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Family scholarly culture and educational success: Books and schooling in 27 nations

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Abstract

Children growing up in homes with many books get 3 years more schooling than children from bookless homes, independent of their parents' education, occupation, and class. This is as great an advantage as having university educated rather than unschooled parents, and twice the advantage of having a professional rather than an unskilled father. It holds equally in rich nations and in poor; in the past and in the present; under Communism, capitalism, and Apartheid; and most strongly in China. Data are from representative national samples in 27 nations, with over 70,000 cases, analyzed using multi-level linear and probit models with multiple imputation of missing data.



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Keywords

Social stratification; Education; Books; Scholarly culture; Elite closure; Cultural capital; Home literacy environment; Culture; Schooling; Cross-national

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