Reviewer’s report

Title: Concordance of sibling's recall of measures of childhood socioeconomic position

Version: 1 Date: 25 August 2011

Reviewer: Erik Bihagen

Reviewer’s report:

The study aims to investigate the extent of recall errors for different measures of childhood socioeconomic position in surveys. The study is interesting, well-written and well worth doing, especially since previous studies are few. The conclusions are of interest for researchers who rely on these kinds of measures for their analyses.

Minor essential revisions:

1. I would like to see a short description why not all the twin pairs and sibling pairs are used in the analyses. As it is now only one additional sibling for each respondent in the main sample is chosen. It would have been possible to use all sibling pairs and have the pairs (the dyads) as the unit of the analyses. This would have led to a larger sample size but may lead to other problems.

2. I would like to see a short discussion on how the measure of concordance and kappa are affected by number of categories. The proportion of sibling pairs who gives the same replies tend to be larger the fewer categories to choose among. Does Kappa work in the same way?

3. In Table 2 I do not think the concordance of .80 is consistent with the Ns for father’s occupation (.76?)

4. The missing data could be discussed a little bit more. The occupationally based measures are also better than educationally based measures by resulting in less missing data. This appears to be in line with the results on concordance.

Discretionary revisions:

1. It would have been useful with some more information about how common some of the classification systems are in the literature, e.g. the nine categories of the occupational classification, although there is some of this in the discussion.

2. Is it really necessary to categorize the kappa-measure as “moderate agreement” etc? Is it not enough to state that higher kappa means higher agreement?

3. It seems to me as though you can search for more previous studies, where there is for instance work by Manzoni et. al. (2010 Sociological Methodology, but there are also earlier studies). Studies using life course data also indicate that some employment statuses are harder to recall than others.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests