



Class and Cultural Division in the UK

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ABSTRACT

Using data drawn from the Cultural Capital and Social Exclusion study, we examine the relationship between social class membership and cultural participation and taste in the areas of music, reading, television and film, visual arts, leisure, and eating out. Using Geometric Data Analysis, we examine the nature of the two most important axes which distinguish 'the space of lifestyles'. By superimposing socio-demographic variables on this cultural map, we show that the first, most important, axis is indeed strongly associated with class. We inductively assess which kind of class boundaries can most effectively differentiate individuals within this 'space of lifestyles'. The most effective model distinguishes a relatively small professional class (24%) from an intermediate class of lower managerial workers, supervisors, the self-employed, senior technicians and white collar workers (32%) and a relatively large working class which includes lower supervisors and technicians (44%).

KEY WORDS

class / cultural capital / geometric data analysis

Class and Culture in Contemporary sociology

Over the past decade there has been a striking revival of interest in class in British sociology (see Bottero, 2005; Devine et al., 2004; *Sociology*, 2005). Much of this work focuses on subjective aspects of class, including identities,

*This paper is dedicated to the memory of Henry Rouanet who died whilst it was in press.