.196	(.239)	-.163	(.236)	-.200	(.239)
Separated	.156	(.295)	.201	(.291)	.180	(.295)
Age	.028**	(.009)	.028**	(.009)	.026**	(.009)
Child (0–4) ^c	-.645*	(.285)	-.625*	(.283)	-.639*	(.285)
Child (5–10)	.268	(.231)	.178	(.230)	.260	(.232)
Child (11–15)	.041	(.251)	-.005	(.249)	.039	(.252)
The North ^d	-.146	(.252)	-.076	(.251)	-.089	(.253)
Midlands	-.938**	(.278)	-.859**	(.278)	-.880**	(.279)
South East	-.180	(.269)	-.130	(.269)	-.150	(.270)
South West	-.234	(.320)	-.175	(.320)	-.174	(.321)
Income	.007	(.009)	.009	(.009)	.006	(.009)
CSE/others ^e	1.273*	(.498)	1.291**	(.496)	1.220*	(.499)
O-Levels	1.149*	(.461)	1.171*	(.457)	1.072*	(.462)
A-Levels	1.959**	(.469)	1.993**	(.467)	1.849**	(.471)
Subdegree	2.376**	(.465)	2.459**	(.463)	2.219**	(.469)
Degree	3.488**	(.443)	3.442**	(.447)	3.260**	(.450)
Class II ^f	.454	(.237)			.613*	(.241)
Class III	-.703	(.365)			-.396	(.376)
Class IV	.123	(.375)			.699	(.411)
Class V	-.755	(.487)			.073	(.554)
Class VI	-1.116*	(.475)			-.480	(.514)
Class VII	-1.196*	(.581)			-.325	(.646)
Status			1.459**	(.322)	1.229**	(.402)
Constant	-5.271**	(.685)	-5.633**	(.620)	-5.461**	(.688)

Note: The last column of the table is the same as column 3 of Table 5.

^a Male as reference category

^b Single as reference category

^c Childless as reference category

^d London as reference category

^e No qualification as reference category

^f Class 1 as reference category

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$ (two-tailed tests).

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S2. Supplementary Tables for Table 6

S2.1 Conservative Versus Labour

	β	SE	β	SE	β	SE
2001 ^a	-.220*	(.101)	-.244*	(.099)	-.220*	(.101)
Age	.030**	(.003)	.031**	(.003)	.030**	(.003)
Female ^b	.250*	(.101)	.108	(.091)	.230*	(.103)
CSE ^c	.126	(.152)	.158	(.147)	.126	(.152)
O-Levels	.468**	(.151)	.526**	(.146)	.465**	(.151)
A-Levels	.288	(.179)	.406*	(.174)	.280	(.179)
Subdegree	.381*	(.168)	.446**	(.164)	.363*	(.169)
Degree	-.313	(.179)	-.320	(.179)	-.347	(.183)
Income	.032**	(.004)	.035**	(.004)	.032**	(.004)
Class II ^d	-.159	(.151)			-.129	(.154)
Class IIIa	-.313	(.182)			-.259	(.190)
Class IIIb	-.600**	(.216)			-.499*	(.240)
Class IVac	.655*	(.265)			.760**	(.287)
Class IVb	.248	(.232)			.395	(.278)
Class V	-1.046**	(.231)			-.879**	(.289)
Class VI	-1.126**	(.222)			-.944**	(.291)
Class VII	-1.013**	(.182)			-.838**	(.257)
Status			.877**	(.150)	.243	(.252)
Constant	-2.651**	(.289)	-3.092**	(.246)	-2.709**	(.296)

Note: The first and third columns of the table are the same as Model 1 and Model 2 of Table 6 respectively.

^a 1997 as reference category

^b Male as reference category

^c No qualification as reference category

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$ (two-tailed tests).

