

*Returns to education and intergenerational mobility

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(** see other [Econometric Issues](#)) Paper Motivation:

- 2 stylized facts about Brazil:
 - ① High returns and low levels of education
 - ★ in contrast with most countries, Brazil experienced a reduction in the educational premium up to 2014
 - ② Low intergenerational mobility and strong dependence of family background (persistence)
- Good, fresh and rare data for Brazil
 - ▶ PNAD 2014 supplement on Socio-Occupational Mobility
 - ★ information on parents's education (1996, 1982 and 1976)

Research Questions:

- ① What are the returns (wage premiums) to basic education in Brazil and how was their evolution? What are the econometric problems to measure them?
 - ▶ measurement error
 - ▶ omitted variables
- ② How does the parents' education affect the returns and the educational level of their children?
- ③ How did intergenerational mobility in education evolve in Brazil?

Mincerian Model

- Mincerian Model: (Mincer 1974; Lemieux 2006, Card 2001)

$$y_i = \log(Y_i) = \alpha + \beta S_i + x_i' \gamma + \varepsilon_i$$

where Y_i is the labour income of individual i , S_i is the level of education of individual i measured by years of schooling, x_i is a vector of controls and ε_i is an error term.

- Measurement error:
Empirical strategy pursued is to make use of the information of who responded to the PNAD questionnaire on income and education, as a proxy for measurement error.

Measurement error and attenuation bias

- In PNAD 2014, almost half of the sample responded to the questionnaires for themselves, which suggests a potential large problem often ignored in household survey analysis.

Education premium and measurement error – Base model	Own Person	Another Person
Education Premium	0.1339 (0.0026)	0.1060 (0.0035)
R-squared	0.4753	0.4081
Observations	5,871	2,536

- A key implication is the occurrence of attenuation bias in the education coefficient. greater and statistically significant in the sample of own respondents.

Selectivity and availability bias:

- 46 per cent of the males responded to the question about education for themselves, the corresponding number for the women is 65 per cent, which may well affect the education premium results.
- Standard logistic regression matching procedure in which we created two equal-sized and more comparable samples regarding the profile of the respondents;

Education premium and measurement error – matched sample	Own Person	Another Person
Education Premium	0.1200 (0.0039)	0.1053 (0.0037)
R-squared	0.4576	0.4093
Observations	2,293	2,275

PNAD 2014 supplement microdata.

- In the matched sample, the difference of the R-squared is still significant but a little bit smaller, the same happening for the years of schooling coefficient

Selectivity and availability bias in relation with parents education

- One concern is that the sample profile that responded to the questions regarding parents’ education differ, This selectivity could also bias the results.

Table 4: Education premium and omitted variables - 2014 restricted sample

		Without Parents' Education	With Father's Education	With Mother's Education	Both Parents' Education	Highest Educational Level
Education Premium		0.1261 (0.0021)	0.0991 (0.0025)	0.1023 (0.0024)	0.0961 (0.0025)	0.0991 (0.0025)
Parent's Education		-	0.0435 (0.0020)	0.0402 (0.0021)	-	0.0412 (0.0020)
R-squared		0.4552	0.4858	0.4795	0.4881	0.4832
Observations		8,409	8,409	8,409	8,409	8,409

Source: Author's calculation based on PNAD microdata.

We observe a reduction in the wage premiums when we include information on the parents' background and the magnitude of the drop is bigger, when we have the education level of both parents, in this case, a reduction of 24 per cent happened.

Education Premium from 1996 to 2014

To assess the changes in the wage premiums from 1996 to 2014, we piled up the PNADs. We can estimate the coefficient as the change in education premiums.

