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Is Education the Mechanism Through Which Family Background Affects Economic Outcomes? A Generalised Approach to Mediation Analysis

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## Highlights

- We take a 'big picture' view on the role of education in intergenerational mobility
- Mediation analysis is a technique for studying mechanisms in causal relationships
- We generalise mediation analysis to allow for multidimensional treatments
- We treat family background as exogenous and multidimensional
- Education explains 21%-37% of the family background effect on earnings in Australia

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