

Dictatorship, Higher Education and Social Mobility*

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Abstract: We study the role of educational policy in the relationship between political regimes and distributional outcomes. Following the 1973 military coup in Chile, the incoming Pinochet dictatorship's aims of political control and fiscal conservatism caused a large contraction of all universities in the country, mostly through a steady reduction in the number of openings for new students. Individuals that reached college age shortly after the coup experienced a sharp decline in college enrollment, had worse labor market outcomes throughout the life cycle and struggled to climb up the socioeconomic ladder. We document a robust, positive correlation between the local impact of the contraction in higher education and opposition to Pinochet in the 1988 plebiscite that triggered the democratic transition. After democratization, children with a parent in the affected cohorts are also less likely to enroll in university.

Keywords: Chile, Pinochet, dictatorship, universities, social mobility, intergenerational transmission, democratization

JEL codes: H52, I23, I24, I25

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1 Introduction

The relationship between political regimes and distributional outcomes has long attracted the attention of economists. Prominent theoretical models posit a strong link between democratization and redistribution (e.g. [Meltzer and Richard, 1981](#); [Acemoglu and Robinson, 2006](#)), but the empirical evidence is mixed, perhaps due to a heavy reliance on cross-country comparisons and a dearth of natural experiments ([Acemoglu et al., 2015](#)). Education is often described as *the great equalizer* and expectedly plays a crucial role in this relationship, but the impact of regime change on educational policy remains an open empirical question. For one, non-democracies face a trade-off between the political threat posed by a more educated population and the economic loss resulting from lower human capital ([Bourguignon and Verdier, 2000](#); [Cantoni and Yuchtman, 2013](#)). Moreover, popular support for an authoritarian regime may also dwindle if diminished educational opportunities hold back a sizable share of the population. These issues are particularly salient in the case of higher education, as universities are key contributors to human capital formation and social mobility, but can also engender political opposition ([Connelly and Grüttner, 2005](#)).

We study the relationship between regime change, educational policy, distributional outcomes and political opposition during Chile’s Pinochet dictatorship. Our analysis proceeds in four stages. First, we reconstruct the capture of higher education by the Pinochet regime after the 1973 military coup. We show that the regime’s aims of political control and fiscal conservatism led to a large contraction of all universities in the country, mostly through the steady reduction in the number of openings for incoming students. Second, we study the distributional effects of these policies by comparing individuals that reached college age shortly before and after the military coup. Individuals that reached college age after the coup experienced a sharp decline in college enrollment, had worse labor market outcomes throughout the life cycle and struggled to climb up the socioeconomic ladder. Third, we study political behaviors in the 1988 plebiscite that triggered the democratic transition. The cohorts affected by the contraction in higher education registered to vote at higher rates and there is a robust positive correlation between the local impact of the educational contraction and electoral opposition to Pinochet. Lastly, we examine intergenerational effects by studying the educational attainment of children with parents in the affected cohorts. These children reached college age several years after Chile’s return to democracy in 1990, but their college enrollment exhibits a downward kink similar to that of their parents.

The first part of the paper provides a historical reconstruction of Chilean higher education in the years around the 1973 coup that overthrew president Salvador Allende and put in power a mil-

itary junta presided by Augusto Pinochet. Shortly after the coup, the junta appointed members of the military as rectors of all universities, arguing that these had become “centers for Marxist indoctrination” (Brunner, 2008, p.137, *own translation*). As part of the regime’s attempt to eradicate all sources of political opposition, many students and faculty were dismissed, arrested, tortured or killed. However, the regime’s handling of universities soon begun to incorporate a technocratic concern about the size of government, under the growing influence over policy of a group of market-friendly economists known as the *Chicago Boys*. As a result, the government steadily reduced public subsidies to universities and forced them to downscale, mostly by offering fewer openings for incoming students. We use official figures to document a sharp downward kink in college enrollment during this period. A comparison of the yearly number of college applicants and openings confirms that this contraction was entirely supply-driven.

University downsizing did not affect all fields of study equally, but differential changes in openings (which arguably targeted fields posing a greater political threat) did not substantially affect the distribution of enrollment across fields. More importantly, the regime preserved the pre-existing admissions process that employed a matching algorithm based on applicants’ preferences and their performance in an admissions exam. As a result, the reduction in openings mostly affected students with lower test scores, which we show came disproportionately from less affluent families. Post-enrollment outcomes, such as graduation rates or the college earnings premium, improved for the ever fewer number of fortunate students that were admitted to university.

In the second part of the paper, we study the distributional impact of the contraction of higher education under Pinochet. We exploit quasi-random exposure to diminished educational opportunities across birth cohorts that reached college age in a narrow window around the military coup, in the spirit of a regression kink design (Card et al., 2015). We show that cohorts reaching college age after the coup exhibit a sharp downward kink in college enrollment, though the trend in secondary completion shows no evidence of change (Figure 1). We conduct a synthetic-control analysis using harmonized census data from the same cohorts in other countries that confirms the existence of a sizable gap in college completion for Chileans reaching college age after the coup, without any meaningful change in secondary completion.

We combine census and survey data to analyze downstream effects on labor market outcomes and social mobility for individuals belonging to the affected cohorts. Our baseline strategy involves estimating kinks in cohort-level trends of our outcomes of interest for people reaching age 21 (average age of first-year college students in 1970) between 1964 and 1981, an 18-cohort window centered around 1973. We restrict the sample to individuals with complete secondary education to ensure a relevant counterfactual to college entry, but all results are robust to using the unrestricted

sample. Naturally, a comparison of different cohorts at any single point in time (i.e. a single census) may be confounded by non-linear age effects. To address this concern, we use information from the biennial CASEN household survey to estimate a more stringent specification that includes age fixed effects and allows outcomes to vary flexibly at each point in the life cycle.

We document a dramatic impact of reduced access to college on occupational choice. The affected cohorts exhibit a large negative kink in the probability of having a professional occupation (e.g. engineer, doctor, lawyer), which is matched by upward kinks in the probability of having several different low-skill or blue-collar occupations. These range from clerks and service workers (e.g. bartenders, hairdressers) to machine operators and workers in elementary occupations (e.g. domestic helpers and street food vendors). The affected cohorts also exhibit a downward kink in labor force participation and in income, and an opposite upward kink in unemployment. These kinks are economically meaningful, clearly visible in raw data from different sources, and robust to flexibly controlling for age effects or to changes in the bandwidth of cohorts analyzed.

Using information on quintiles of wealth and income at the household level, we next provide evidence of sizable downward kinks in the probability of being at the top of the respective distributions. These are matched by upward kinks in the probability of being in the lower quintiles, all the way to the very bottom of the distributions. This is *prima facie* evidence that the dictatorship's educational policy hindered social mobility for the affected cohorts. Using data from a smaller survey spanning over 50 years, we further show a steady increase in the income share going to the top 20% of earners during the Pinochet dictatorship, matched by a reduction in the share belonging to the middle 60% and with little change in the share accruing to the bottom 20%.

We then study political behaviors around the 1988 plebiscite that triggered the democratic transition. This plebiscite was scheduled as part of the implementation of the country's new constitution drafted by the military regime in 1980. It allowed voters to decide whether they wanted Pinochet to continue in power for eight more years (SI) or to have open presidential elections within the next year (NO). Using individual-level data on the universe of Chilean voters in 2017, we show that the cohorts affected by the educational contraction exhibit an upward kink in the voter registration rate before the plebiscite. We interpret this as an indication of enhanced political mobilization. To further understand the electoral consequences of the regime's capture of higher education, we estimate county-specific measures of the kink in college enrollment. We document a robust, positive correlation between this local measure of impact of the educational contraction and the NO vote share, which would prevail with 55% of the total vote tally.

The final part of the paper examines potential intergenerational effects. For this purpose, we connect parents and children based on household composition in the 2017 census. Even though

this naturally introduces some selection, the results are robust to the inclusion of a large battery of controls as well as to multiple changes in the composition of the sample. We document a negative kink in college enrollment among children with a parent in the affected cohorts, analogous to the one observed for their parents. Importantly, these children reached college age several years after the country’s return to democracy in 1990. Looking at lower levels of education, we find downward kinks in all levels of secondary, but no effect on any level of primary (which is mandatory in Chile). However, the kinks in secondary education are much smaller than the one for the child’s college enrollment, suggesting that parental college enrollment has a particularly large effect when children are at the critical juncture of the transition into higher education.

We contribute to the literature studying the relationship between political regimes, educational policies and distributional outcomes. Prominent theories of regime change are centered around redistributive pressures (Boix, 2003; Acemoglu and Robinson, 2008), but the evidence on the relationship between democracy and inequality remains inconclusive (Acemoglu et al., 2015). Educational policy has garnered substantial attention as a potential mediating mechanism, but most research has focused on lower levels of education, with mixed findings (e.g. Mulligan et al., 2004; Harding and Stasavage, 2013; Paglayan, 2020). Evidence on higher education is scarce, limited to cross-country comparisons and suggestive of a null effect (Stasavage, 2005; Gallego, 2010). We add to this literature by providing historical and quantitative evidence on the sizable impact of regime change on Chilean higher education. In doing so, we highlight the role that the ideological affinity of the dictatorship played in shaping educational policy. We also provide within-country evidence that these changes had long-lasting socioeconomic effects for the affected population and their descendants. Specifically, we show that the contraction of higher education limited social mobility and arguably contributed to an increase in inequality.¹

Our paper also speaks to the literature on the legacy of authoritarian regimes (Simpser et al., 2018). In particular, our findings shed light on the hypothesis that dictatorship may be desirable at early stages of development (Posner, 2010; Easterly, 2013).² Chile is an interesting setting in this regard, as the technocratic reforms implemented during the Pinochet dictatorship are often credited for the country’s recent economic success (Becker, 1997). While it is beyond the scope of this paper to provide a comprehensive assessment of the impact of the technocratic reform agenda

¹The decade-long closure of Chinese universities amid the Cultural revolution has attracted substantial academic attention (Roland and Yang, 2017; Li and Meng, 2020; Alesina et al., 2020). While this change in policy took place several years into Communist rule, we study a transition from democracy to non-democracy. Also, the dictatorship we study differs sharply in its ideological inclination from Communist China, which we show strongly affects policy. Other aspects of educational policy in dictatorships, such as changes in curricula and purges have been studied by Waldinger (2010, 2011) and Cantoni et al. (2017).

²A related literature has studied the challenges to the implementation of growth-promoting policies under democracy (Alesina and Rodrik, 1994; Persson and Tabellini, 1994; Acemoglu, 2008; Aghion et al., 2008).

implemented under Pinochet, our results bring to light the large and persistent socioeconomic costs and distributional consequences of these reforms. In this regard, our results could help to explain the rising levels of political discontent observed in Chile in recent years.

We also contribute to the large literature on the relationship between education and political behaviors. This literature has largely relied on cross-country comparisons or focused on voter behavior in established democracies (Milligan et al., 2004; Sondheimer and Green, 2010; Murtin and Wacziarg, 2014). Existing work on weak and non-democracies has largely relied on surveys to show that educational expansion at the primary or secondary levels leads affected individuals to either participate at higher rates or to disengage from politics if elections are not credible (Croke et al., 2016; Larreguy and Marshall, 2017).³ In contrast, we use administrative data on voter registration and electoral outcomes to show that reduced access to higher education (i.e. educational contraction) is associated with political backlash when a democratic window of opportunity arises.

Finally, our paper also relates to the vast body of work studying the returns to education (Card, 1999; Oreopoulos and Salvanes, 2011). We emphasize here our contribution to the literature on the intergenerational transmission of human capital (Black and Devereux, 2011; Björklund and Salvanes, 2011). Previous research has largely focused on parental education at lower levels, often exploiting quasi-random variation in mandatory schooling (Black et al., 2005; Oreopoulos et al., 2006). A few studies have analyzed the relationship between parental college enrollment and children's early-life outcomes, but little is known about the link between the college enrollment of parents and children.⁴ The novelty of our results relates to the unique features of the decision to go to college (e.g. increased agency of child, higher price tag and opportunity cost), which set it apart from other junctures in the education process. We add to this literature by providing evidence of a positive intergenerational link in college enrollment and by doing so outside of the handful of highly developed countries in Europe and North America usually studied by this literature.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 provides a historical overview of higher education in Chile and describes the policy changes introduced by the military regime. Section 3 introduces our main data sources and presents our empirical strategy to study the effects of these changes. Section 4 studies educational attainment for the cohorts reaching college age after the coup and section 5 examines downstream socioeconomic effects. Section 6 studies political behaviors, while section 7 focuses on intergenerational effects. Section 8 concludes.

³For theoretical work on the relationship between education and political behavior in non-democracies, see Glaeser et al. (2007); Alesina et al. (2018); Guriev and Treisman (2020).

⁴Currie and Moretti (2003); Maurin and McNally (2008); Roland and Yang (2017); Suhonen and Karhunen (2019).

2 The Political Economy of Higher Education in Chile (1965-1981)

In this section, we provide an overview of higher education in Chile around the time of the military coup. We summarize the main features of the existing system before the coup and document the changes in policy implemented by the Pinochet regime. We also provide preliminary evidence of the effects of these policies on college enrollment and on the composition of the student body.

2.1 *Universities and Public Policy Before the Military Coup*

There were eight universities in Chile when Salvador Allende won the 1970 presidential election.⁵ Only two were public, but the others were also largely financed by the government. Most universities were based in the larger cities of Santiago, Concepción and Valparaíso, but several had smaller campuses throughout the country. Almost 40% of students were female and 67% attended public universities. Most faculty had part-time appointments and only a bachelor's degree (Brunner, 1984). College enrollment grew from 25,000 students in 1960 to 77,000 by the end of the Christian-Democrat government of Eduardo Frei in 1970. The Allende government oversaw an even larger increase, reaching 146,000 students by 1973. Panel (a) in Figure 2 shows that the gross enrollment rate in higher education was 4.6% in 1960, 9.2% in 1970 and 16.8% in 1973. This was a period of mass expansion of higher education throughout Latin America, which was seen as a means of achieving equality of opportunity and social mobility (Brunner, 1984).

A broad movement for educational reform reached the universities in 1967. Besides bolstering enrollment, the reform furthered student and faculty involvement in university governance. Academic structures were modernized and new programs and research centers were created. Differentiated tuition based on family income was introduced, but fees were low. The reform also replaced the old baccalaureate exam administered by Universidad de Chile with a college admissions test called “Prueba de Aptitud Académica – PAA” (Academic Aptitude Test) starting in 1967. Under the new system, applicants rank programs while universities rank applicants based on a weighted average of their grades in secondary and their PAA scores. Universities choose the weight awarded to each component and the number of openings per program. A deferred-acceptance algorithm then determines admissions. This system remains largely unchanged until today.

⁵These were Universidad de Chile, Técnica del Estado, Católica, Concepción, Católica de Valparaíso, Austral, Federico Santa María, del Norte. The oldest was Chile, founded in 1842, while the newest, Norte, opened in 1956.

2.2 *Changes in Policy After the Military Coup*

Amid growing political polarization and worsening economic conditions, Allende was overthrown by a military coup on September 11, 1973. A junta presided by General Augusto Pinochet assumed all executive and legislative powers and would go on to govern the country until 1990. The junta immediately targeted universities as part of its goal to eliminate any political opposition. Two weeks after the coup, the junta appointed members of the military as rectors of all universities, public and private. As motivation, the regime claimed that “universities have become centers for Marxist indoctrination” and that “the extremist agitation and hate preaching that almost drove Chile down a tragic abyss originated in these universities” (Brunner, 2008, p.137, *own translation*). Over the following months, many students, faculty, and staff were expelled or dismissed for their political views, though the exact numbers remain unclear (Castro, 1977; Brunner, 1984). Some were detained, tortured, or killed.⁶ Several academic units and most student groups were shut down, political activity was forbidden and teaching materials were censored, as “the regime insisted on depoliticizing student movements and discouraging student self-government” (CIA, 1985).

The dictatorship’s initial handling of universities, focused exclusively on repression and political control, soon begun to incorporate a technocratic concern about the size of government and the efficiency of public spending (Echeverría, 1980; PIIE, 1984; Velasco, 1994).⁷ This was the result of the growing influence over policy of a group of market-friendly economists known as the *Chicago Boys* (Valdés, 1995). As early as 1974, the Ministry of Finance begun pushing for a reduction in subsidies to universities and increased self-financing. In 1975, the Ministry of Education called for a more efficient use of resources and set enrollment goals for universities that effectively ended the rapid growth seen in previous years (PIIE, 1984; Levy, 1986). The fact that these measures of fiscal austerity further helped to defuse the political threat posed by universities facilitated their implementation by the dictatorship, whose “penchant for political control meshed conveniently with its penchant for economic conservatism” (Levy, 1986, p.105).

The Chicago Boys criticised the *status quo* in Chilean universities on various grounds (CEP, 1992; Valdés, 1995). They argued that an assured stream of public subsidies failed to provide incentives for thrift, effort or innovation. The regime saw a larger connection between bloated universities, low quality and political opposition: “the mediocrity in higher education... [is] a source of frustration for students, who become a breeding ground for political agitation” (Brunner, 2008,

⁶There are 24 professors and 252 students among the 3,200 deaths or disappearances attributed to the Pinochet regime by Comisión Rettig (1996). These correspond to 0.2% of the respective numbers of faculty and students in 1975. Comisión Valech (2004) estimates that about 10% of the 38,000 victims of detention or torture were students.

⁷Kim (2011) describes a similar transition from an initial wave of intense repression to a phase of technocratic reform during the dictatorship of Park Chung-Hee in South Korea.

p.147, *own translation*). The Chicago Boys also argued that education resources were better spent on lower levels, with the government's 1977 education plan claiming that it had been "scientifically proven that the social return of pre-school and primary education is higher to that of other levels" (PIIE, 1984, p.89 *own translation*). Regarding college, the high cost per student meant that it should be considered a privilege rather than a right, especially since its benefits mostly accrued to a minority of high-income students. In this regard, the dictatorship broke away from the previously dominant view of higher education as a vehicle for social mobility and embraced a more traditional view of universities as centers of academic excellence and elite training.

2.3 *The Contraction: Funding, Enrollment and Composition of the Student Body*

The military regime's twin aims of political control and efficiency in resource allocation both called for lower subsidies to universities. Panel (a) in Figure 2 shows that the share of the education budget devoted to higher education, which had risen during the Allende years to almost 50%, steadily declined after 1974 and returned to its pre-Allende level of 30% by 1980. This was a large financial blow to universities, as government subsidies were their main source of funding, equivalent to 77% of total revenue in 1972 (Appendix Figure A1). However, a push for higher tuition met with strong resistance and was abandoned, forcing universities to downscale their operation.

Panel (b) in Figure 2 shows the yearly number of openings for incoming college students together with the number of applicants. As expected, the number of college applicants exceeded the number of openings at all points in time, meaning that supply (i.e. openings) was always the binding constraint on first-year enrollment. Openings rose in tandem with spending under Allende and then fell and stagnated after the coup.⁸ While universities offered a total of 47,000 openings in 1973, they only offered 33,000 openings in 1980 (30% decline). Even though demand (i.e. applicants) adjusted to the tighter supply after 1975, the number of applicants more than doubled the number of spots in most years until 1981, a process that has been described as "strangulation" (Levy, 1986, p.102). As a result of the early expulsions and the subsequent reduction in openings, college enrollment sharply declined after the military coup.⁹ Panel (a) in Figure 2 shows that the gross enrollment rate fell from almost 17% in 1973 to 10.5% in 1981 (38% drop). The fact that UNESCO projections overestimated the number of students in 1975 by about 33% suggests that the drop in enrollment was not anticipated (Levy, 1986).

University downsizing did not affect all fields of study equally, but hardly any was left un-

⁸Appendix Figure A2 shows that the drop in openings was mostly driven by the two public universities, which had also been responsible for most of the growth under Allende.

⁹Appendix Figure A3 provides evidence against conscription and student migration as alternative explanations. The number of enlisted soldiers and students abroad both fall after the coup.

touched. Panel (a) in Figure 3 shows the change in openings by field between 1973 and 1980. We see here an interaction between the technocratic imperative to broadly downscale universities and the political objective of targeting those fields deemed more problematic. The fields most affected were agriculture and social sciences, which arguably had more politically active students, while the natural sciences were the only to grow, though from a very small base (3% of openings). Most fields saw aggregate decreases in openings of between 20-30%, including the two fields with the largest shares of openings, education and engineering, which totalled 60% of openings between them in 1973. As a result, the distribution of total enrollment across fields did not change very much between 1973 and 1980, as panel (b) illustrates.

With the admissions process unchanged, the regime had little direct influence over who was admitted to university. Due to the nature of the matching algorithm, applicants with lower scores in the PAA test were mechanically the ones denied admission. Insofar as applicants from less affluent socioeconomic backgrounds had systematically lower test scores, they should have been disproportionately affected. Figure 4 shows the average score of admitted students in 1976 and 1981, disaggregated by father's occupation. While these are both post-coup years, they still capture the ongoing contraction of higher education. The averages are expressed relative to the highest value in each year (=100), which corresponds both times to children of faculty. The plot shows that the distribution of test scores of admitted students compressed as admissions tightened over this five-year period. Furthermore, admitted students from poorer families (i.e. father in blue-collar occupations) had lower average test scores in 1976 and experienced the largest relative increase in 1981, suggesting that they were more strongly affected. We observe again how the technocratic goal of merit-based admissions contributed to the regime's political goal of "modifying the class composition of university student bodies" (CIA, 1985).

Data from lower levels of education suggests that the decline in college enrollment was not offset by large gains elsewhere in the system. Appendix Figure A4 shows that the enrollment rates in primary and secondary remained roughly constant, despite increases in the respective shares of the education budget. Moreover, the number of schools remained essentially unchanged between 1973 and 1977, while the share of primary students receiving subsidized breakfast or lunch (a proxy for pro-poor policies) decreased (Appendix Figure A5). The only level with substantial growth in enrollment was early education, which almost tripled in size between 1970 and 1980 (from a base rate of 4%), though its growth mostly followed the pre-coup trend.¹⁰

¹⁰The body overseeing early education was the National Council of Kindergartens (JUNJI), established in 1970 under Allende.

2.4 Aftermath

The dictatorship’s early policies towards higher education culminated in a large reform in 1981. This reform had three main elements. First, it turned the satellite campuses of the public universities into independent institutions. Second, it further reduced subsidies to all universities, forcing them to increase tuition. Third, it opened the system to competition by new universities, which were not eligible for government funding. As panel (a) in Figure 1 shows, college enrollment stabilized after the reform, but it would only grow again after the return to democracy in 1990.

The military regime also drafted a new constitution in 1980, which awarded Pinochet an eight-year term as president. After this time, a plebiscite was to be held to determine whether there would be a second eight-year term for a candidate determined by the military junta or whether there would be open presidential elections. The junta chose Pinochet as its candidate and the plebiscite was held in October 1988. This was the first free election in Chile since 1973 and the “NO” option won with 55% of votes. This result triggered the country’s democratic transition, with the first presidential election held in 1989 and Pinochet stepping down as president in 1990.

3 Data and Empirical Strategy

In this section, we introduce our main data sources and present our empirical strategy to study the socioeconomic effects of the capture of higher education by the Pinochet regime after 1973.

3.1 Data

Our main data sources are the individual records from the population censuses of 1992, 2002 and 2017, which we complement with the thirteen waves of the biennial CASEN household survey between 1990 and 2017.¹¹ The census collects basic demographic information and also asks questions on educational attainment and labor market outcomes. The dataset for 1992 additionally includes a variable calculating the wealth quintile to which the household belongs, which is based on characteristics of the dwelling and reported ownership of durable goods. The CASEN survey (*Encuesta de Caracterización Socioeconómica Nacional*) is a repeated cross-section that is representative at the regional level.¹² Its sample size has grown over time, with the most recent waves surveying more than 200,000 individuals in over 70,000 households. The CASEN survey includes information on education and economic conditions for all members of each surveyed household.

¹¹Appendix B provides further information about the data. Individual-level microdata is not available for earlier censuses. CASEN survey years are 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017.

¹²Chile is administratively divided into 16 regions, subdivided into 56 provinces and 346 counties.

