Class #13: Social Capital and Schooling
Discussion Questions for Class on October 7, 2013
Related Readings: Coleman, Bryk, et al.

Because writing assignments are meant to prepare you for class discussions, you must post a draft question on the Moodle Forum for this date if you want your submission to count. After posting a draft, you must revise and resubmit your final response for a grade by the following Sunday night. In the case of questions posted below, the final draft of your question is due by the end of the day on Sunday, October 13. Include your name, the full question number, and the text of the question on both your draft and final submissions.

Discussion Questions

13-1. How is social capital different from physical capital, cultural capital, and human capital? Why is social capital important for the creation of human capital?

13-2. Why are individual level, psychological variables often not useful for predicting school success among low-income children?

Traditionally we have thought about the causes of educational achievement and policy strategies for improving school performance in terms of individual or psychological variables like intelligence, effort, learning disabilities, classroom resources, and specific curricula or teaching strategies. Tell first why I call these individual or psychological variables. Then explain why these variables are not effective for predicting school success among low-income children. In answering, pay attention to all of our readings about schools.

13-3. Bryk says Catholic schools are more public than public schools. What does he mean and why does he say that?