

Keynote:

This is a skills world

Speaker

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Abstract

In this keynote I will present the first results of the Intergenerational Transmission of Skills (ITS) project. In the ITS project we have developed a unique and unparalleled database, linking skills of parents to skills of their offspring. This database currently provides information on some 25,000 parents and 41,000 of their children. The unique feature of the dataset is that skills of parents and their children were measured at the same age (both around age 12) and with the same test (a national test measuring proficiency in language and math skills). This linked dataset is enriched with extensive information on the grandparents, the parents, and the children. The ITS-project helps us to understand the underlying drivers of inequality of educational opportunities (IEO). These may stem from three types of parental resources: parents' key skills (i.e., proficiency in important domains such as math and language), parents' soft skills (i.e., the skills needed to navigate successfully in education), and parents' financial resources. We demonstrate that parents' key skills are the most important mechanism driving IEO. The intergenerational transmission of key skills accounts for 50–60% of the effect of all measured resources available in the family. In the presentation I will link these results to the skills as measured in PIAAC and the relevance of schools in developing these skills.