It has several attractive features, including its relatively high frequency compared to the census and the availability of information on income, albeit self-reported. Based on this information, the survey datasets include a calculation of the income quintile to which each household belongs.

We restrict the analysis to individuals born between 1943 and 1960. People in these cohorts reached age 21 between 1964 and 1981, creating an 18-cohort window around 1973, the year of the military coup. We end the sample with the 1981 cohort to mitigate the confounding effect of the university reform implemented after that year. We focus on the year in which cohorts reached age 21 because administrative data shows that it is a conservative estimate for the average age of first-year college students at the time of the coup (Appendix Figure A6). We verify below that results are robust to tighter cohort bandwidths or to small changes in the age of college entry (i.e. changes in the kink point). For our main analysis, we restrict the sample to individuals that report at least four years of secondary education (completion is unavailable in all sources except the 2017 census). We introduce this restriction to ensure a relevant counterfactual for college enrollment, but we also verify below that the results are robust to using the unrestricted sample.

Our main outcome of interest on educational attainment is college enrollment, which is the margin that was directly affected by the dictatorship’s policies. We then analyze downstream labor market outcomes, focusing on those that we expect to be directly affected by reduced college enrollment and that we observe in both the censuses and the CASEN survey. To analyze occupational choice, we construct dummy variables corresponding to the major groups of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88). We also construct dichotomous measures of labor force participation and unemployment (if in the labor force). To better understand effects on social mobility, we additionally study the household-level quintiles of wealth and income available in the 1992 census and CASEN.

For the study of intergenerational effects, we rely on information on household composition from the 2017 census. We use this census because it is arguably the best source on the final education attainment of children with a parent in the affected cohorts.¹³ The census classifies individuals into households, with one person identified as the household head and all others reporting their relationship to this person. We connect children to their parents using several different combinations of positions in the household and, thus, can only connect parents and children living together in 2017.¹⁴ About 90% of our sample is composed of individuals reported as children of the household head.¹⁵ We restrict the sample to children with ages between 25 and 40 in order to improve

¹³In 2002, the youngest cohort of parents was 42 years old, while in 2017 this same cohort is 57 years old.

¹⁴Appendix Table F1 provides summary statistics of various characteristics for a series of nested samples, starting with the entire population of 25-40 year-olds in the 2017 census and finishing with our estimating sample.

¹⁵An extra 5% corresponds to household heads that have a parent living with them. Other categories are much smaller and include siblings of the household head, the spouse of the household head and children of the spouse.

our chances of observing final college enrollment, while ensuring balance in the distribution of parental cohorts. We verify below that the results are robust to changes in this bandwidth. Parents in this sample must meet the same conditions as in our main sample above (i.e. reached age 21 between 1964 and 1981 and report four or more years of secondary education). We can confidently connect each child to only one parent, though we use information on the spouse of the parent (if observed) as part of our analysis of mechanisms (i.e., assortative matching). Our final sample includes 228,608 individuals (i.e. children), 58% of whom report having enrolled in university.

Other data includes harmonized census files from IPUMS - International for 57 countries (listed in Appendix Table B1), which we use for the synthetic control analysis. To study long-run trends in inequality, we use income data from Universidad de Chile’s *Encuesta de Ocupación y Desocupación* (EOD). This is a smaller survey than CASEN and only covers the Santiago metropolitan area, but has the advantage of spanning the 52-year period between 1960 and 2012. To study political behaviors, we use information on the outcome of the 1988 plebiscite at the county level, as well as individual-level data on the universe of voters in 2017 from Chile’s electoral agency (SERVEL). The latter dataset includes the individual’s age, county of residence and year of registration. To measure participation in the plebiscite, we create a dummy equal to one for voters that registered in 1987 or 1988 (the military regime declared the previous voter registry void in 1973). To analyze the effect of the contraction of higher education on the outcome of the plebiscite, we construct a localized impact measure. We discuss the construction of this measure in section 6 below.

3.2 Empirical Strategy

Our empirical analysis begins by studying educational attainment among cohorts reaching college age in a small window around the 1973 military coup. To minimize bias from sample attrition, we use the 1992 census for this part of the analysis, but also show that similar patterns are present in all other sources. We first examine whether census respondents report any or full secondary education (i.e. 4+ years). We then look at college enrollment both unconditionally and conditional on our proxy for secondary completion. We work with the following reduced-form model, which exploits the fact that the age of college enrollment cannot be easily manipulated (i.e. cohorts facing reduced access to college could do little about it):

$$Y_{i,c} = \alpha + \beta X_i + \pi_0 f(c) + \pi_1 \mathbb{1}(c \geq 1973) \times g(c) + u_{i,c} \quad (1)$$

where $Y_{i,c}$ is an outcome for individual i belonging to cohort c (which indicates the year in which the cohort reached age twenty-one). X_i is a set of observable characteristics, including gender-

specific county-of-birth fixed effects. $\mathbb{1}(c \geq 1973)$ is a dummy equal to one for those individuals (cohorts) that reached age twenty-one in 1973 or later, while $f(c)$ and $g(c)$ are smooth functions (polynomials) representing the birth cohort profile of outcome $Y_{i,c}$. We re-scale the running variable in these functions and set it equal to zero for 1972, the last year before the coup. We focus on a linear polynomial (i.e., $f(c) = g(c) = c$) to avoid over-fitting and we provide visual evidence showing that this parsimonious specification appropriately describes the evolution of cohort means for most outcomes. Our parameter of interest is π_1 , which directly captures the change in trend (i.e. kink) for cohorts reaching college age after 1973. Finally, $u_{i,c}$ is an error term clustered at the county-of-birth level. To account for correlation of the error term within cohorts, we also provide p-values from the Wild cluster bootstrap procedure following [Cameron et al. \(2008\)](#).

We then study downstream effects on labor market outcomes and income by looking for similar changes in the respective cohort-level trends, in the spirit of the regression kink design ([Card et al., 2015](#)). Our identifying assumption is that in the absence of the coup there is no reason to expect kinks in our outcomes of interest for people reaching age 21 after this event.¹⁶ As mentioned above, we use a symmetrical bandwidth of 18 cohorts reaching college age between 1964 and 1981. The discrete nature of the running variable prevents us from applying a non-parametric approach to select an optimal bandwidth, but we verify that our results are robust to changes in the bandwidth.

When using purely cross-sectional data on these outcomes (e.g. 1992 census), we provide estimates of equation (1). However, a valid concern surrounding this approach for outcomes that vary over the life cycle is that a cross-cohort comparison in a single cross-section may be picking up non-linear age effects. To address this concern, we exploit the availability of information from the relatively high-frequency CASEN survey to estimate a more stringent specification that replaces the baseline cohort trend with age and survey year fixed effects. In doing so, we allow the outcome to flexibly vary at each point in the life cycle and we ensure that the comparison across cohorts takes place only among people with the same age. We estimate the following model:

$$Y_{i,c,t} = \alpha + \beta X_i + \gamma_a + \phi_t + \psi \mathbb{1}(c \geq 1973) \times h(c) + e_{i,c} \quad (2)$$

where t denotes time (i.e., year) and a denotes age, which is determined by the cohort c and the year t . Here, γ_a and ϕ_t are age and year fixed effects. Everything else is similar to equation (1): we use a linear polynomial for the running variable (i.e., $h(c) = c$) and also cluster the error term $e_{i,c}$ either by county or by cohort. The coefficient of interest is ψ , which captures any potential kink among the affected cohorts, relative to the average for individuals observed at the same age.

¹⁶Several papers studying the impact of sharp changes to compulsory schooling laws across cohorts make a similar assumption in a regression-discontinuity setting (e.g., [Oreopoulos, 2006](#)).

To study intergenerational effects across cohorts, we use a specification analogous to equation (1). The main change is that the cohort trends correspond to the observed parent, while the outcome of interest (e.g. college enrollment) corresponds to the child. In our preferred specification, we expand the set of individual controls for the child (X_i) to include the following sets of fixed effects: (i) gender by county of birth, (ii) gender by parent's gender, (iii) relationship to household head and (iv) age. The latter alleviates the concern that parents from later cohorts will tend to have children that are younger in 2017, who may have different outcomes due to time trends.

4 Results: Educational Attainment

In this section, we study the educational attainment of cohorts that reached college age shortly before and after the 1973 military coup. We document a sharp downward kink in college enrollment for cohorts reaching college age after the coup and use a parsimonious parametric model to quantify it. We also show results from a synthetic control analysis that lend support to a causal interpretation of the findings. Finally, we discuss changes in other educational outcomes, including degree completion and the economic return to college.

4.1 Raw Data

Panel (a) in Figure 1 shows the share of people per cohort that report any college in the 1992 census. In the x -axis, cohorts are organized by the year in which they reached age twenty-one (year of birth in parenthesis). The vertical lines mark the year of the military coup (solid red) and the window used in the regression analysis below (dashed blue). We observe a rapid increase in college entry for the cohorts that reached college age before the coup, especially during the Allende government between 1970 and 1973, followed by a large decline for those cohorts that reached the same age after the coup. The enrollment rate increased by 6 percentage points (pp) between the 1964 and 1972 cohorts (86% increase) and decreased by 5 pp between the 1972 and 1981 cohorts (38% decrease). Panel (b) shows that the share with full secondary increased smoothly throughout, ensuring that the drop in college enrollment is not driven by reduced attainment at lower levels.¹⁷

4.2 Parametric Analysis

Table 1 presents estimates of equation (1) for various measures of educational attainment in the 1992 census. The sample in columns 1-3 includes all individuals that reached age 21 between 1964

¹⁷Appendix Figure C1 shows that the kink in college enrollment is also present in other sources. Appendix Figure C2 shows smooth increases in the shares of people with any primary or secondary.

and 1981. Columns 1 and 2 show that the shares of people with any or full secondary education (i.e. 4+ years) were growing at respective rates of 1 pp and 0.8 pp per cohort before the coup. These rates remain entirely unchanged after the coup. Panel (a) in Figure 5 plots the raw data and the estimated linear trends for the share with completed secondary. The solid lines show the trends before and after the coup, while the dashed line is the counterfactual trend for the post-coup period. The markers correspond to cohort-level averages. Not only do the linear trends fit the data quite accurately, but the post-coup trend overlaps almost perfectly with the counterfactual.

Column 3 shows that college enrollment increased on average 0.8 pp for each cohort that reached age 21 before the coup, but *decreased* by 1.2 pp per cohort for those reaching the same age after the coup. The difference between the two coefficients indicates a net enrollment trend of -0.4 pp per cohort (i.e. decrease) after the coup. Panel (b) in Figure 5 illustrates this sharp kink. Column 4 replicates the analysis for the restricted sample reporting four or more years of secondary, our proxy for secondary completion. We observe a similar pattern to the one in column 3, as expected given the smooth trend in secondary completion. Conditional on completed secondary, which we deem the relevant counterfactual, college enrollment increased by 1.8 pp per cohort before the coup but *decreased* at the exact same rate for those that followed.¹⁸ These results are in line with the yearly pattern in college enrollment shown in Figure 2. What is notable about the cohort-level analysis is that it allows us to identify sharp differences in the incidence of the reduction in access to college across groups of people (i.e., cohorts) that we can track in the censuses and the CASEN survey to study downstream effects.

Columns 5-7 in Table 1 provide additional evidence of a broad impact. In column 5, we expand equation (1) to allow for separate trends in college enrollment by gender. We see that women were making larger gains in enrollment than men in the cohorts that reached college age before the coup, but that they also experienced a sharper decline in the post-coup cohorts. This allows us to explore heterogeneous effects by gender in our analysis of downstream consequences below. Column 6 shows that the results are unchanged despite a 96% decrease in sample size when we restrict the sample to siblings and include family fixed effects.¹⁹ Finally, column 7 examines enrollment in any tertiary education, including vocational school. The trend among cohorts reaching college age before the coup is slightly larger than in column 4, indicating that enrollment in other institutions was also growing, though universities drove almost all of the action. Similarly, the fact that the net post-coup drop in total enrollment is smaller (-1.1 pp) than in college enrollment (-1.8 pp) suggests

¹⁸Appendix Table C1 shows similar results for the other censuses and the CASEN survey. Appendix Table C2 shows that the results are robust to small changes in the location of the kink point.

¹⁹We classify as siblings people within a household meeting one of these conditions: (i) two or more children of the household head; (ii) the head and one or more siblings. Appendix Table C3 replicates this analysis for the other censuses. Appendix Table C4 shows similar results within quintiles of housing wealth in 1992.

some substitution of college education with vocational schooling.

4.3 Synthetic control analysis

In this section, we present a synthetic control analysis that provides an alternative counterfactual for the evolution of higher education in Chile after 1973 (Abadie and Gardeazabal, 2003). Our baseline estimates use data from countries in Latin America to construct the counterfactual. We calculate the share of people per cohort with completed secondary and college in each census, restricting the sample to individuals over 20 years of age. We focus on college completion because IPUMS does not provide harmonized data across countries on educational enrollment. All estimates use lags of the share of people with complete college to build the synthetic control. We follow Ferman et al. (2019) and use only *odd* years to avoid cherry-picking and overfitting, but verify that results are unchanged if we use *even* or *all* pre-treatment years. The R^2 of a regression of the Chilean data on the synthetic control in the pre-treatment period is always larger than 0.95.

Panel (a) in Figure 6 shows the baseline results. The solid line corresponds to actual college completion by cohort in Chile, while the dashed line shows the prediction from the synthetic control. We observe that the synthetic control tracks the realized time series very closely up to the year of the coup and exceeds it afterwards. The synthetic control keeps growing, while the actual series first kinks downward and then stagnates. Placebo inference and confidence sets suggest this difference is statistically significant (Abadie et al., 2015; Firpo and Possebom, 2018).²⁰ The results indicate that 8% of the cohort that reached age 21 in 1981 would have had a college degree in the absence of the coup, while in reality only 5% did. This gap in completion is equivalent to 38% of the counterfactual provided by the synthetic control. The graph further suggests that college enrollment only returned to its counterfactual rate for the cohorts that reached college age in the late 1990s, several years after the return to democracy. Panel (b) shows that the synthetic control predicts very well the realized times series for completed secondary education, providing further evidence that the effects on college cannot be attributed to changes in lower levels of education.

4.4 Post-Enrollment Outcomes

Before studying the long-term consequences of the reduction in college enrollment for the cohorts that reached college age shortly after the military coup, we examine potential effects of the capture of Chilean universities by the Pinochet dictatorship on some post-enrollment outcomes.

²⁰See Appendix Table D1 and Appendix Figure D1 for details. Appendix Figure D2 shows that the results are unaffected if we include additional controls or if we change the set of countries used for the counterfactual. It also shows results from a placebo exercise setting the year of the coup in 1960.

The evidence in Figure 7 suggests that these outcomes improved after the military take-over. Panel (a) focuses on the graduation rate, which we measure either as a share of total enrollment using UNESCO data (circles) or as a share of the number of people reporting any college in the 1992 census (triangles). Both sources show a similar pattern of decline before the coup and recovery afterwards. The census data indicates, though, that the graduation rate hovered around 72% throughout the sample period and never dropped below 69%. Despite the large expansion in enrollment under Allende and the many expulsions after the coup, the graduation rate only declined 4 pp between the cohort that reached age 21 in 1968 and the one that reached the same age in 1975 (5% decrease). Graduations increased sharply in later years, arguably due to the tighter admission standards and the regime’s renewed focus on universities as centers for academic excellence.²¹

Panel (b) shows cohort-specific estimates of the correlation between college enrollment and log total income using data from the CASEN survey (1990-2017). Additional controls include county of residence by gender, survey year and age fixed effects. For cohorts reaching college age before the coup, the return to college fluctuated around 75 log points. For the ones that followed, we see a sharp jump and a positive trend. The post-coup average of about 85 log points represents a 13% increase.²² This higher return could be a reflection of the higher quality of admitted students or of their higher graduation rate. It is also consistent with a lower supply of professionals after the coup putting upward pressure on wages in the presence of imperfect substitution between similarly-educated workers in different age groups (e.g., [Card and Lemieux, 2001](#)).

These results suggest that the contraction of higher education after the coup did not lead to a decline in the quality of education, at least from the perspective of employers, though repression and censorship likely had a negative impact on the student experience. Hence, any negative socioeconomic effects for the cohorts that reached college age after 1973 can be interpreted as arising from reduced access to college, despite improved outcomes for those that were able to attend.

5 Results: Socioeconomic Consequences

In this section, we document the downstream economic effects of the contraction of higher education carried out by the Pinochet dictatorship. We study labor market outcomes and measures of income and wealth in the cohorts that reached college age shortly before and after the 1973 military coup. We additionally look for heterogeneous effects by gender and, at the end, provide suggestive evidence on the effect of college enrollment using an Instrumental Variables (IV) strategy.

²¹Appendix Figure A7 shows that fewer people took the PAA test after the coup and that average (raw) test scores improved. This suggests that people with lower expected scores drove the decline in college applications after 1975.

²²Appendix Figure C3 shows a similar pattern for other income measures. It also shows that the results are robust to the inclusion of occupation fixed effects (i.e. not entirely driven by differential changes in openings across fields).

5.1 Occupational choice

The panels in Figure 8 plot cohort-level means and estimated trends for binary indicators corresponding to each of the major groups in the ISCO-88 classification of occupations, using data from the 1992 census. Panel (b) shows a sharp downward kink for the affected cohorts in the probability of having a professional occupation (e.g. doctor, lawyer, engineer).²³ This kink is matched by opposite upward kinks in the probability of having various lower-skill or blue-collar occupations. These include clerks in panel (d) and sales or service workers (e.g. bartender, hairdresser) in panel (e). They also include skilled agricultural workers in panel (f), machine operators in panel (h), and workers in elementary occupations (e.g. domestic helpers, street food vendors) in panel (i). These findings already illustrate the dramatic change in life circumstances caused by the contraction in higher education brought about by the military regime. We find little evidence of change in the probability of being a manager or a higher-level public official in panel (a). These are occupations which arguably benefit from a college education but do not necessarily require one.

Table 2 provides estimates of equation (1) quantifying these kinks. To facilitate the analysis we have grouped the occupations into white-collar and blue-collar, high-skill and low-skill (Appendix Table E1 shows disaggregate estimates for each occupational group in Figure 8). We show standard errors clustered by county in parentheses and p-values from the wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. We see that the trend in the probability of having a white-collar high-skill occupation flips from a 0.4 pp gain per cohort in the pre-coup period to a 1.3 pp decline afterwards. This is equivalent to a 3% drop per cohort relative to the sample mean. The decline in these occupations is matched by a 0.7 pp net gain per cohort in the probability of having a white-collar, low-skill occupation (column 2), and by a 0.6 pp per-cohort increase in the probability of a blue-collar occupation (columns 3-4). Column 5 shows a downward kink in the probability of being part of the military (also panel (j) in Figure 8), which constitutes further evidence against military conscription as an alternative explanation for the drop in college enrollment.

5.2 Labor Market Outcomes

Panels (a)-(b) in Figure 9 plot cohort-level means and estimated trends for binary indicators of being in the labor force or seeking work, using data from the 1992 census. Panels (c)-(d) plot the same variables from the CASEN survey, averaged across waves between 1990 and 2017. Panel

²³Appendix Figure E1 shows disaggregate plots for subcategories of professional occupations. We find evidence of reductions in the probability of having any professional occupation in the affected cohorts. Conditional on being a professional, though, we observe an upward kink in the probability of having an occupation in the natural sciences or engineering. These results are in line with the evidence in section 2 and suggest that the aggregate reduction in college openings was more important than the differential changes across fields.

(e) shows an additional plot for log total income, which is only available in CASEN. We observe similar patterns in both sources. Cohorts reaching college age after the coup exhibit downward kinks in labor force participation and income, and an upward kink in the unemployment rate.

Table 3 quantifies these kinks.²⁴ While the census provides us with a much larger sample, CASEN enables us to observe the study cohorts in different years. This is important, as these outcomes arguably vary over the life cycle. Both sources suggest the presence of a downward kink in labor force participation (columns 1-2) and an upward kink in the unemployment rate (columns 4-5). Column 7 provides evidence of a downward kink in total income, which grew at an average rate of 1.6% per cohort for those reaching college age before the coup and drops to a -0.7% per cohort fall after the coup.²⁵ Columns 3, 6 and 8 show estimates of equation (2), a more stringent specification that replaces the baseline trend with age fixed effects. We can only estimate this specification with data from the CASEN survey, as it requires us to observe different cohorts at the same age. We find that the affected cohorts experienced sizable negative effects in labor market outcomes, even when we flexibly account for potentially confounding effects associated with the life cycle. Column 3 shows that each new cohort reaching college age after the coup is 0.4 pp less likely to be in the labor force than the average for that age (0.5% decrease per cohort relative to the sample mean). Column 6 shows that the unemployment rate increases by 0.2 pp per post-coup cohort relative to the age-specific average (5% increase relative to sample mean), while column 8 shows that total income drops at a rate of 0.9% per cohort for those that reached age 21 after 1973.

5.3 *Distributional Effects on Wealth and Income*

The previous results indicate that people reaching college age after the military coup experienced diminished educational opportunities and had worse labor market outcomes. In this section, we study distributional measures of wealth and income available in the 1992 census and CASEN. These measures allow us to better understand the challenges that the affected cohorts faced in climbing up the socioeconomic ladder. Though we do not observe family background and are thus unable to fully measure social mobility, there is no reason to expect individuals reaching college age before and after the coup (i.e. born in different years) to come from more or less affluent families. Importantly, these distributional outcomes are calculated at the household level, so intra-

²⁴Similar results for the 2002 census are available in Appendix Table E2. We do not use the 2017 census for this analysis because it does not ask questions on occupation and because the cohort reaching age 21 in 1973 (i.e. kink point) reached age 65 on that year, which is the retirement age for men (women retire at 60).

²⁵Appendix table E3 shows similar results for more restrictive measures of income (e.g., main occupation). Appendix Table E4 shows additional results on the type of employment. We find a downward kink in the probability of being a salaried employee (-0.7 pp per cohort), matched by roughly same-sized increases in the probability of being a business owner or self-employed. We interpret this as further evidence of economic vulnerability.

household resource pooling could help attenuate the impact of reduced educational attainment.

Figure 10 plots the cohort-level means and estimated trends. Panels (a)-(e) correspond to dummies for each quintile of wealth based on data from the 1992 census, while panels (f)-(j) show the same information for income quintiles based on CASEN, averaged across survey waves. There are sharp downward kinks in the probability of being in the fifth (i.e. top) quintiles of wealth or income for the affected cohorts, matched by upward kinks in the probability of being in the third, second or first (i.e. bottom) quintiles. While panel (b) shows a clear upward kink in the probability of being in the fourth quintile of wealth, panel (g) suggests a downward kink in the probability of being in the analogous quintile for income, though the latter is exceptionally noisy. In general, these results confirm that people reaching college age after the coup struggled to reach the top of either the income or wealth distributions.

Panels A and B in Table 4 show estimates of equation (1) for the wealth and income dummies respectively. Column 1 in panel A shows a weakly negative trend in the probability of being in the top wealth quintile among pre-coup cohorts (-0.2 pp per cohort), which drops sharply after the coup and becomes -1.5 pp per cohort, equivalent to 3% of the sample mean. Column 1 in panel B shows a similar pre-coup trend in the probability of being in the top income quintile (-0.2 pp per cohort), which also accentuates and becomes -0.8 pp per cohort after the coup (2.4% of the sample mean). Panel C provides estimates of equation (2) for the income quintiles in CASEN. We find that individuals belonging to each younger cohort reaching college age after the coup are 0.2 pp less likely to be in a household belonging to the top income quintile than the age-specific average (0.6% decrease relative to the sample mean). This reduction in the probability of being at the top of the income distribution is matched by 0.1 pp per-cohort increases in the probability of being in either of the bottom two quintiles (0.8% and 1% increases relative to the respective sample means).