Changes in the educational premium from 1996 to 2014

	Without Parents' Education	With Father's Education	With Mother's Education	Both Parents' Education	Highest Educational Level
Education Premium	0.1277 (0.0019)	0.1110 (0.0020)	0.1136 (0.0020)	0.1090 (0.0020)	0.1105 (0.0020)
Parents Coefficient	-	0.0416 (0.0017)	0.0403 (0.0018)		
Change	-0.0018 * (0.0026)	-0.0117 (0.0026)	-0.0125 (0.0026)	-0.0141 (0.0026)	-0.0114 (0.0026)
R-squared	0.4940	0.5135	0.5106	0.5159	0.5122
Observations	15,912	15,912	15,912	15,912	15,912

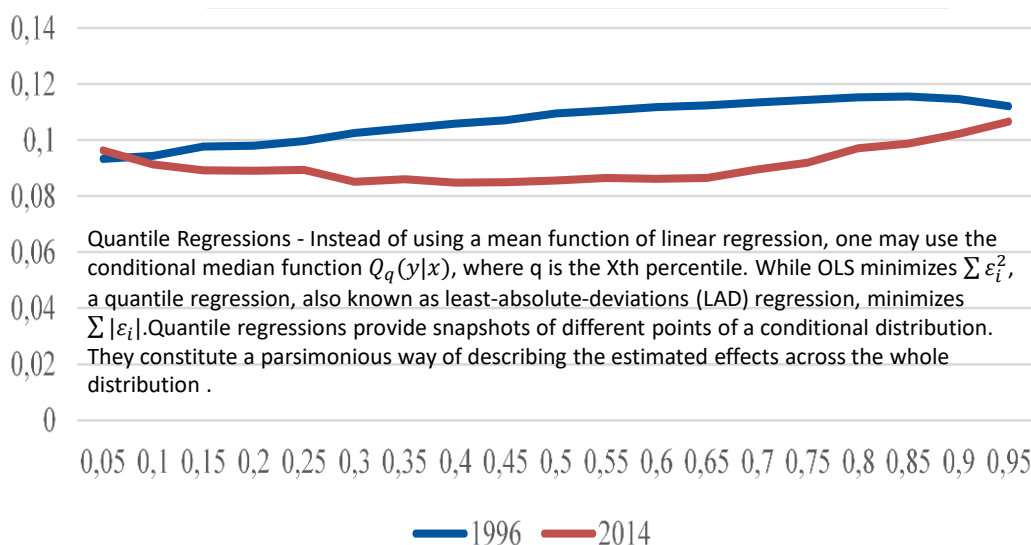
Source: Author's calculation based on PNAD microdata.

The estimates point to a reduction in the educational premium from 1996 to 2014, although the coefficient which captures this change is not statistically significant in the most basic specification without the education of the parents. However, when we include the information on the parents' educational background, the reductions in the wage premiums for the period are higher and the coefficient becomes statistically significant.

