

GENDER AND INEQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY IN SWEDEN

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COMMENTS

BY JESPER ROINE

- Gender aspects of equality of opportunity in Sweden
- Two main results
 - Circumstance is less important *between* women than between men
 - Pooling and treating gender as a circumstance, gender turns out to be the most important circumstance in explaining long run income in Sweden.



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- Main points
 - The role of selection; who are the women and men we compare across countries and over time?
 - Labor market participation and education in South Europe and South America produce a different subset of women that are in the sample. Discussions of how the gender wage gap has moved that based on changes in group composition (e.g. Mulligan & Rubenstein JPE, 2008; Petrongolo and Olivetti, JOLE, 2008)
 - Differences across the distribution?
 - Some have suggested that circumstance plays out differently in different parts of the distribution. (Edlund and Kopczuk, 2008, conjecture that circumstance makes all the difference for rich women...)



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- Other points
 - Given the counterfactual women's income as "the income she would have, conditional on her other circumstances, IF THE GENDER DIFFERENCE IN INCOME IS ZERO"...(But we know it is not(or ?). Is this just a different way of measuring that or is there a deeper difference...?)
 - Life time income measured at age 37-43 potential maternity leave period (can you look at this). Is the "optimal age the same across men and women...?)
 - Could you distinguish between different role for mothers and fathers etc. (e.g. Raquel Fernandez on differential importance of mother characteristic...)



