A Comparison and Fusion of Latent Class and MAIHDA Approaches to Estimating Cross-sectional and Longitudinal Intersectional Education Inequalities

Chun Pong Lau

CMM Presentation, 21 Oct 2026

In England, which group is the least likely to obtain good GCSEs (5 Level 4+ grades at GCSEs) in 2025?

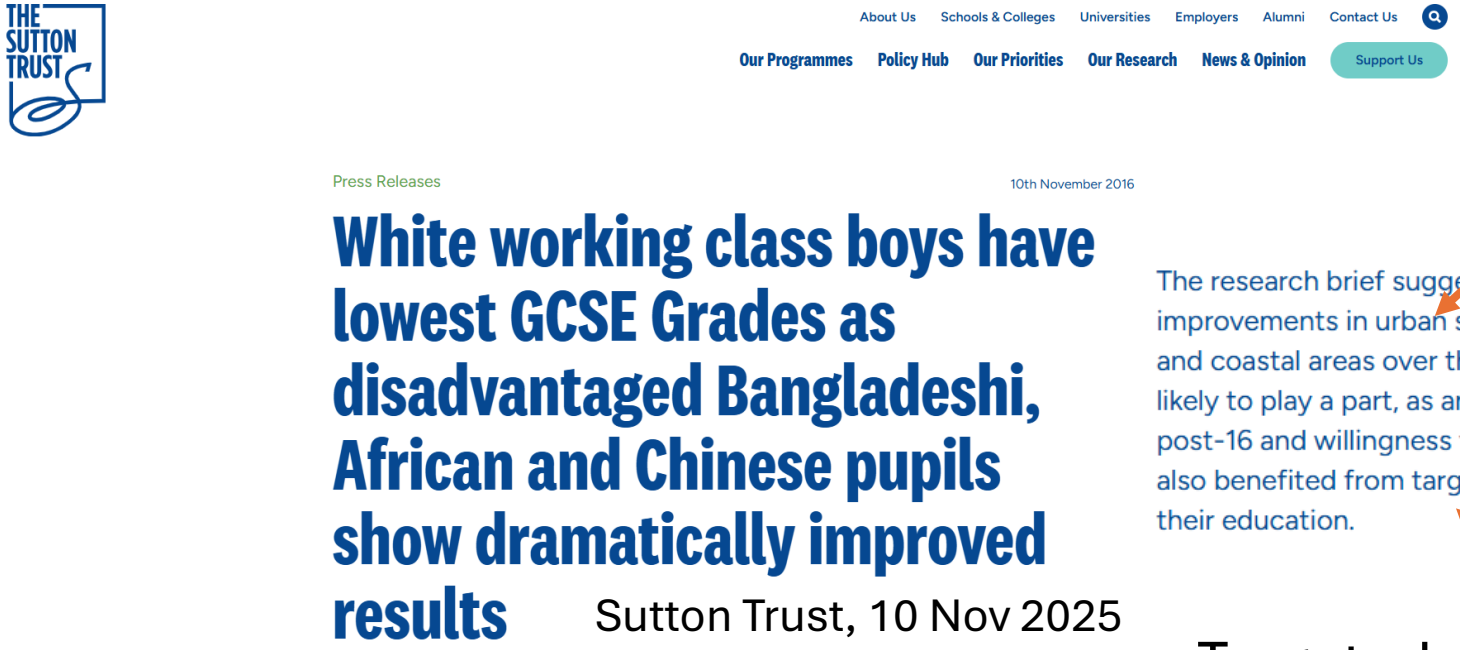
A. Black boys on Free School Meals
B. Chinese girls not on Free School Meals
C. White British boys on Free School Meals

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Why white, working-class children fail: The race divide in English schools

Chinese and Indian students are excelling, and now black Africans, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are doing better than poor, white pupils

The Daily Telegraph, 01 Sep 2025

Julie Henry

Published 01 September 2025
8:16am BST

1250

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'Crime, nothing to do, no opportunity': Why white working-class boys are falling behind in education

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White working-class children failed by education system, says inquiry

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White British children most likely ethnicity to take no GCSE exams for first time on record

The figures follow a year-long inquiry into the educational outcomes of white working-class children

ITV News, 13 Aug 2025



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MATT GOODWIN It's no wonder white working class kids are doing badly at school – politicians have all written them off

Labour's Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson has even recognised the scandal

Matt Goodwin
Published: 22:00, 21 Aug 2025 | **Updated:** 22:00, 21 Aug 2025



Nigel Farage
@Nigel_Farage

White working-class boys are currently the lowest-performing group in the country's education system thanks to the Equality Act.

