

Preliminary Results of the BIPE Project - Social Class

BIPE Project

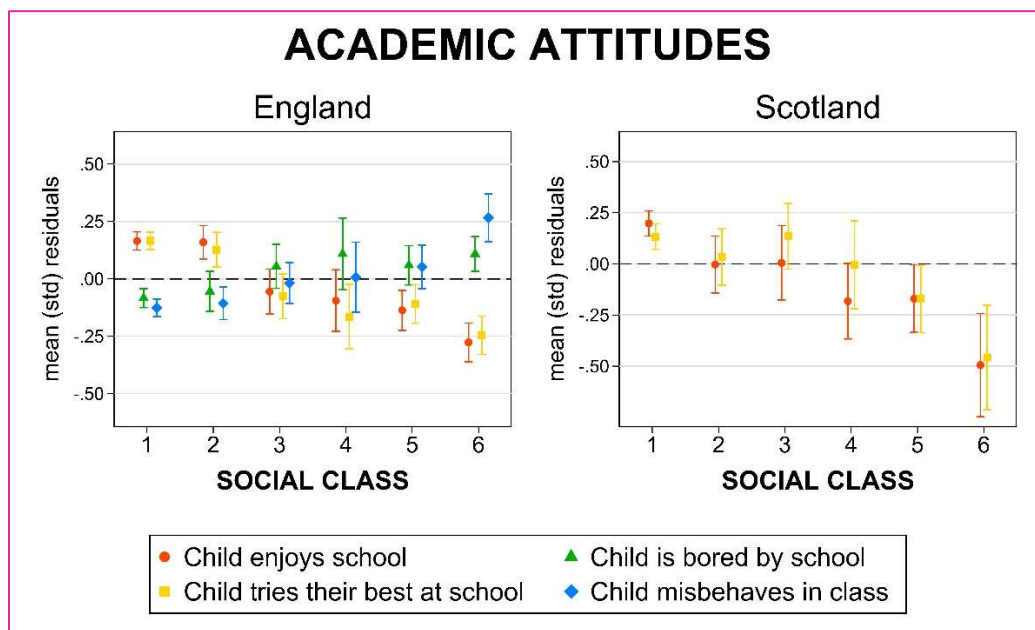
Social and ethnic biases in primary education

The preliminary results presented below investigate the *discrepancy* between students' self-reported academic attitudes and teachers' perceptions of them.

Do teachers in England accurately perceive their students' academic attitudes?

Here, an INACCURATE PERCEPTION is defined as the teacher *over-* or *under-*estimating a student self-reported academic attitude.¹

A systematic pattern of (in)accurate teacher perceptions is here shown as the average over- or under-estimation of the academic attitudes of children from different social classes.



Preliminary results suggest that, on average, teachers tend to ...

- over-estimate how often students from higher social classes enjoy school and try their best at school.
- under-estimate how often students from lower social classes enjoy school and try their best at school.
- over-estimate how often students from lower social classes are bored by school and misbehave in class.
- under-estimate how often students from higher social classes are bored by school and misbehave in class.

Social classes

Social class is captured by the highest parental National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) code. The six classes reported above are: 1) Managerial, administrative, and professional occupation; 2) Intermediate occupations, 3) Small employers and own account workers, 4) Lower supervisory and technical occupations, 5) Semi-routine & routine occupations, 6) Not in work.

