Is there an advantage to working? The Relationship between Maternal Employment and Intergenerational Mobility.

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Motivation

Women with children who have entered the workforce are more likely to have a son who reaches age 30.

Survey of Income and Program Participation

- Longitudinal household surveys
- Panel data collected since 1983
- Detailed labor force participation, family, and social security earnings
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- Child care establishment information
- Employer Identification Number
- Self-Employment data

Child Age Earnings Gains

- Longitudinal earnings data
- Parent fixed effects
- Statistical summary

Results

- No statistically significant correlation between mother working at any age and probability of son working
- Positive correlation between mother and daughter working for mothers who work at least one year in their lives
- Female employment culture where family lives

Child Rank and Mobility

- Father rank
- Mother rank
- Parental work status when father was age 43-47
- Parental work status when mother was age 43-47
- Son rank as place in this distribution

Conclusions

- Mother working when son or daughter is in high school is positively correlated with child rank and employment
- Mother working has higher returns for daughters
- Mother working is correlated with lower rank for sons, insignificant for daughters
- Mother working increases correlations between parent earnings rank and son earnings rank, insignificant for daughters

Survey of Income and Program Participation

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- Child care establishment information
- Business Register/Directory, Detailed Earnings Record
- Parental work status when father was age 43-47
- Parental work status when mother was age 43-47
- Parental work status.

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