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Social policy and “Luck Egalitarianism” : Why a Monetary Capital for Young Adults is Legitimate ? The Case of France

After presenting the different ways through which intergenerational inequality is transmitted from parents to children (genetics and health, wealth and income of parents, care of the parents to their children and school institutions), this paper underlines the importance of such a transmission and presents normative implications of compensation policies based on luck egalitarianism.

Luck egalitarianism relies on the distinction between “circumstances” beyond the control of the individuals and “free choice” for which people can be taken as responsible for. Such a distinction can be criticized but it permits also to understand the magnitude of the inequality transmitted from parents to children. Such a transmission should call for compensation that takes into account the responsibility of both parents and children (once became adults). A way to implement such a policy could take the form of the distribution of a monetary capital to young adults which should be accompanied in an institutional manner.

A vertical redistribution could be mainly met at the society level if funding is obtained through an increase of inheritance taxation and of wealth taxation (*impôt sur la fortune*). A reform of family allowances can also be implemented to complete the funding of the reform.

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