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Peer effects and social networks in education. (English) Zbl 1187.91163

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Summary: We develop a model that shows that, at the Nash equilibrium, the outcome of each individual embedded in a network is proportional to his/her Katz-Bonacich centrality measure. This measure takes into account both direct and indirect friends of each individual, but puts less weight to his/her distant friends. We then bring the model to the data using a very detailed dataset of adolescent friendship networks. We show that, after controlling for observable individual characteristics and unobservable network specific factors, a standard deviation increase in the Katz-Bonacich centrality increases the pupil school performance by more than 7% of one standard deviation.

MSC:

91D30 Social networks; opinion dynamics

62P25 Applications of statistics to social sciences

Cited in **29** Documents

Keywords:

outcome; social network; Katz-Bonacich centrality measure; direct friends; indirect friends; adolescent friendship networks; pupil school performance

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