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Location Department of Economics, University of Copenhagen, CSS building 26, room 26.1.21B (1st floor)

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Skills, Occupational Choice and Educational Attainment

ABSTRACT

I propose a model of educational choice in which the formation of wage expectations accounts for anticipated occupational choices as well as education levels. I integrate the two choices of education and occupation in one model instead of treating them separately, and empirically account for the role of sorting by multi-dimensional abilities, including cognitive and non-cognitive skills. This lets me investigate whether intergenerational persistence in occupations actually causes educational inequality. I contrast the parental influence to children's skills, in order to identify appropriate policies to remediate inequality. Occupations are characterized as bundles of tasks that are explicitly linked to abilities and personality traits. These traits are measured in data from the Project Talent survey that I augment with information from the Dictionary of Occupational Titles.