

Cambridge University Press

0521433975 - Diverging Pathways: Social Structure and Career Deflections

Alan C. Kerckhoff

Table of Contents

[More information](#)*Contents*

List of tables and figures	<i>page</i> x
Foreword by James S. Coleman	xiii
Preface	xix
<b>1</b> <i>Institutional structure and achievement</i>	1
Life course analysis	2
The status attainment model	4
The societal context of status attainment	6
The “new structuralism”	9
Fragmentation and limitation	11
“Career” and “career line” as central life course concepts	13
Person–structure interaction	15
The nature of structural effects	17
Structural effects and diverging achievements	20
<b>2</b> <i>Tracing a British birth cohort</i>	22
The National Child Development Study	23
The sample and sample attrition	24
Stages in the life course	27
The analytic strategy	29
An outline of the volume	34
<b>3</b> <i>Elementary school: the opening wedge</i>	38
Distribution of students in the infant school structure	39
Placement processes in infant school	41
Effects of structural locations on infant school achievement	44
Structural locations in junior school	46
Bases for infant school teachers’ ratings	53
Effects of structural locations on junior school achievement	55
Sorting and processing in elementary school	58

Cambridge University Press

0521433975 - Diverging Pathways: Social Structure and Career Deflections

Alan C. Kerckhoff

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
4	<i>Secondary school: increased dispersion</i>	62
	The distribution of structural locations	63
	Explaining structural locations	65
	Explaining junior school teachers' ratings	76
	Structural effects on achievement in secondary school	81
	Summary	86
5	<i>Alternative pathways after secondary school</i>	90
	Postsecondary institutions and levels of qualifications	92
	Explaining postsecondary program entry	98
	Explaining secondary school teachers' ratings	103
	Structural effects on postsecondary academic achievement	106
	Conclusion	111
6	<i>Randomization and consolidation in the labor force</i>	114
	Entry level labor force structural locations	118
	Structural effects on labor force achievement	128
	Summary and interpretation	132
7	<i>Structural linkages, careers, and career lines</i>	136
	Two-stage structural linkages	139
	Multistage structural linkages	152
	Conclusion	163
8	<i>The cumulative effects of structure</i>	166
	Additive or interactive effects?	167
	Devising a common metric	167
	Measuring cumulative effects	169
	Cumulative effects during the educational career	173
	Effects of educational and labor force structures	175
	Structural effects on qualifications obtained by age twenty-three	179
	Structural effects on occupational prestige by age twenty-three	182
	A prospective analysis of structural effects	185
	Summarizing cumulative structural effects on achievements	187
9	<i>Structural differentiation: necessary evil or policy instrument?</i>	197
	The effects of organizational divisions in education	199
	Why do the effects occur?	201
	Why are there <i>cumulative</i> effects?	204
	The effects of labor force structure	206

Cambridge University Press

0521433975 - Diverging Pathways: Social Structure and Career Deflections

Alan C. Kerckhoff

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

---

<i>Contents</i>	ix
Sources of labor force structural effects	208
Educational policy and cumulative structural effects	210
The British–American difference	220
Institutional structures and individual careers	223
Appendix: description of variables	225
Notes	229
References	241
Subject index	249