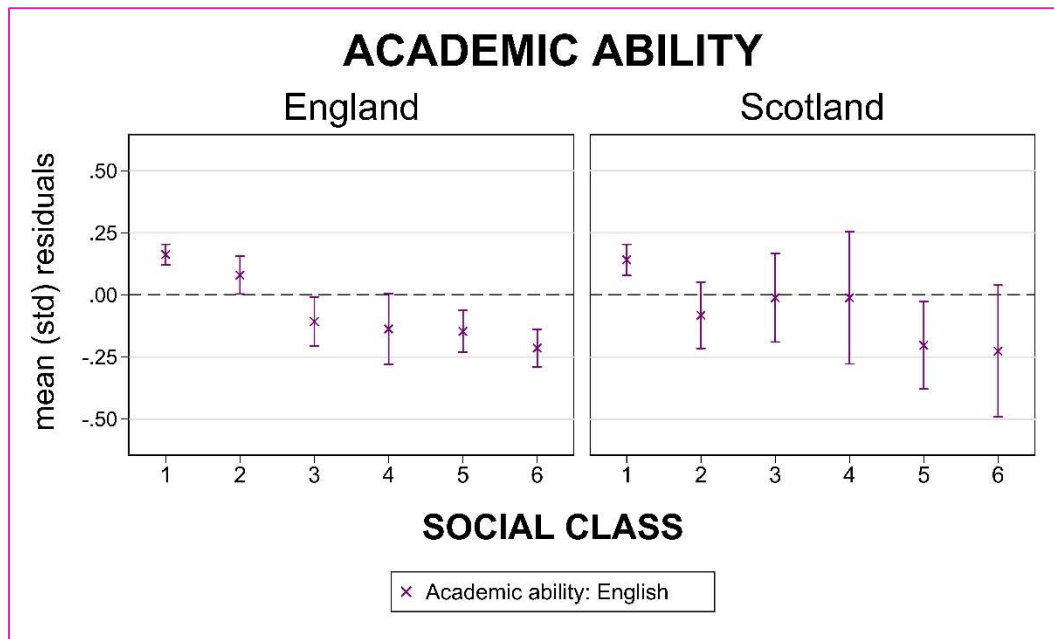
¹ To be precise, teachers' perceptions of a certain academic attitude are regressed over the students' self-reported measure of said attitude. Thus, an (in)accurate perception is captured by the residuals of the regression. Positive (negative) residuals signal that a teacher's perception is higher (lower) than expected, given the student self-reported attitude.

The preliminary results presented below investigate the *discrepancy* between students' language skills abilities² and teachers' rating of them³.

Do teachers in England accurately perceive their students' academic abilities?

Here, an INACCURATE PERCEPTION is defined as the teacher *over-* or *under-*estimating a student academic ability.⁴

A systematic pattern of (in)accurate teacher perceptions is here shown as the average over- or under-estimation of the academic ability of children from different social classes.



Preliminary results suggest that, on average, teachers tend to ...

- under-estimate the language skills of students from lower social classes.
- over-estimate the language skills of students from higher social classes.

² Students' language skills abilities are captured in England by the BAS II Verbal Similarities cognitive test which measures (acquired) verbal knowledge and verbal reasoning (Elliot, Smith, & McCulloch, 1996) and in Scotland by the WIAT II Listening Comprehension test which covers the three domains of receptive vocabulary, sentence comprehension, and expressive vocabulary (Wechsler, 2005).

³ Teachers' ratings of students' language skills abilities are captured by the question "*In so far as your professional experience will allow, please rate this child in relation to all children of this age (i.e., not just their present class or, even, school): English*" in England. In Scotland, teachers were asked to assess the Curriculum for Excellence level (Early, First, Second, Third) and the stage (Developing, Consolidating, Securing) at which the child was working in the following areas: listening and talking, reading, and writing; the two sources of information were combined by the authors to construct the final teacher rating.

⁴ To be precise, teachers' ratings of students' ability are regressed over students' standardised BAS II Verbal Similarities score, student age at the time of standardised testing, and two standardised students' prior ability measures, BAS II Naming Vocabulary and BAS II Picture Similarities (Elliot, Smith, & McCulloch, 1996). Thus, an (in)accurate rating is captured by the residuals of the regression. Positive (negative) residuals signal that a teacher's rating is higher (lower) than expected, given the student ability, age, and prior abilities.

Get in touch

If you would like to know more about the BIPE Project, please get in touch.

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DATA

The BIPE Project uses the *Millennium Cohort Study* and the *Growing Up in Scotland* study, two large-scale surveys that followed, respectively, 19,000 children born between 2000 and 2001 in the UK and 5,200 children born between 2004 and 2005 in Scotland.

The **PRELIMINARY** results presented here refer to around 6,000 children aged 11 years old residing in England in 2012, and 2,000 children aged 10 years old residing in Scotland in 2014/2015.

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