NEW CONCEPTUALISTRATIONS OF SOCIAL CLASS - DAVID MARSH
TRADITIONAL POSITIONS ON CLASS

i) Empirical studies mostly using Weberian-inspired (Goldthorpe and Lockwood) framework, but some Wright’s Marxist-inspired frames – Weberians Won

ii) Measures are based on employment location (SES)

iii) Ample evidence that this measure of class/SES relates to a great number of outcomes
DEATH OF CLASS

• Reflects the Cultural Turn
• Consequence/Aspect of Late Modernity
• Increased Complexity, Risk and Reflexivity
• Class is no longer a given and no longer shapes identity (Class is dead, Gender is dying) identity complex and fluid
• So, individuals no longer identify with class and class no longer shapes outcomes
THE BOURDIEUSIAN TURN

• A CLEAR DEVELOPMENT – CLASS IS MORE COMPLEX, NO LONGER ROOTED JUST IN OCCUPATION

• STARTING POINT IS BOURDIEU’S FORMS OF CAPITAL – ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

• CLASS AS A RELATIONAL SOCIAL SPACE AND NOT A CATEGORY
BOURDIEU AND A NEW CATEGORISATION OF CLASS

• Economic capital: Wealth, Property, Shares etc. BBC survey asked about occupation, earnings, assets and savings

• Social Capital social connection, ‘old boy’s network. Asked who you know and how many and whether engaged with any organised groups

• Cultural capital Interests. Asked about education, participation in cultural activities
THE GREAT BRITISH CLASS SURVEY (BBC)

• Bourdieusian Informed
• Academic Drivers from University of Manchester
• 2011/2, 140 questions. Completed on-line, 161,000 respondents
• http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/0/21970879
What is your annual household income after taxes?
Total income for you/spouse/significant other
- Under £10k
- £10-25k
- £25-50k
- £50-100k
- Over £100k

Do you own or rent a property?
Value of all property owned/mortgaged by you/spouse/significant other
- Own
- Rent
- Under £125k
- £125-250k
- £250-500k
- Over £500k

Do you have any savings?
Pensions, shares, ISAs etc
- None
- £0-10k
- £10-25k
- £25-50k
- £50-100k
- Over £100k

Coloured wedges represent your details, select icons to find out more.
7 CLASS CATEGORIES

- **Elite**: Most privileged group, set apart from other classes because of wealth. Highest scoring economically, socially and culturally.
- **Established middle class**: Largest class group and second wealthiest. Also score high culturally and socially.
- **Technical middle class**: Small distinct group that aren't so social but have money and are into emerging culture such as gaming, the internet and rock music.
- **New affluent workers**: A young group, socially and culturally active with middling levels of income.
- **Traditional working class**: Score low economically, socially and culturally but have reasonably high house values and oldest average age.
- **Emergent service workers**: New young urban group who don't have much money but are very social and cultural. They "live for today".
- **Precariat**: Poorest, most deprived class who score low economically, socially and culturally.
THE FUTURE

• **EMPIRICALLY** – Issues with using this as an independent Variable

• **THEORETICALLY** – Beyond a Structural Approach – Crucially debate evokes, but doesn’t address, 2 Meta-theoretical issues: structure/agency; and the relationship between the material and the ideational