

Propositions

accompanying the dissertation

ABOUT FAMILY AND FATE: CHILDHOOD CIRCUMSTANCES AND
HUMAN CAPITAL FORMATION

by

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1. Better socioeconomic conditions induced by the end of WWII do not lead to parental selection. (Chapter 2)
2. Children born from unanticipated conceptions who are conceived during better socioeconomic times grow up in less stable family environments, but do not have worse adult outcomes. (Chapter 2)
3. Higher prenatal testosterone exposure, which is associated with more male-typical characteristics, leads to lower math performance for girls. (Chapter 3)
4. Traditional gender norms exacerbate the negative effect of prenatal testosterone on math scores for girls. (Chapter 3)
5. Last place aversion leads to lower educational performance due to a higher pressure to perform well. (Chapter 4)
6. Twin studies should take into account that women who are conceiving twins have different characteristics on average compared to women who are not.
7. Null findings are also informative.
8. The credibility revolution should not discourage economists from studying correlations.
9. Replication is important in empirical research: results from one institutional setting may not extrapolate to other institutional settings.
10. Discussing your research from early on with other people (in- and outside your field) is instrumental for writing a good paper.
11. “Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts” - Winston Churchill