We complement the study of distributional outcomes with data from the EOD survey. Using information on self-reported income, we calculate the shares going to the top 20% of earners, the bottom 20%, and the middle 60%. We plot these series in Figure 11, together with vertical lines indicating the year of the military coup (1973) and the return to democracy (1990). This plot reveals a strong correlation between dictatorship and inequality. We find evidence of convergence in the shares of income going to top and middle earners during the pre-1973 democratic period, particularly during the Allende government. After the coup, there is a steady increase in inequality, with the share of income going to top earners growing at the expense of the middle class. But after democratization in 1990, we see again a trend towards convergence in the shares going to these two groups, though a sizable gap remains as late as 2012. In this year, the top 20% received 52% of total income, while the middle 60% of earners got 44%. Importantly, the share of income

accruing to the bottom 20% does not rise above 6% at any point during this 52-year period. This is consistent with the *Director's Law* posited by [Stigler \(1970\)](#), according to which redistribution under democracy affects mostly the middle class, rather than the poor.²⁶

5.4 Robustness Checks

We verify that the previous results are robust to several robustness checks. First, Appendix Table [E2](#) provides estimates of equation (2) for labor force participation, unemployment and white-collar high-skill occupation using pooled census data from 1992 and 2002. The ten-year period between these censuses generates an equivalent gap between the pre- and post-coup cohorts that we are able to observe at the same age, but the results are remarkably similar to the ones using higher-frequency data from CASEN in panel C of Table 3. Secondly, all of the previous results are based on samples that only include individuals that report four or more years of secondary education, our proxy for secondary completion. We consider such individuals to be the relevant ones for studying the impact of reduced access to college, especially after having shown above that the cohort trend in secondary completion does not change after the military coup. Still, we verify that this restriction is not leading to some form of selection bias that is fundamentally shaping the results. Appendix Tables [E5](#) and [E6](#) replicate the analysis for the unrestricted samples that include all individuals belonging to the relevant cohorts. The results are very similar to the ones from the restricted sample. Finally, we examine the robustness of the results to changes in the bandwidth of cohorts in the sample. We focus on the more conservative specification with age fixed effects. Appendix Figures [E2](#) and [E3](#) plot estimates of ψ in equation (2) for our baseline bandwidth of 18 cohorts, as well as for alternative bandwidths that drop or add between one and three cohorts on each side. The point estimates are highly stable as we reduce or expand the bandwidth, though precision is affected in some cases with the smaller bandwidths due to the reduced sample size.

5.5 Heterogeneous Effects by Gender

Figure 12 plots separate point estimates and 95% confidence intervals of ψ in equation (2) by gender for the outcomes in Tables 2 and 3.²⁷ Next to each bar, we have included the respective sample mean to facilitate the calculation of effect sizes. Hence, even though we observe a similar per-cohort decline of about 0.4 pp in labor force participation for men and women after the coup, 87% of men in the sample are in the workforce while only 53% of women are, meaning that

²⁶Recent estimates by [De Rosa et al. \(2020\)](#) using tax data and national accounts show that survey data actually underestimates the level of inequality in Latin America. According to their results, the share of income going to the top 10% in Chile exceeds 60%, the highest among the 10 countries considered.

²⁷Full results disaggregated by gender are available in Appendix Tables [E7](#) and [E8](#).

women were more strongly affected. For unemployment, though the sample mean does not differ by gender, the upward kink is much larger and only statistically significant for women. Women also display much larger downward kinks in the probability of a white-collar high skill occupation and in income. For instance, women reaching college age after the coup were 1.6 pp less likely per cohort to have a white-collar high skill occupation than the age-specific average (3.5% of the female sample mean), while men experienced a 0.8 pp decline per cohort (2.2% of the male sample mean). These results indicate that access to higher education was fundamental to female progress in the labor market, in line with [Goldin \(2006\)](#). Appendix Figure [E4](#) provides analogous results for the household income quintiles included in panel C of Table [4](#). We find evidence of a larger downward kink in the probability of being in the top income quintile for women, as well as larger upward kinks in the probability of being in either of the bottom two quintiles.

5.6 The Effect of College Enrollment: IV Estimates

In the online appendix we provide instrumental variables (IV) estimates of the effects of college enrollment, using the downward kink for the affected cohorts as an excluded instrument. Under standard assumptions, these estimates corresponds to the local average treatment effect (LATE) of college enrollment for the individuals that failed to attend college due to the contraction of higher education ([Angrist et al., 1996](#)). While the previous results strongly suggest that the affected cohorts had worse economic outcomes as a result of their diminished access to higher education, the IV strategy requires a stronger exclusion restriction implying that kinks in downstream outcomes for these cohorts are driven exclusively by reduced college enrollment. Even though the military coup brought about many changes to Chilean society, we find this assumption to be plausible insofar as these changes should have affected similarly-aged cohorts of young adults in a roughly similar way. The fact that the trend in secondary completion remains unaffected constitutes further evidence against differential changes in other factors. Additional tests following [Conley et al. \(2012\)](#) show that our IV estimates are robust to even large violations of the exclusion restriction.

Appendix Table [E9](#) shows results from an IV regression with age fixed effects using data from CASEN (i.e. adaptation of equation [2](#)). We estimate that college enrollment increases labor force participation by 16 pp, reduces unemployment by 6 pp. and increases the probability of having a white-collar high-skill occupation by 41 pp. Moreover, college enrollment leads to a 34% increase in total income, which is slightly higher than the 22% estimate provided by [Zimmerman \(2014\)](#) for the US using a regression discontinuity design. Equivalently, our IV estimate corresponds to a 7% increase in income per year of education, which is comparable to the 9% estimate from the meta-analysis by [Psacharopoulos and Patrinos \(2018\)](#). Appendix Table [E10](#) further shows that

college enrollment increases the probability of being in the top 20% of household income by 9.2 pp and decreases the probability of being in the bottom two quintiles by about 5 pp each. In all cases, the IV estimates are comparable to the partial correlations estimated through OLS and are often smaller, suggesting possible selection bias in the latter.

6 Results: Political Behaviors

In this section, we examine potential changes in the political behavior of individuals affected by the contraction of higher education after 1973. We focus our attention on the 1988 plebiscite that allowed voters to decide whether they wanted Pinochet to remain in power for eight more years (SI option) or to have open presidential elections (NO option). This was a pivotal moment in the country’s history, as the NO option won with 55% of the votes, thereby bolstering the country’s transition to democratic rule (Bautista et al., 2020; Kaplan et al., 2020).

We first look at voter registration in the run-up to the plebiscite as a measure of engagement with the political process. The military junta declared the previous voting registry void shortly after the coup, so all voters had to register anew to participate in the plebiscite. Based on individual-level records for the universe of voters in 2017, panel (a) in figure 13 plots the share of voters per cohort that registered in 1987 or 1988, as well as the estimated trends for the cohorts reaching college age before and after the coup.²⁸ We observe a clear upward kink in the registration rate for the plebiscite among the affected cohorts. However, registration was generally very high, with a sample mean of 81%, so the magnitude of the kink is relatively small (i.e. 0.1 pp average net gain in registration per post-coup cohort). Still, we interpret this result as suggestive evidence of increased interest in the vote by those experiencing reduced access to higher education.

To study potential effects on the outcome of the plebiscite, we construct a localized measure of the impact of the contraction in higher education. We estimate pre- and post-coup trends in college enrollment for each county j in the 1992 census (i.e. expanded version of equation 1). We adjust the county-specific kink in enrollment ($\pi_{1,j}$) based on the precision of the estimates following Krueger and Summers (1988) and standardize this measure to facilitate interpretation. Panel (b) in Figure 13 shows a binned scatterplot of the NO vote share per county and this impact measure. The plot suggests a clear positive correlation between the impact of the educational contraction and support for the NO option in the plebiscite.

Table 5 examines the robustness of this correlation. We present robust standard errors in parentheses and p-values from a bootstrap procedure in brackets to account for the generated regressors.

²⁸In 2012, the country switched to having automatic registration. Hence, the composition of our sample is not affected by overall differences in the propensity to register across cohorts.

The estimate in column 1 indicates that a one standard deviation (SD) decrease in our impact measure (i.e. downward kink in enrollment) is associated with a 3.9 pp increase in the NO vote share (8% increase over sample mean). This column includes no controls, while column 2 controls for total population in 1970 and for the shares of rural and female population. Column 3 further controls for the distances to Santiago, the regional capital and the provincial capital. Column 4 also adds region fixed effects. The magnitude of the correlation between the kink in enrollment and the NO vote share decreases as we add controls, but remains economically and statistically significant. Finally, column 5 adds the vote share for Allende in 1970 as an additional control. This variable is also strongly correlated with the NO vote share, with a one-point increase in the Allende vote share being associated with a 0.44 pp increase in support for NO. Adding this control reduces the correlation of the NO vote share with the local kink in college enrollment by 43%, but it remains negative and significant. This is to be expected as the areas that were affected by the contraction were also the ones that arguably benefited from the redistributive policies implemented by Allende and were more likely to support him. We interpret these results as suggestive evidence that the contraction of higher education caused a political backlash and contributed to Pinochet’s defeat.

7 Results: Intergenerational Effects

In this section, we study the educational attainment of children with a parent in the affected cohorts, focusing on their probability of college enrollment. Section 3 discusses the construction of the sample for this analysis, which includes more than 230,000 people in the 2017 census that we can link to a parent meeting our sample inclusion criteria. The children have ages between 25 and 40 in 2017, meaning that the oldest people in our sample reached age 21 in 1998, eight years after the end of the Pinochet regime. We use here the same specifications as above, with the exception that the cohort-level variables refer to the parent, while the outcomes refer to the child.

7.1 Main Results

To start, panel A of Table 6 provides estimates of equation (1) showing that college enrollment among the parents of the children in our sample exhibits a pattern essentially identical to the full sample in Table 1. This suggests that these parents are not fundamentally different from the larger population. Panel B provides estimates of the relationship between the birth cohort of the parent and the college enrollment of the child. For people with a parent that reached college age before the coup, column 1 shows a positive trend in college entry of 0.4 pp per cohort. But this trend reverses for those with a parent in the affected cohorts and becomes -0.1 pp per year. This suggests

a positive causal relationship between the college enrollment of parents and children.

The only controls in column 1 are the gender by county of birth fixed effects included in all previous regressions using census data. In column 2 we further control for the combination of parent's and child's gender, ensuring that potential differences in the gender composition of the sample across cohorts do not bias the estimates. In column 3 we include an additional set of dummies for the relationship of the child to the household head in the census, which is what we use to link parents and children. The results change very little across specifications.

In column 4 we introduce age fixed effects for the child. These controls help address the concern that children with parents in later cohorts (i.e. more affected) are themselves likely to be younger, which could downward-bias the estimate of the intergenerational effect if younger people benefited from a positive secular trend in college enrollment in recent years. Indeed, we find that controlling for the child's age makes the baseline trend negligible and insignificant, while increasing the per-cohort decline after the coup from -0.5 pp to -0.7 pp. The specification in column 4 is our preferred specification for this part of the analysis.²⁹

Figure 14 provides a non-parametric visualization of the results in column 4. Panel (a) shows point estimates and 95% confidence intervals for parents' college enrollment. As in our main analysis above, there is an upward trend in college enrollment among cohorts reaching college age before the coup, while those reaching the same age after the military take-over experience a sharp decline. Panel (b) shows the relationship between the cohort of the parent and the college enrollment of the child. We observe a clear decline in the probability of going to college for children with a parent that reached college age after the coup. For example, a child with one parent reaching age 21 in 1979 is 5 pp less likely to go to college (9% of sample mean) than a child with a parent born seven years before in 1972. However, the latter is just as likely to attend college as a third child with a parent born seven years before in 1966.

Using the kink for the affected cohorts of parents as an excluded instrument, Appendix Table F2 presents IV estimates of the effect of parental college enrollment on the child's probability of enrollment. As before, these results rely on an additional exclusion restriction requiring the parent's cohort to affect the child's college enrollment exclusively through the parent's diminished access to college. We estimate that having a parent that went to college increases a person's chances of enrolling by 32 pp. This is a large effect, equivalent to 45% of the sample mean of 58%, but is only slightly larger and not statistically different from the corresponding OLS estimate.

²⁹However, by including age fixed effects we are effectively comparing children of the same age born to parents from different cohorts (i.e. parents with different age at the time of birth), which could also confound the analysis. Hence the importance of showing the robustness of the results to the exclusion of these fixed effects.

7.2 Robustness and Mechanisms

We subject the previous results to a battery of robustness tests. Appendix Figure F1 shows that the results are hardly affected if we consider more conservative bandwidths for the ages of parents. Appendix Table F3 further shows that the results are robust to different windows of ages for the children included in the sample, including a narrow bandwidth with ages 25-30 (the average person in this sample was *born* in 1990, the year in which Chile returned to democracy). Table F4 shows that the downward kink in college enrollment is stronger for affected children that are household heads or spouses than for those classified as children of the head. This is consistent with status within the household being endogenously co-determined with college enrollment (i.e. children with a parent in the affected cohorts are both less likely to go to college and more likely to have their parents as dependents). Table F5 provides disaggregate results based on gender of the parent or the child. Effects are slightly larger for mothers, consistent with the larger socioeconomic impact of the reduction in college enrollment for women documented above, and for male children.

To better understand the stage at which the educational attainment of children with affected parents lags behind, column 5 in Table 6 includes an additional control indicating whether the child completed secondary education. As expected, this control absorbs some of the variation in college enrollment, but its inclusion only leads to a small reduction in the magnitude of the estimated kink. Hence, most of the effect of parental college enrollment materializes after children finish secondary. Appendix Table F6 provides additional results using completion of each grade in primary and secondary as dependent variable. The parental cohort trends are smooth for all grades in primary, which is to be expected as primary education is mandatory in Chile and beyond the control of parents. However, we find evidence of a downward kink in the probability of progressing through all grades in secondary for children with a parent in the affected cohorts. The magnitude of these kinks is much smaller than for college enrollment, confirming that the transition into higher education is the critical juncture at which the intergenerational effects mostly manifest.

Our strategy to link parents and children, based on reported relationship to the household head in the census, only allows us to credibly link each child to one of the parents. But having a parent with college plausibly affects the child partly through the educational attainment of the other parent, which we do not observe. To gain further insight, Appendix Table F7 uses information on the partner or spouse of the linked parent as a proxy. For this part of the analysis, we must restrict the sample to linked parents that are household heads, though these are the bulk of the overall sample. We find evidence of downward kinks for post-coup cohorts in the probability that the parent has a spouse and, if there is a spouse, in the probability that this person attended college (i.e. assortative matching). Controlling for the education level of the spouse reduces the magnitude of

the kink in the child's college enrollment from -0.6 pp per cohort to -0.4 (33% drop). This suggests the presence of strong complementarities in the education of both parents (or parents and spouses) in the production of children's human capital.

8 Conclusion

In this paper, we study the capture of higher education by the Pinochet dictatorship following the 1973 military coup in Chile. We show that the regime's twin objectives of political control and fiscal conservatism led to a large contraction of the university system nationwide, mostly through the steady reduction in the number of openings for incoming college students. A comparison of educational outcomes for individuals that reached college age shortly before and after the military coup reveals that the latter experienced a sharp decline in the probability of college enrollment. These individuals had worse economic outcomes throughout the life cycle and struggled to reach the top of the socioeconomic ladder. However, these individuals also registered to vote at higher rates for the pivotal 1988 plebiscite that brought the Pinochet regime to an end, and we find a robust positive correlation between the estimated impact of the contraction in higher education and opposition to Pinochet in the plebiscite at the county level. After democratization, children with a parent in the affected cohorts are also less likely to enroll in university.

We draw several conclusions from these results. Our findings show that political regime change can have a large impact on the functioning and size of the education system. These changes have sizable and long-lasting socioeconomic effects. The educational contraction that we study hindered social mobility for an entire generation and arguably contributed to an increase in inequality. Educational policy is, thus, an important mediating mechanism through which political regimes affect distributional outcomes. Importantly, the ideological orientation of a dictatorship plays a fundamental role in shaping educational policy. In the case of the right-wing dictatorship we study, the regime's twin aims of fiscal prudence and political control were both served by a contraction in the supply of education. Contrary to the received wisdom, our results also suggest that diminished educational opportunities can negatively affect support for the incumbent regime when a democratic window of opportunity arises. Hence, by fulfilling short-term goals of political control and fiscal consolidation, cuts to the provision of education may in fact undermine the long-term survival of authoritarian regimes.

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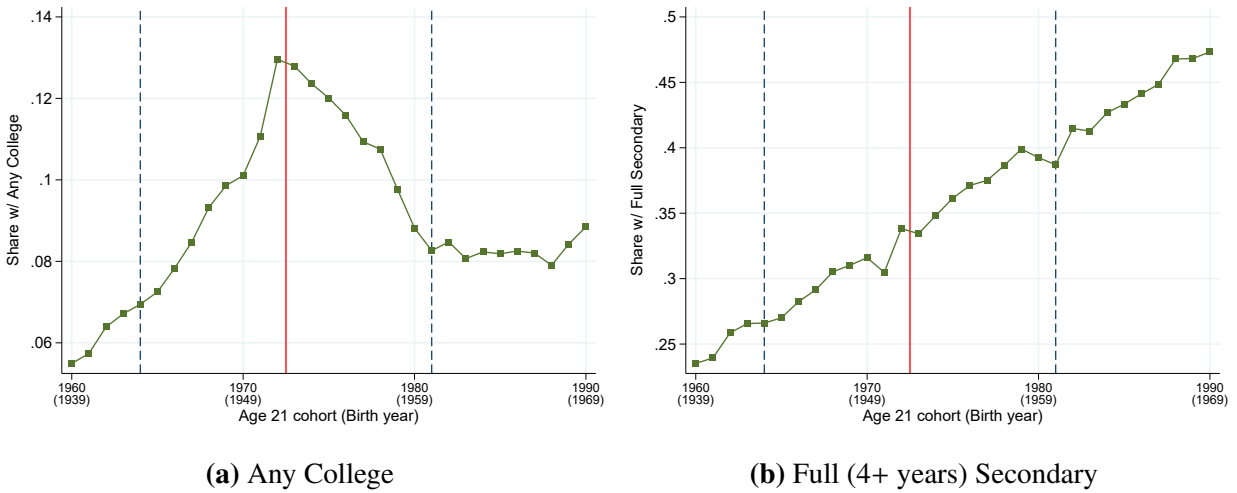
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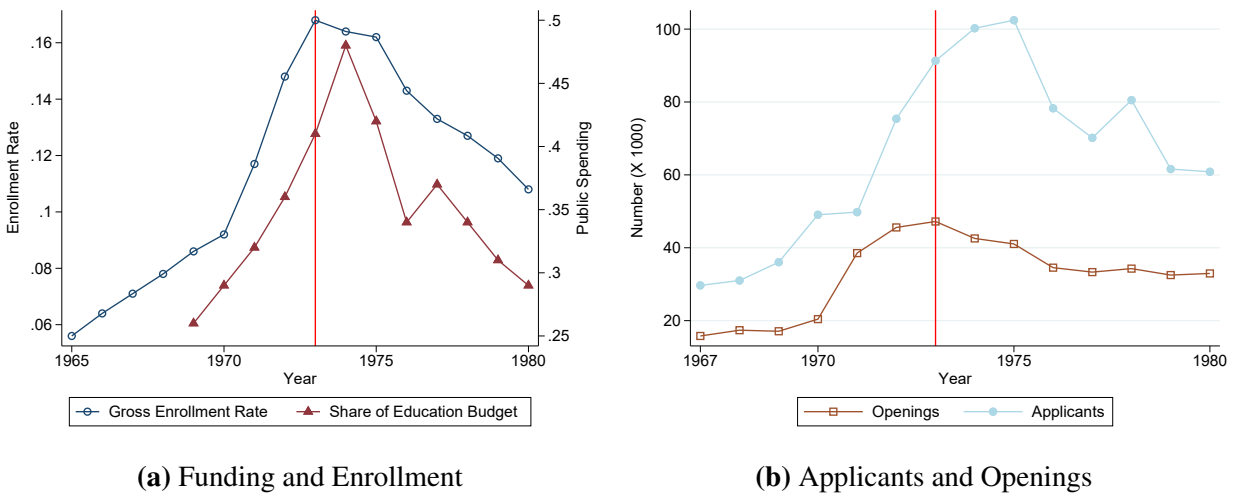
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Figure 1: The Military Coup and College Enrollment



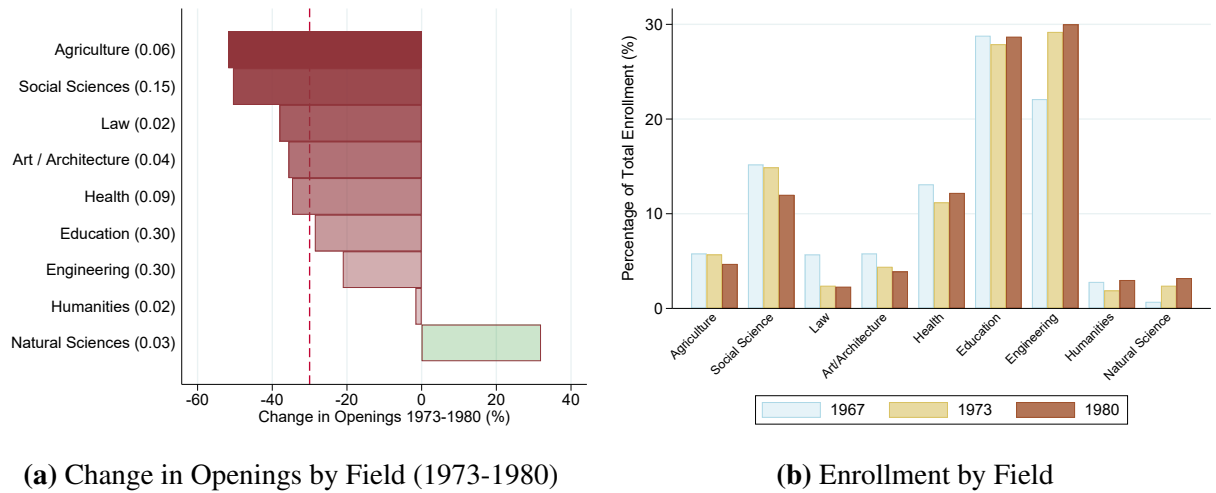
Notes: Panels show the respective shares of people per cohort (normalized to age 21) in the 1992 census that report any college or 4+ years of secondary. The solid red line shows the year of the military coup. Dashed lines show the start (1964) and end date (1981) of the sample of cohorts used in the analysis.

Figure 2: College Funding, Enrollment and Openings



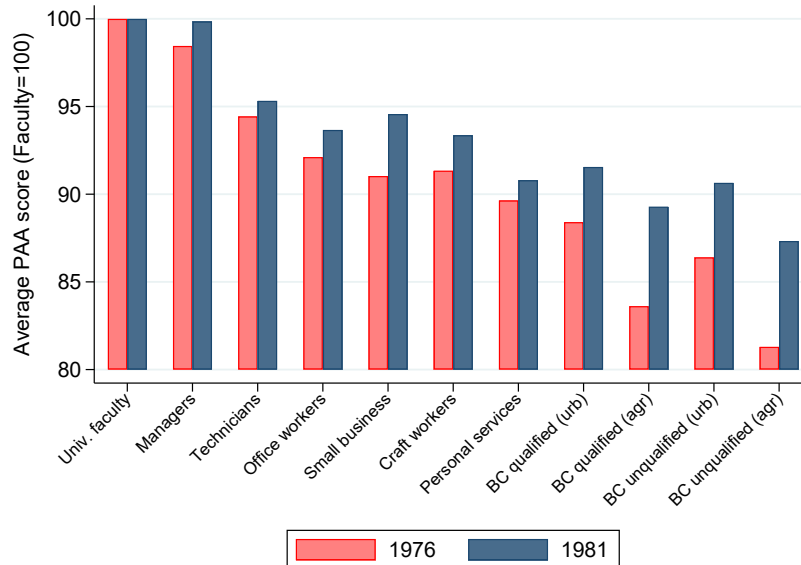
Notes: Panel (a) shows the gross enrollment rate in higher education (i.e. share of 20-24 year-old population) and the share of the national government's education budget devoted to universities. Panel (b) shows the yearly number of college applicants and openings. Sources: [PIIE \(1984\)](#); [Universidad de Chile \(2011\)](#).

Figure 3: College Openings and Enrollment by Field



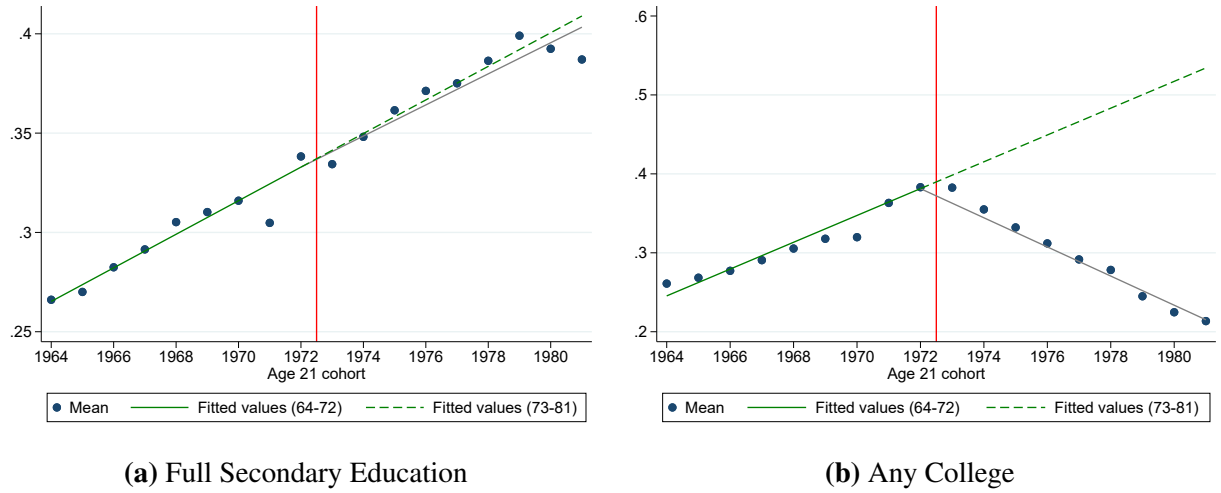
Notes: Panel (a) shows the change in openings by field of study between 1973 and 1980. The number in parenthesis corresponds to the field's share of openings in 1973, while the dashed line indicates the aggregate reduction in openings. Panel (b) shows the share of students enrolled in programs corresponding to different fields of study in 1967, 1973 and 1980. Classification corresponds to UNESCO categories. Sources: [PIIE \(1984\)](#); [Brunner \(1984\)](#).

Figure 4: Average PAA Test Score of Admitted Students by Father's Occupation



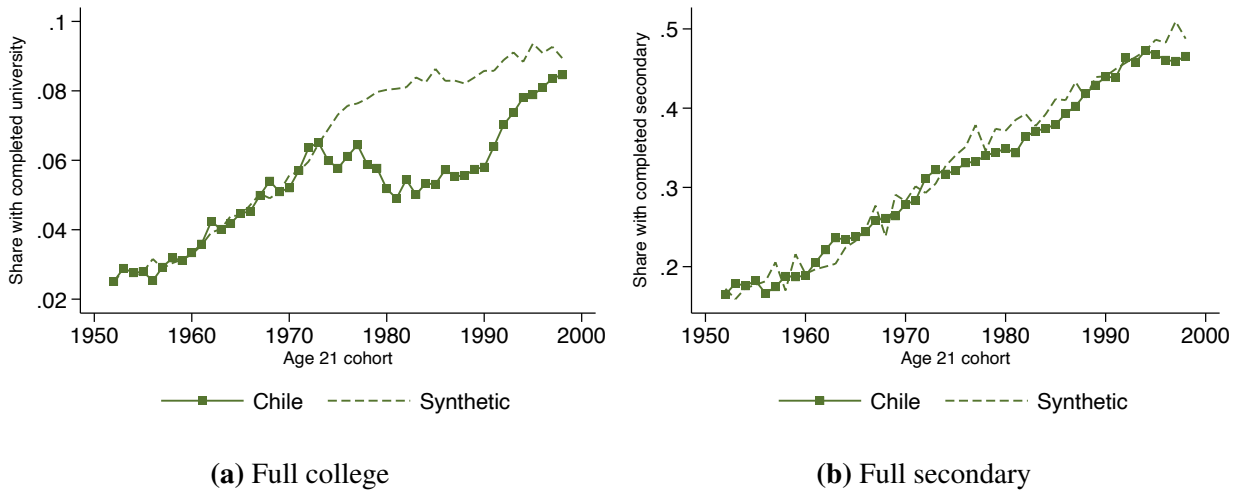
Notes: Figure shows the average PAA test scores for admitted college students in 1976 and 1981, classified by father's occupation. In both years, the maximum corresponds to children of university faculty, which we have normalized to 100. Source: [PIIE \(1984\)](#).

Figure 5: Visualization of Kink: Educational Attainment



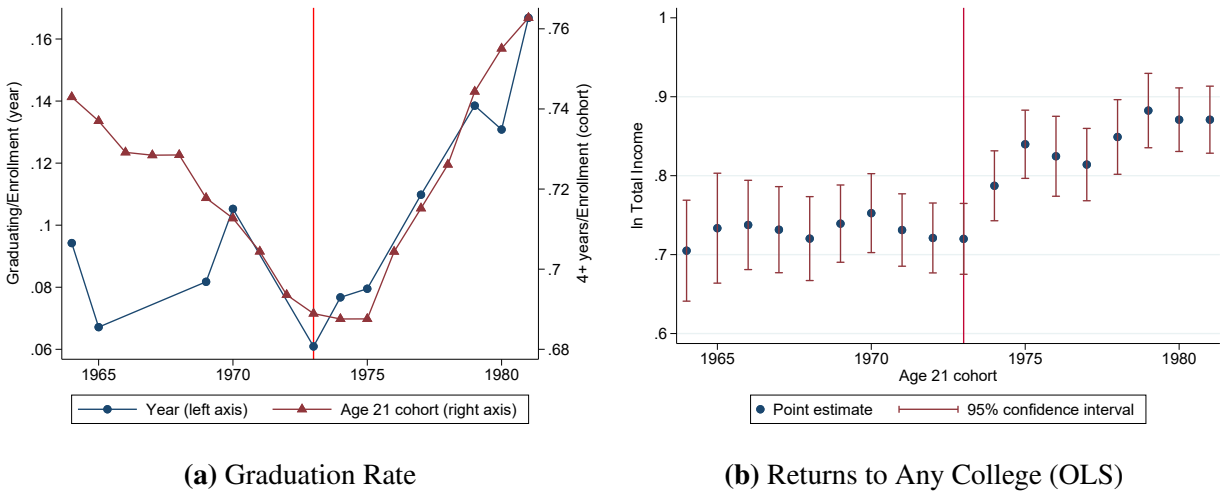
Notes: Panels show averages by cohort for the variable in the caption. Solid green line corresponds to line of best fit for cohorts reaching college age before 1973. Dashed green line shows extrapolation for later cohorts. Solid grey line corresponds to line of best fit for cohorts reaching college age in 1973 or afterwards. All outcomes from 1992 population census. Sample in panel (b) is restricted to census respondents with 4+ years of secondary education.

Figure 6: Educational Attainment: Synthetic Control



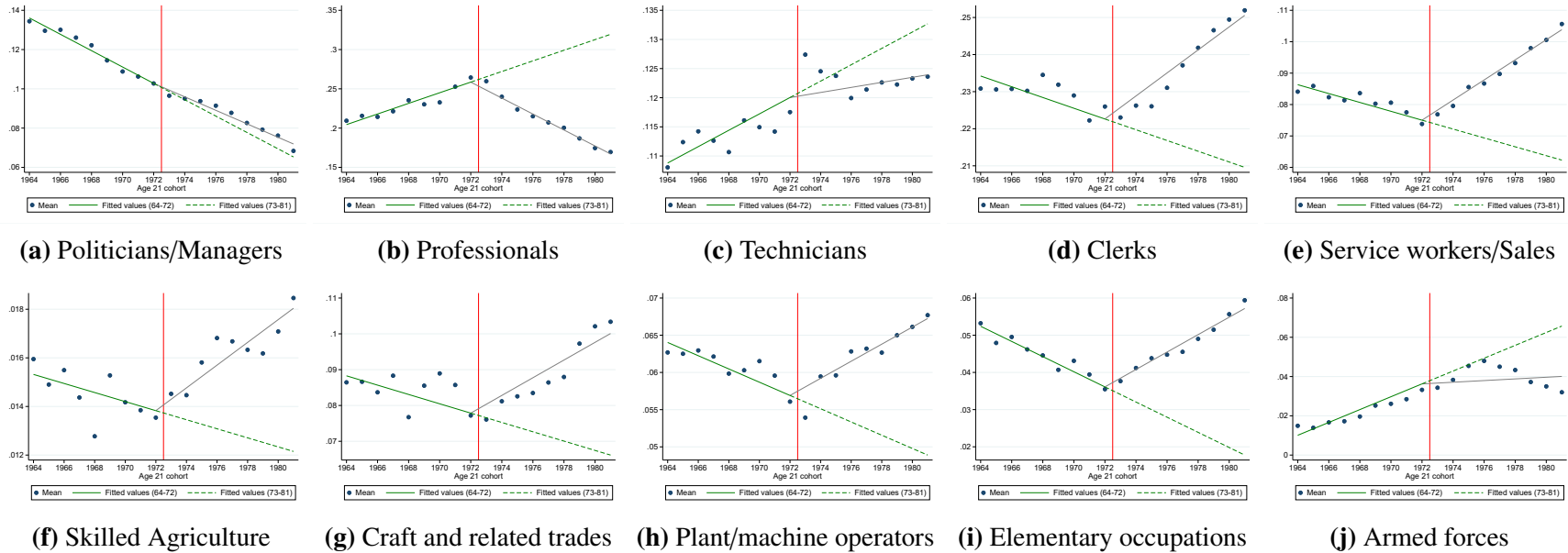
Notes: Panels show observed rates of educational attainment by cohort in the 2002 population census (solid line) and counterfactuals from a synthetic control (dashed line). See the text for additional information on sample construction and estimation. The outcome in panel (a) is the share of people with full college education, while in panel (b) it is the share of people with full secondary education.

Figure 7: Post-Enrollment Outcomes



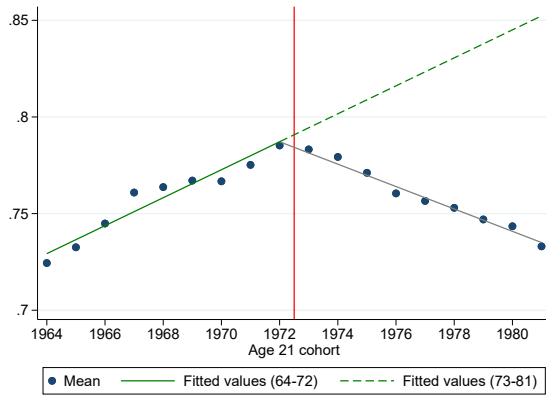
Notes: Panel (a) shows the college graduation rate. Circle markers (left axis) correspond to the number of graduating students as a share of the total number of students per year, based on the UNESCO statistical yearbooks. Triangle markers (right axis) show the number of people in the 1992 census that report 4+ years of college as a share of the people with any college per cohort. Panel (b) shows results from a regression of log real total income on a full set of interactions of a dummy for any college with cohort fixed effects. Sample includes all respondents in the CASEN survey reaching age 21 between 1964 and 1981 and reporting 4+ years of secondary education. Controls include county of residence by gender, survey year and age fixed effects. Standard errors clustered by county of residence.

Figure 8: Visualization of Kink: Occupational choice

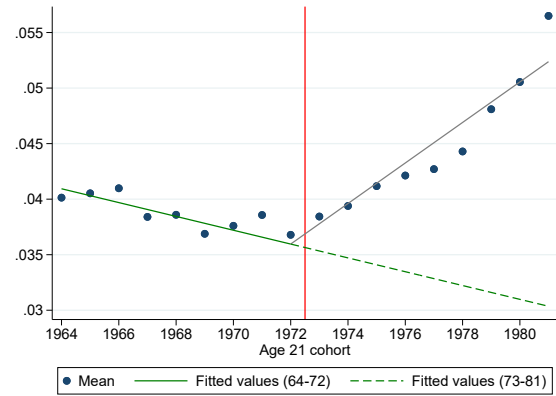


Notes: Panels show averages by cohort for the variable in the caption. Solid green line corresponds to line of best fit for cohorts reaching college age before 1973. Dashed green line shows extrapolation for later cohorts. Solid grey line corresponds to line of best fit for cohorts reaching college age in 1973 or afterwards. Source: 1992 census.

Figure 9: Visualization of Kink: Labor Market Outcomes



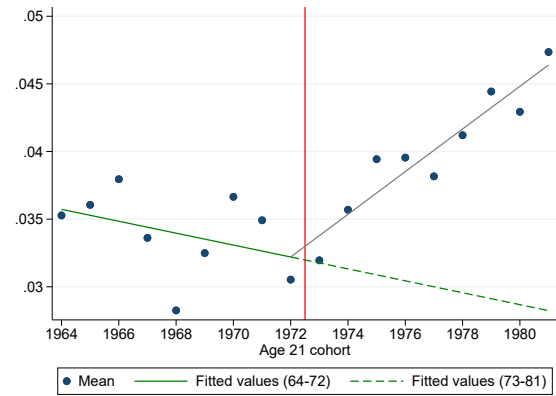
(a) In Labor Force (Census)



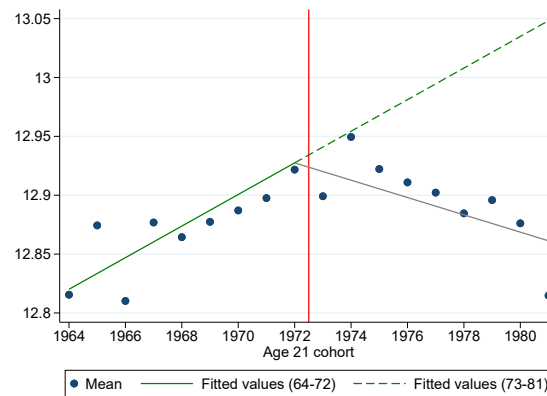
(b) Seeking Work (Census)



(c) In Labor Force (CASN)



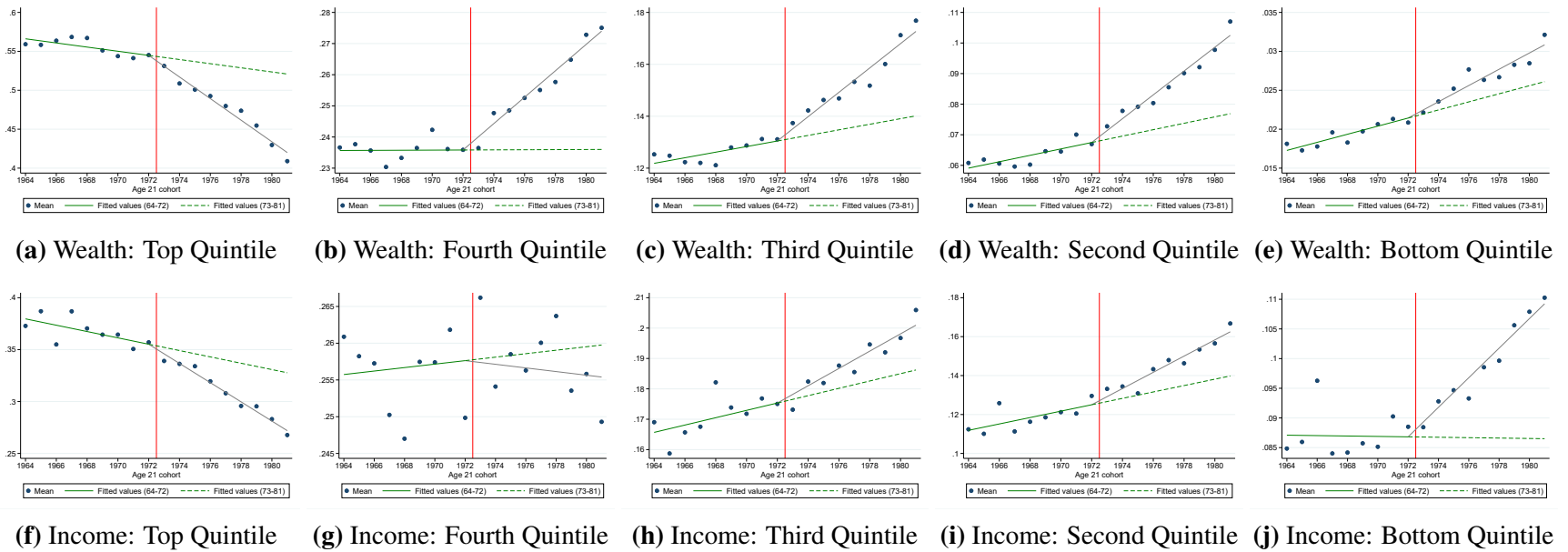
(d) Seeking Work (CASN)



(e) Log Total Income (CASN)

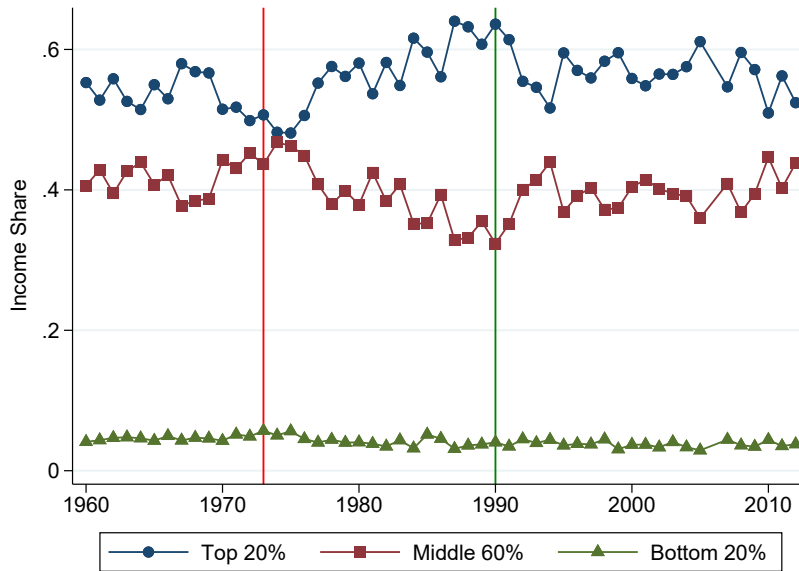
Notes: Panels show averages by cohort for the variable in the caption. Solid green line corresponds to line of best fit for cohorts reaching college age before 1973. Dashed green line shows extrapolation for later cohorts. Solid grey line corresponds to line of best fit for cohorts reaching college age in 1973 or afterwards. Panels (a)-(b) use data from 1992 population census, while panels (c)-(e) use data from the CASN survey between 1990 and 2017.

Figure 10: Visualization of Kink: Household Wealth and Income



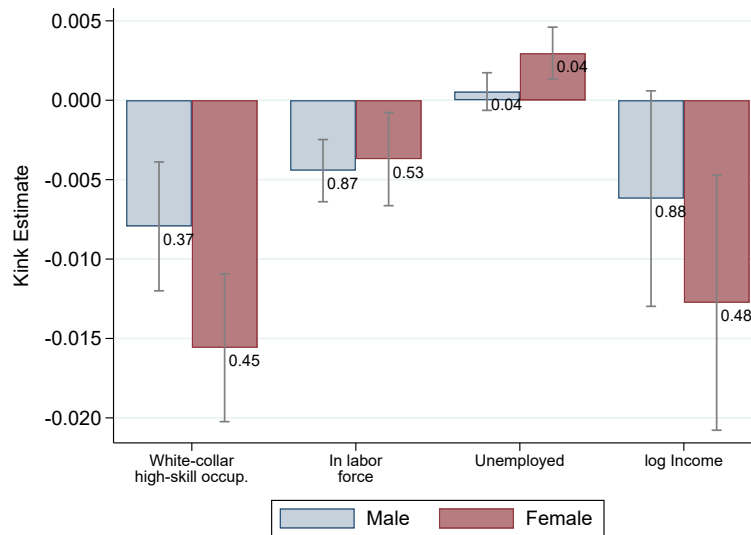
Notes: Panels show averages by cohort for the variable in the caption. Solid green line corresponds to line of best fit for cohorts reaching college age before 1973. Dashed green line shows extrapolation for later cohorts. Solid grey line corresponds to line of best fit for cohorts reaching college age in 1973 or afterwards. Panels (a)-(e) use data from 1992 population census, while panels (f)-(j) use data from the CASEN survey between 1990 and 2017.

Figure 11: Income shares



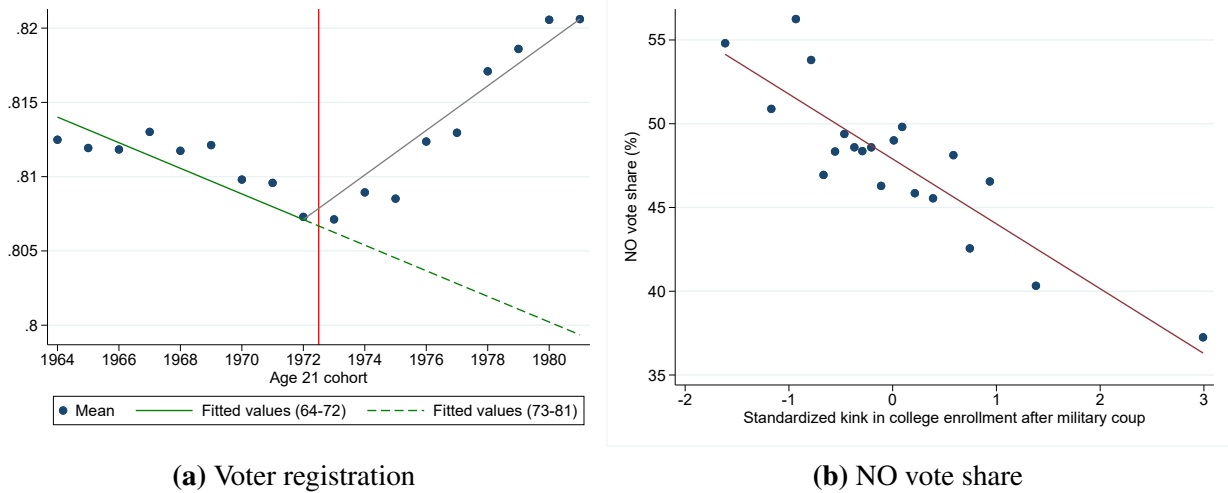
Notes: Figure shows the yearly share of income going to the top 20% of earners, middle 60% and bottom 20%. Sample includes all respondents of Universidad de Chile's Employment Survey reporting any individual income.

Figure 12: Heterogeneous Effects by Gender: Labor Market Outcomes



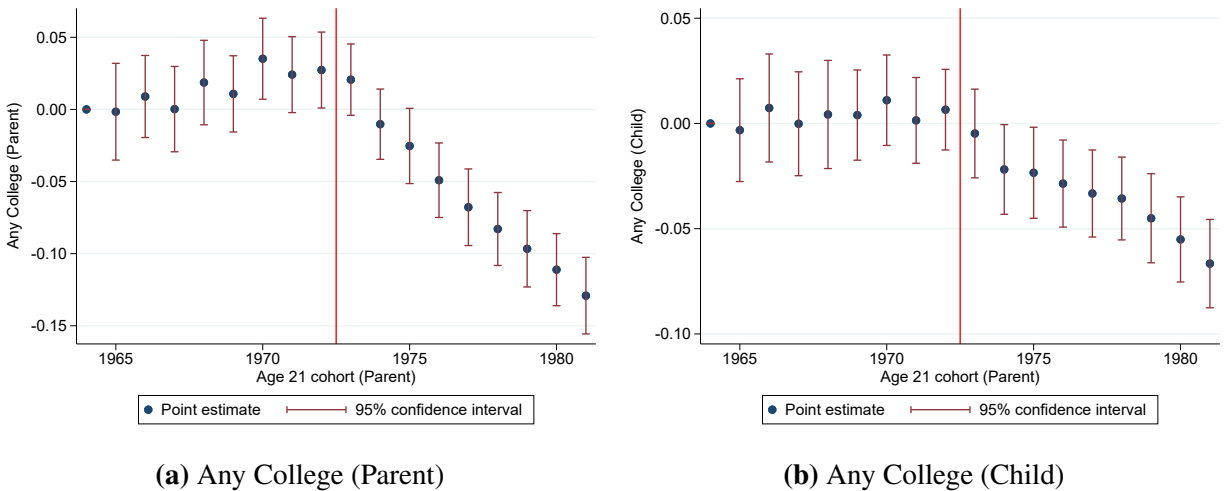
Notes: Graph shows gender-specific estimates and 95% confidence intervals of the kink in the variable in the caption for the cohorts reaching age 21 after 1973. The number next to each bar indicates the sample mean. Sample includes respondents from the CASEN survey reaching age 21 between 1964 and 1981 and reporting 4+ years of secondary education. The gender-specific interaction term $\text{Yr Age 21} \times \mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ is the regressor of interest, where "Yr Age 21" is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached 21 years of age, normalized to zero in 1972. $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ is a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. All regressions include gender-specific county, age, and year fixed effects. Standard errors clustered by county of residence.

Figure 13: Political outcomes: 1988 plebiscite



Notes: Panel (a) shows the share of voters per cohort in 2017 that registered to vote before the 1988 plebiscite (i.e. 1987 or 1988). Solid green line corresponds to line of best fit for cohorts reaching college age before 1973. Dashed green line shows extrapolation for later cohorts. Solid grey line corresponds to line of best fit for cohorts reaching college age in 1973 or afterwards. Panel (b) shows a binned scatter plot of the estimated kink in college enrollment at the county level (adjusted for precision and standardized) and the vote share for the NO option in the 1988 plebiscite. Unit of observation is the county.

Figure 14: College Enrollment of Linked Parents and Children



Notes: Panel (a) shows point estimates and 95% confidence intervals from a regression of parent's college enrollment on parent cohort dummies. Panel (b) uses child's college enrollment as outcome instead. See text for details on sample construction. Controls include county of birth by gender, parent's gender by (child's) gender, age and relationship to household head fixed effects. Standard errors clustered by county of birth.

Table 1: Educational Attainment

	Secondary Education		Any College Education				Any Higher Education
	Any	Full					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Yr Age 21	0.010*** (0.0006) [0.001]	0.008*** (0.0003) [0.002]	0.008*** (0.0004) [0.000]	0.018*** (0.0004) [0.001]	0.015*** (0.0005) [0.001]	0.020*** (0.0021) [0.000]	0.019*** (0.0003) [0.001]
Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$	-0.000 (0.0004) [0.932]	-0.001 (0.0005) [0.707]	-0.012*** (0.0007) [0.000]	-0.036*** (0.0007) [0.000]	-0.033*** (0.0007) [0.000]	-0.041*** (0.0030) [0.000]	-0.030*** (0.0006) [0.000]
Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Female})$					0.006*** (0.0006) [0.003]		
Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Female})$					-0.007*** (0.0008) [0.002]		
Sample	Full	Full	Full	4+ Years of Secondary Education			
County of birth x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Family FE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Observations	2,982,951	2,982,951	2,982,951	1,024,570	1,024,570	42,649	1,024,570
R-squared	0.119	0.088	0.046	0.040	0.040	0.647	0.034
Mean DV	0.540	0.343	0.101	0.295	-	0.293	0.379
Mean DV (Male)	-	-	-	-	0.315	-	-
Mean DV (Female)	-	-	-	-	0.276	-	-

Notes: Dependent variable in the header. Sample includes census respondents born between 1943 and 1960. “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year when the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972. $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ is a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table 2: Occupational choice

	White-collar		Blue-collar		Military
	High-skill	Low-skill	High-skill	Low-skill	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Yr Age 21	0.004*** (0.0005) [0.004]	-0.003*** (0.0004) [0.001]	-0.002*** (0.0002) [0.006]	-0.003*** (0.0002) [0.000]	0.004*** (0.0002) [0.001]
Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$	-0.017*** (0.0008) [0.000]	0.010*** (0.0005) [0.000]	0.005*** (0.0003) [0.001]	0.006*** (0.0005) [0.000]	-0.004*** (0.0003) [0.004]
County of birth x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	770,652	770,652	770,652	770,652	770,652
R-squared	0.032	0.027	0.049	0.024	0.027
Mean DV	0.431	0.323	0.104	0.109	0.034

Notes: Dependent variable in the header. White collar, high skilled (WC-HS): Politicians and managers, professionals and technicians. WC-LS: Clerks and service or sales workers. BC-HS: Skilled agricultural workers, craft and related trades. BC-LS: Plant/machine operators and elementary occupations. Sample includes census respondents born between 1943 and 1960 with 4+ years of secondary education. “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year when the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972. $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ is a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table 3: Labor Market Outcomes

	In Labor Force			Seeking Work			Log Total Income	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Yr Age 21	0.008*** (0.0003) [0.000]	0.027*** (0.0008) [0.000]		-0.001*** (0.0001) [0.004]	-0.000 (0.0004) [0.114]		0.016*** (0.0017) [0.000]	
Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$	-0.012*** (0.0006) [0.000]	-0.016*** (0.0009) [0.001]	-0.004*** (0.0009) [0.000]	0.003*** (0.0002) [0.003]	0.002*** (0.0005) [0.007]	0.002*** (0.0005) [0.020]	-0.023*** (0.0023) [0.001]	-0.009*** (0.0027) [0.026]
County x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Survey year FE	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age FE	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Source	Census	CASEN	CASEN	Census	CASEN	CASEN	CASEN	CASEN
Observations	1,024,570	163,693	163,693	776,304	114,790	114,790	135,152	135,152
R-squared	0.200	0.223	0.248	0.004	0.013	0.013	0.155	0.163
Mean DV	0.758	0.701	0.701	0.043	0.039	0.039	709,631	709,631

Notes: Dependent variable in the header. Sample includes individuals born between 1943 and 1960 with 4+ years of secondary education. Income in column 4 deflated using yearly CPI. “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972. “Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ ” is the interaction of this variable with a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county (panel A: birth; B/C: residence) in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table 4: Household Wealth and Income

	Household's wealth or income quintile (dummy)				
	Q5 (highest)	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1 (lowest)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Panel A: Wealth (Census 1992)					
Yr Age 21	-0.002*** (0.0005) [0.010]	-0.000 (0.0004) [0.392]	0.001*** (0.0003) [0.017]	0.001*** (0.0003) [0.014]	0.000*** (0.0001) [0.004]
Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$	-0.013*** (0.0007) [0.003]	0.004*** (0.0006) [0.001]	0.004*** (0.0004) [0.003]	0.004*** (0.0003) [0.001]	0.001*** (0.0001) [0.000]
Panel B: Income (CASEN 1990-2017)					
Yr Age 21	-0.002** (0.0008) [0.077]	0.000 (0.0006) [0.833]	0.001* (0.0006) [0.096]	0.001*** (0.0004) [0.073]	-0.000 (0.0004) [0.419]
Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$	-0.006*** (0.0011) [0.002]	-0.001 (0.0010) [0.532]	0.002* (0.0008) [0.118]	0.003*** (0.0007) [0.002]	0.003*** (0.0006) [0.001]
Panel C: Income (CASEN 1990-2017) w/ Age FE					
Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$	-0.002** (0.0011) [0.047]	-0.001 (0.0010) [0.478]	0.001 (0.0009) [0.533]	0.001* (0.0008) [0.041]	0.001* (0.0007) [0.055]
Panel A:					
County of birth x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	1,007,957	1,007,957	1,007,957	1,007,957	1,007,957
R-squared	0.114	0.013	0.032	0.052	0.050
Mean DV	0.500	0.250	0.145	0.080	0.024
Panels B and C:					
County of residence x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Survey year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	163,342	163,342	163,342	163,342	163,342
R-squared [Panel B]	0.080	0.012	0.016	0.024	0.028
R-squared [Panel C]	0.084	0.013	0.017	0.026	0.031
Mean DV	0.327	0.257	0.184	0.137	0.096

Notes: Dependent variable in the header. Sample includes individuals born between 1943 and 1960 with 4+ years of secondary education. "Yr Age 21" is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972. "Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ " is the interaction of this variable with a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county (panel A: birth; B/C: residence) in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table 5: Opposition to Pinochet in 1988 Plebiscite

	Dependent variable: NO vote share				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Kink in college enrollment	-3.87*** (0.79) [0.000]	-3.21*** (0.66) [0.000]	-2.35*** (0.67) [0.010]	-1.98*** (0.62) [0.000]	-1.13** (0.56) [0.050]
Allende vote share in 1970					0.44*** (0.04)
Population controls	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Geographic controls	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Region FE	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Observations	318	318	318	318	318
R-squared	0.100	0.439	0.485	0.544	0.681
Mean DV	47.90	47.90	47.90	47.90	47.90

Notes: Dependent variable is the NO vote share in the 1988 plebiscite. Unit of observation is the county. Local impact measure is equal to the negative of the county-specific estimate of the net trend in college enrollment for cohorts reaching college age between 1973 and 1981 (adjusted for precision), multiplied by the share of the voting-age population in 1988 belonging to the affected group (age 21 between 1964 and 1981 and reporting 4+ years of secondary education in 1992 census). We exclude counties with less than 1,000 people in the estimating sample. Population controls include total population, rural share and female share in 1970. Geographic controls include distance to Santiago and to the provincial and regional capitals. Observations weighted by population in 1970. Robust standard errors in parentheses. P-values from wild bootstrap in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table 6: Educational Attainment of Children

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
PANEL A: Any College (Parent)					
Yr Age 21 Parent	0.006*** (0.0008) [0.001]	0.006*** (0.0008) [0.001]	0.006*** (0.0008) [0.001]	0.004*** (0.0008) [0.009]	0.004*** (0.0008) [0.011]
Yr Age 21 Parent x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21 Parent} \geq 1973)$	-0.021*** (0.0012) [0.000]	-0.021*** (0.0012) [0.000]	-0.020*** (0.0012) [0.000]	-0.022*** (0.0012) [0.000]	-0.021*** (0.0012) [0.000]
PANEL B: Any College (Child)					
Yr Age 21 Parent	0.004*** (0.0009) [0.005]	0.004*** (0.0009) [0.005]	0.004*** (0.0009) [0.005]	-0.000 (0.0009) [0.742]	-0.001 (0.0008) [0.456]
Yr Age 21 Parent x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21 Parent} \geq 1973)$	-0.005*** (0.0013) [0.006]	-0.005*** (0.0013) [0.005]	-0.005*** (0.0013) [0.005]	-0.007*** (0.0012) [0.004]	-0.006*** (0.0011) [0.003]
County of birth x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parent's gender x gender FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Relationship to HH head FE	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age FE	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Full secondary FE	No	No	No	No	Yes
Observations	233,136	233,136	233,136	233,136	233,136
R-squared (panel A)	0.085	0.087	0.088	0.095	0.099
R-squared (panel B)	0.044	0.045	0.046	0.063	0.132
Mean DV (Panel A)	0.309	0.309	0.309	0.309	0.309
Mean DV (Panel B)	0.582	0.582	0.582	0.582	0.582

Notes: Notes: Dependent variable in the header of each panel. Sample includes all respondents in the 2017 census between the ages of 25 and 40 that we can connect to at least one parent that was born between 1943 and 1960 and reported full secondary education. See text for further details on construction of sample. "Yr Age 21 Parent" is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the parent reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972, while $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21 Parent} \geq 1973)$ is a dummy for parents that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

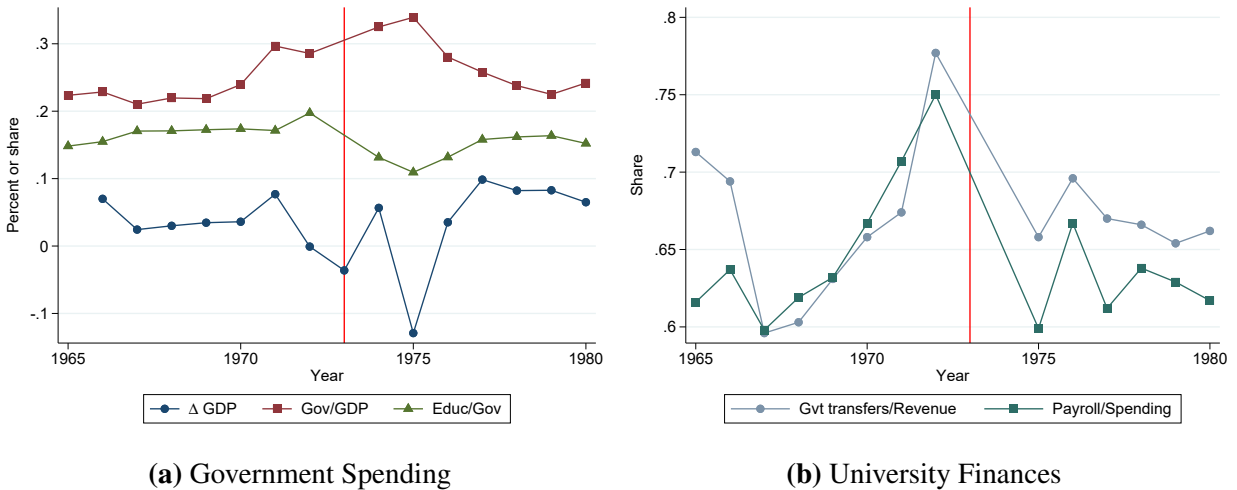
Dictatorship, Higher Education and Social Mobility: Appendix for online publication

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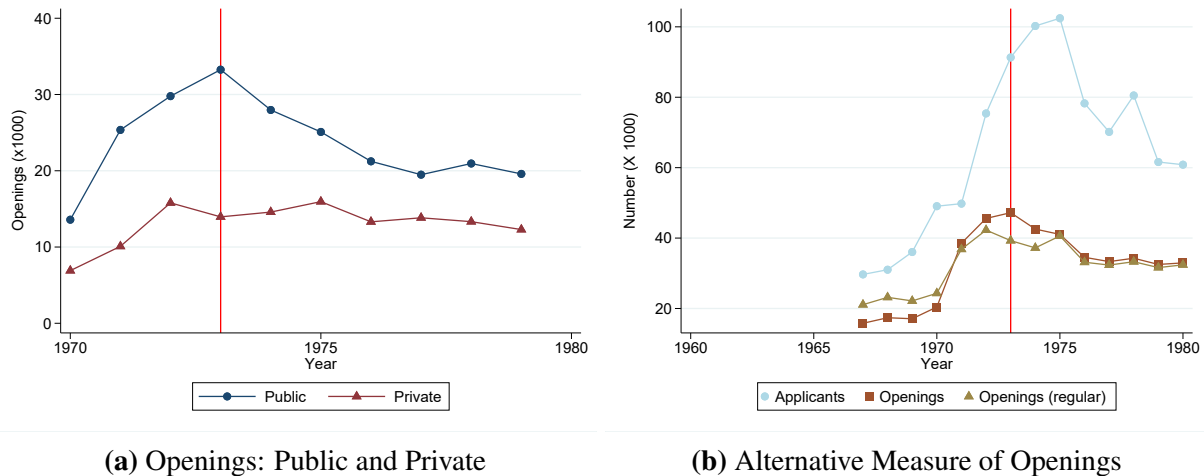
Appendix A Additional Background Figures

Figure A1: Public Spending on Education



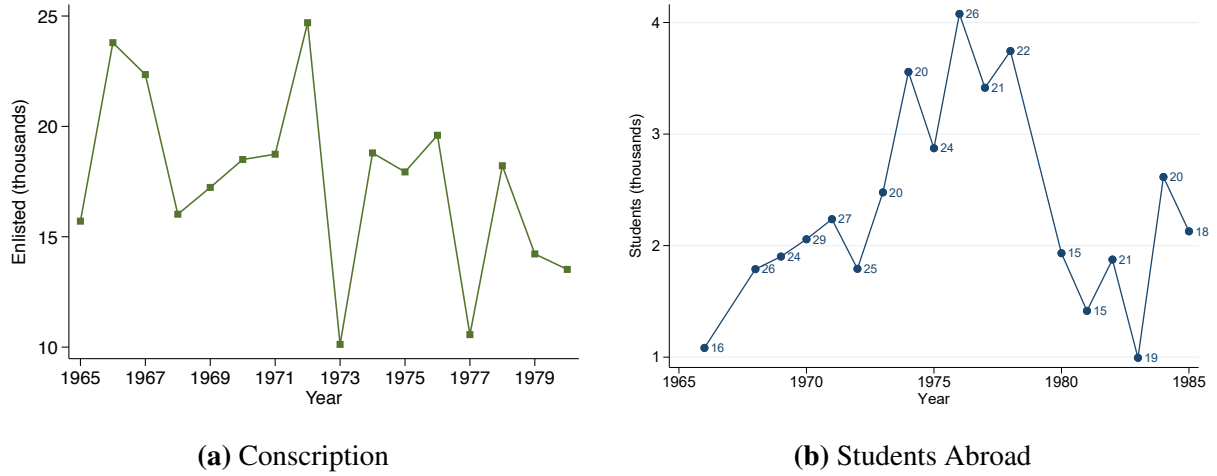
Notes: Panel (a) shows GDP growth, government spending as a share of GDP, and spending on education as a share of government spending. Panel (b) shows fiscal transfers as a share of total revenue in the university system, and payroll as a share of total spending by universities. Source: [PIIE \(1984\)](#).

Figure A2: Further Evidence on Supply and Demand for College



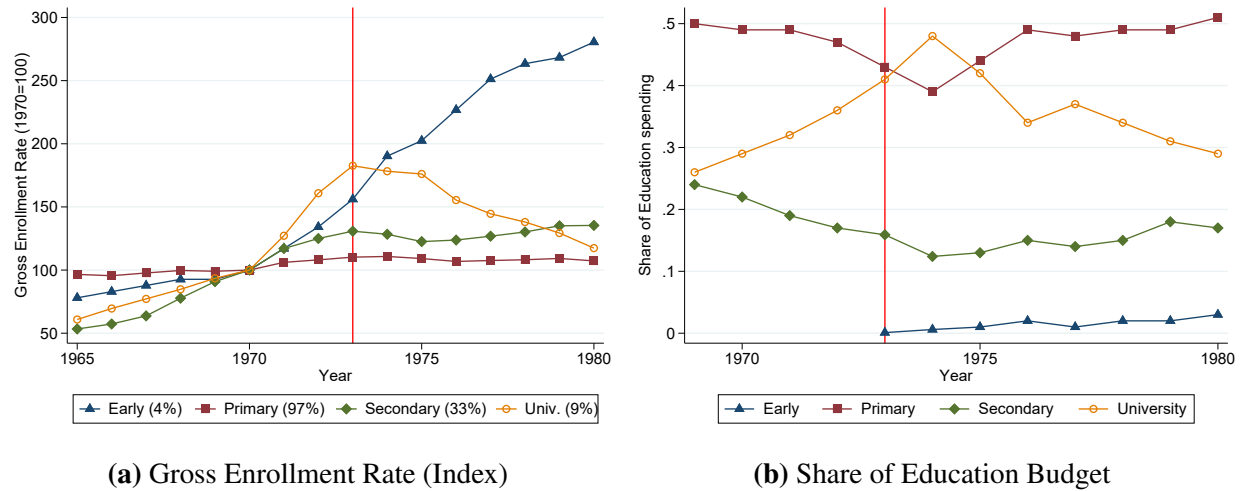
Notes: Panel (a) shows yearly openings in private and public universities. Panel (b) shows the number of applicants and openings per year, but includes an alternative measure of regular openings.

Figure A3: Alternative Mechanisms



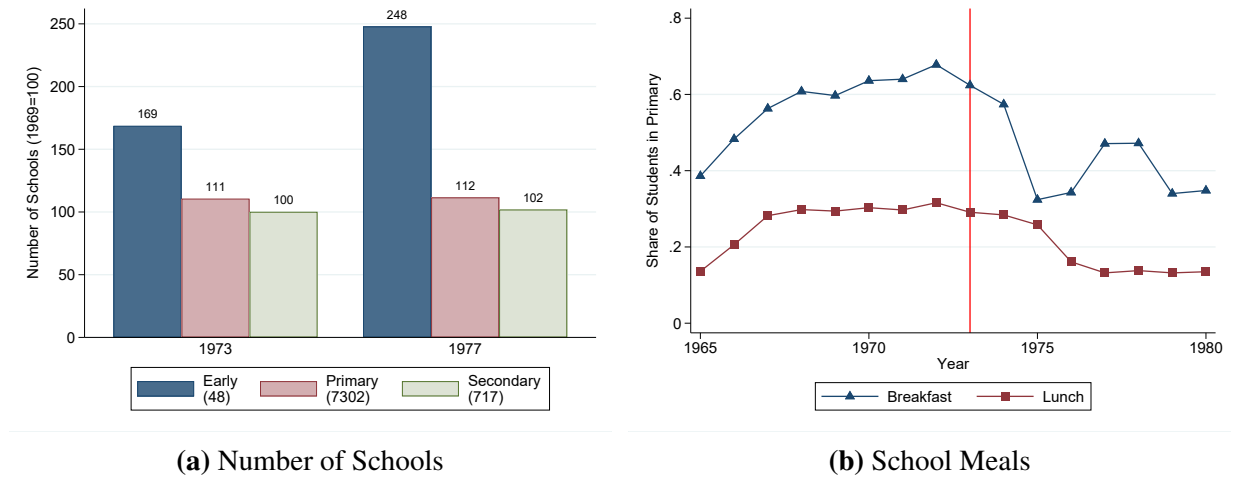
Notes: Panel (a) shows the number of army conscripts per year. Panel (b) shows the number of Chilean students abroad. Sources: records of conscripts per year were obtained through a Freedom-of-Information request and the number of students abroad from UNESCO statistical yearbooks.

Figure A4: Educational Spending and Enrollment



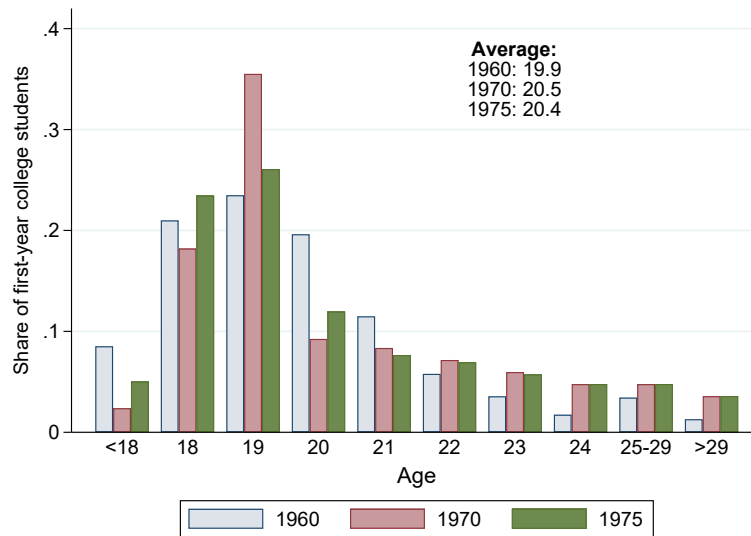
Notes: Panel (a) shows indices for the gross enrollment rates in each level. The respective denominators are population in the 0-5,6-14-15-19,20-24 age groups. Enrollment rates have been normalized to 100 in 1970, number in parenthesis corresponds to enrollment rate in that year. Panel (b) shows the share of public spending on education devoted to early, primary, secondary and higher education. Source: [PIIE \(1984\)](#).

Figure A5: Other Outcomes: Lower Levels



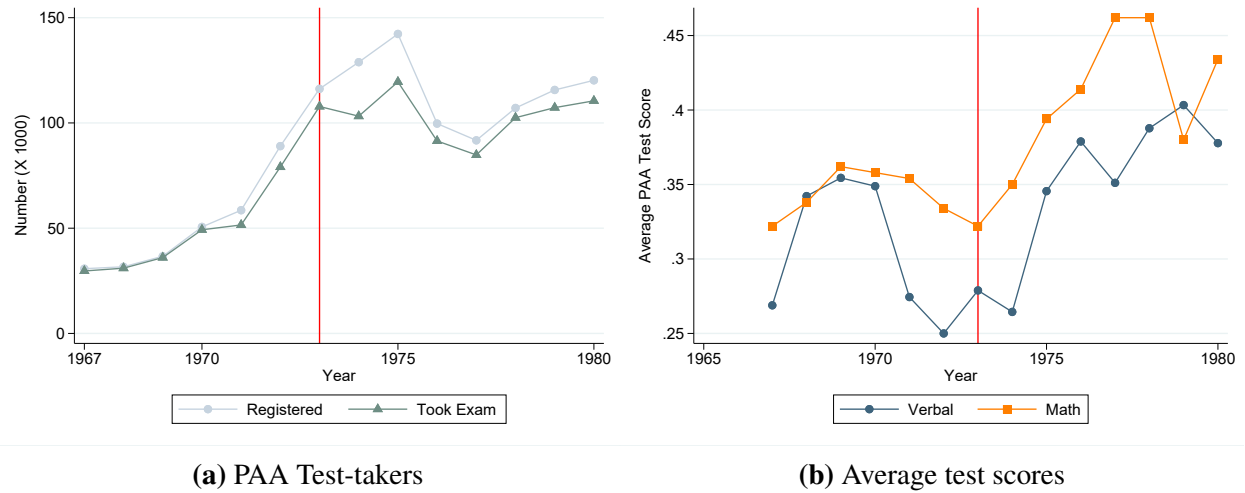
Notes: Panel (a) shows the number of schools per level (early, primary, secondary) in 1973 and 1977, relative to 1969 (normalized to 100). Panel (b) shows the yearly share of primary students receiving either free breakfast (triangle markers) or lunch (square markers). Sources: [Echeverría \(1980\)](#); [PIIE \(1984\)](#).

Figure A6: Age Distribution of First-year College Students



Notes: Information for 1960 comes from the published results from that year's population census ([INE, 1965](#)). The respective sources for 1970 and 1975 are [Schiefelbein \(1976\)](#) and [Echeverría \(1982\)](#), based on administrative records and the 1970 population census. Data for 1970 corresponds to entire tertiary sector (i.e., including technical education). For the average, we set age at 17, 25 and 30 for the < 18, 25 – 29 and > 29 age groups respectively, which likely leads to an underestimate.

Figure A7: Additional Information on PAA Test



Notes: Panel (a) shows the yearly number of students that registered for the PAA test and the number that actually took the test. Panel (b) shows the average (raw) scores in the verbal and math sections of the PAA test. The score is calculated by adding the number of correct answers and subtracting one quarter of the wrong answers. We divide these averages by the number of questions in each section (90 questions in verbal, 50 questions in math) for enhanced comparability. Sources: [Díaz and Himmel \(1985\)](#); [Universidad de Chile \(2011\)](#).

Appendix B Additional Information on Data Sources

Censuses and surveys: The population censuses of 1992, 2002 and 2017 were *de facto* and took place on days declared as national holidays. We restrict the sample to people born in Chile and we identify the cohort of birth using the respondents' age. The census files provide universal information at the individual level on gender, age, educational attainment, labor force participation, unemployment, occupation, marital status and fertility. In each census, individuals are classified into households and one person is identified as the head of each household. For all other respondents, the census reports how they are related to the household head. The questions in the census and their level of detail vary slightly over time, especially in 2017. For example, the 2017 census does not ask about employment categories (i.e. business-owner vs salaried employee), but does ask about completion of the highest educational level. Only the 1992 census includes an additional calculated variable indicating the wealth quintile to which the household belongs based on the observable characteristics of the dwelling and ownership of various assets.

We complement the censuses with a repeated cross-section of the National Socioeconomic Characterization Survey CASEN. This survey has been conducted biannually by the Ministry of Planning since 1987, and it includes detailed information on the labor market of the interviewed population.

Other sources: We use data from the Integrated Public Use Micro-data Series (IPUMS) for the synthetic control analysis. Harmonized data is available for 57 countries (see Table B1 for details). The countries (census year) that we use in the baseline analysis are: Argentina (2010), Bolivia (2001), Brazil (2010), Colombia (2005), Costa Rica (2011), Dominican Republic (2010), Ecuador (2010), Honduras (2001), Haiti (2003), Mexico (2015), Nicaragua (2005), Panama (2010), Peru (2007), Paraguay (2002), El Salvador (2007), Uruguay (2011). The data for Chile comes from the 2002 census.

Table B1: Countries and samples in Synthetic Control Analysis

Without dictatorship between 1950-1990		With dictatorship between 1950-1990	
Country	Last year of Census	Country	Last year of Census
Armenia	2011	Argentina	2010
Austria	2011	Bolivia	2001
Bangladesh	2011	Brazil	2010
Benin	2013	Burkina Faso	2006
Botswana	2011	Chile	2002
Cambodia	2008	Colombia	2005
Canada	2011	Dominican Republic	2010
China	2000	Ecuador	2010
Costa Rica	2011	Egypt	2006
El Salvador	2007	Fiji	2007
Ethiopia	2007	Ghana	2010
France	2011	Greece	2011
India	2009	Haiti	2003
Ireland	2011	Honduras	2001
Jamaica	2001	Hungary	2011
Kenya	2009	Indonesia	2010
Liberia	2008	Jordan	2004
Malaysia	2000	Mongolia	2000
Mexico	2015	Nicaragua	2005
Morocco	2004	Nigeria	2010
Senegal	2002	Panama	2010
Switzerland	2000	Paraguay	2002
Ukraine	2001	Peru	2007
United States	2015	Philippines	2010
Vietnam	2009	Poland	2011
		Portugal	2011
		Romania	2011
		South Africa	2011
		Spain	2011
		Thailand	2000
		Turkey	2000
		Uruguay	2011

Appendix C Educational Attainment: Additional Results

Table C1: College Enrollment: Other Sources

Source	Dependent variable: Any College			
	CASEN 1990-2017	Census 2002	Census 2017	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Yr Age 21	0.011*** (0.0007) [0.001]	0.011*** (0.0007) [0.001]	0.012*** (0.0004) [0.001]	0.007*** (0.0004) [0.001]
Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$	-0.024*** (0.0011) [0.000]	-0.024*** (0.0011) [0.000]	-0.025*** (0.0008) [0.000]	-0.018*** (0.0007) [0.000]
County x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	No	No
Observations	163,693	163,693	1,192,851	1,036,105
R-squared	0.057	0.059	0.035	0.037
Mean DV	0.261	0.261	0.325	0.300

Notes: Sample includes survey/census respondents born between 1943 and 1960 and reporting 4+ years of secondary education. “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972, while $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ is a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. All regressions include county of birth x gender fixed effects. Standard errors clustered by county of residence in columns 1-2 and of birth in columns 3-4. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table C2: College Enrollment: Different Kink Points

Kink point (x):	Dependent variable: Any college				
	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Yr Age 21	0.024*** (0.0006) [0.006]	0.021*** (0.0005) [0.002]	0.018*** (0.0004) [0.001]	0.015*** (0.0004) [0.000]	0.011*** (0.0003) [0.000]
Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq x)$	-0.037*** (0.0008) [0.000]	-0.037*** (0.0007) [0.000]	-0.036*** (0.0007) [0.000]	-0.036*** (0.0007) [0.000]	-0.035*** (0.0007) [0.000]
County of birth x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	1,024,570	1,024,570	1,024,570	1,024,570	1,024,570
R-squared	0.037	0.039	0.040	0.040	0.039
Mean DV	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295

Notes: Sample includes all respondents of the 1992 census born between 1943 and 1960 that report 4+ years of secondary education (media). “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972, while $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ is a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. All regressions include county of birth x gender fixed effects. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table C3: College Enrollment: Within-Household Estimates

Source (Census): Relationship to HH head:	Dependent variable: Any College					
	1992		2002		2017	
	Children	Siblings	Children	Siblings	Children	Siblings
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Yr Age 21	0.021*** (0.0028) [0.000]	0.018*** (0.0034) [0.000]	0.012** (0.0048) [0.001]	0.010*** (0.0033) [0.002]	0.015 (0.0108) [0.066]	0.007** (0.0035) [0.011]
Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$	-0.043*** (0.0038) [0.000]	-0.038*** (0.0050) [0.000]	-0.029*** (0.0061) [0.000]	-0.022*** (0.0048) [0.000]	-0.034** (0.0143) [0.002]	-0.020*** (0.0048) [0.001]
County of birth x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Household FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	27,518	14,986	14,412	14,133	4,955	20,658
R-squared	0.653	0.667	0.655	0.670	0.705	0.672
Mean DV	0.287	0.304	0.304	0.323	0.289	0.309

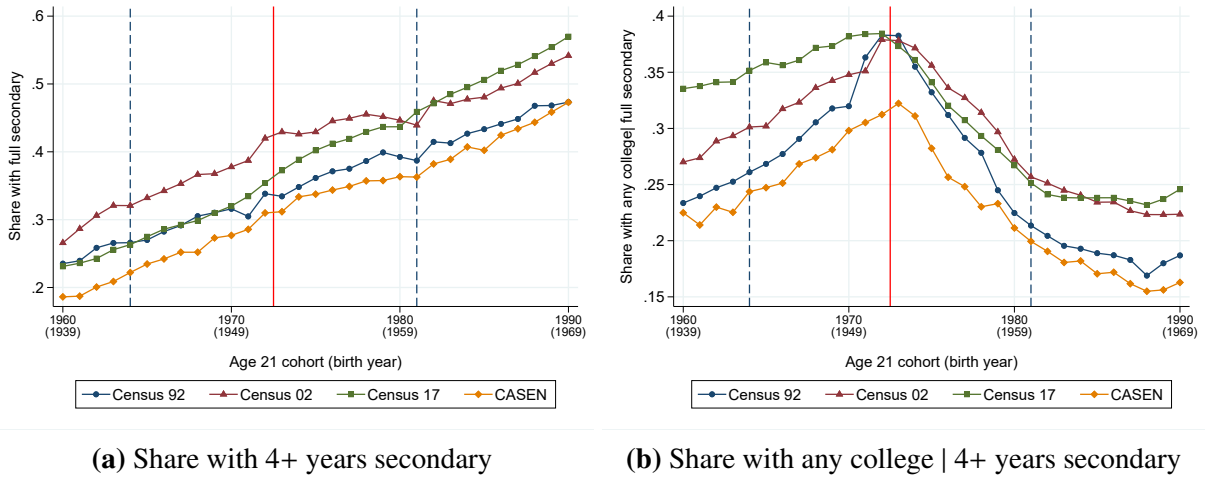
Notes: Sample includes all census respondents from cohorts born between 1943 and 1960, reporting four or more years of secondary education (media). Odd-numbered columns include household heads and respondents classified as siblings. Even-numbered columns include respondents classified as children of the household head. “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972, while $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ is a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. All regressions include county of birth x gender and household fixed effects. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table C4: College Enrollment: Within-Wealth-Quintile Estimates

Sample (Housing wealth quintile):	Dependent variable: Any college				
	5th Quintile	4th	3rd	2nd	1st Quintile
	(highest)	Quintile	Quintile	Quintile	(lowest)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Yr Age 21	0.020*** (0.0005) [0.001]	0.018*** (0.0007) [0.001]	0.017*** (0.0009) [0.000]	0.015*** (0.0008) [0.001]	0.013*** (0.0012) [0.001]
Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$	-0.037*** (0.0009) [0.000]	-0.031*** (0.0012) [0.000]	-0.030*** (0.0014) [0.000]	-0.027*** (0.0013) [0.000]	-0.026*** (0.0018) [0.001]
Birth county x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	504,456	252,358	146,316	80,095	24,493
R-squared	0.042	0.036	0.038	0.035	0.059
Mean DV	0.413	0.209	0.165	0.127	0.125

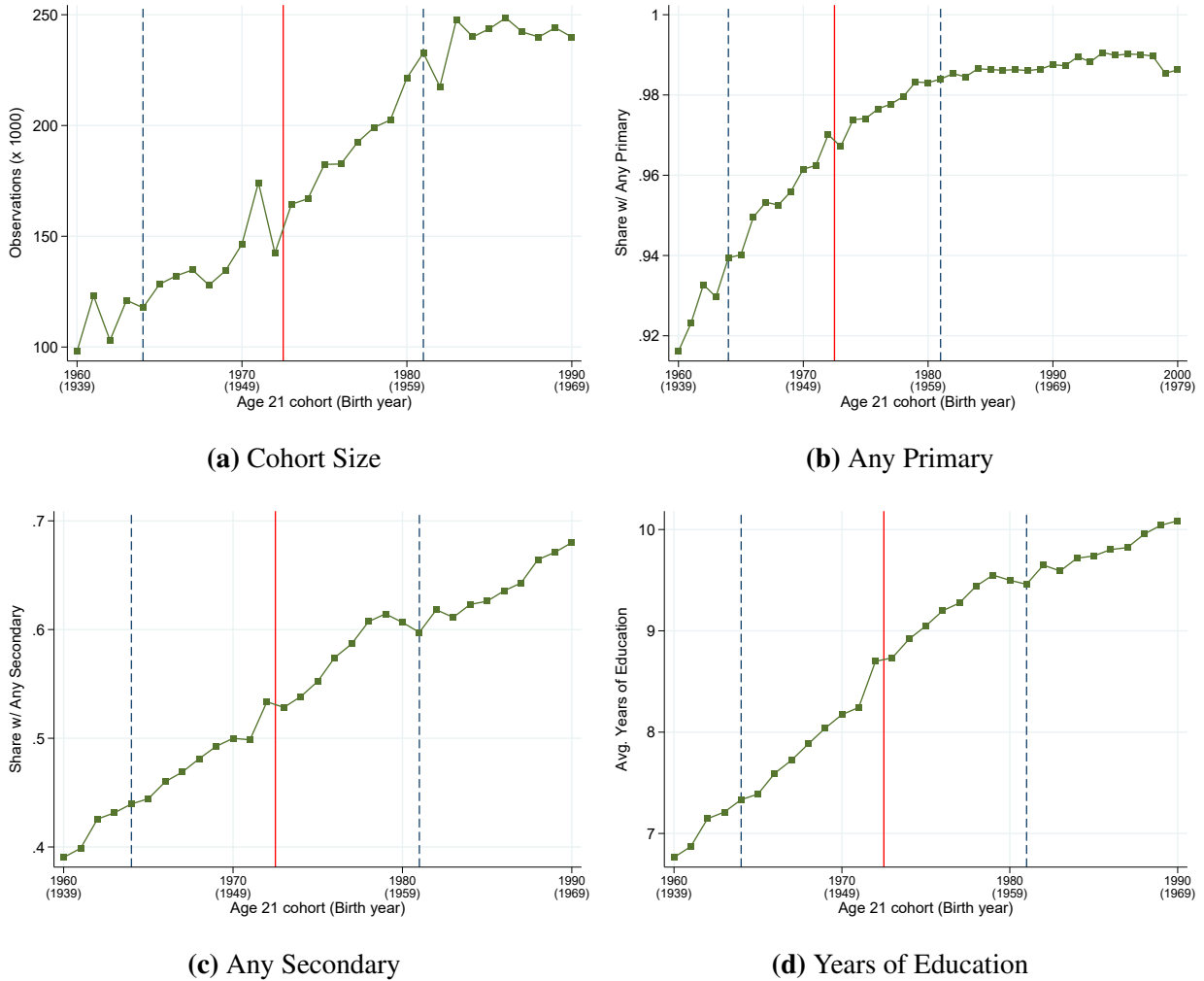
Notes: Dependent variable in the header. The sample in each column includes all 1992 census respondents from cohorts born between 1943 and 1960 (both inclusive) classified in the respective quintile, but is restricted to respondents reporting four or more years of secondary education (media). “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972. “Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ ” is the interaction of this variable with a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. All regressions include county of birth x gender and household fixed effects. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Figure C1: College Enrollment: Different Sources



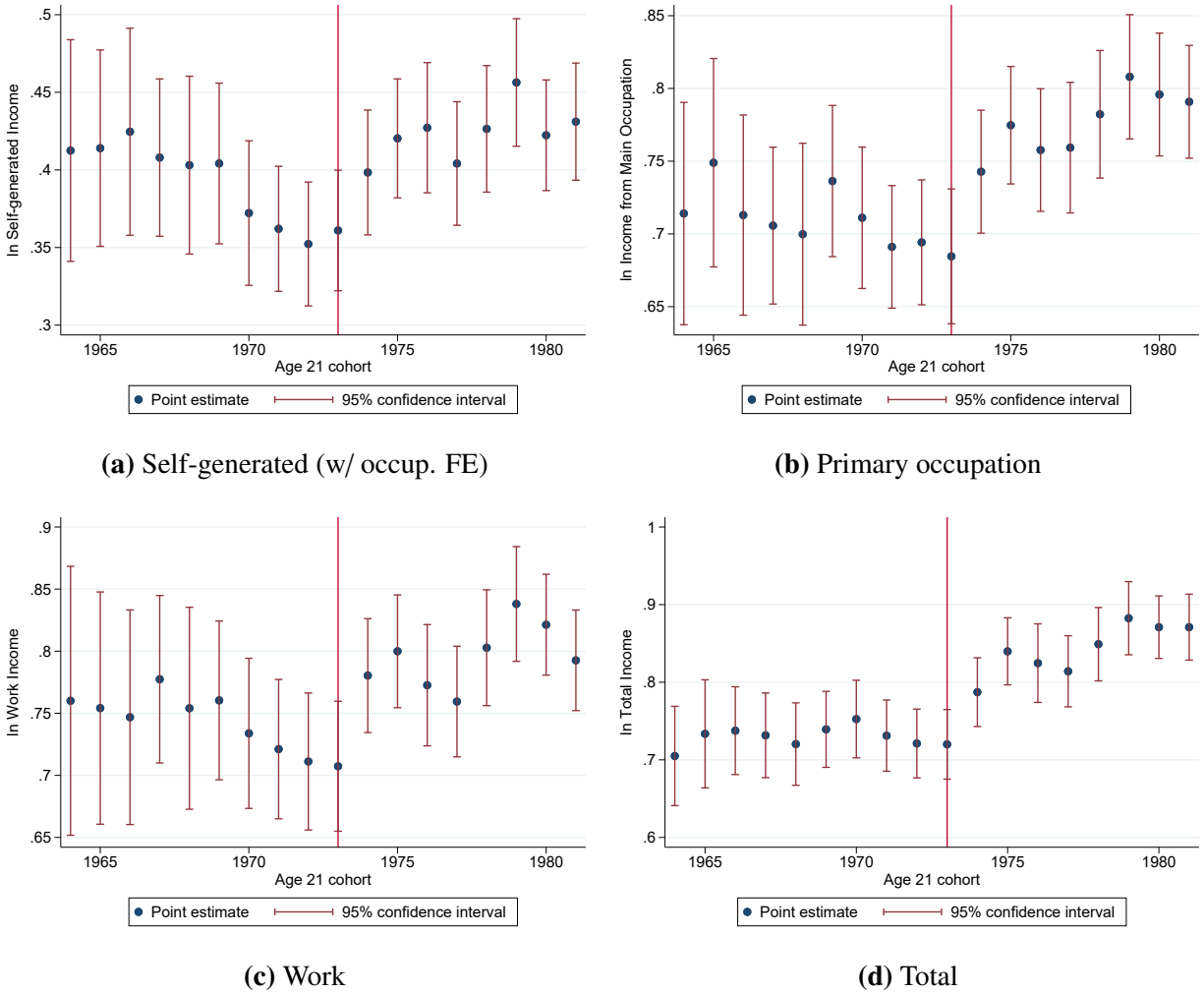
Notes: Panel (a) shows for each source the share of people in each cohort that report at least four years of secondary education. Panel (b) shows the share of people with any college, conditional on having 4+ years of secondary education. The solid red line shows the year of the military coup. Dashed lines show the start (1964) and end date (1981) of the sample of cohorts used in the analysis.

Figure C2: Educational Attainment: Raw Data



Notes: Panel (a) shows the total number of people per cohort (normalized to age 21) in the 1992 population census. Panel (b) shows the share of census respondents per cohort that report any primary education. Panel (c) shows the corresponding share that reports any secondary education. Panel (d) shows the average years of education per cohort. The solid red line shows the year of the military coup. Dashed lines show the start (1964) and end date (1981) of the sample of cohorts used in the analysis.

Figure C3: Cohort-specific Estimates of the College Premium



Notes: Each panel shows results of a regression of log income from the category in the caption on a full set of interactions of a dummy for any college education with cohort fixed effects. Sample includes all respondents in the CASEN survey from cohorts born between 1943 and 1960 (both inclusive), but is restricted to respondents reporting four or more years of secondary education. Regression includes county of residence x gender, survey year and age fixed effects. Panel (a) additionally includes occupation fixed effects. Standard errors are clustered by county of residence.

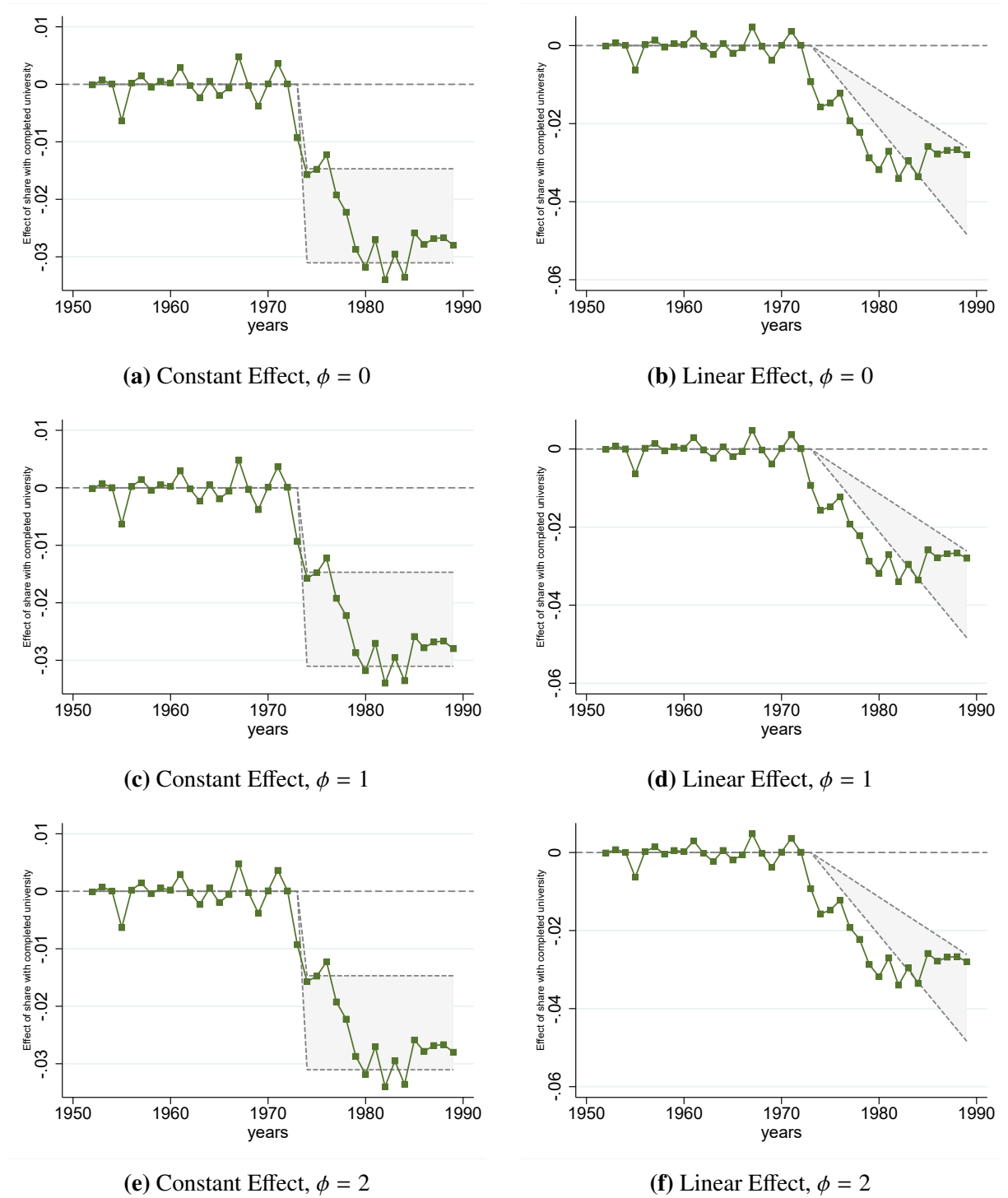
Appendix D Synthetic Control: Additional Results

Table D1: Robustness checks to the synthetic control analysis

Sample:	R^2	Average effect	p-value	
			Unrestricted	Restricted
Panel A: Using even pre-treatment period outcomes for matching				
LA without controls	96%	-1.69%	0.00	0.00
LA with controls	94%	-1.27%	0.00	0.00
All countries without controls	96%	-1.23%	0.00	0.00
All countries with controls	95%	-1.02%	0.04	0.04
Exclude dictatorships without controls	88%	-1.11%	0.04	0.04
Exclude dictatorships with controls	94%	-1.20%	0.04	0.04
Panel B: Using all pre-treatment period outcomes for matching				
LA without controls	98%	-1.18%	0.00	0.00
All countries without controls	99%	-0.86%	0.02	0.02
Exclude dictatorships without controls	98%	-0.66%	0.04	0.04

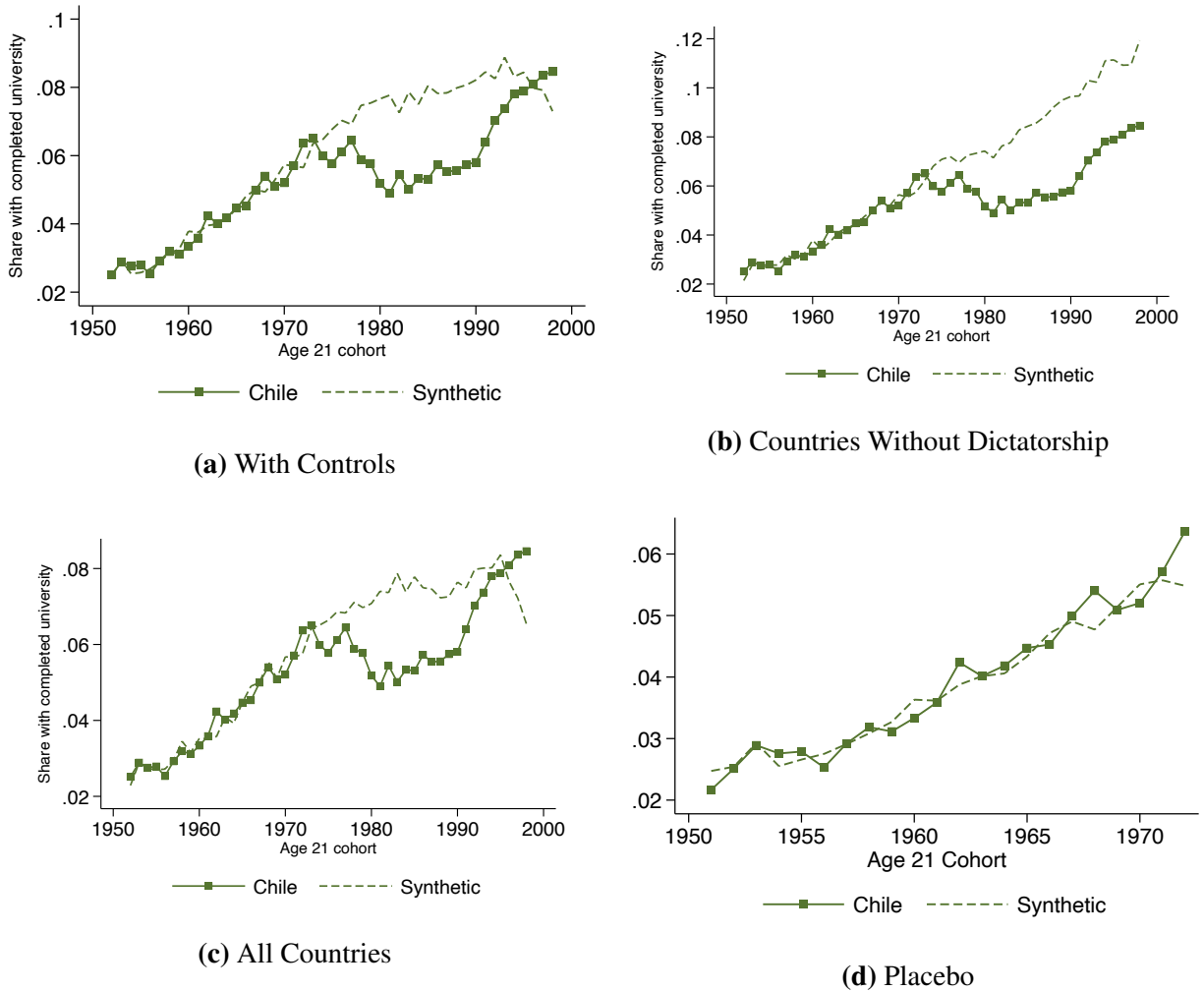
Notes: This table presents the goodness of fit of the matching and the treatment effects for different samples and different sets of matching characteristics. The R^2 comes from a regression between the Chilean data and the synthetic control during the pre-treatment period. The *Average effect* is the average difference between Chile and the synthetic control between 1973 and 1981. The *p-value* is computed based on placebo treatments, for each country in the control group we construct their synthetic control and then we create the ratio between the RMSPE in the post (1973-1981) and the RMSPE in the pre-treatment period. Then we see how likely is to find a ratio as large as the one for Chile for the case of a negative effect. The *unrestricted* version uses all the countries, while the *restricted* uses only countries with a RMSPE in the pre-treatment period that is smaller than two times the one of Chile, to avoid including as controls countries with a noisy fit.

Figure D1: Confidence Sets for Latin America



Notes: This figure shows the confidence set proposed by [Firpo and Possebom \(2018\)](#) for a constant and a linear treatment effect. Panels A and B use a sensitivity parameter of 0, while Panels C and D (E and F) use a sensitivity parameter of 1 (2). The sample is all Latin American countries and we use as matching characteristics the even pre-treatment outcomes.

Figure D2: Robustness of Synthetic Control Analysis



Note: Panels show observed rates of educational attainment by cohort in the 2002 population census (solid line) and counterfactuals from a synthetic control (dashed line). The outcome in all panels is the share of people with full college education. Panel (a) includes the share of people with ages 18-65, the share of women and the share of people with secondary education as additional controls. Panel (b) excludes country-year pairs under dictatorship as control units to be potentially used in the synthetic control. Similarly, panel (c) uses all 57 countries with IPUMS data. Panels (b) and (c) use the specification with controls and all countries in the sample of potential controls. Panel (d) uses 1960 as a placebo treatment date for the military coup.

Appendix E Economic Consequences: Additional Results

Table E1: Occupational Choice: Disaggregated Categories

	Politicians, Managers	Professionals	Technicians	Clerks	Services, Sales	Skilled Agriculture	Craft	Plant/ Machine ops	Elementary Occups.	Military
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Yr Age 21	-0.004*** (0.0002) [0.000]	0.007*** (0.0006) [0.001]	0.001*** (0.0003) [0.008]	-0.002*** (0.0004) [0.001]	-0.002*** (0.0002) [0.000]	-0.000* (0.0001) [0.042]	-0.001*** (0.0002) [0.006]	-0.001*** (0.0002) [0.006]	-0.002*** (0.0002) [0.000]	0.004*** (0.0002) [0.001]
Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973)	0.000 (0.0003) [0.431]	-0.016*** (0.0009) [0.000]	-0.001*** (0.0003) [0.131]	0.005*** (0.0004) [0.000]	0.005*** (0.0003) [0.000]	0.001*** (0.0001) [0.002]	0.004*** (0.0003) [0.002]	0.002*** (0.0003) [0.000]	0.005*** (0.0004) [0.000]	-0.004*** (0.0003) [0.004]
County of birth x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	770,652	770,652	770,652	770,652	770,652	770,652	770,652	770,652	770,652	770,652
R-squared	0.023	0.038	0.004	0.021	0.008	0.033	0.037	0.033	0.009	0.027
Mean DV	0.0965	0.215	0.120	0.235	0.0878	0.0157	0.0880	0.0620	0.0467	0.0335

Notes: Dependent variable in the header. Sample includes census respondents born between 1943 and 1960 with 4+ years of secondary education. “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972. “Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973)” is the interaction of this variable with a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table E2: Labor Market Outcomes: Census 2002

	In Labor Force			Seeking Work			White-collar high-skill occupation		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Yr Age 21	0.017*** (0.0004) [0.000]	0.012*** (0.0002) [0.001]		0.000 (0.0002) [0.547]	-0.000** (0.0001) [0.046]		-0.004*** (0.0004) [0.000]	-0.000 (0.0003) [0.981]	
Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973)	-0.014*** (0.0004) [0.001]	-0.013*** (0.0003) [0.001]	-0.006*** (0.0005) [0.002]	0.000** (0.0002) [0.213]	0.001*** (0.0002) [0.002]	0.001*** (0.0002) [0.001]	-0.006*** (0.0005) [0.001]	-0.011*** (0.0005) [0.000]	-0.011*** (0.0008) [0.002]
County of birth x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Age FE	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Observations	1,192,851	2,217,491	2,217,491	909,204	1,685,569	1,685,569	872,783	1,643,495	1,643,495
R-squared	0.133	0.158	0.160	0.004	0.009	0.009	0.022	0.051	0.052
Sample (census)	02	92/02	92/02	02	92/02	92/02	02	92/02	92/02
Mean DV	0.762	0.760	0.760	0.0822	0.0641	0.0641	0.596	0.519	0.519

Notes: Dependent variable in the header. Sample includes individuals born between 1943 and 1960 with 4+ years of secondary education. “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972. “Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973)” is the interaction of this variable with a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table E3: Other Income Measures

Dependent variable (log income):	Main Occupation		All Work		Self-generated	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Yr Age 21	0.002 (0.0019) [0.371]		0.017*** (0.0024) [0.000]		0.014*** (0.0018) [0.002]	
Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$	-0.014*** (0.0024) [0.001]	-0.006** (0.0025) [0.039]	-0.023*** (0.0030) [0.001]	-0.008*** (0.0031) [0.029]	-0.021*** (0.0023) [0.001]	-0.008*** (0.0025) [0.044]
County of residence x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Survey year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age FE	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	107,536	107,536	102,008	102,008	131,133	131,133
R-squared	0.161	0.167	0.143	0.155	0.151	0.159
Mean DV	471,432	471,432	504,077	504,077	526,115	526,115

Notes: Dependent variable in the header. Income deflated using yearly CPI. Sample includes individuals born between 1943 and 1960 with 4+ years of secondary education. “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972, while $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ is a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. All regressions include county of residence by gender, survey year and age fixed effects. Standard errors clustered by county of residence in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table E4: Occupation and Employment Categories

Owner	Boss/ Employee	Salaried employed	Self- Worker	Domestic Relative	Helping
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$	0.004*** (0.0007) [0.001]	-0.007*** (0.0013) [0.002]	0.004*** (0.0013) [0.019]	0.001 (0.0004) [0.267]	0.000 (0.0002) [0.639]
County of residence x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Survey year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	110,347	110,347	110,347	110,347	110,347
R-squared	0.031	0.039	0.038	0.056	0.021
Mean DV	0.066	0.661	0.228	0.024	0.007

Notes: Dependent variable in the header. Sample includes individuals born between 1943 and 1960 with 4+ years of secondary education. “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972, while $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ is a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. All regressions include county of residence by gender, survey year and age fixed effects. Standard errors clustered by county of residence in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table E5: Labor Market Outcomes: Unrestricted Sample

	In Labor Force	Seeking Work	White-collar High-skill Occupation	Log Total Income
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Panel A: Census 1992				
Yr Age 21	0.007*** (0.0002) [0.000]	-0.001*** (0.0001) [0.004]	0.004*** (0.0002) [0.003]	
Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973)	-0.009*** (0.0004) [0.001]	0.002*** (0.0002) [0.003]	-0.009*** (0.0003) [0.000]	
Panel B: CASEN survey (1990-2017)				
Yr Age 21	0.024*** (0.0005) [0.000]	0.000 (0.0002) [0.840]	0.002*** (0.0005) [0.001]	0.015*** (0.0011) [0.000]
Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973)	-0.013*** (0.0005) [0.001]	0.001*** (0.0003) [0.007]	-0.006*** (0.0007) [0.000]	-0.016*** (0.0014) [0.003]
Panel C: CASEN survey (1990-2017) w/ Age FE				
Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973)	-0.001** (0.0005) [0.120]	0.001*** (0.0003) [0.028]	-0.007*** (0.0007) [0.000]	-0.008*** (0.0016) [0.017]
Panel A:				
County of birth x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Observations	2,982,951	1,873,045	1,842,799	-
R-squared	0.333	0.004	0.056	-
Mean DV	0.628	0.057	0.208	-
Panels B and C:				
County of residence x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Survey year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	513,582	308,732	278,032	396,935
R-squared [Panel B]	0.304	0.012	0.066	0.186
R-squared [Panel C]	0.320	0.012	0.067	0.189
Mean DV	0.601	0.048	0.189	404,278

Notes: Dependent variable in the header. Sample includes individuals born between 1943 and 1960. Income in column 4 deflated using yearly CPI. "Yr Age 21" is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972. "Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973)" is the interaction of this variable with a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county (panel A: birth; B/C: residence) in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table E6: Household Wealth and Income: Unrestricted Sample

	Household's wealth or income quintile (dummy)				
	Q5 (highest)	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1 (lowest)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Panel A: Wealth (Census 1992)					
Yr Age 21	0.002*** (0.0002) [0.035]	-0.001*** (0.0002) [0.003]	-0.001*** (0.0001) [0.010]	-0.000 (0.0001) [0.608]	0.000 (0.0001) [0.748]
Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973)	-0.007*** (0.0005) [0.005]	0.000 (0.0004) [0.915]	0.002*** (0.0003) [0.011]	0.003*** (0.0002) [0.007]	0.003*** (0.0003) [0.006]
Panel B: Income (CASEN 1990-2017)					
Yr Age 21	0.001*** (0.0003) [0.018]	0.001*** (0.0003) [0.001]	-0.001* (0.0003) [0.128]	-0.000 (0.0003) [0.508]	-0.002*** (0.0004) [0.038]
Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973)	-0.004*** (0.0005) [0.002]	-0.003*** (0.0005) [0.001]	0.000 (0.0005) [0.670]	0.002*** (0.0005) [0.022]	0.005*** (0.0005) [0.001]
Panel C: Income (CASEN 1990-2017) w/ Age FE					
Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973)	-0.002*** (0.0005) [0.020]	-0.001 (0.0005) [0.082]	0.001** (0.0005) [0.022]	0.001** (0.0005) [0.045]	0.000 (0.0005) [0.437]
Panel A:					
County of birth x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,938,505	2,938,505	2,938,505	2,938,505	2,938,505
R-squared	0.074	0.021	0.008	0.014	0.069
Mean DV	0.241	0.212	0.193	0.180	0.175
Panels B and C:					
County of residence x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Survey year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	511,927	511,927	511,927	511,927	511,927
R-squared [Panel B]	0.080	0.012	0.016	0.024	0.028
R-squared [Panel C]	0.076	0.022	0.008	0.014	0.074
Mean DV	0.148	0.185	0.202	0.223	0.242

Notes: Dependent variable in the header. Sample includes individuals born between 1943 and 1960 with 4+ years of secondary education. "Yr Age 21" is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972. "Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973)" is the interaction of this variable with a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county (panel A: birth; B/C: residence) in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table E7: Labor Market Outcomes: Heterogeneous Effects by Gender

Dependent variable:	In Labor Force	Seeking Work	White-collar High-skill Occupation	Log Total Income
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973) x 1(Male)	-0.004*** (0.0010) [0.001]	0.001 (0.0006) [0.375]	-0.008*** (0.0021) [0.035]	-0.006* (0.0035) [0.022]
Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973) x 1(Female)	-0.004** (0.0015) [0.022]	0.003*** (0.0008) [0.019]	-0.016*** (0.0024) [0.000]	-0.013*** (0.0041) [0.054]
County of residence x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Survey year x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	163,693	114,790	104,061	135,152
R-squared	0.251	0.014	0.065	0.164
Mean DV (Male)	0.874	0.035	0.372	880,000
Mean DV (Female)	0.533	0.044	0.452	480,000

Notes: Dependent variable in the header. Sample includes individuals born between 1943 and 1960 with 4+ years of secondary education. Income in column 4 deflated using yearly CPI. “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972. “Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973)” is the interaction of this variable with a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county of residence in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table E8: Household Income: Heterogeneous Effects by Gender

Dependent variable:	Household's income quintile (dummy)				
	Q5 (highest)	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1 (lowest)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973) x 1(Male)	-0.001 (0.0015) [0.429]	-0.001 (0.0014) [0.688]	0.001 (0.0011) [0.277]	0.001 (0.0011) [0.502]	0.000 (0.0009) [0.621]
Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973) x 1(Female)	-0.003** (0.0014) [0.027]	-0.001 (0.0013) [0.432]	0.000 (0.0012) [0.793]	0.002** (0.0011) [0.146]	0.002** (0.0009) [0.088]
County of residence x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Survey year x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	163,342	163,342	163,342	163,342	163,342
R-squared	0.085	0.013	0.017	0.026	0.031
Mean DV (M)	0.332	0.255	0.183	0.136	0.0940
Mean DV (F)	0.322	0.258	0.185	0.139	0.0970

Notes: Dependent variable in the header. Sample includes individuals born between 1943 and 1960 with 4+ years of secondary education. “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972. “Yr Age 21 x 1(Yr Age 21 ≥ 1973)” is the interaction of this variable with a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county of residence in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table E9: Labor Market Outcomes: Effect of College (IV and OLS)

Dependent variable:	In Labor Force	Seeking Work	White-collar High-skill Occupation	Log Total Income
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<u>Panel A: IV</u>				
Any College	0.162*** (0.0375) [0.000]	-0.060*** (0.0199) [0.022]	0.412*** (0.0532) [0.000]	0.338*** (0.1037) [0.017]
<u>Panel B: OLS</u>				
Any College	0.130*** (0.0032) [0.000]	-0.019*** (0.0012) [0.000]	0.566*** (0.0039) [0.000]	0.792*** (0.0141) [0.000]
County x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Survey year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	163,693	114,790	104,061	135,152
Kleibergen-Paap F-stat [panel A]	459.5	376.9	343.0	435.7
R-squared [panel B]	0.263	0.015	0.327	0.263
Mean DV	0.701	0.039	0.403	709,631

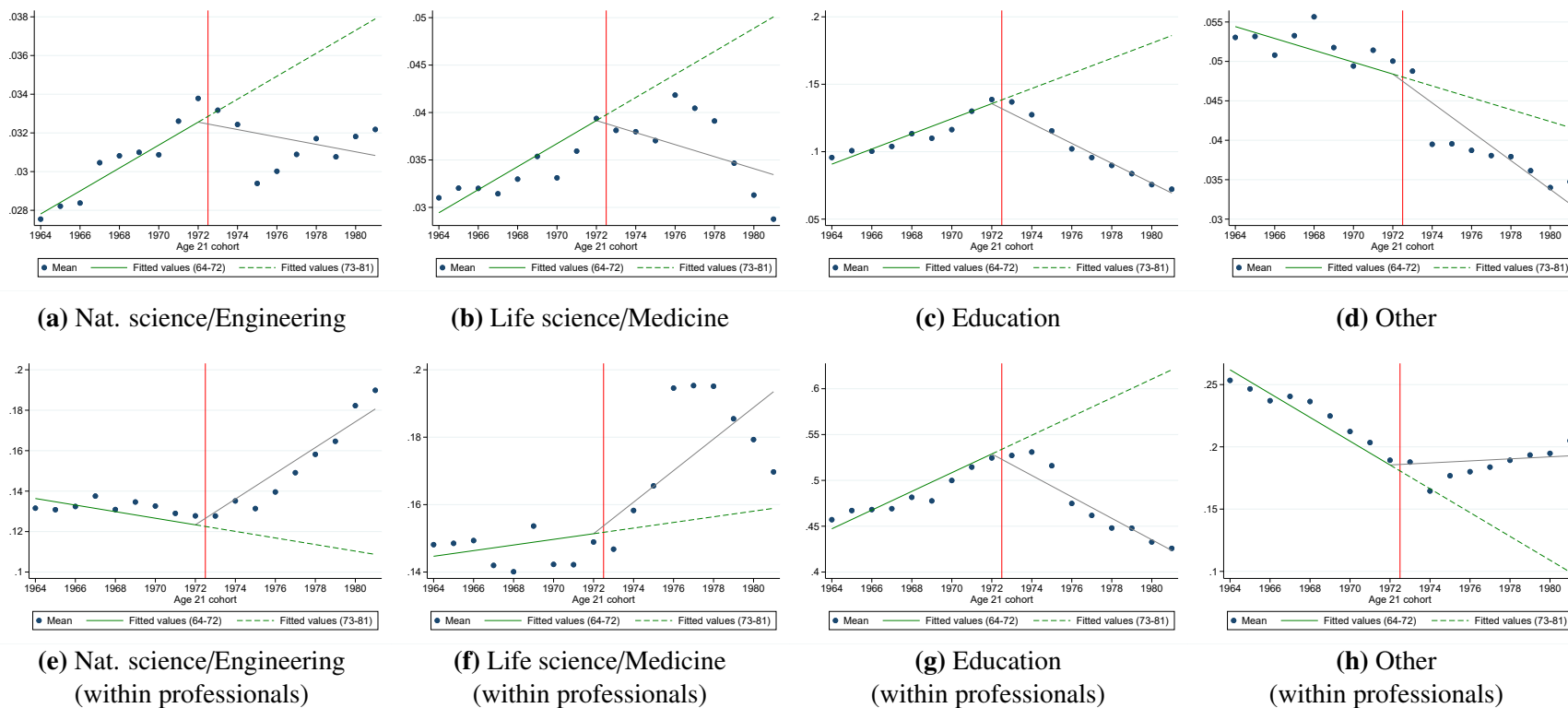
Notes: Dependent variable in the header. Sample includes individuals born between 1943 and 1960 with 4+ years of secondary education. Income in column 4 deflated using yearly CPI. . In panel A, “Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ ” is the excluded instrument for college enrollment, where “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972 and “ $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ ” is a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county of residence in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table E10: Household Income: Effect of College (IV and OLS)

	Income quintile (dummy)				
	Q5 (highest)	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1 (lowest)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<u>Panel A: IV</u>					
Any College	0.092** (0.0435) [0.049]	0.044 (0.0418) [0.473]	-0.027 (0.0370) [0.529]	-0.057* (0.0319) [0.042]	-0.052* (0.0275) [0.047]
<u>Panel B: OLS</u>					
Any College	0.315*** (0.0053) [0.000]	-0.028*** (0.0067) [0.000]	-0.101*** (0.0024) [0.000]	-0.106*** (0.0027) [0.000]	-0.080*** (0.0031) [0.000]
County of residence x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Survey year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	163,342	163,342	163,342	163,342	163,342
Kleibergen-Paap F-stat [panel A]	461.8	461.8	461.8	461.8	461.8
R-squared [panel B]	0.166	0.014	0.029	0.043	0.044
Mean DV	0.327	0.257	0.184	0.137	0.096

