

David de la Croix (UCLouvain)

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Date

Le 11 October 2021 De 12:30 à 14:00

Location

Pôle Tertiaire - Site La Rotonde - 26 avenue Léon Blum - 63000 Clermont-Ferrand

Room 214. A Health Pass will be required.

Research seminar. Nepotism vs. Intergenerational

Transmission of Human Capital in Academia (1088–1800)

Nepotism vs. Intergenerational Transmission of Human Capital in Academia (1088–

1800)

ABSTRACT

We build a database of families of scholars, measure their publications, and develop a general method to disentangle two determinants of occupational persistence: nepotism vs. inherited human capital. This requires jointly addressing measurement error in human capital and selection from nepotism. Exploiting multi-generation correlations and parent-child distributional differences, we identify the structural parameters of a Markov process of intergenerational transmission with nepotism. The human capital elasticity is lower than in standard multi-generation estimates ignoring nepotism. Nepotism was lower in science vs. law, in Protestant institutions, and declined during the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment—testifying to the rise of meritocracy.

[Read the paper\(https://perso.uclouvain.be/david.delacroix/pdf/nepotism-vs-human-capital.pdf\)](https://perso.uclouvain.be/david.delacroix/pdf/nepotism-vs-human-capital.pdf)



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