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**Technical report ISSP 1999**  
*Social Inequality*  
**Mette Tobiasen**  
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Technical report ISSP 1999

Social Inequality

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## **Technical report ISSP 1999**

### ***Social Inequality***

This report contains a general description of sampling procedure, fielding, matters related to coding of variables etc. for the Danish *Social Inequality 1999* ISSP-module. Coding matters (item 10) are only relevant for the ISSP set-up of the data-set.

Please direct questions or request for data to Mette Tobiasen, AAU, Department of Economics, Politics & Public administration. Email: [tobiasen@socsci.aau.dk](mailto:tobiasen@socsci.aau.dk). Tel. +45 9635 8211.



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### **1. Sample type, fieldwork etc:**

Sampling-procedure: A representative sample (simple random sample) was drawn from the *Central Population Register (CPR)* by *Statistics Denmark*, from which respondent's name and address were identified. Thus, the sampled unit was 'named individuals'. No stratification, clustering etc. was employed.

The fieldwork method was postal survey (self-completion). Two reminders were sent out to respondents who had not returned the questionnaire. If respondents did not respond to the reminders, telephone interviews were attempted.

The questions in the module were asked in the prescribed order. However, 22 country-specific items were added immediately after the *Social Inequality* module, and immediately before the background-section. Therefore there are

no reason to suspect that the country specific questions affected responses to the *Social Inequality* module.

No substitutions were permitted at any stage of the selection process or during the fieldwork.

A supplementary sample was drawn in March 2001.

The applied data-entry system was CAPI (no other verification of keying was employed)

Coding reliability was employed and data was checked for logic and consistency, that data fell within permitted ranges, and to ensure that filter instructions were followed correctly. Errors were corrected individually (cf. section 10 for information about coding of specific variables).

## **2. Sample size:**

Issued: 3163

Achieved: 1823

## **3. Language:**

Danish.

## **4. Danish study title:**

”Social ulighed i Danmark”

## 5. Fieldwork dates:

The fieldwork was conducted from 20 December 2000 to 20 May 2001. The long period is due to the fact that a supplementary sample was drawn in March 2001 (data was collected as described above in the period March-April 2001).

## 6. Known systematic properties:

There is a higher refusal and other non-response rates among the elderly. There is a higher non-response among immigrants due to language problems. Other than that there are no known biases, design effects etc.

## 7. Response rate:

The response rate is calculated to 59,0 percent.

Full productive interviews / (Issued names – (respondents who could not be traced + respondents away during survey period)):

$1823 / (3163 - (29 + 45)) \times 100 = 59,0$  percent.

Description	(N)
Issued names	3163
Selected respondents who could not be traced (moved, unknown at address etc)	29
Selected respondent away during survey period	45
Personal refusal by selected respondent	292
No answer, mail survey <sup>1)</sup>	974
Full productive interviews	1823



1) 936 of these respondents have not returned the questionnaire. The remaining 38 cases have been excluded from the data-set because it is very likely that a “wrong person” - i.e., a different person than the person who was drawn from the *Central Population Register* – has filled in the questionnaire (please consult section 7.A for details).

### **7.A : Matters concerning AGE and SEX**

The AGE and SEX variables included in the data-set are based on information from the *Central Population Register (CPR)* from which the sample was drawn. Thus, these variables are not based on the self-reported age and sex.

However, we also asked respondents about their year of birth and sex. The reason for this was that we then could check any discrepancies between the self-reported information about sex and age, and the corresponding information from the CPR. Thereby it was possible to detect those cases where a (presumably) different person (a ‘wrong person’), than the one drawn from the sample has filled in the questionnaire.

When crossing the respondents’ self-reported information on age and sex with the age and sex-variable from the CPR we found some discrepancies – for example a person who ought to be 68 years old according the CPR, had reported that he was 21 years old. In total 55 respondents had discrepancies either on both age and sex, or one of these. Therefore the survey institute manually checked all questionnaires with discrepancies. The result of this was the following.

- keying in error: 17 respondents. Of these 17 errors 13 errors were associated with one ‘keying-in-person’ who had typed in the whole year of birth (e.g., 1954) instead of the last two numbers, which was the correct procedure (i.e., 54). In these cases the information from the CPR is correct and applied in the final data set.

- a “wrong person” has answered the questionnaire, i.e., discrepancy between the self-reported information and the information from the CPR (38 respondents). These respondents are excluded from the data set.

In addition to this 10 respondents had not answered the questions about ‘year of birth’ or ‘sex’ - either both questions (4 respondents) or only the question about year of birth (6 respondents). In these cases the information from the CPR is applied.

