

Anders Björklund 2004-01-02

Examples of questions for the exam on Economics of Inequality:

1. Explain the formal relationships between intergenerational elasticities (or correlations), siblings correlations and neighborhood correlations. Summarize what empirical studies on US data have shown about the magnitudes of these parameters, and what can be learnt by combining the information from them.
2. Explain Baker and Solon's econometric model of life-cycle earnings determination. Discuss the model's connection to human capital theory.
3. A. Sketch the main ideas behind Rosen's model of superstars. B. Summarize the main results of the Picketty&Saez' study of the evolution of top incomes in the United States. C. Discuss the extent to which the latter empirical study can be regarded as empirical support of Rosen's model. D. Sketch on a new empirical study that explicitly can test Rosen's theory.
4. Some discrimination theories suggest that "feminization of occupations" can reduce the wage level for the occupation where many women work so that also male wages in such occupations are affected negatively. Discuss how such hypotheses can be tested empirically.