

DNRF Chair – Gregory Clark - Report on Activities July 2023 - December 2023

Under the grant we hired four people for the project in 2023. They all started on 1 August 2023.

- Matthew Curtis, Assistant Professor (tenure track)
- Christian Vedel, Assistant Professor
- Martin Hørlyk Kristensen, PhD student
- Christian Nielsen, Research Assistant

We maintain for the research group a weekly workshop for presentation of research in progress and outside speakers of interest. We also had a joint meeting in Oslo with the Human Capital of the Nordic Countries group and are working in collaboration with them on a number of papers.

Clark and Kristensen have been working on a paper, as part of his PhD, “The Determinants of Social Status in Modern Scandinavia using extended lineage data.” This tests theories of intergenerational transmission of educational attainment using the correlation in register data between 141 different types of relatives in Denmark and Sweden in educational attainment and income.

Clark and Nielsen have completed a working paper, “The Return to Education: A Meta-Study” which surveys 44 studies that measure the income gains from an additional year of education. This survey finds clear evidence of publication bias in this literature, with signs that the income gains from education may be much lower than conventionally estimated. This paper is about to be submitted to the *Journal of Economic Surveys*.

Christian Vedel has just released a working paper (with Christian Moller Dahl and Torben Jorgensen) “Breaking the HISCO Barrier: Automatic Occupational Standardization with OccCANINE”. This paper introduces a new tool, OccCANINE, which finetunes a preexisting language model (CANINE) to automatically transform occupational descriptions into the HISCO classification system. The model is trained on 14 million pairs of occupational descriptions and HISCO codes in 13 different languages contributed by 22 different sources. The tool breaks the HISCO barrier and makes this data readily available for analysis of occupational structures with broad applicability in economics, economic history, and related disciplines.

Matthew Curtis has two papers in the revise and resubmit stage with journals, and one in initial submission that were worked on in part using the resources of the DNRF chair grant (all joint with Clark and Neil Cummins, LSE). The paper in initial submission is “Measuring Mobility: Intergenerational status mobility across time and place.” (joint with Gregory Clark and Neil Cummins). The papers under revision are “Three New Occupational Status Indices for England and Wales, 1800-1939” and “How did the European Marriage Pattern Persist?” (under revision at *Historical Methods* and *Economics and Human Biology*)

Since being hired as DNRF chair at SDU in March 2023, Clark also published “The Inheritance of Social Status: England 1600-2022” in PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences).