



# Ethnicity and Intergenerational Social Mobility: Findings and Issues

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# Acknowledgements

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The permission of the Office for National Statistics to use the Longitudinal Study is gratefully acknowledged, as is the help provided by the Centre for Longitudinal Study Information & User Support (CeLSIUS), in particular Julian Buxton. The above, however, bear no responsibility for the interpretation of the data.

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# Outline of presentation

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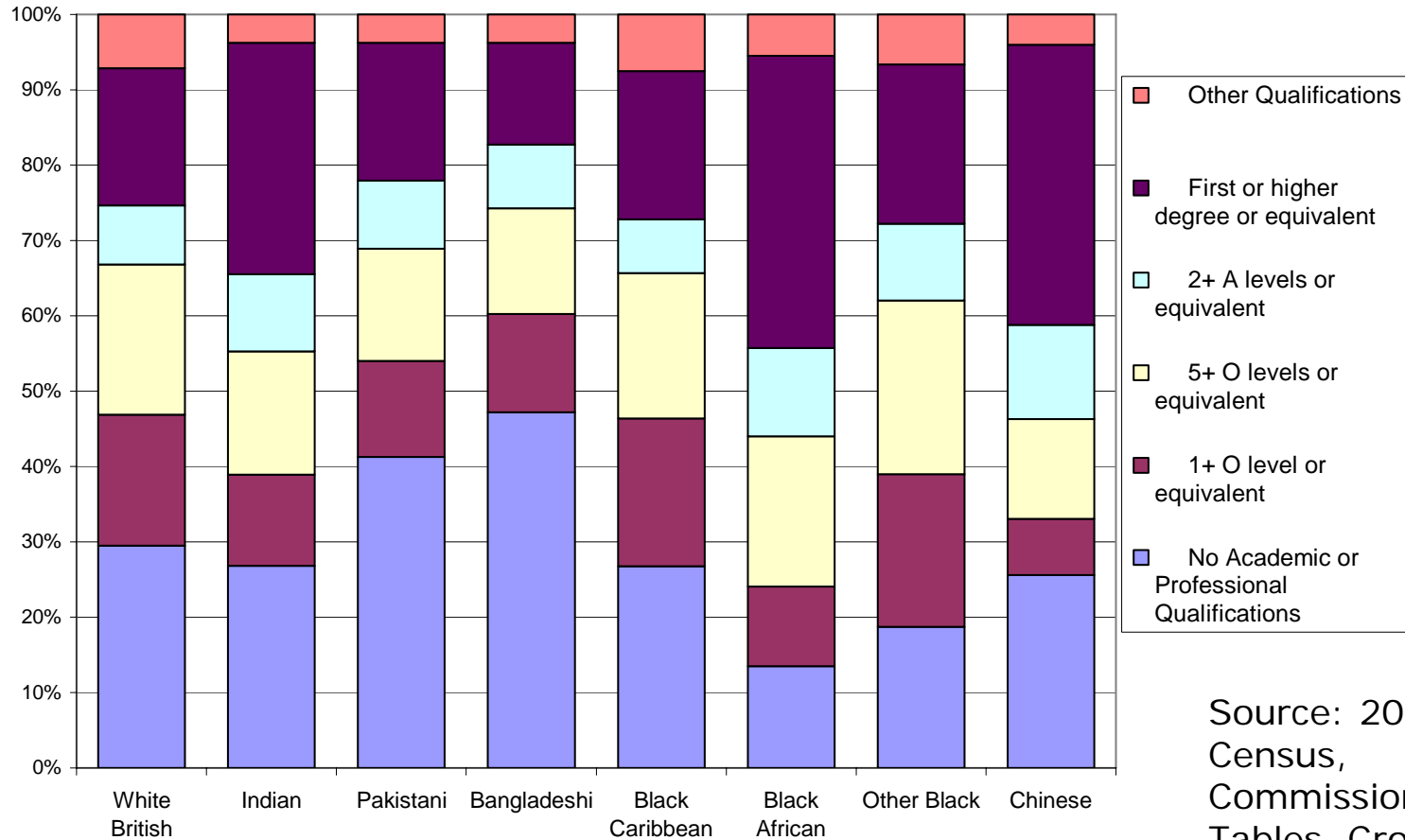
- Studying ethnicity and social mobility
  - the role of class background
  - the role of education
- The measurement of social mobility
- Data and approach
- Results
- Conclusions

# Unemployment Rates by Ethnic Group, men only

| Ethnic group    | Unemployment Rate (%) | 95% confidence intervals |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| White British   | 4.4                   | 4.3-4.5                  |
| Indian          | 5.3                   | 4.4-6.4                  |
| Pakistani       | 11.9                  | 10.1-14.0                |
| Bangladeshi     | 18.1                  | 14.6-22.1                |
| Black Caribbean | 13.7                  | 11.5-16.3                |
| Black African   | 13.5                  | 11.1-16.3                |
| Chinese         | 5.0                   | 3.4-7.1                  |

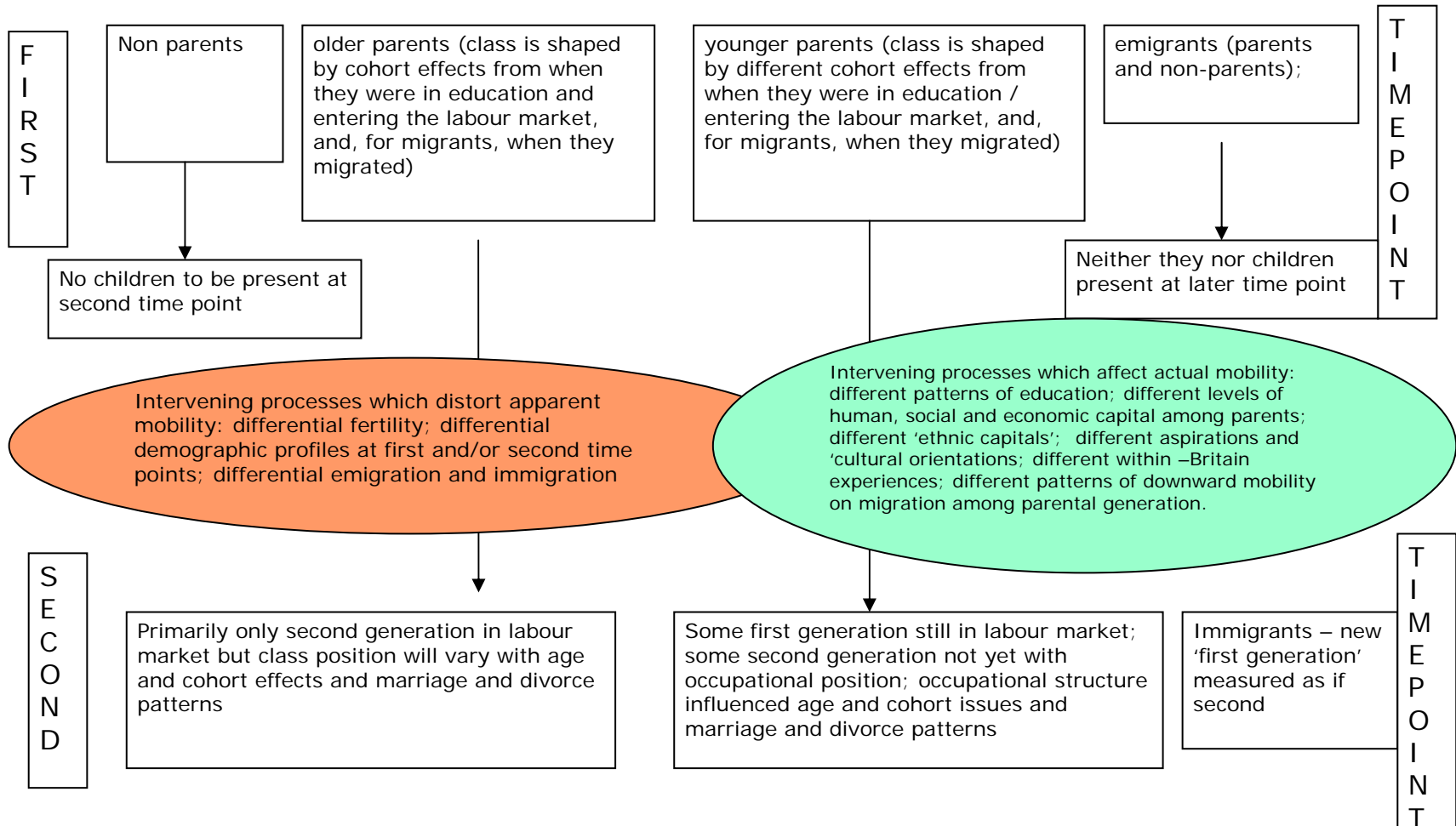
Source: LFS pooled quarters 2002-2005, weighted and adjusted by repeat observations on individuals

# Educational distributions by ethnic group

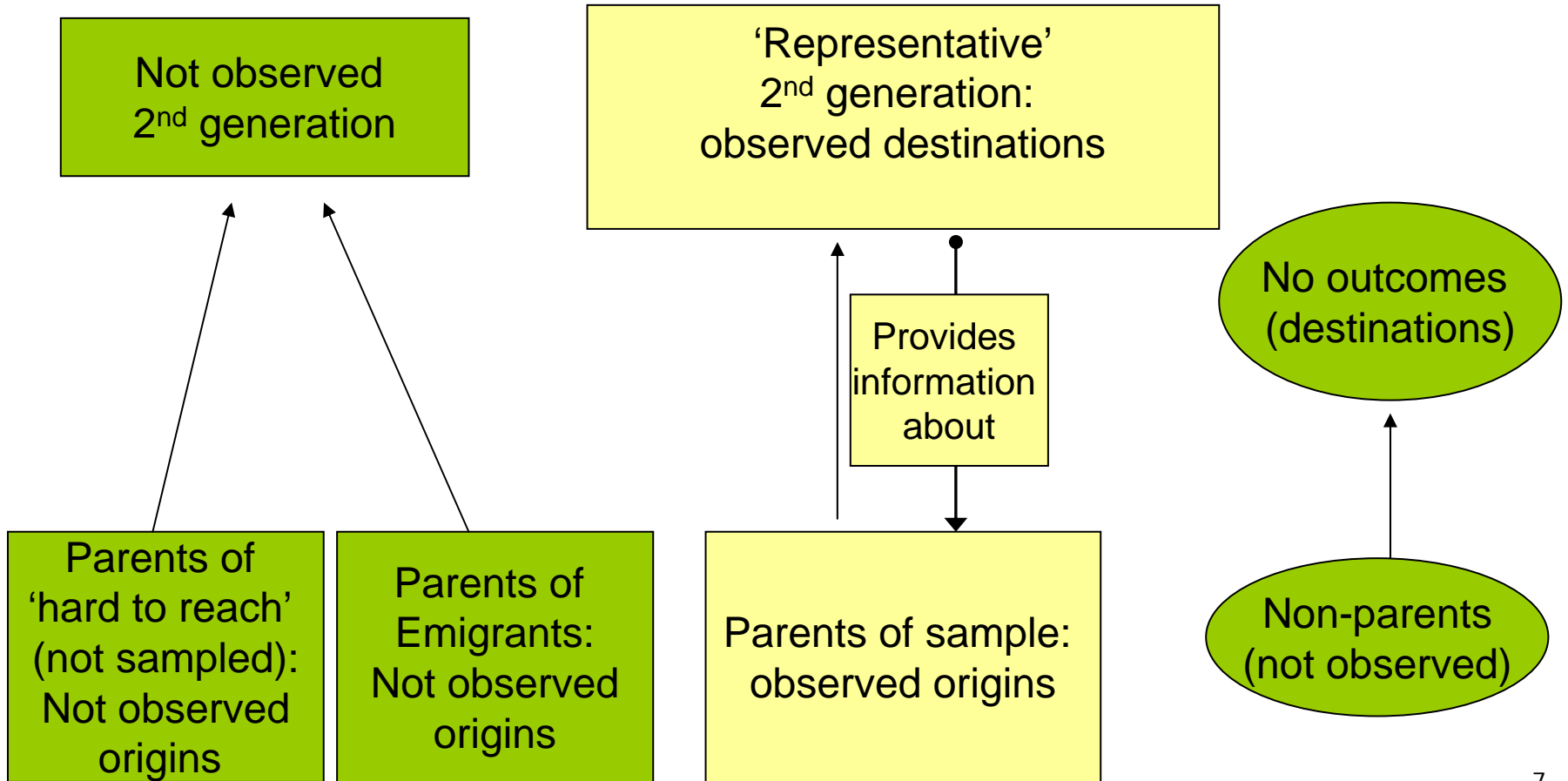


Source: 2001 Census, Commissioned Tables. Crown Copyright.

