

Class Schemes

Sociology

How the main schemes cut the population, and what each is built to explain.

Different schemes answer different questions.

Scheme	Basis	Built to explain
Marxian	Ownership of production	Exploitation, conflict
Weberian	Market and work situation	Life chances
Goldthorpe / EGP	Employment relations	Mobility, contracts
Occupational scales	Job prestige or pay	Ranking, gradients
Bourdieu-derived	Economic plus cultural	Taste, closure

No scheme is neutral. Classifying by occupation also decides how unpaid, informal and retired lives are counted.