

**Parental aspirations for their children's educational and occupational prospects in Greece: the role of social class and gender**

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This paper examines the way social class and gender affect parental aspirations in relation to their children's educational and occupational prospects in contemporary Greek society. Drawing on evidence from a quantitative investigation among nearly 700 parents of primary school pupils attending to 5th and 6th grades during the academic year 2005-06 in Greece, it demonstrates that interesting patterns in parental aspirations can be observed. These patterns can be partly explained by differences in parental social and cultural capital circulating in the home environment and by the diverse ways with which parents perceive gender roles which influence their willingness to invest economic and non-monetary resources to materialize these aspirations in the future. In the analysis, proxy indicators of social and cultural capital are used in order to evaluate the extent to which they are associated with parental educational and occupational aspirations. The discussion of the results evolves around the argument that families often employ different strategies as a result of their social and cultural characteristics which shape distinct *habitués* of either success or compromise. This paper contributes to the examination of the often hidden mechanisms that produce social class and gender differentiation in education that sustain overall social inequalities in contemporary Greek society.