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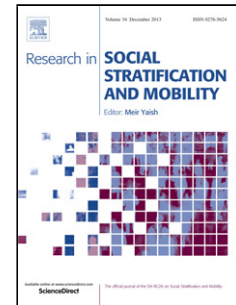
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## Fields of Study: Horizontal or Vertical Differentiation within Higher Education Sectors?

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### Highlights

- Fields of study are not a mechanism of social reproduction in Scotland
- Social class patterns in fields of study enrolment vary by institutional sectors
- Working-class students choose lucrative fields within institutions of lower status
- Fields of study are found to magnify gender inequality
- A weakening gender effect on occupational prestige, but not earnings, is uncovered

### ABSTRACT

This paper assesses the extent to which fields of study and postsecondary institutional sectors serve as mechanisms to preserve social stratification in Scottish higher education. We develop a hierarchy of fields of study based on their social-class and income returns, avoiding problems of circularity that occur when fields of study are ranked by their selectivity. We combine data from representative surveys from six cohorts of Scottish school leavers with data from labor force

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