

Fueling the educational sorting machine

How tracking affects social reproduction twice

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Idea

- **Potential of individuals** is not fully exploited if status relies on parental background (Piketty, 2000)
- But: **Intergenerational mobility** varies internationally (Breen and Jonsson, 2005)

→ Why?

- **Education** = Strong determinant of status (Blau and Duncan 1967)
- **Educational system** = Main institutional framework that affects education
- **Educational tracking**: Diversity of educational tracks and the selectivity of procedures within the system

- Overall effect of tracking on social reproduction unclear
- Mechanisms unclear

Tracking and social reproduction

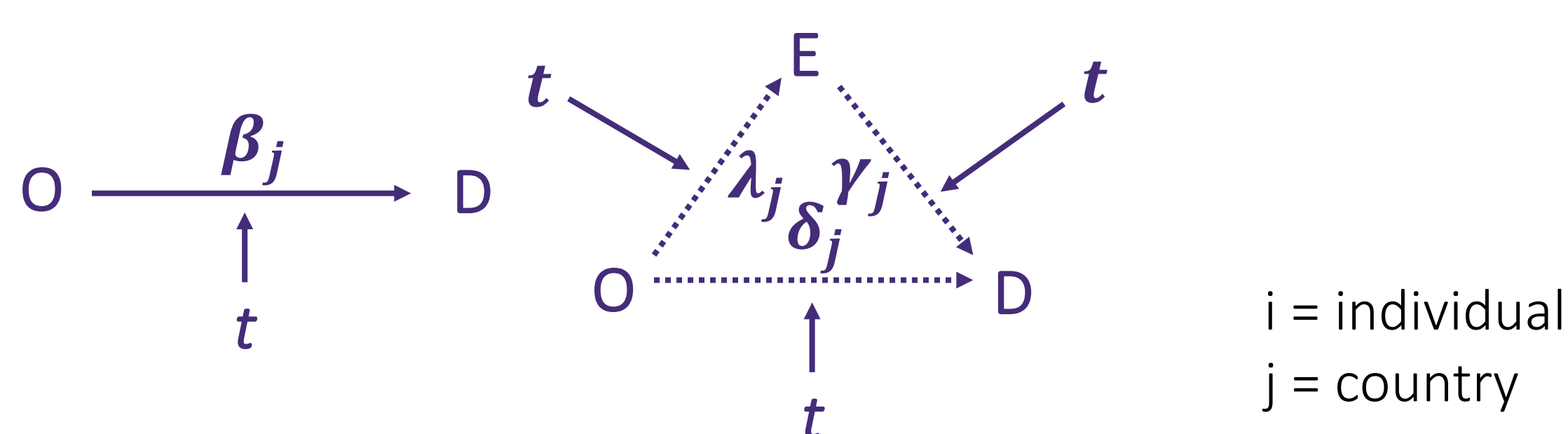
- Tracking should affect
 - Educational inheritance ($O \rightarrow E$)
 - Parents' strategic knowledge more important with earlier selection processes (Erikson and Jonsson, 1996)
 - Applicability of educational degrees ($E \rightarrow D$)
 - Through vocational specificity and stronger ties between degrees and occupations (Bol and van de Werfhorst, 2016)
 - Effectively maintained inequality ($O \rightarrow D$)
 - Positive: Less influence of ascriptive characteristics (Bol and van de Werfhorst, 2011)
 - Negative: Tight linkage to occupations reinforces qualitative educational choices (e.g. field of study)

