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Title: The Role of Social Class in An Individual’s Career Trajectory

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This pilot study explores the career narratives of individuals from diverse social class backgrounds as they describe how they ascended to elite organizational roles. A pool of applicants was recruited through snowballing sampling. 14 individuals in leadership and management positions were asked to participate in semi-structured interviews. The findings of this study illuminate the varied ways that high-achieving individuals from various social classes understand and retell their career stories and development. The findings also demonstrate the role that social class origins play in shaping the career narratives and development of these high achieving individuals. Much of the findings suggest that social class, cultural capital, and social capital do have an important influence in career development and narratives. This is still an ongoing pilot study, which means that there are still more emergent themes that may be deduced from the data collected.