

Research Project

Culture of opportunity: Origins of intergenerational mobility

Third-party funded project

Project title Culture of opportunity: Origins of intergenerational mobility

Principal Investigator(s) [Slotwinski, Michaela](#) ;

Organisation / Research unit

Departement Wirtschaftswissenschaften / Politische Ökonomie (Stutzer)

Department

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The project aims to answer the question of whether a cultural diffusion of opportunity is an important causal driver of intergenerational mobility (IGM). While there is a large economic literature describing the social mobility of countries and specific groups, the causal drivers of the observed large differences in social mobility across countries are less well understood. The large differentials, in principle, could be explained by both a different opportunity culture – i.e. the set of values, beliefs, and norms towards social mobility a society has in common - or institutions and policies, like the welfare and the educational system. As there is an inherent interplay between a country's culture and its institutions, these two drivers are typically difficult to isolate. I propose an innovative approach of how these two mechanisms can be disentangled.

Keywords social mobility, culture

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