Data

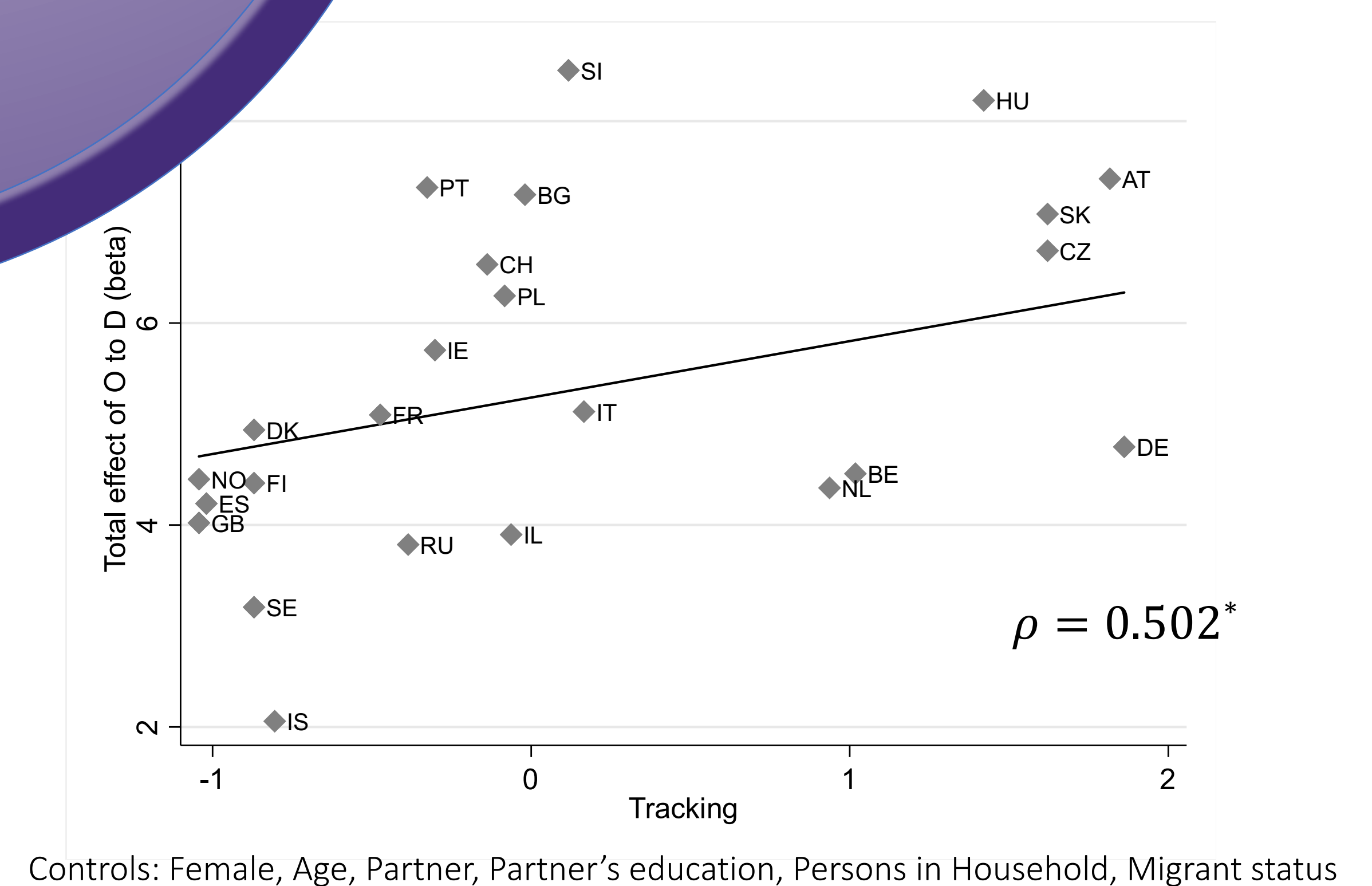
- European Social Survey 2012 / 2014
- 24 countries, N= 57,216
- Tracking: Index
 - Age at first selection
 - Length of the differentiated curriculum
 - Number of distinct school tracks for 15-year-olds
- Origin and education: ES-ISCED
- Destination: ISEI