# Using retrospective (recall) data from cross-sections



# Selection in retrospective studies

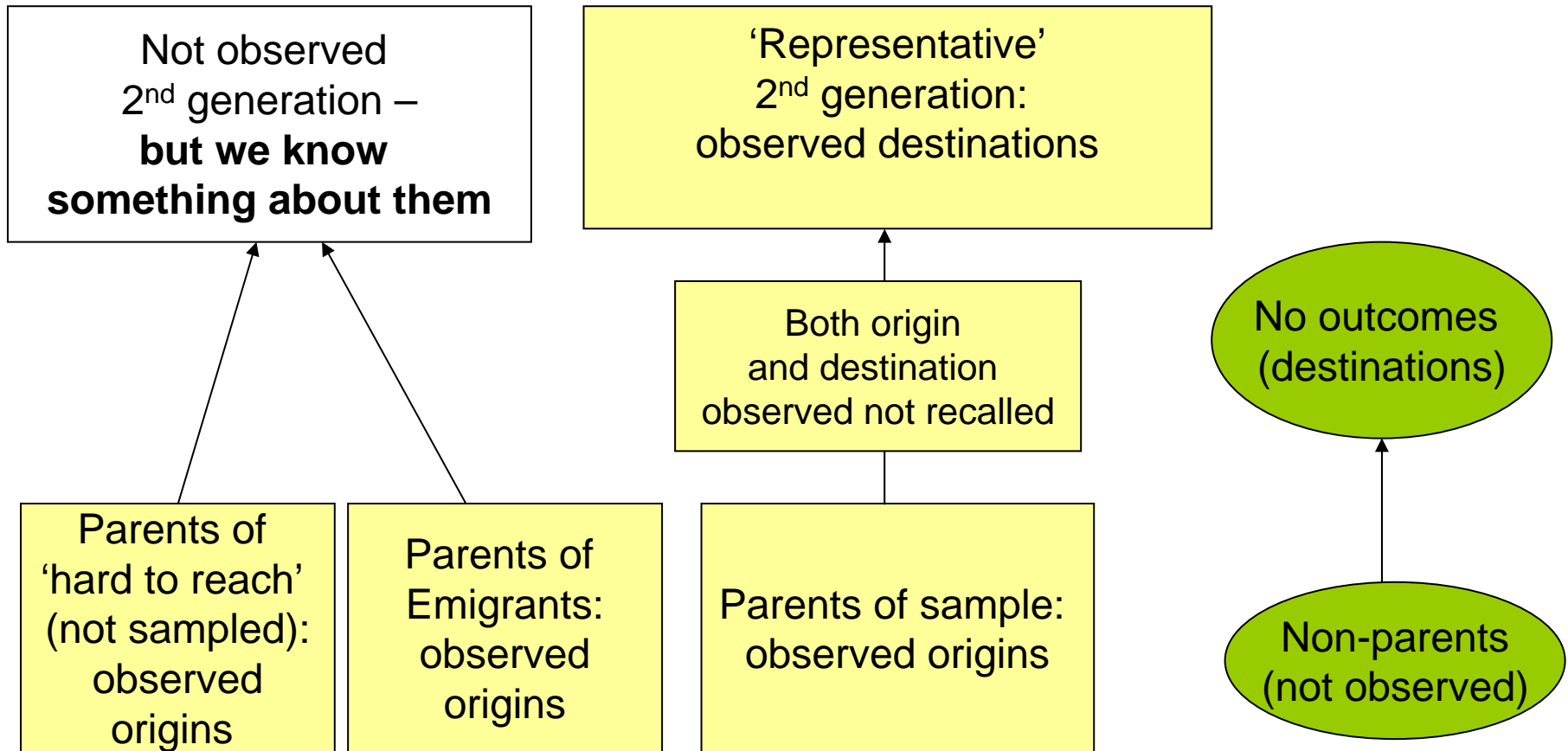


# The Longitudinal Study

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The ONS Longitudinal Study is a one per cent sample of the population of England and Wales that is followed over time. It was initially obtained by taking a sample of the 1971 Census, based on those born on one of four birth dates (day and month). Information from samples taken at each subsequent Census has been added to the study. Members are also added to the study by linking information on births and immigrations using the same selection criteria. No more information is linked where study members have records indicating that they have died or left England and Wales.

# Studying mobility with the LS



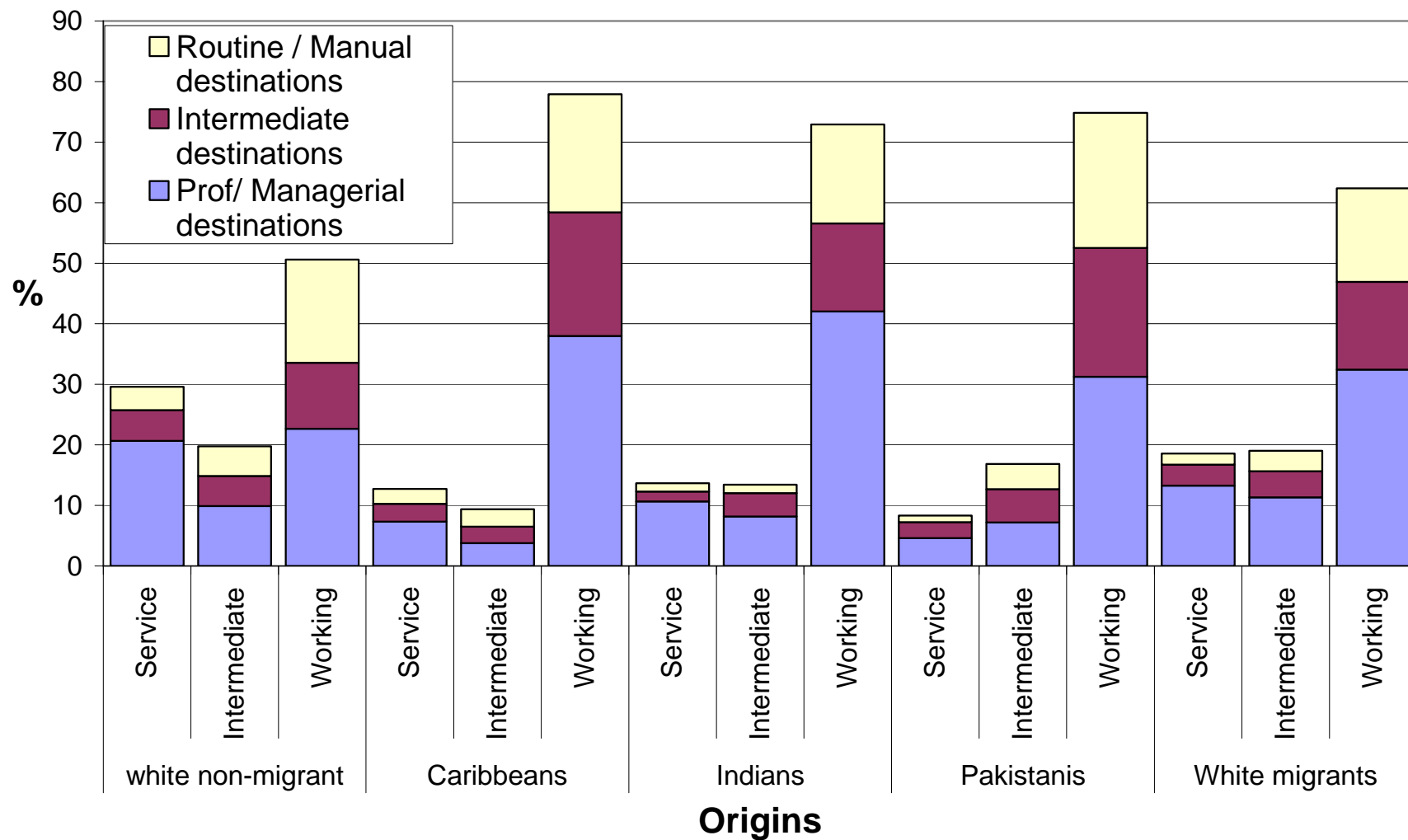
# Distribution of selected ethnic groups at 2001

