

IAB-DiskAB

Invitation

The long arm of the family. On the reconsideration of educational decisions and the role of parental preferences.

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The intergenerational transmission of educational advantages within families is one of the core mechanisms contributing to the reproduction of a society's inequality structures. Parental educational background has repeatedly been demonstrated to be an important predictor of their offspring's educational success and this influence has been shown to be particularly important early on in the children's educational careers.

Exploiting a rich panel data set of school leavers with a university entrance qualification from Germany (DZHW Studienberechtigtenpanel) we investigate a particular subgroup of students: those that during their final year of school had been reporting to have no intention to enter tertiary education but later on have nevertheless done just that.

Date:

Tuesday,
July 17, 2018

Time:

10:00 a.m.

Venue:

Regensburger Str. 100
Room E10
90478 Nürnberg

In our analyses, we are particularly interested in the role of parental preferences for tertiary education in the course of this process. We can show that the change of one's original decision is – like other educational decisions – dependent on social background and that young people from privileged families are not only more likely to take up academic studies in the first place but, moreover, have a higher probability to later on correct an original decision against academic education.

Beyond that we can demonstrate parental preferences for academic education to play a substantive role in this process of reconsideration. Since parental preferences are usually assumed to exert an influence mainly on earlier educational decisions (e.g. Hillmert & Jacob 2003; Becker 2017), to identify such an influence of parents' wishes even so late in their children's educational biographies could not necessarily be expected. Overall, our results indicate that we still need a better understanding of the processes leading from students' formation of their original study intention to their actual study decision.

Becker, Rolf (2017). Entstehung und Reproduktion dauerhafter Bildungsungleichheiten. In Becker, R. (Ed.), *Lehrbuch der Bildungssoziologie*. Wiesbaden: Springer VS, S. 89-150.

Hillmert, Steffen; Jacob, Marita (2003): Social Inequality in Higher Education. Is Vocational Training a Pathway Leading to or Away from University? *European Sociological Review*, 19(3), 319-334