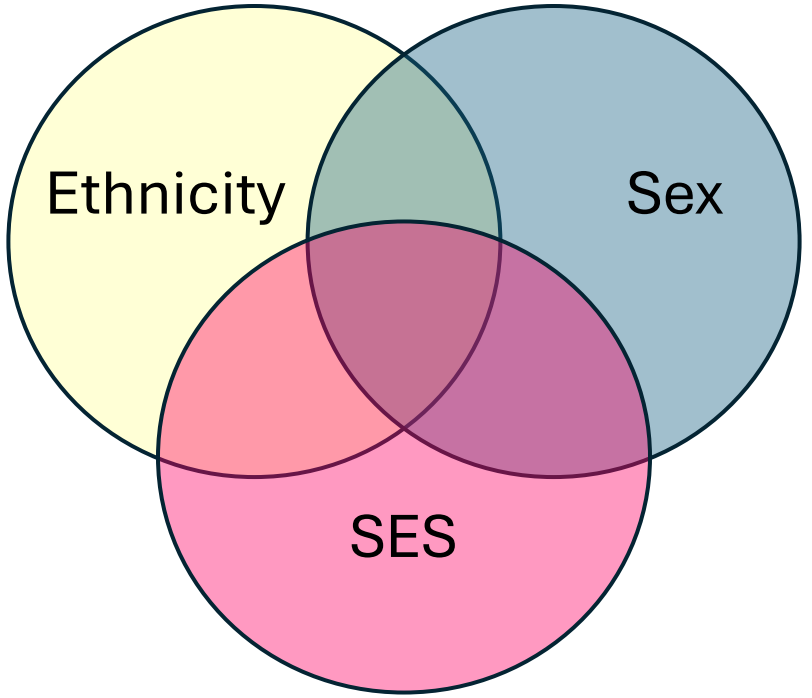
Reform will scrap it and return Britain to a meritocracy.



@Nigel_Farage, X, 24 Jun 2026

Intersectional inequality

Ethnicity	Sex	Socioeconomic Status
White	Boys	Free School Meals



Research Questions

During secondary schooling, what is the intersectional inequalities in:

1. student **attainment** and **progress** during secondary schooling
2. **trajectories** of student **educational aspirations**

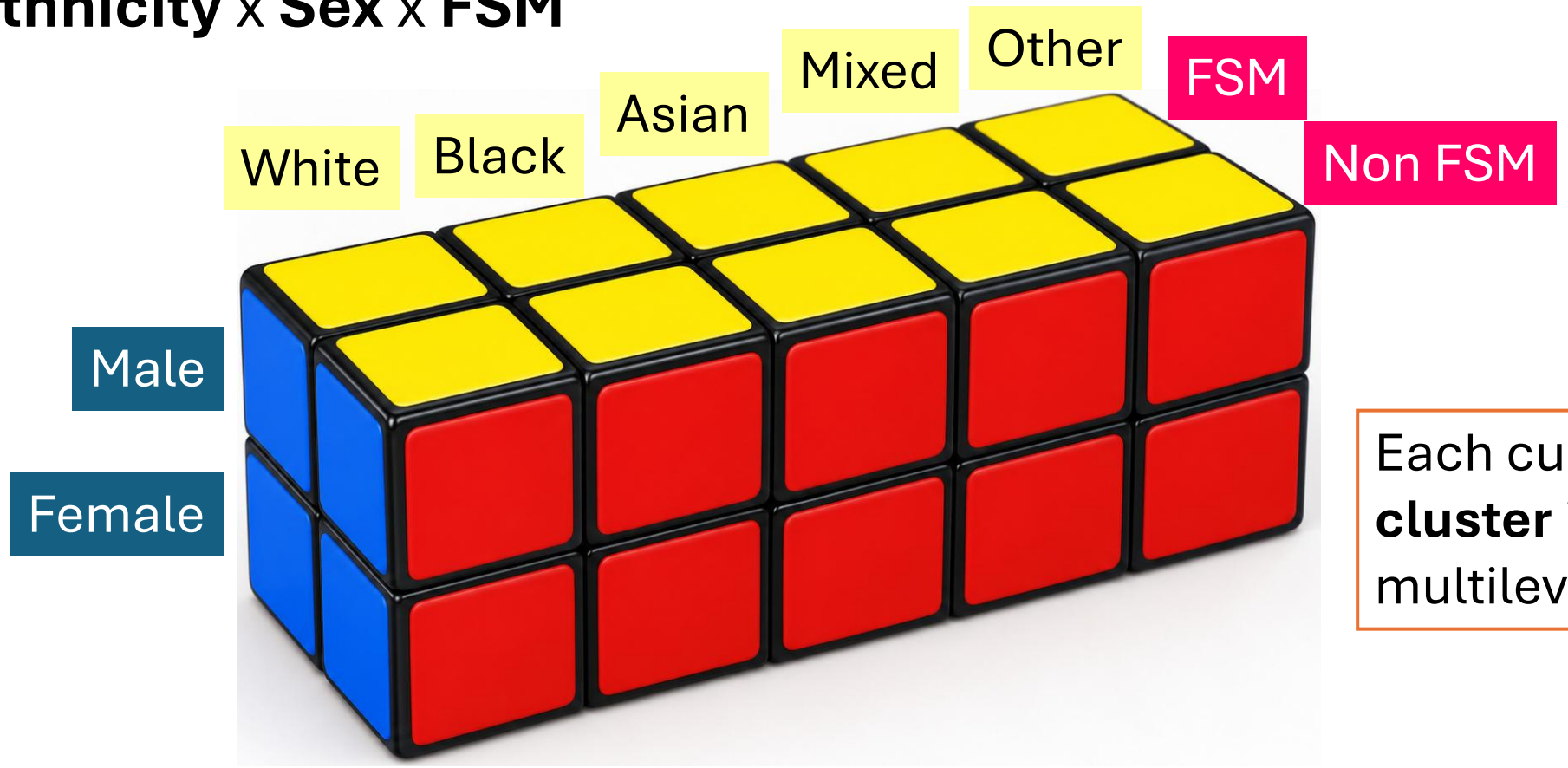
Later, we want to know **how** do **trajectories** of student **aspirations** account for **differences** in student **attainment** and **progress**