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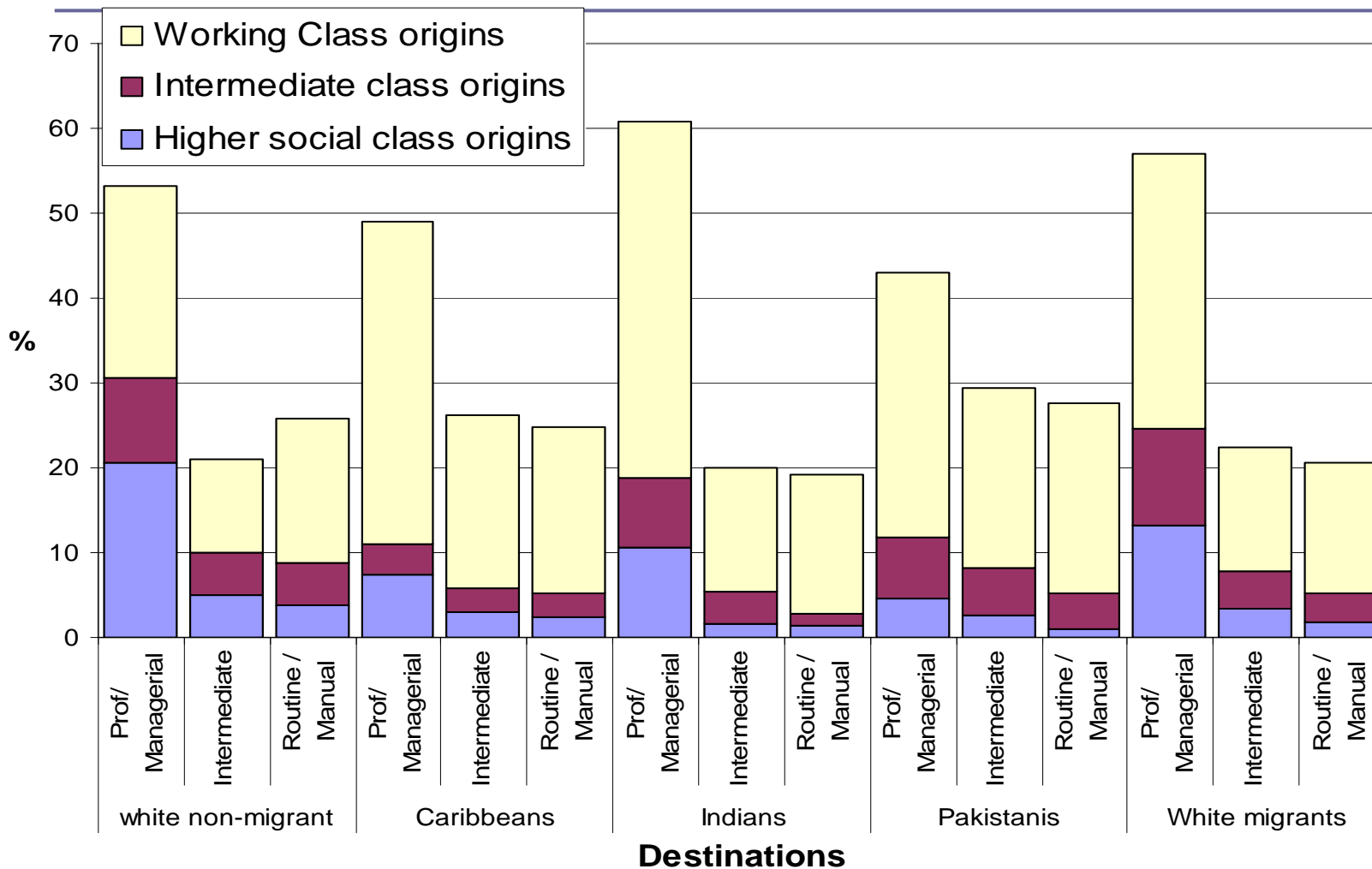
|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| White non-migrant | 125,014 (88.5%) |
| Caribbean         | 1,547 (1.1%)    |
| Indian            | 1,691 (1.2%)    |
| Pakistani         | 779 (0.6%)      |
| White migrant     | 3,675 (2.6%)    |

Source:  
ONS  
Longitudinal  
Study,  
author's  
analysis

# Origins by destinations



# Destinations by origins



Source:  
ONS  
Longitudinal  
Study,  
author's  
analysis

# Ethnicity and social mobility

|   | Model 1         | Model 2         |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Caribbean   | .306 (.076)***  | -.037 (.081)    |
| Black African   | .469 (.246)*    | -.001 (.268)    |
| Indian  | .460 (.068)***  | .105 (.069)     |
| Pakistani   | -.525 (.103)*** | -.792 (.111)*** |
| Bangladeshi   | -.274 (.245)    | -.465 (.237)*   |
| Chinese and other                                     | .491 (.106)***  | .078 (.109)     |
| White migrant   | .318 (.044)***  | .142 (.047)**   |
| <i>Sample member's qualifications<br/>(base is 0)</i> |                 |                 |
| Lower (level 1)                                       |                 | 1.013 (.027)*** |
| Middle (level 2)                                      |                 | 1.466 (.027)*** |
| Further (level 3+)                                    |                 | 2.765 (.028)*** |

