

Nina Boberg-Fazlić
University of Copenhagen

**“Survival of the Richest?
Testing the Clark Hypothesis using English Pre-
industrial Data from Family Reconstitution
Records”**

Abstract

We use data collected by the Cambridge Group to investigate Greg Clark's hypothesis that middle class values spread through English society prior to the industrial revolution. This idea relies on two pieces of evidence. We confirm both the first, that the middle classes had higher fertility than lower classes, and the second, that society was fairly static, although only until the early 1700s. However, we find little evidence to suggest that the scale of the cultural transmission from the middle to lower classes was anything like enough to provide support to Clark's hypothesis.