

Smart, rich and with wealthy parents: How assortative mating affects inequality in Switzerland

The similarity of future spouses' social status - so-called assortative mating - can influence income inequality and equality of opportunity. We analyze assortative mating in Switzerland using a comprehensive dataset that combines tax data with survey data. Across various status indicators, namely income, wealth, and education, we measure a particularly pronounced homogamy in the top 10% and the bottom 10%. Remarkably, we also observe assortative mating in parental wealth and parental income. Due to assortative mating, both the Gini index and the top-income shares are significantly higher than if random mating occurred.