Source:  
ONS  
Longitudinal  
Study,  
author's  
analysis

# The role of class

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|               | Model 1         | Model 2        |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Service class | .547 (.018)***  | .330 (.019)*** |
| Intermediate  | .056 (.017)***  | .012 (.018)    |
| Other         | -.204 (.035)*** | -.102 (.038)** |

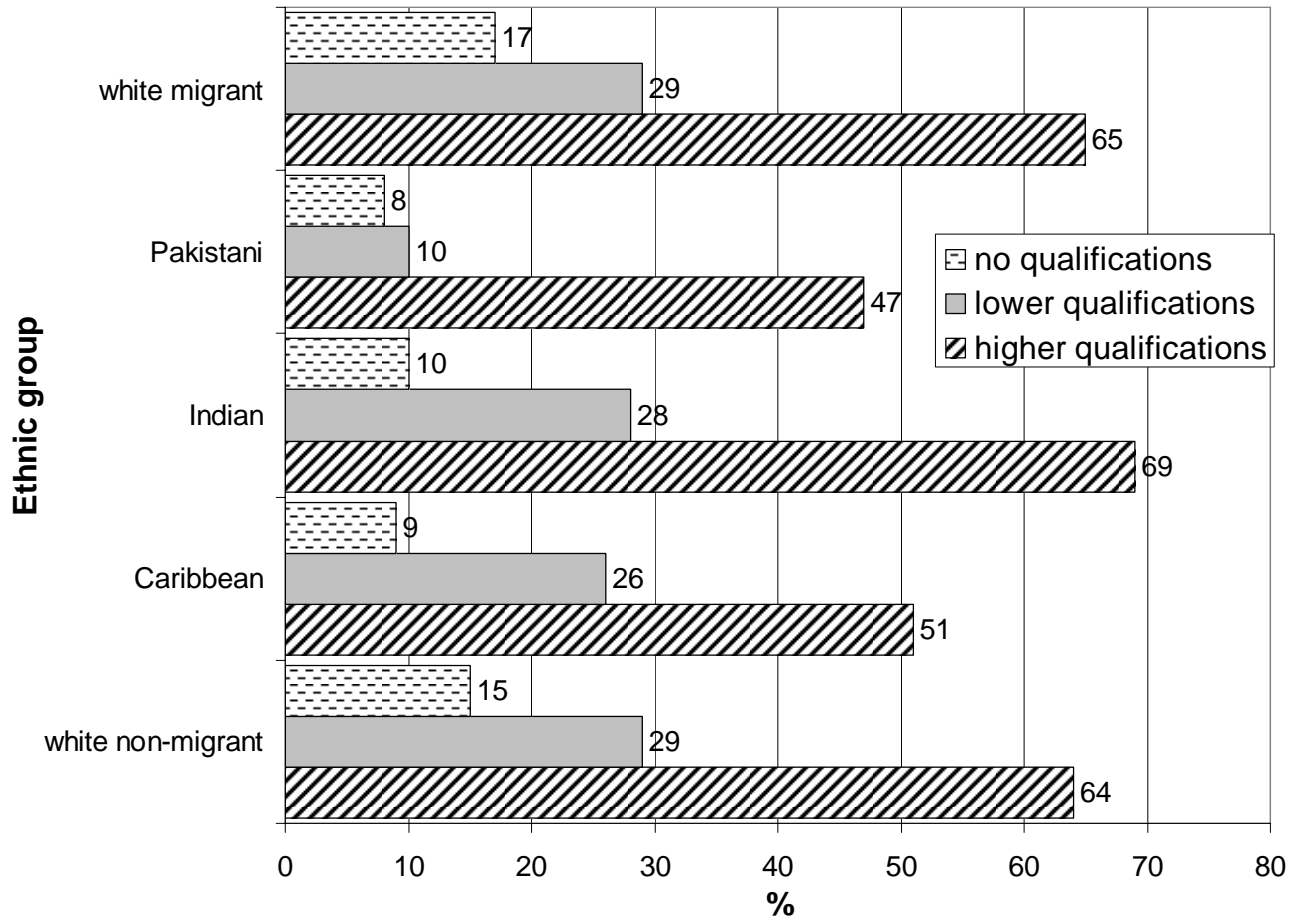
Source:  
ONS  
Longitudinal  
Study,  
author's  
analysis

# Ethnicity and class

| <i>Ethnic group – origin class (base is white non-migrant –working class)</i> | Model 1         | Model 2         |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| White NM - service  | .559 (.018)***  | .341 (.020)***  |
| Caribbean - service   | .258 (.188)     | -.120 (.199)    |
| Caribbean - working   | .410 (.088)***  | .128 (.095)     |
| Indian - service  | 1.00 (.189)***  | .486 (.175)**   |
| Indian working  | .451 (.080)***  | .113 (.081)     |
| Pakistani service   | .151 (.403)     | -.511 (.369)    |
| Pakistani working   | -.461 (.124)*** | -.654 (.135)*** |
| White migrant service   | .674 (.106)***  | .205 (.114)     |
| White migrant working   | .361(.056)***   | .166(.059)**    |