## **8. Fieldwork Institute**

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## **10. Coding:**

This section includes information on coding matters in relation to specific variables.

### **General comment on filtering**

In general the survey institute have coded the data so that they follow the filters, regardless of whether respondents have ignored the filters and answered questions they shouldn't have answered according to their answer to a filter question (which some times was the case because the survey method was enquete). In other words: only respondents who have answered 'positive' on a specific filter question are included in the questions that relate to a specific filter. For example, only respondents who have answered that they are employed in WRKST are included as applicable in ISCO, WRKSUP, WRKGOVT etc. Respondents who have answered that they are not employed or who have answered don't know or no answer is coded as Inappropriate (INAP).

### **V26-V302**

The question formulations referred to how much the respondent thinks the different groups earn on a *yearly basis before tax*.

All responses that have obvious very 'odd' numbers/keying errors, e.g., 999996, 1111111 or 2000001 have been set as No Answer. In total 53 answers have been coded as No Answer according to this criterion. The research team made the estimation. Other than that all responses have been included regardless of how realistic they are.

### **V301**

The category “9999997. Never had a job, code 1,8,9 in V301dk” is derived from V301dk. In no instances have a respondent answered V301 if he/she have answered V301dk.

### **V301dk**

V301dk reports respondents who have checked the category “If you have never worked, please check here” placed after V301 in the questionnaire. In the data file the variable is placed after V301 and is coded as follows:

- 1 ‘Never worked’
- 8 ‘Don’t know’
- 9 ‘No answer’

### **V302**

The category “9999997. Never had a job, code 1 in v302dk” is derived from V302dk. In no instances have a respondent answered V302 if he/she have answered V302dk.

### **V302dk**

Variable V302dk reports respondents who have checked the category “If you have never worked, please check here” placed after V302 in the questionnaire. In the data file the variable is placed after V302 and is coded as follows:

- 1 ‘Never worked’
- 8 ‘Don’t know’
- 9 ‘No answer’

### **V318**

V318 'About how many books were there around your family's house when you were (14/15/16) years old'. Unfortunately, this question was not included in the Danish questionnaire.

### **V501 Did your father work for a private company, or what**

The ISSP categories have been derived from a question including more answer categories. The categories are coded as follows.

0. INAP Father did not work or did not have a father (code 00000 or 99996 in V142) (3,0 pct)
1. State, local etc. government employee (23,9)
  - Employee in public sector (state, county, municipality) (19,4)
  - Employee in publicly owned company (4,6 pct)
2. Employee of a private company or business (37,1 pct)
  - Employee in private company, including assisting spouse (37,1 pct)
3. Selfemployed, in partnership, conducting own business (28,2 pct)
  - Selfemployed, in partnership (28,2 pct)
4. Other, or NA in other question (2,0 pct)
8. Can't choose (0,8 pct)
9. No answer (5,0 pct)

The category 'Other' refers to, for example, people who have retired, students etc.

### **DEGREE, v317 and v417**

The variables DEGREE, v317 (father's education) and v417 (mother's education) were derived from the following questions in the Danish questionnaire: "school education" and "education in addition to school education" (respondent's, father's and mother's, respectively).

DEGREE, v317 and v417 has been calculated on the basis of the same criterias. Thus it has not been considered what 'status' a certain education may have had at other points in history.

There were a few difficulties in coding the categories according to the ISSP standards. The categories "incomplete secondary" and "incomplete university" refer to a higher education than primary and secondary education, but does not mean that the respondents are attending or have completed secondary or university education. For example, a respondent who has answered 'Gymnasium, general' and 'Middlerange advanced education (3 to 4 years)' is coded 'University incomplete'. The coding aim at following the principles outlined in the comments to V317 in the English master-version of the social-inequality questionnaire (UNESCO definition).

The category 'Don't know' refers to respondents who have answered 'don't know' in one of the Danish education variables. The category 'No answer' refers to respondents who didn't answer at least one of the Danish education variables.

### **DEGDK1, DEGDK2, FDEGDK1, FDEGDK2, MDEGDK1 and MDEGDK1**

Because of the minor difficulties by matching the Danish education variables to the ISSP standard categories, the original Danish education variables are included in the dataset.



DEGDK1 and DEGDK2 refer to respondent's "school education" and "education in addition to school education", respectively. FDEGDK1 and FDEGDK2 refer to "father's school education" and "education in addition to school education". MDEGDK1 and MDEGDK2 refer to "mother's school education" and "education in addition to school education".

