

Submission to Plenary Session on "Intergenerational Disadvantage"

Title: A Comparison of Upward Intergenerational Mobility in Canada, Sweden and the United States

Corresponding Author: Bhashkar Mazumder

bmazumder@frbchi.org
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Coauthors: Miles Corak, University of Ottawa, Matthew Lindquist, Stockholm University

Abstract: We will use new estimators developed by Bhattacharya and Mazumder (2009)* to compare rates of upward intergenerational mobility across three countries: Canada, Sweden and the United States. These measures overcome some of the limitations of traditional measures of intergenerational mobility such as the intergenerational elasticity which are not well suited for analyzing directional movements or for examining differences in mobility across the income distribution. The methodological approach allows for the inclusion of continuous covariates non-parametrically. This framework will allow us to determine how specific factors (e.g. education, health, wealth) potentially measured at different stages of the life cycle, may affect the prospects for upward mobility. To the extent possible (given data limitations) we will compare how these factors influence upward mobility across the countries. Data for each country will include administrative data sources containing sufficiently long time spans of earnings information.

*"Nonparametric Analysis of Intergenerational Income Mobility with Application to the United States". Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Working Paper 2007-12 (June, 2009)