Source:  
ONS  
Longitudinal  
Study,  
author's  
analysis

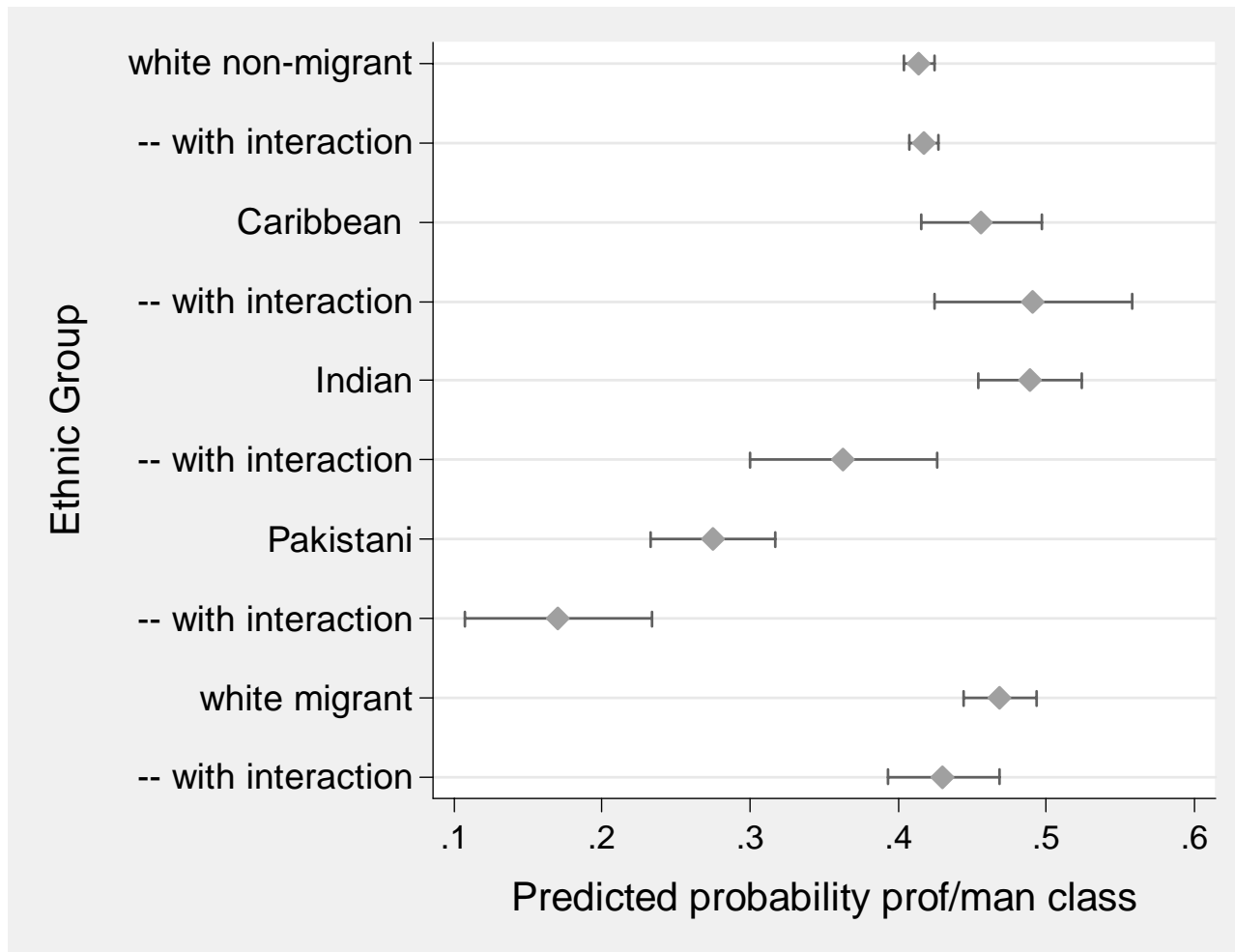
# Education, ethnicity and social class outcomes