### **EDUCYRS**

EDUCYRS represents respondents' own responses to a question about how many years of schooling they have. It is, thus, a subjective measurement, where respondents possibly have operationalized the question differently. For example, it is very unlikely that some people have no formal schooling in Denmark.

Respondents who have both stated years of education AND that they are still at school or still at college/university are only coded as years of education. Thus the categories "95. Still at school" and "96. Still at College or University", are underestimated and some of the respondents who have answered an actual year of schooling is over-estimated (they are still at school/College/University).

### **WRKGOVT**

The category "Does not work for government or publicly owned firm and not self-employed" was stated as follows in the Danish questionnaire: "Work for private owned firm, including assisting spouse".

### **HOMPOP**

The response-categories in the Danish questionnaire were:

- 1 '1 person'
- 2 '2 persons'

- 3 '3 persons'
- 4 '4 persons'
- 5 '5 persons'
- 6 '6 persons or more'
- 9 '9 No answer'

## **HHCYCLE**

HHCYCLE is derived from two variables: "Number of persons in household" and "number of persons in household less than 18 years". Therefore it is not possible to construct as precise a measure as HHCYCLE prescribes. Consequently:

1. The highest response-category possible to construct, is 'Six adults with children'. Furthermore two categories have been added in addition to the standard ISSP-categories:

- 29. 'Six adults or more'
- 30. 'Six adults or more with children'

2. There are some in-valid answers, which are coded into '97. None valid answer'. 26 respondents are coded into this category.

## **WRKST**

The ISSP categories have been derived from a question including more answer categories. The categories are coded as follows.

1. Employed full time, 63,7%
  - Employee, full time, 30 hours or more per week (56,6 pct)
  - Self-employed (7,1 pct)
2. Employed part time (4,4 pct)
  - Employee, part-time, 10-29 hours per week (4,4 pct)
3. Employed less than part time or temporarily out of work (2,5 pct)
  - Employee, less than 10 hours per week (0,3 pct)

- Temporarily out of job because of illness or the like (1,3 pct)
- Temporarily out of job because of leave from job (maternity leave, parental leave, education leave) (0,9 pct)
- 4. Helping family member (0,4 pct)
  - Assisting spouse (0,4 pct)
- 5. Unemployed (3,9 pct)
  - Unemployed (including on leave from unemployment) (3,9 pct)
- 6. Student, in school or vocational training (8,7 pct)
  - Trainee or apprentice (with wage) (1,6 pct)
  - Pupil (without wage) (0,2 pct)
  - Student (without wage) (6,9 pct)
- 7. Retired (10,0 pct)
  - Job release scheme (pensions benefit payable between early retirement and normal retirement pension, and the like) (3,0 pct)
  - Other retirement (old-age etc) (7,0 pct)
- 8. Housewife or home duties (0,8 pct)
  - Housewife/home duties (0,8 pct)
- 9. Permanently disabled (3,8 pct)
  - On disability pension (3,8 pct)
- 10. Others not in labour force (0,9 pct)
  - Other, outside labour force (0,9 pct)
- 98. Dont know (0,1 pct)
- 99. No answer (0,7 pct)

## **SPWRKST**

The ISSP categories have been derived from a question including more answer categories. The categories are coded as follows.

- 0. INAP (code 2 to 9 in MARTIAL and code 2,9 in COHAB) (27,7 pct)
- 1. Employed full time (49,0 pct)
  - Employee, full time, 30 hours or more per week (43,9 pct)
  - Self-employed (5,2 pct)
- 2. Employed part time (2,9 pct)

- Employee, part-time, 10-29 hours per week (2,9 pct)
- 3. Employed less than part time or temporarily out of work (1,9 pct)
  - Employee, less than 10 hours per week (0,3 pct)
  - Temporarily out of job because of illness or the like (0,7 pct)
  - Temporarily out of job because of leave from job (maternity leave, parental leave, education leave) (1,0 pct)
- 4. Helping family member (0,5 pct)
  - Assisting spouse (0,5 pct)
- 5. Unemployed (2,1 pct)
  - Unemployed (including on leave from unemployment) (2,1 pct)
- 6. Student, in school or vocational training (2,6 pct)
  - Trainee or apprentice (with wage) (0,4 pct)
  - Pupil (without wage) (0,1 pct)
  - Student (without wage) (2,2 pct)
- 7. Retired (6,8 pct)
  - Job release scheme (pensions benefit payable between early retirement and normal retirement pension, and the like) (2,8 pct)
  - Other retirement (old-age etc) (4,0 pct)
- 8. Housewife or home duties (1,2 pct)
  - Housewife/home duties (1,2 pct)
- 9. Permanently disabled (1,7 pct)
  - On disability pension (1,7 pct)
- 10. Others not in labour force (0,2 pct)
  - Other, outside labour force (0,2 pct)
- 99. No answer/Don't know (3,3 pct)

### **ISCO88 and SPISCO88**

Not all answers were described sufficiently adequate to be code according to the four-digital code. In these cases the three-digital code is applied.