Method

- Focus: England
- Dataset: “Our Future” (LSYPE2)
  - Nationally representative survey
  - Longitudinal, 9 waves so far
  - Track children who were aged 13/14 in 2013 annually until GCSE, then every few years
- Comparing and fusing two methods: **Intersectional MAIHDA** and **latent class analysis**

Intersectional MAIHDA

- Group students into intersectional subgroups
- E.g. **Ethnicity** x **Sex** x **FSM**

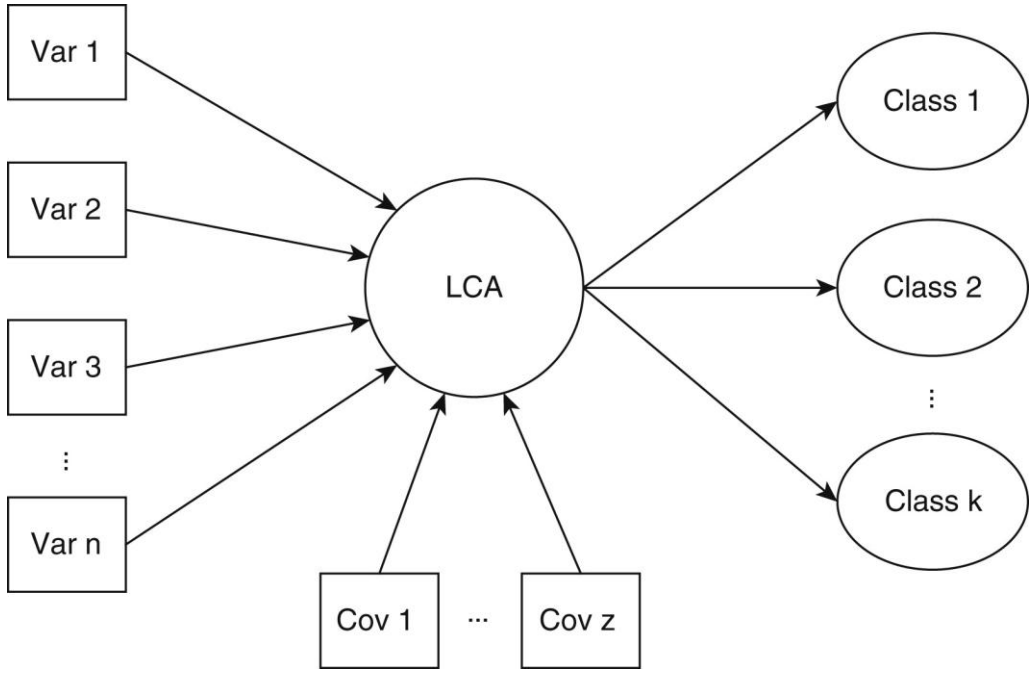


Each cube is a **cluster** in the multilevel model

Image generated using ChatGPT, labels added manually

Latent Class Analysis (LCA)

- "Person-oriented" method to cluster individuals
- Use observable traits to uncover hidden, "latent" categories



Taken from Naldi and Cazzaniga (2020)

- Growth Mixture Modelling – latent classes for trajectories

Potential Impact

- Target funds to schools and communities more prone to suffer from low aspirations and poor attitudes towards education
- Explore working with education charities and local non-profits to disseminate my substantive findings on the underachievement of working-class White boys