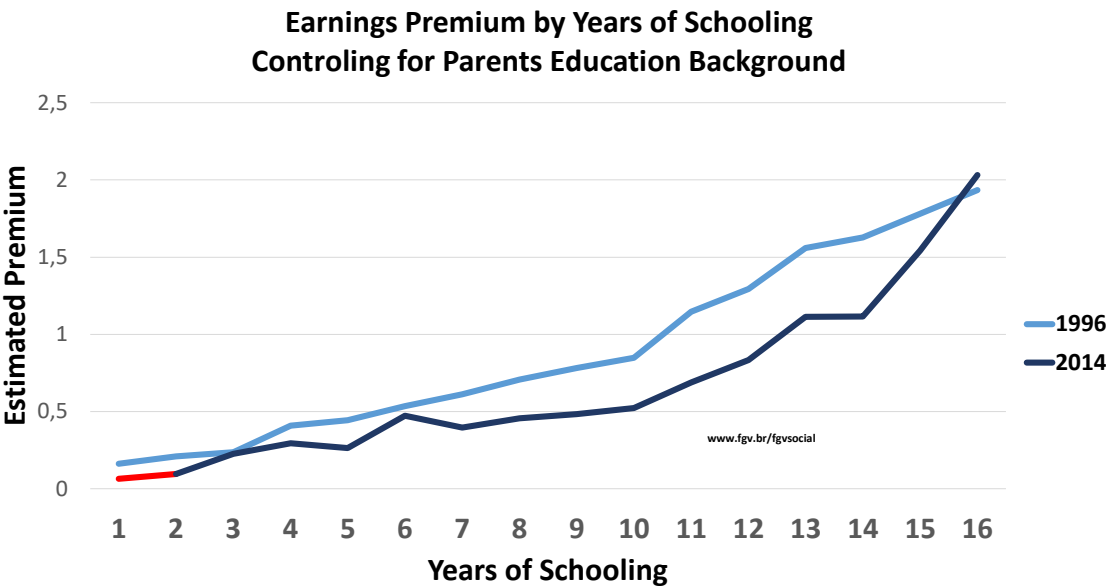
Quantile regressions

When we compare the same specification across the two different years, we find that the wage premiums are smaller in 2014 in comparison with 1996 for the entire distribution, with the exception of the first vintile. On the other hand, the reductions are smaller at the basis and at the top of the income distribution and bigger at the middle of the distribution.

Education premiums by vintiles of the income distribution – with both parents' education



CHANGE IN EARNINGS SCHOOL PREMIUM 1996 to 2014



Fonte: FGV Social a partir dos microdados da PNAD 1996 e 2014 Suplemento/IBGE

Intergenerational mobility

Transition matrix for individuals with 15 to 59 years old - 2014

	Education of the Children					
	Preschool	Elementary School	Middle School	High School	Undergraduate	Graduate
Total	0.06	4.84	31.27	40.24	18.07	0.82
Education of the Father						
Preschool	2.41	6.84	32.91	33.52	14.97	0
Elementary School	0.05	5.56	30.6	42.1	17.64	0.86
Middle School	0.12	0.04	20.47	56.35	21.6	0.79
High School	0	0.2	7.25	45.47	44.25	2.24
Undergraduate	0.03	0.05	2.19	19.55	70.66	7.09
Graduate	0	0	1.32	8.27	65.96	22.75

Source: PNAD microdata.

On the top of the distribution, we have that among fathers with an undergraduate degree, approximately 70.66 per cent of their children achieved the same level and 7.09 per cent got a graduate degree. Among fathers that completed high school, 45.47 per cent achieved the same level and 44.25 percent got an undergraduate degree. Therefore, it looks like there is some upward mobility even though the persistence is still high.

Intergenerational education mobility

A simple Markovian regression model of transmission of education given by:

$$S_i = \alpha + S'_{pi}\beta + x'_i\gamma + \varepsilon_i$$

where S_i is the level of schooling of the individual i , S_{pi} is a 2x1vector with the level of schooling of the parents, β is a 2x1 vector and x_i is a vector of covariates.

	1996	2014
Persistence (Father’s Education Coefficient)	0.7045 (0.0038)	0.4730 (0.0058)
R-squared	0.3897	0.3974
Observations	92,978	16,284

In 1996, the correlation between husband and wife education level was 74% in 2014 it was 61%. Reinforcing per capita income inequality fall.

