

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [Where Do STEM Graduates Stem From? The Intergenerational Transmission of Comparative Skill Advantages](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.nber.org/papers/w31186>

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**Tweet:** A new @NBERpubs paper shows that parents' comparative skill advantage in math (vs. language) is significantly linked to the comparative skill advantage of their children. @EricHanushek @SimonWiederhold

**Summary:** Our analysis shows that comparative skill advantages are transferred across generations: Parents who were relatively better at math (vs. language) in childhood are more likely to have children with a similar comparative skill advantage in math. We also find that parents' comparative skill advantage is a strong predictor of their own STEM choices and those of their children. The new Intergenerational Transmission of Skills (ITS) database that we develop permits matching skills of Dutch parents and children derived from similar tests taken at similar ages. We measure comparative skill advantage as the ordinal difference between math and language skills in the parent and child generation, respectively, each assessed by the percentile position in the nationwide skill distribution. We find that parents with a comparative advantage in math skills are significantly more likely to have children with a similar math skill advantage.

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