



Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Seminarios de la Unidad de Historia Económica 2016 - 17

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Aula B3-112C, 14.15 H.

Gabriele Cappelli presenta

"Can school centralization foster human capital accumulation? A quasi-experiment from early-20th-century Italy"

Abstract: This paper shows that a shift towards a more centralized school system can benefit low-income countries characterized by poor levels of human capital and large regional disparities in education. In 1911, Italy shifted from a fully decentralized primary-school system towards centralization through the Daneo-Credaro Reform. The Reform design allows us to compare treated municipalities with the provincial and district capitals, which retained school autonomy. Treated municipalities were characterized by a +0.42 percent premium on the annual growth of literacy. Our quasi-natural experiment, based on Propensity Score Matching (PSM), shows that this link was significant, and we discuss some of the channels through which the new legislation affected primary schooling and literacy.

Gabriele Cappelli es Profesor Visitante en el Departament d'Economia i d'Història Econòmica de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Se ocupa de educación y acumulación de capital humano a largo plazo en Europa y África. El enfoque principal es la política pública para fomentar el desarrollo de la escuela primaria y capital humano básico a lo largo del siglo XIX. El trabajo que se va a presentar estuvo escrito con Michelangelo Vasta, de la Universidad de Siena.