Intergenerational mobility

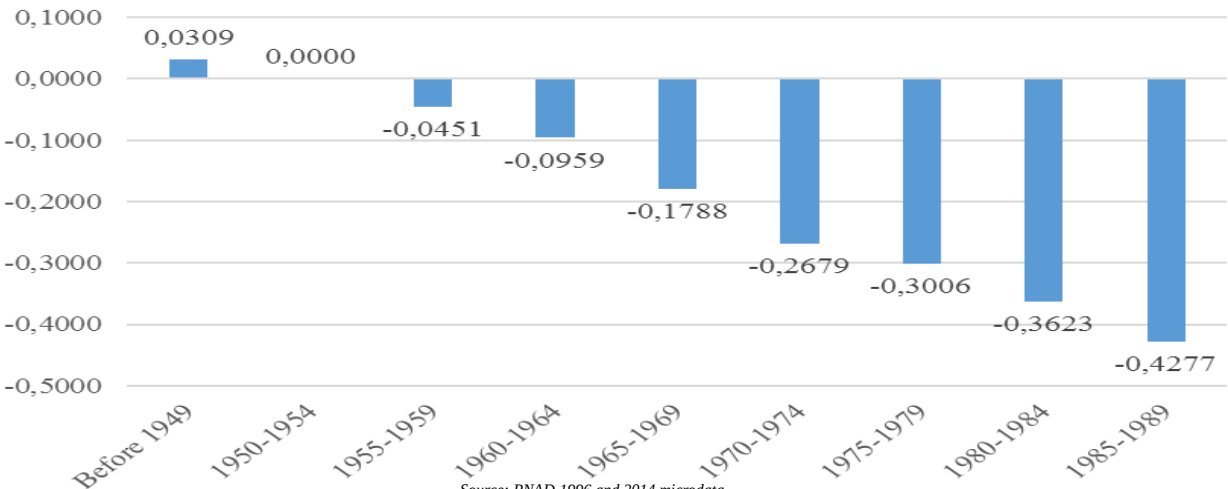
Behrman et al. (2001), Gasparini et al. (2017), Ferreira and Velloso (2003)

ESTUDOS DE PERSISTÊNCIA INTERGERACIONAL DE EDUCAÇÃO		
Autor	Grau de persistência educacional	País
Borjas (1992)	0,25	Estados Unidos
Couch e Dunn (1997)	0,27	Estados Unidos
Mulligan (1997)	0,32	Estados Unidos
Behrman, Gaviria e Székely (2001)	0,35	Estados Unidos
Couch e Dunn (1997)	0,20	Alemanha
Behrman, Gaviria e Székely (2001)	0,70	Brasil
Behrman, Gaviria e Székely (2001)	0,70	Colômbia
Behrman, Gaviria e Székely (2001)	0,50	México
Behrman, Gaviria e Székely (2001)	0,50	Peru
Lillard e Willis (1994)	0,19	Malásia

Ferreira e Velloso 2003

How did intergenerational mobility in education evolved?

Persistence in the Intergenerational Mobility of Education by Cohorts – Interaction between fathers education and cohort effects

