



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET  
SOCIOLOGISKA INSTITUTIONEN

Examensarbete för Master

i sociologi med samhällsanalytisk inriktning, 30 hp

## **Högutbildad och anställningsbar?**

**- en studie av klassbakgrundens betydelse på den svenska arbetsmarknaden**

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## Abstract

Title: Highly educated and employable? – the significance of social class background on the Swedish employment market.

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Purpose: Master Thesis in Sociology, 30 University ECTS

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Purpose of the study carried out:

Since the 1950<sup>s</sup> new laws on higher education have led to a 'mass education phenomenon' in Sweden. This has led to a surplus of people with a university degree measured against available positions on the labor market. As a result of that development it must be assumed that in this over qualified society it is not anymore the degree but additional factors which are decisive for getting a job. In this respect the importance of the class background for getting a job that is equal to once level of education shall be examined.

Method and Material:

The research was carried out by means of a Quantitative Analysis based on data from a national database called *Undersökningar av Levnadsförhållanden* (Survey of Living Conditions). The accessed data is a longitudinal section study, comparable data from 1979 and 2002/03 was available. The method used for the analysis of the given data is a Quantitative Logistic Analysis. The relationship of primary significance examined involves social class background in connection with higher education and its effect on employment possibilities on the labor market.

The main findings of the thesis:

Individuals from a working class background already undergo a more restrictive selection while entering into higher education. Thus individuals in this group are probably more motivated having obtained a university degree and thus are equally (or even more) successful while applying for jobs. However, individuals with a higher class background have more benefits on the working market compared to others, irrespectively of time and their formal education.

Keywords:

Educational expansion, employability, social class background, rational action theory, social capital