

## Understanding downward social mobility in developed economies

### Main points

1. The limits of looking at social mobility as “growing inequality”,
2. the experience of downward mobility not studied by social sciences, concentrated on the lack of upward mobility; since it is a new phenomena it needs to be studied just as was the case in the past (OECD social elevator stopped) not enough
3. going down the elevator is not the same as going up: i.e. we tend to change lifestyle and consumption patterns, when going up, forgetting or cancelling where we came from; this does not happen when going down: we cling to achieved status, deny reality, maintain appearance
4. we are interested not in individual downward mobility, that has always been there, but to social downward mobility, which is a generalized social movement due to substantial changes in the economy, in globalization, in the conditions that were at the source of upwards mobility: for example de-industrialization
5. we have experience of aristocrats coming down, but not middle classes: this is relatively recent because these have risen with industrialization, modernization; example of generalized downward mobility after the fall of the roman empire
6. what happens to the mentality of people downwardly mobile?
  - a. Denial of reality, contributes to explain fake news, changes in voting behaviour, nostalgia, left becomes right,
  - b. Consumption patterns
  - c. Ideologies that mask downward mobility as something different: environmentalism, vegan/vegetarian, new religions,
  - d. Deurbanization (new role for rural areas)