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# Professional status and Cultural Consumption: European Countries Classification

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# Background

Lifestyle as a hallmark of social position  
(Bourdieu 1984);

The link varies across countries;  
Lack of cross-national research;

Need to reveal:

- Differences in cultural consumption patterns;
- Differences in relation between social position and the patterns;

# Status Stratification

## **Neo-Marxism**

(Wright 1997; Burawoy, Wright 2001; Wright 2005)

Conflict over production and distribution;

Employers and employees are opposed to each other;

# Status Stratification

## Neo-Weberian

(Goldthorpe 2000; Breen 2005)



Education gives better life chances;

Distinction between intellectual and manual work;

# Status Stratification

## **Postmodernism/ Postclass**

(Pakulski, Waters 1996; Bauman 2005; Castells 2011)

Professional distinctions are not applicable for  
postindustrial societies;

New classes are atomic;

Any employment status is a success;

Employed vs Unemployed;

# Cultural consumption

Refers to any kind of non-material cultural products consumption;

Usually measured through cultural preferences and/or cultural practices;

I focus on cultural practices;

Distinction of legitimate, popular and undifferentiated practices;

# Cultural Consumption Patterns (1)

## **Homological consumption**

(Bourdieu 1984; Warde et al. 2007; Atkinson 2011)

Classes have certain sets of cultural practices;

The division of highbrow and lowbrow culture;

Unlikely to be found for cultural practices;

# Cultural Consumption Patterns (2)

## **Mixed consumption**

(Peterson, Kern 1996; Katz-Gerro 2005; Chan, Goldthorpe 2007; Kraykaamp 2011)

Omnivore-univore thesis;

Voracious thesis;

However, do not consider possible differences in lower position consumption;



# Cultural Consumption Patterns (3)

## **Unified consumption**

(Giddens 1991; Beck 1992)

Social distinction is based on non-economic identities (e.g. education, ethnicity, cultural preferences etc);

Cultural practices are not structured;



No relation to professional status;

# Culture and Social Structure: Comparision

Only several works in comparative perspective  
(Katz-Gerro 2002; Hek, Kraaykamp 2013; Katz-  
Gerro 2011; Gerhards et al 2012);

Focus on legitimate practices;  
Impact of GDP and Gini;

No comparison of consumption patterns;

# Data & Method

Eurobarometer 79.2 (Spring, 2013);  
27 European countries;

Measures of cultural consumption:

How many times in the last 12 months have you:

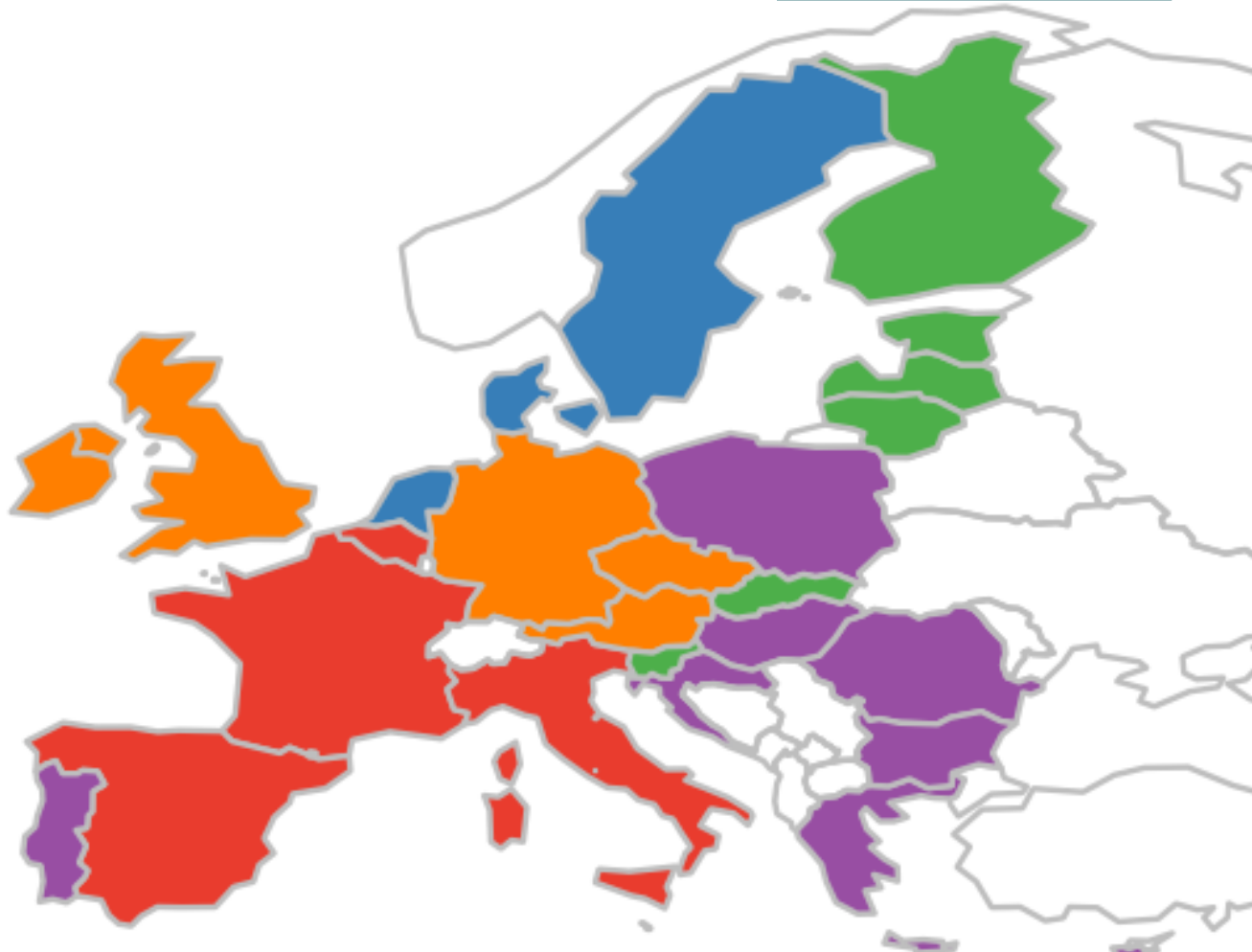
- seen opera or ballet;
- been to the cinema;
- the theatre;
- a concert;
- visited a museum or gallery;
- watched or listened to a cultural programme on TV or on the radio?

Recoded into 0-did not participate, 1-participated;

Method: MLCA

# Preliminary Results

- 5 individual classes and 5 country groups;
- **Classes:**
  - “popular practices” (all except for legitimate)
  - “omnivorous” (all practices)
  - “non-active” (no practices or TV)
  - “private” (reading and watching TV)
  - “cinema” (going to cinema only)
- **Groups:**
  - all classes
  - omnivorous vs private
  - omnivorous vs inactive
  - popular vs inactive
  - omnivorous vs cinema & private



- all classes
- omnivorous vs private
- omnivorous vs inactive
- popular vs inactive
- omnivorous vs cinema & private

# Conclusion

- Different patterns of cultural consumption;
- Patterns, previously not discussed (private and cinema);
- European regions differ by cultural patterns;
- Need to consider the differences in consumption while comparing social distinction;
- Further step: to establish the link between country factors, professional status and the patterns



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# Thank you for your attention!

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