AERA Open Special Topic Call for Papers

Family Socioeconomic Background and Educational Mobility

Several recent studies suggest that the association between family socioeconomic status and children’s educational outcomes (test scores, college enrollment and completion) has grown stronger in the last few decades (Bailey & Dynarski, 2011; Belley & Lochner, 2007; Reardon, 2011). Other research, however, finds no significant change in the association between family income and children’s college enrollment patterns, for example (Chetty, Hendren, Kline, Saez, & Turner, 2014).

The purpose of this special topic is to publish new research examining the patterns and trends in the association between family socioeconomic background and educational outcomes, as well as new research examining the causes of these patterns and trends. Published papers will present new empirical evidence, though we may also consider theoretical or review articles that attempt to synthesize existing evidence and provide frameworks for understanding the causes and consequences of the association between family background and educational success.

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Descriptive evidence on trends in the association between family socioeconomic background and educational outcomes (“the SES-education association”);
- Descriptive evidence of spatial variation (across states, metropolitan areas, school districts) in the SES-education association;
- Descriptive evidence—quantitative or qualitative—on trends in possible mechanisms linking family socioeconomic status to educational outcomes (such as parenting behaviors, school quality, neighborhood conditions, out of school activities, etc.);
- Causal evidence on the effects of factors related to family socioeconomic status on educational outcomes;
- Evidence-based evaluations of one or more explanations for trends in the SES-education association;
- Measurement issues in assessing the SES-education association;
- Syntheses of research on the causes and consequences of the SES-education association.

Submissions may include a wide range of supplemental material, including data sets, setup-files, or exemplar video material.

Although there is no formal deadline for the submission of manuscripts on this topic, we encourage authors to submit them by July 1, 2015. Manuscripts should be submitted online via ScholarOne at https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/aeraopen. Please state in the cover letter that the submission is for the “Family Socioeconomic Background and Educational Mobility” special topic.

Please consult the AERA Open website for general guidelines on manuscript submission. Inquiries may be sent to the Editors at AERAOpenEditors@aera.net