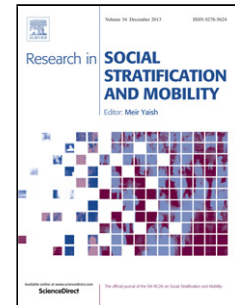


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Authors: Moris Triventi, Loris Vergolini, Nadir Zanini



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Do Individuals with High Social Background graduate from more rewarding Fields of Study? Changing Patterns before and after the ‘Bologna Process’

Moris Triventi, Ph.D.
 Assistant Professor
 Department of Sociology and Social Research
 University of Trento
 Via Verdi 26 - 38122 Trento, Italy
 Email: moris.triventi@unitn.it (corresponding author)

Loris Vergolini, Ph.D.
 Research Fellow
 FBK-IRVAPP
 Via Santa Croce 77, 38122 Trento – Italy.
 Email: vergolini@fbk.eu

Nadir Zanini, MSc
 Research Fellow
 Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation)
 Spring Place, Herald Avenue - Coventry CV5 6UB – United Kingdom
 Email: nadir.zanini@ofqual.gov.uk

Highlights

- Changes in the relationship between social background and graduation from degree programs with higher occupational returns in Italy are investigated
- An increased association between social background and graduation from more rewarding fields of study is found
- The growth of horizontal inequalities is mainly due to socially stratified graduation patterns from the social sciences and medicine
- A more pronounced increase in class-based inequalities occurred after the implementation of the ‘Bologna process’

Abstract

In this article we investigate whether, in Italy, social background is related to graduation from more rewarding fields of study and if horizontal inequalities in higher education changed before and after the ‘Bologna process’. We analyse fields of study (FoS) as a categorical variable, as well as a quantitative variable measuring the expected returns in terms of probability of entering the upper classes (net of unemployment risks). We use five cross-sectional waves of the Italian

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