SESSION 3: Inequalities and INCOMES

Assortative mating and earnings inequality in France

Nicolas Frémeaux, Arnaud Lefranc (THEMA – Université de Cergy-Pontoise)

An abundant sociological literature has provided evidence of a high correlation of educational and social attributes within couples, in developed countries. However, the extent to which assortative mating contributes to economic inequality between couples remains largely unknownThis paper analyzes economic assortative mating and its contribution to earnings inequality in France. The analysis is based on the French waves of the EU-SILC database (2004-2011). We first provide evidence of strong positive assortative mating by earnings. We find that earnings correlations among spouses range between 0.2 and 0.4. We also show that the degree of assortativeness varies significantly along the earnings distribution and is larger for high-earnings couples. Next, we examine the influence of labor supply decisions, along the extensive and intensive margins. We show that non-participation and part-time work tend to attenuate the extent of assortiveness: in other words, potential earnings are more strongly correlated than actual earnings. Lastly, we quantify the effect of observed assortativeness on earnings inequality. We show that the earnings distribution is up to 10% more unequal than the counterfactual distribution that would prevail under a random matching pattern.

Trends and changes in income inequalities in Cameroon between 1996 and 2007

Yannick Brice Kouogueng Yeyouomo (Ministère de l'Économie, de la Planification et de l'Aménagement du Territoire)

In Cameroon, the Gini coefficient on income concentration and distribution fell from 47.81 in 1996 to 44.60 in 2001 and to 35.2 in 2007 (WIID-3b). The trend reflects a decrease in income inequality in Cameroon over that period, since a higher Gini coefficient denotes greater inequalities. While the trend appears satisfactory on the whole, questions remain as to the role played by changes in the composition of the population. The aim of this research is to

ascertain whether the apparent decrease is the result of a more egalitarian distribution of income between different social strata or simply a reconfiguration of social structures. Most of the research work on the evolution of inequalities has failed to take account of the role played by the dynamic of the studied population. To address that shortcoming in the case of Cameroon, we have applied the decomposition method proposed by Eloundou and Giroux (2010) to the data from the household surveys administered in the country in 1996, 2001 and 2007. And the findings indeed show that a major part of the decrease – a full 28% – is the result of a composition effect, namely a fall in the share of households belonging to the poorest quintile.

The individualisation of wealth: Evidence from France
Marion Leturcq, Nicolas Frémeaux (Ined / Université de Cergy-Pontoise)
(…)

Intergenerational transmission of educational disadvantage in the context of the decline of family size in urban Africa
James Lachaud, Thomas K. LeGrand, Jean-François Kobiané (Université de Montréal / Institut Supérieur des Sciences de la Population (ISSP) de l'Université de Ouagadougou)

This paper develops an explanative framework on how the fertility decline should interfere on the intergenerational transmission of educational disadvantages. We then proceed to its empirical application on the context of Ouagadougou, the capital city of Burkina Faso. Data from the Demographic Trend (Demtrend) survey collected from a sample of the population monitored since 2008 by the health and demographic surveillance system in Ouagadougou were used. Focused exclusively on women aged 35 to 59 years old, with at least one child over three years of age, Demtrend survey collected considerable data on the social origin (grandparents) and on the children of these women. Structural equation modeling (SEM) model was carried out over three generations, using the method of Asymptotic Distribution Free (ADF). Results show that the reduction of family size would strengthen the intergenerational transmission of educational inequality. However, the effect of the family size would fluctuate from one generation to another and would strongly depend on the socio-economic context.