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**Prestige of criminal and conventional occupations:**

**The offenders' point of view**

Occupational prestige is a measure used in the sociology of profession as a determinant of social status. It can be organized in a hierarchy defined by income, authority, autonomy and qualifications. Using interviews with incarcerated offenders (n=138), this study assesses if this concept of prestige can be used in the context of unlawful occupations. Results suggest that, contrary to conventional occupations, criminal occupational domains are mostly homogeneous with regards to prestige. According to hierarchical linear models, we observed that some indicators which contribute to the explanation of lawful occupations' prestige, such as income and qualifications, contribute to unlawful occupational prestige as well, contrary to autonomy and authority. The criminal world possesses some particular features such as the difficulty to maintain stability and continuity. Such distinctions explain unlawful occupational prestige, but not the lawful one. The assignation of social status will finally be discussed considering the absence of standards restricting the entry in the criminal world.