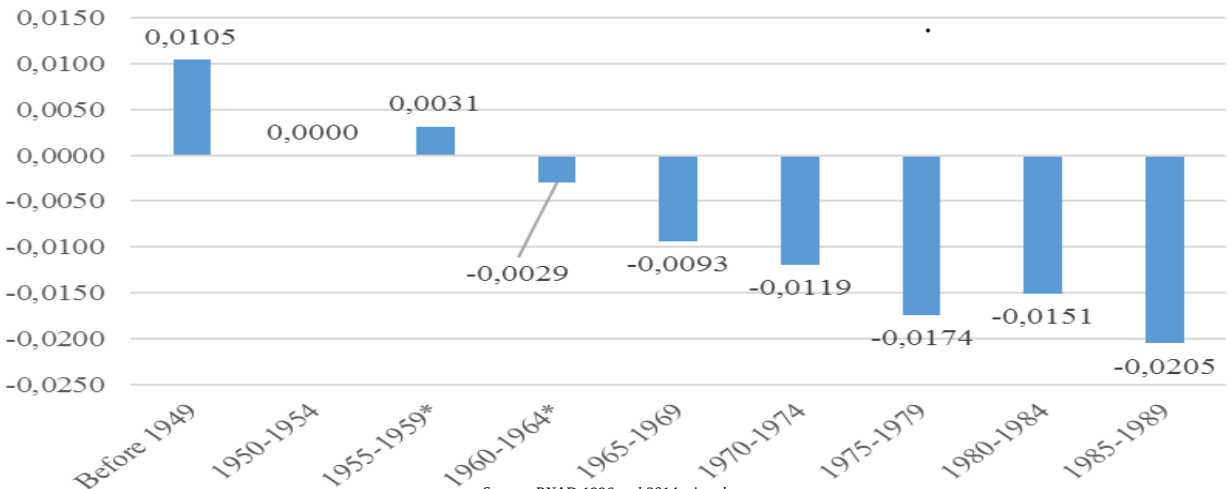


Source: PNAD 1996 and 2014 microdata.

Comparing data from 1996 and 2014 of the special supplements of the National Household Sample Survey (PNAD) on family background. We find a strong reduction on the mean intergenerational persistence of education between the years of 1996 and 2014, which went from 0.7 to 0.47. Cohort effects regarding intergenerational mobility also show that the fall in the persistence of education is also stronger for younger cohorts

What was the evolution of wage premiums with respect to schooling?

Differences in the Education Premiums by Cohorts - Interaction between individual schooling and cohort effects



Source: PNAD 1996 and 2014 microdata.

Cohort effects also show that the reduction in the educational premium has been going on over for several generations, The fall of education premium point estimates is 6,5 to 8 greater with family background. (omitted variable bias) measurement error leads to **attenuation bias**, reducing school premiums returns between 14%-32%

Conclusions

The paper is based on a dataset that contains family educational background with 2 objectives:

1) provide **new estimates** of the level, distribution and evolution of education premium between PNAD 1996 and 2014.

Regarding **measurement error**, the empirical strategy is to make use of the information of who responded to the PNAD questionnaire but controlling for availability biases. We find evidence of **attenuation bias** which reduces mean returns from education **between 14% and 31.5%**. **Omitting parents' education information reduces the premium estimates by 24%**.

Possibility of comparing omitted bias impacts across a period of sharp earnings inequality fall observed between 1996 and 2014. **The fall of education premium turns out to be heavily underestimated when we do not take family background into account.** The highest fall of returns occurred in intermediary levels of education and income.

2) Assess **how parents' education affects the educational outcomes of their children** and how it has evolved over the last years. We find a reduction on the **intergenerational persistence of education from 0.7 to 0.47 between 1996 and 2014**.

Cohort effects regarding intergenerational mobility show that the fall in the persistence of education is also stronger for younger cohorts, coinciding with the fall of education premiums.

Abstract:

Education-related changes are often argued as the main reasons for changes in earnings distribution. However, omitted variable and measurement error biases possibly affect econometric estimates of these effects. Brazil experienced a sharp fall of individual labour income inequality between 1996 and 2014. Coincidentally, in the Brazilian National Household Sample Survey (PNAD) there are special supplements on family background in these two years that allow us to better address the role played by falling education returns. This paper takes advantage of this information to provide new estimates of the level and evolution of the returns to education in Brazil using variable premiums by education level, quantile regressions, and pseudo panels. Regarding measurement error, the empirical strategy is to make use of the information of who responded to the PNAD questionnaire but controlling for availability biases. We find evidence of attenuation bias which reduces mean returns from education between 14 and 31.5 per cent. On the other hand, omitting parents' education information also accounting for selectivity issues reduces the premium estimates by 24 per cent. Perhaps more importantly, the fall of education premium is heavily underestimated when we do not take family background into account. The highest fall of returns occurred in intermediary levels of education and income. Cohort effects also show that the reduction in the educational premium has been going on for several generations. Finally, we assess how parents' education affects the educational outcomes of their children and how the intergenerational mobility of education has evolved over the last years. We find a reduction on the intergenerational persistence of education from 0.7 to 0.47 between 1996 and 2014. Cohort effects regarding intergenerational mobility also show that the fall in the persistence of education is also stronger for younger cohorts, which coincides with the fall of education premiums.