S2.2 Others Versus Labor

	β	SE	β	SE	β	SE
2001 ^a	.259**	(.095)	.254**	(.094)	.258**	(.095)
Age	.009**	(.003)	.009**	(.003)	.009**	(.003)
Female ^b	.016	(.098)	.020	(.090)	.008	(.099)
CSE ^c	.281	(.151)	.276	(.147)	.281	(.151)
O-Levels	.490**	(.157)	.505**	(.154)	.489**	(.157)
A-Levels	.797**	(.175)	.823**	(.171)	.794**	(.175)
Subdegree	1.154**	(.166)	1.128**	(.162)	1.146**	(.167)
Degree	.977**	(.169)	.920**	(.168)	.961**	(.172)
Income	.006	(.004)	.007	(.004)	.006	(.004)
Class II ^d	-.036	(.152)			-.023	(.155)
Class IIIa	.108	(.183)			.132	(.192)
Class IIIb	-.001	(.211)			.045	(.236)
Class IVac	.235	(.310)			.283	(.329)
Class IVb	.079	(.260)			.147	(.305)
Class V	-.043	(.206)			.034	(.272)
Class VI	-.466*	(.215)			-.382	(.289)
Class VII	-.222	(.178)			-.141	(.257)
Status			.316*	(.150)	.111	(.256)
Constant	-1.828**	(.281)	-1.888**	(.234)	-1.857**	(.289)

Note: The first and third columns of the table are the same as Model 1 and Model 2 of Table 6 respectively.

^a 1997 as reference category

^b Male as reference category

^c No qualification as reference category

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$ (two-tailed tests).

S3. Supplementary Tables for Table 7

S3.1 Left–Right Scale

	β	SE	β	SE	β	SE
Age	.005	(.005)	.009	(.005)	.005	(.005)
Female ^a	.701**	(.158)	.369*	(.158)	.605**	(.166)
10–23k ^b	.266	(.214)	.292	(.214)	.257	(.214)
23–44k	.965**	(.233)	1.146**	(.230)	.958**	(.233)
> 44k	2.189**	(.277)	2.426**	(.273)	2.153**	(.277)
CSE ^c	.484	(.276)	.510	(.277)	.472	(.276)
O-Levels	1.073**	(.260)	1.105**	(.259)	1.039**	(.261)
A-Levels	1.155**	(.292)	1.184**	(.292)	1.090**	(.294)
Subdegree	1.157**	(.287)	1.242**	(.283)	1.089**	(.289)
Degree	.282	(.313)	.401	(.315)	.153	(.321)
Class II ^d	-.977**	(.276)			-.873**	(.282)
Class III	-1.427**	(.343)			-1.233**	(.359)
Class IV	-.334	(.382)			.021	(.429)
Class V	-2.019**	(.350)			-1.553**	(.434)
Class VI	-1.942**	(.345)			-1.551**	(.406)
Class VII	-2.231**	(.360)			-1.732**	(.453)
Status			1.432**	(.266)	.684	(.377)
Constant	11.819**	(.526)	10.401**	(.430)	11.711**	(.529)
N		2,421		2,421		2,421
R ²		.12		.11		.13

Note: The third column of the table is the same as column 1 of Table 7.

^a Male as reference category

^b Income < 10k as reference category

^c No qualification as reference category

^d Class I as reference category

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$ (two-tailed tests).

S3.2 Libertarian–Authoritarian Scale

	β	SE	β	SE	β	SE
Age	.029**	(.005)	.030**	(.005)	.030**	(.005)
Female ^a	-.057	(.161)	.094	(.159)	.136	(.169)
10–23k ^b	.284	(.218)	.323	(.216)	.297	(.217)
23–44k	.203	(.237)	.240	(.232)	.209	(.237)
> 44k	-.179	(.282)	-.078	(.276)	-.111	(.282)
CSE ^c	.166	(.282)	.215	(.280)	.193	(.281)
O-Levels	-.329	(.263)	-.214	(.261)	-.261	(.263)
A-Levels	-.856**	(.297)	-.670*	(.295)	-.726*	(.299)
Subdegree	-.955**	(.291)	-.748**	(.284)	-.822**	(.292)
Degree	-3.483**	(.318)	-3.163**	(.317)	-3.223**	(.325)
Class II ^d	.229	(.283)			.020	(.288)
Class III	.390	(.351)			-.004	(.367)
Class IV	.582	(.390)			-.138	(.438)
Class V	1.027**	(.357)			.082	(.443)
Class VI	.452	(.354)			-.340	(.416)
Class VII	.881*	(.367)			-.130	(.462)
Status			-1.281**	(.268)	-1.381**	(.385)
Constant	21.135**	(.535)	21.221**	(.432)	21.363**	(.537)
N		2441		2441		2441
R ²		.17		.17		.17

Note: The third column of the table is the same as column 2 of Table 7.

^a Male as reference category

^b Income < 10k as reference category

^c No qualification as reference category

^d Class I as reference category

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$ (two-tailed tests).