

Professor Sarah Churchwell defines the American dream as upward mobility and enough economic success to lead a comfortable life. The concept calls to mind a white picket fence, the idea of “pulling yourself up by your own bootstraps”, and economic self-sufficiency (Churchwell, 2021). However, this is not promised to every American. Socioeconomic status can act as glue, binding a person to the class they are born into. SES determines a person’s social mobility—the ability to change one’s class or social standing. Belief in social mobility implies its possibility in the pursuit of capital. To acquire economic capital—the key to prosperity—a person must possess a certain amount of cultural and social capital. These two forms of capital affect a person's ability to become employed and thus gain economic capital. As it is understood today, Generative Artificial Intelligence could help reduce the amount of capital individuals seeking work require. The research project *Generative AI Can Help Level the Playing Field in Networking*” explored this possibility. We investigated whether education, the most significant determinant of socioeconomic status, affects a person’s ability to produce a high-quality cold-call-style email and thus land employment. Secondly, we examine the power of modern-day tools like AI in the age-old employment process. While this project concludes that AI can improve email quality for those of lower SES, this paper as a whole uncovers the hidden toll of AI’s ubiquity in today’s world and its impact on the US’s existing socioeconomic divide.