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The role of parental cognitive ageing in the intergenerational mobility of cognitive abilities

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Highlights

- This paper studies intergenerational transmission of cognitive abilities from parents to children, highlighting the role of parental cognitive ageing measured during adulthood, net of their cognitive abilities measured in adolescence.
- Children benefit not only from the stock of cognitive abilities their mothers and fathers hold as adolescents, but also from cognitive evolution their parents achieve as adults.
- Favourable parental cognitive ageing is particularly important for low ability offspring, pointing to a potential role of cognition in delivering more effective nurturing.
- Persistence of late parental cognition is much stronger in the offspring with high education origins, with a particularly substantial share of cognition transmitted to exceptional offspring.
- One standard deviation increase in late parental cognition can be approximated to an average of 1.7% increase in offspring earnings.

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