Source:  
ONS  
Longitudinal  
Study,  
author's  
analysis

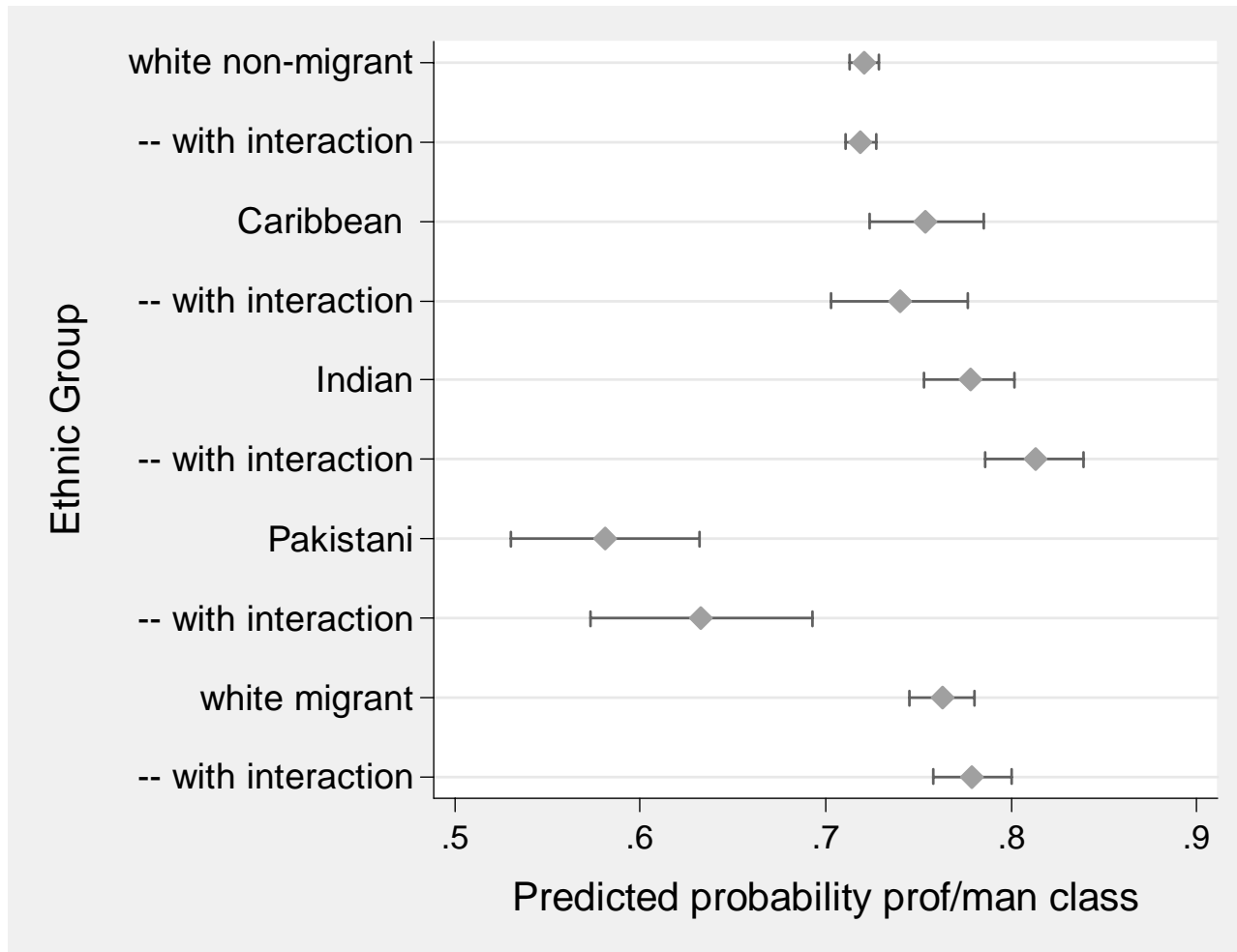


# Interacting education and ethnicity (1)



Source:  
ONS  
Longitudinal  
Study,  
author's  
analysis

# Interacting education and ethnicity (2)



Source:  
ONS  
Longitudinal  
Study,  
author's  
analysis

# Estimations for separate groups

| <i>Qualifications</i><br>(base=none)         | White non-migrant  | Caribbean          | Indian             | Pakistani          | White migrant      |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Lower  | 1.009<br>(.263)*** | 1.796<br>(.428)*** | 1.904<br>(.369)*** | .536 (464)         | .805<br>(.170)***  |
| Middle                                       | 1.451<br>(.267)*** | 2.102<br>(.430)*** | 2.348<br>(.371)*** | 1.465<br>(.433)*** | 1.680<br>(.171)*** |
| Further                                      | 2.752<br>(.028)*** | 3.137<br>(.430)*** | 4.124<br>(.371)*** | 2.971<br>(.409)*** | 2.777<br>(.175)*** |
| <i>Origin class:</i><br><i>base: working</i> |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Service class                                | .336<br>(.020)***  | -.322 (.241)       | .190 (.269)        | .085 (.484)        | .111 (.140)        |
| Intermed.                                    | .015 (.019)        | -.373 (.267)       | -.212 (.215)       | -.246 (.312)       | .169 (.125)        |



# Discussion

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- ❑ Different value of education for different groups in terms of social class outcomes (variations in ethnic penalties)
  - ❑ Education necessary but not sufficient for minorities' upward mobility
- ❑ Different value of levels of education across groups (ethnic penalty associated with no qualifications)
- ❑ Within group 'meritocracy' in a non-meritocratic context implies processes of exclusion / discrimination
- ❑ Role of 'ethnic capital'?



# Using the ONS Longitudinal Study

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## **Academic users:**

For help and advice on using the LS, contact the  
Centre for Longitudinal Study Information and User Support

**email: [celsius@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:celsius@lshtm.ac.uk)**

**website: [www.celsius.ac.uk](http://www.celsius.ac.uk)**

## **Non-academic users:**

Contact the LS unit at ONS

**email: [ls@ons.gov.uk](mailto:ls@ons.gov.uk)**



# www.celsius.lshtm.ac.uk

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Online data dictionary

Interactive training modules

Guide to using LS and applying for data

celsius@lshtm.ac.uk  
020 7299 4634

Interface between researchers and confidential LS database held at ONS

**Free** service for UK academic users