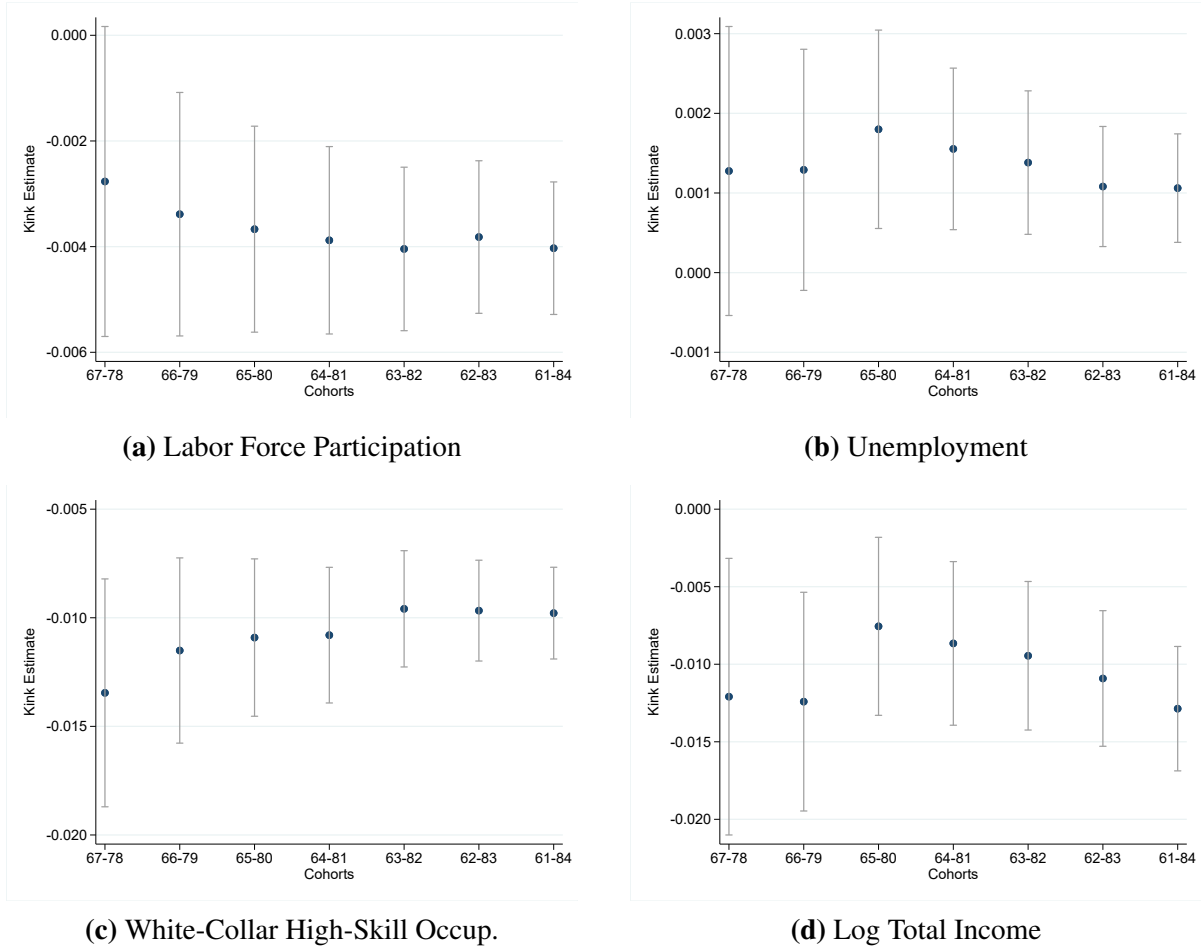
Notes: Dependent variable in the header. Sample includes individuals born between 1943 and 1960 with 4+ years of secondary education. Income in column 4 deflated using yearly CPI. . In panel A, “Yr Age 21 x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age } 21 \geq 1973)$ ” is the excluded instrument for college enrollment, where “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972 and “ $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age } 21 \geq 1973)$ ” is a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county of residence in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Figure E1: Visualization of Kink: Professionals



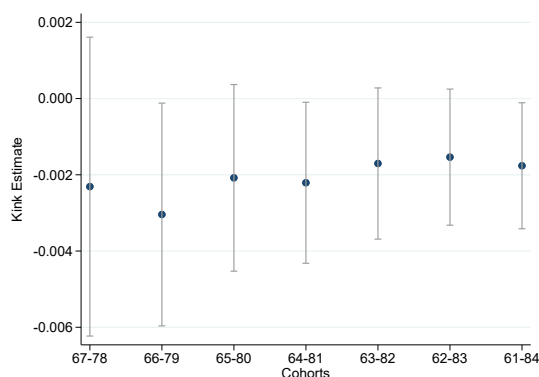
Notes: Panels show averages by cohort for the variable in the caption. Solid green line corresponds to line of best fit for cohorts reaching college age before 1973. Dashed green line shows extrapolation for later cohorts. Solid grey line corresponds to line of best fit for cohorts reaching college age in 1973 or afterwards. Source: 1992 census.

Figure E2: Labor Market Outcomes: Different Bandwidths

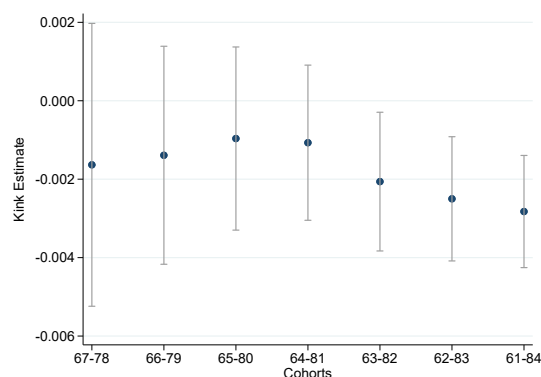


Notes: Each figure replicates the analysis in panel (c) of Table 3 for the outcome in the caption, using the different bandwidths in the x-axis. Sample includes respondents of the CASEN survey born between the relevant years (both inclusive), reporting four or more years of secondary education. “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached 21 years of age, normalized to zero in 1972. “Yr Age 21 x $1(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ ” is the interaction of this variable with a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Plotted coefficients and 95% confidence intervals correspond to this variable. All regressions include county of birth x gender, survey year and age fixed effects. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses.

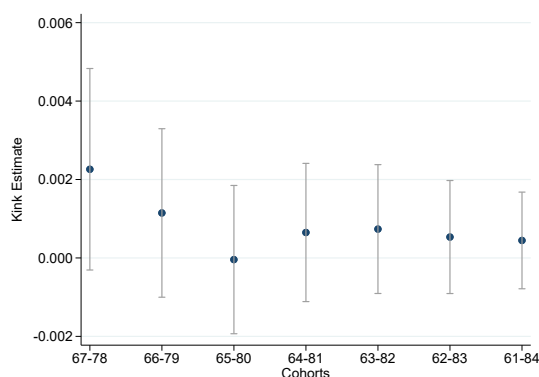
Figure E3: Household Income: Different Bandwidths



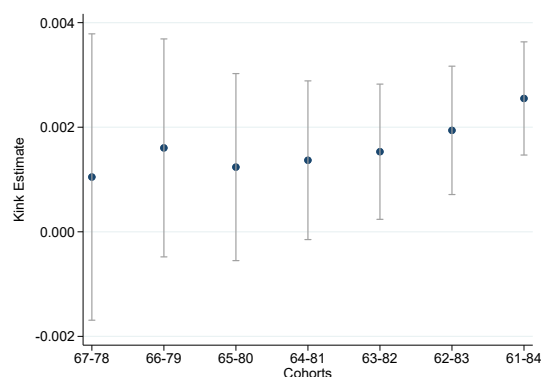
(a) Top Quintile



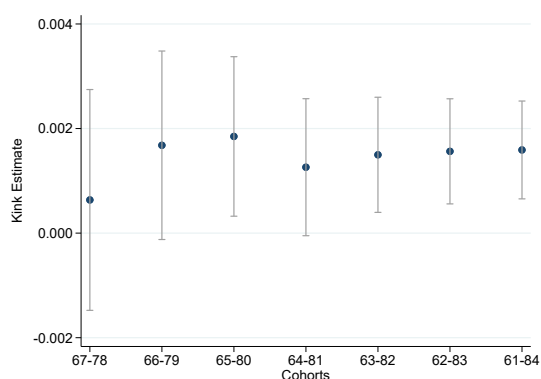
(b) Fourth Quintile



(c) Third Quintile



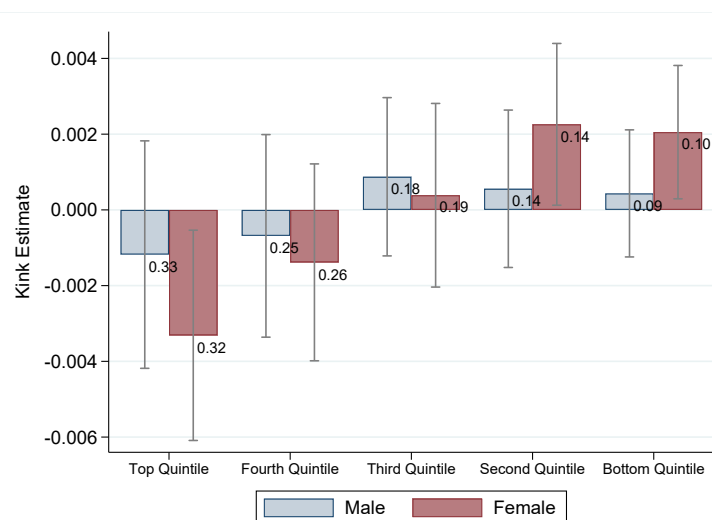
(d) Second Quintile



(e) Bottom Quintile

Notes: Each figure replicates the analysis in panel (c) of Table 4 for the outcome in the caption, using the different bandwidths in the x-axis. Sample includes respondents of the CASEN survey born between the relevant years (both inclusive), reporting four or more years of secondary education. “Yr Age 21” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached 21 years of age, normalized to zero in 1972. “Yr Age 21 \times $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ ” is the interaction of this variable with a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Plotted coefficients and 95% confidence intervals correspond to this variable. All regressions include county of birth \times gender, survey year and age fixed effects. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses.

Figure E4: Heterogeneous Effects by Gender: Income quintiles



Notes: Graph shows gender-specific estimates and 95% confidence intervals of the kink in the variable in the caption for the cohorts reaching age 21 after 1973. The number next to each bar indicates the sample mean. Sample includes respondents from the CASEN survey reaching age 21 between 1964 and 1981 and reporting 4+ years of secondary education. The gender-specific interaction term ‘Yr Age 21 \times $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ ’ is the regressor of interest, where ‘Yr Age 21’ is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the cohort reached 21 years of age, normalized to zero in 1972. ‘ $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21} \geq 1973)$ ’ is a dummy for cohorts that reached age 21 on or after 1973. All regressions include gender-specific county, age, and year fixed effects. Standard errors clustered by county of residence.

Appendix F Intergenerational Effects: Additional Results

Table F1: Educational attainment of Children: Sample Characteristics

	Age	Female	Full primary	Full secondary	Any college	HH size	Position in HH			Children (women)	In labor force	Unemployed	Studying
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	Head	Spouse	Child	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
I: All 25-40 yo N=3,781,382	32.10 (4.61)	0.50 (0.50)	0.95 (0.22)	0.80 (0.40)	0.31 (0.46)	24.82 (242.67)	0.36 (0.48)	0.24 (0.43)	0.26 (0.44)	1.45 (1.21)	0.81 (0.39)	0.06 (0.24)	0.12 (0.33)
II: I + linked to parent N=1,013,071	30.51 (4.48)	0.48 (0.50)	0.96 (0.20)	0.83 (0.38)	0.35 (0.48)	4.52 (1.84)	0.05 (0.22)	0.02 (0.14)	0.90 (0.30)	0.96 (1.05)	0.81 (0.39)	0.10 (0.30)	0.17 (0.37)
III: II + parent w/ full secondary N=435,949	29.59 (4.14)	0.49 (0.50)	0.99 (0.09)	0.94 (0.24)	0.55 (0.50)	4.30 (1.65)	0.04 (0.20)	0.02 (0.12)	0.92 (0.27)	0.70 (0.93)	0.81 (0.40)	0.10 (0.31)	0.23 (0.42)
IV: III + parent age 21 ∈ [1964, 1981] N=233,134	31.06 (4.39)	0.49 (0.50)	0.99 (0.10)	0.94 (0.23)	0.58 (0.49)	4.17 (1.64)	0.05 (0.22)	0.02 (0.14)	0.91 (0.28)	0.74 (0.98)	0.83 (0.38)	0.10 (0.31)	0.19 (0.39)

Notes: Table shows averages and standard deviations (in parenthesis) for the characteristic described in the header. Top row shows values for the full sample of people with ages 25-40 in the 2017 population census. Second row shows corresponding statistics for the subsample that cohabits with a parent, irrespective of any characteristics of the parent. Third row further restricts the sample by only including parents with full secondary. Finally, the bottom row (our estimating sample) limits the sample to parent born between 1943 and 1960.

Table F2: Educational Attainment of Children: Effect of Parent's College (IV and OLS)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<u>PANEL A: IV</u>					
Any College (Parent)	0.258*** (0.0580) [0.005]	0.258*** (0.0578) [0.005]	0.255*** (0.0584) [0.005]	0.320*** (0.0524) [0.004]	0.284*** (0.0500) [0.003]
<u>PANEL B: OLS</u>					
Any College (Parent)	0.274*** (0.0040) [0.000]	0.273*** (0.0041) [0.000]	0.272*** (0.0041) [0.000]	0.262*** (0.0043) [0.000]	0.243*** (0.0040) [0.000]
Birth county x gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parent gender x gender FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Relationship to HH head FE	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age FE	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Full secondary FE	No	No	No	No	Yes
Observations	233,127	233,127	233,127	233,127	233,127
Kleibergen-Paap F-Stat (panel A)	292.3	289.8	282.3	308.8	310.9
R-squared (panel B)	0.104	0.105	0.105	0.117	0.178
Mean DV	0.582	0.582	0.582	0.582	0.582

Notes: Notes: Dependent variable in the header of each panel. Sample includes all respondents in the 2017 census between the ages of 25 and 40 that we can connect to at least one parent that was born between 1943 and 1960 and reported full secondary education. See text for further details on construction of sample. "Yr Age 21 Parent" is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the parent reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972, while $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21 Parent} \geq 1973)$ is a dummy for parents that reached age 21 on or after 1973. The interaction of these two variables is the excluded instrument in panel A, with the baseline trend as additional control. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

Table F3: Educational Attainment of Children: Different Bandwidths (Child's Age)

Ages of children (bandwidth):	Dependent variable: Any College (child)				
	20-40	30-40	25-35	25-45	25-30
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Yr Age 21 Parent	-0.000 (0.0009) [0.703]	0.001 (0.0011) [0.371]	0.003*** (0.0010) [0.003]	-0.000 (0.0009) [0.703]	0.004*** (0.0013) [0.008]
Yr Age 21 Parent x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21 Parent} \geq 1973)$	-0.007*** (0.0012) [0.004]	-0.013*** (0.0016) [0.002]	-0.009*** (0.0013) [0.001]	-0.007*** (0.0012) [0.004]	-0.006*** (0.0016) [0.002]
Birth County x Gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parent Gender x Gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Relationship to HH head FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	233,127	131,151	187,156	233,127	118,903
R-squared	0.063	0.057	0.056	0.063	0.054
Mean DV	0.582	0.533	0.608	0.582	0.639

Notes: Dependent variable is a dummy indicating whether child enrolled in college. Original sample includes all respondents in the 2017 census between the ages of 25 and 40 that we can connect to at least one parent that was born between 1943 and 1960 and reported full secondary education. Sample further restricted by age of child as indicated in the header. See text for further details on construction of sample. "Yr Age 21 Parent" is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the parent reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972, while $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21 Parent} \geq 1973)$ is a dummy for parents that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table F4: Educational Attainment of Children: Heterogeneous Effects by Link

Position in household:	Dependent variable: Any College (child)				
	Child	Head	Spouse	Child of	
				spouse	Sibling
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Yr Age 21 Parent	-0.000 (0.0010) [0.943]	0.001 (0.0026) [0.812]	0.001 (0.0043) [0.866]	-0.005 (0.0100) [0.585]	-0.005 (0.0094) [0.658]
Yr Age 21 Parent x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21 Parent} \geq 1973)$	-0.007*** (0.0013) [0.004]	-0.012*** (0.0039) [0.029]	-0.011* (0.0060) [0.137]	-0.001 (0.0127) [0.913]	0.007 (0.0125) [0.669]
Birth County x Gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parent Gender x Gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Relationship to HH head FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	213,059	11,617	4,509	1,965	1,521
R-squared	0.067	0.081	0.103	0.200	0.167
Mean DV	0.585	0.565	0.549	0.508	0.499

Notes: Dependent variable is a dummy indicating whether child enrolled in college. Original sample includes all respondents in the 2017 census between the ages of 25 and 40 that we can connect to at least one parent that was born between 1943 and 1960 and reported full secondary education. Sample further restricted by link to household head as indicated in the header. See text for further details on construction of sample. “Yr Age 21 Parent” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the parent reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972, while $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21 Parent} \geq 1973)$ is a dummy for parents that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table F5: Educational Attainment of Children: Heterogeneous Effects by Gender

Estimation Sample:	Dependent variable: Any College (child)			
	Child		Parent	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Yr Age 21 Parent	-0.000 (0.0010) [0.599]	-0.000 (0.0012) [0.957]	0.001 (0.0014) [0.656]	-0.001 (0.0009) [0.483]
Yr Age 21 Parent x $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21 Parent} \geq 1973)$	-0.006*** (0.0014) [0.004]	-0.008*** (0.0015) [0.003]	-0.008*** (0.0019) [0.001]	-0.006*** (0.0013) [0.012]
Birth county FE	Yes	Yes	No	No
Birth County x Gender FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Parent Gender x Gender FE	Yes	Yes	No	No
Relationship to HH head FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	114,022	119,105	94,606	138,489
R-squared	0.052	0.066	0.062	0.068
Mean DV	0.615	0.549	0.563	0.594

Notes: Dependent variable is a dummy indicating whether child enrolled in college. Sample includes all respondents in the 2017 census between the ages of 25 and 40 that we can connect to at least one parent that was born between 1943 and 1960 and reported full secondary education. Sample further restricted by gender of parent or child as indicated in the header. See text for further details on construction of sample. “Yr Age 21 Parent” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the parent reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972, while $\mathbb{1}(\text{Yr Age 21 Parent} \geq 1973)$ is a dummy for parents that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table F6: Educational Attainment of Children: Lower Levels

Dependent variable:	Primary education (basic)								Secondary education			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Yr Age 21 Parent	0.000 (0.0001) [0.161]	0.000 (0.0001) [0.278]	0.000 (0.0001) [0.315]	0.000 (0.0001) [0.338]	0.000 (0.0001) [0.478]	0.000 (0.0001) [0.458]	0.000 (0.0002) [0.112]	0.000* (0.0002) [0.081]	0.001** (0.0003) [0.052]	0.001*** (0.0003) [0.026]	0.001** (0.0004) [0.100]	0.001 (0.0004) [0.267]
Yr Age 21 Parent x 1(Yr Age 21 Parent ≥ 1973)	-0.000 (0.0002) [0.280]	-0.000 (0.0002) [0.495]	-0.000 (0.0002) [0.534]	-0.000 (0.0002) [0.808]	0.000 (0.0002) [0.850]	0.000 (0.0002) [0.964]	-0.000 (0.0002) [0.431]	-0.000 (0.0002) [0.242]	-0.001* (0.0003) [0.116]	-0.001*** (0.0004) [0.048]	-0.002*** (0.0005) [0.016]	-0.002*** (0.0005) [0.037]
Birth County x Gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parent Gender x Gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Relationship to HH head FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	233,136	233,136	233,136	233,136	233,136	233,136	233,136	233,136	233,136	233,136	233,136	233,136
R-squared	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.006	0.006	0.007	0.007	0.010	0.012	0.014	0.015
Mean DV	0.996	0.996	0.996	0.995	0.994	0.993	0.992	0.991	0.981	0.976	0.961	0.950

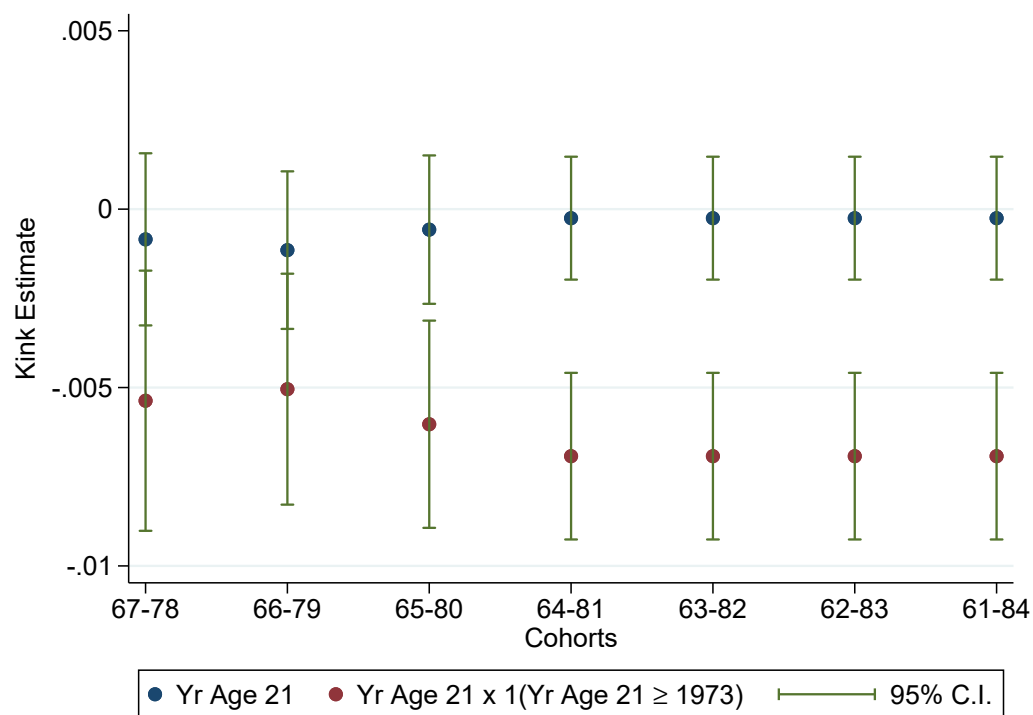
Notes: Dependent variable is a dummy indicating educational attainment at or above the level in the header. Sample includes all respondents in the 2017 census between the ages of 25 and 40 that we can connect to at least one parent that was born between 1943 and 1960 and reported full secondary education. See text for further details on construction of sample. “Yr Age 21 Parent” is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the parent reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972, while 1(Yr Age 21 Parent ≥ 1973) is a dummy for parents that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table F7: Educational Attainment of Children: Assortative Matching of Parents

Dependent variable:	Parent's spouse		Any College (Child)		
	Observed	Any College			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Yr Age 21 Parent	0.006*** (0.0008) [0.001]	-0.000 (0.0010) [0.917]	-0.000 (0.0010) [0.718]	-0.001 (0.0012) [0.194]	-0.001 (0.0011) [0.213]
Yr Age 21 Parent x 1(Yr Age 21 Parent ≥ 1973)	-0.004*** (0.0010) [0.009]	-0.008*** (0.0012) [0.000]	-0.007*** (0.0013) [0.004]	-0.006*** (0.0016) [0.019]	-0.004** (0.0014) [0.065]
Birth County x Gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parent Gender x Gender FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parent's spouse observed FE	No	No	Yes	No	No
Parent's spouse any college FE	No	No	No	No	Yes
Observations	213,059	133,200	213,059	133,200	133,200
R-squared	0.426	0.086	0.068	0.069	0.110
Mean DV	0.633	0.212	0.585	0.602	0.602

Notes: Dependent variable in the header. Sample includes all respondents in the 2017 census between the ages of 25 and 40 that we can connect to at least one parent that (i) was born between 1943 and 1960, (ii) reported full secondary education, (iii) is a household head. Sample further restricted in columns 2, 4, 5 to children with a parent with an observed partner/spouse. See text for further details on construction of sample. "Yr Age 21 Parent" is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the parent reached age 21, normalized to zero in 1972, while 1(Yr Age 21 Parent ≥ 1973) is a dummy for parents that reached age 21 on or after 1973. Standard errors clustered by county of birth in parentheses. P-values from wild cluster bootstrap at the cohort level in brackets. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Figure F1: Educational Attainment of Children: Different Bandwidths



Notes: Each figure replicates the analysis of child's college enrollment for the different bandwidths in the x-axis. Sample includes all respondents in the 2017 census between the ages of 25 and 40 that we can connect to at least one parent that reached age 21 in the relevant bandwidth (both years inclusive) and reported full secondary education. "Yr Age 21 Parent" is a continuous variable indicating the year at which the parent reached 21 years of age, normalized to zero in 1972, while "1(Yr Age 21 Parent ≥ 1973)" is a dummy for parents that reached age 21 on or after 1973. All regressions include county of birth x gender, parent's gender x (child) gender, age and relationship to household head fixed effects. Standard errors clustered by county of birth.