Young adults born at the end of the 20th century find themselves in institutions of higher education at much higher rates than previous birth cohorts. This trend could give the impression of upward mobility. However, this impression would be deceiving because it is more a consequence of educational expansion than of improvements in social mobility, which is properly understood as the relationship between social origins and social outcomes. This study examines social mobility in Canada by investigating how, if at all, the linkage between parents’ education and their children’s education has changed over the past century. We use fifteen different cross-sectional surveys from the General Social Survey (GSS) to construct a longitudinal dataset covering birth cohorts across the 20th century. We conduct our analysis through a series of empirical models that include transition probability tables, odds ratios, and logistic regressions. We contribute to a gap in the Canadian literature since social mobility has been largely neglected by sociologists in recent years. We also compare our findings to the results from economists who have recently begun examining intergenerational income mobility. Consistent with earlier sociological research, our findings show that despite the tremendous increase in higher education graduates, intergenerational educational mobility has been largely stagnant in Canada over the past century.

Themes:

Check (highlight) the most applicable theme according to the abstract.

| Innovation and Technology | Health and Wellness | Culture and Society | Sustainability and Conservation |

Comments:

Your abstract was framed quite well in the beginning as it made a compelling case for a generalist audience (not to mention that for the most part, your audience understands this quite well being in a higher education institution). If you use the same tone in your introduction with your statement of the problem, methods, and discussion of results, you will be able to reach out to a wider audience. For instance, it would be important for you to define social mobility and educational mobility as these seem to be the main factors you are investigating in this study.