ISCO88: The category '00. INAP Not currently in labour force, 5-99 in WRKST' has been added.

SPISCO88: The categories “0000.INAP, code 2 to 9 in MARTIAL and 2,9 in COHAB)” and “99996. Spouse not currently in labourforce, code 5-99 in SPWRKST” have been added.

### **RINCOME/INCOME**

The income-category ‘100.000-149.000’ should have been ‘100.000-149.999’. Comparing with similar surveys this does not seem to have biased responses significantly.

### **PARTY\_LR**

PARTY\_LR is derived from a variable about respondents’ vote at the last general election in March 1998. The parties are classified as follows:

- 1 ‘[Far left]: Leftwing Alliance (Ø), Socialist Peoples Party (F)
- 2 ‘[Left, center left]: Social Democratic Party (A)
- 3 ‘[Center, liberal]: Radical Liberals (B), Christian Peoples Party (Q), Centre Democratic Party (D)
- 4 ‘[Right, conservative]: Liberal Party (V), Conservative Peoples Party (C)
- 5 ‘[Far right]: The Danish Peoples’ Party (O), Progressive Party (Z)

### **DK\_PARTY**

DK\_PARTY is derived from a variable about respondents’ vote at the last general election in March 1998. The country specific parties are:

1. Social Democratic Party (A)
2. Radical Liberals (B)
3. Conservative Peoples Party (C)
4. Centre Democratic Party (D)
5. Socialist Peoples Party (F)
6. Danish Peoples Party (O)
7. Christian Peoples Party (Q)

8. Liberal Party (V)
9. Progressive Party (Z)
10. Leftwing Alliance (Ø)

## **RELIG**

- Members of the Danish national folkchurch (The Danish National Evangelical Lutheran Church) are coded as '49. Protestants not elsewhere classified'
- Members of a catholic religious community are coded as '10. Roman Catholic'
- Members of a Jewish religious community are coded as '20. Jewish'
- Members of a Moslem religious community are coded as '30. Moslem'

## **URBRUAL**

Unfortunately this question was not included in the Danish questionnaire.

## **DK\_REG1**

The variable DK\_REG1 contains the Danish county division. The counties are as follows:

- 1 '1. Copenhagen county '
- 2 '2. Frederiksborg county'
- 3 '3. Roskilde county'
- 4 '4. Westernzealand county'
- 5 '5. Storstrøms county'
- 6 '6. Bornholms county'
- 7 '7. Funen county'
- 8 '8. Southern Jutland county'
- 9 '9. Ribe county'
- 10 '10. Vejle county'
- 11 '11. Ringkøbing county'
- 12 '12. Århus county'
- 13 '13. Viborg county'

- 14 '14. Nothern Jutland county'
- 15 '15. Copenhagen municipality'
- 16 '16. Frederiksberg municipality'.

The variable is derived from a 'municipality code' delivered from the *Central Population Register*. Respondents have not answered a question about where they live, it is not a subjective measurement. Thus the variable assumes that the information from the *Central Population Register* is correct.

### **DK\_REG2**

The variable is derived from DK\_REG1 (see above). Studies have shown that is a satisfactory measure of urbanisation. It is coded as follows:

Greater Copenhagen area = Copenhagen county, Copenhagen municipality and Frederiksberg municipality

Zealand other Funen, Bornholm, Lolland etc. = Frederiksborg county, Roskilde county, Western zealand county, Storstrøms county, Bornholms county and Funen county.

Southern Jutland = Southern Jutland county.

Western Jutland = Ribe county and Ringkøbing county

Eastern Jutland = Vejle county and Århus county

Northern Jutland = Nothern Jutland county and Viborg county.

### **DK\_SIZE**

Unfortunately this variable is not included in the dataset.

**DK\_ETHN**

The category "other country" is, for example, Bosnian, Iran, Iraq, Korean, Sri Lanka and Thailand etc.

**MODE**

A "mode"-variable has been included to indicate whether the interview was completed as self-completion or by telephone. The categories are coded as:

1. Self-completion by mail
2. Telephone-interview

**General**

The INAP categories are coded in accordance with ISSP standard setup as of May 1996.