

# David de la Croix (UCLouvain)

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Date

Le 11 octobre 2021 De 12:30 à 14:00

Lieu(x)

Salle 214. Le pass sanitaire est obligatoire.

Séminaire recherche. Nepotism vs. Intergenerational

Transmission of Human Capital in Academia (1088–1800)

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

## 1800)

### RÉSUMÉ

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.

[Lire le papier\(https://perso.uclouvain.be/david.delacroix/pdf/nepotism-vs-human-capital.pdf\)](https://perso.uclouvain.be/david.delacroix/pdf/nepotism-vs-human-capital.pdf)



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## Des questions ?

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