Method

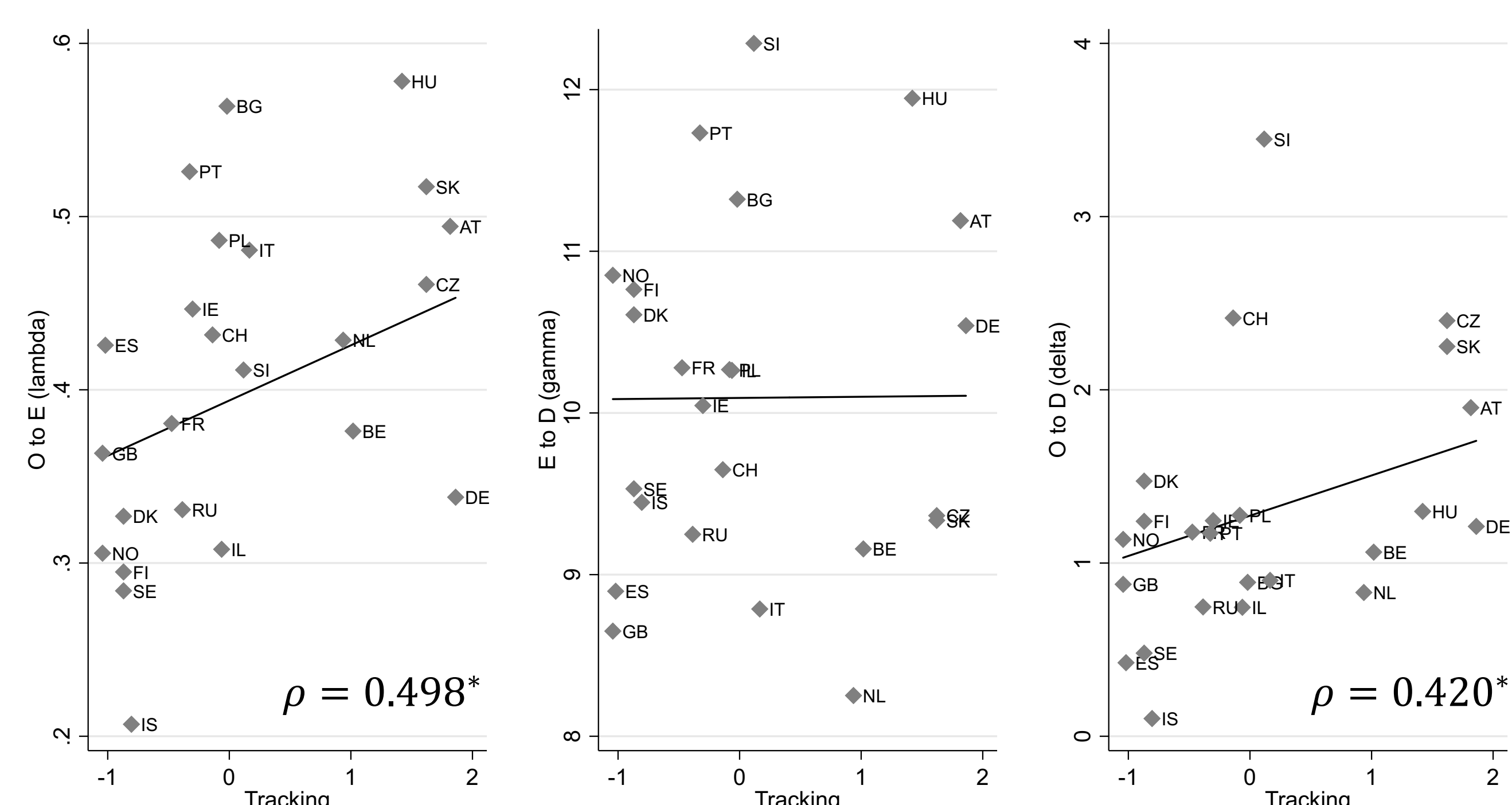
1. County-specific OLS regressions
 - $D_{ij}^{Child} = \alpha_j + \beta_j O_{ij}^{Parent} + \vartheta_j X_{ij} + \varepsilon_{ij}$
2. Effect decomposition
 - $\beta_j = (\gamma_j * \lambda_j) + \delta_j$
 - $E_{ij}^{Child} = \tau_j + \lambda_j O_{ij}^{Parent} + \phi_j X_{ij} + \varepsilon_{ij}$
 - $D_{ij}^{Child} = \omega_j + \lambda_j E_{ij}^{Child} + \delta_j O_{ij}^{Parent} + \psi_j X_{ij} + \varepsilon_{ij}$
3. Correlation with educational tracking
 - between $\beta_j, \lambda_j, \gamma_j, \delta_j$ and t



Results I



Results II



Conclusion

- Association between parental education and children's status is significant and positive
- All mechanisms contribute to social reproduction
- Educational tracking is associated with stronger degrees of social reproduction
- Tracking affects social reproduction **twice**
 - Enhancing **inheritance of education**
 - Enhancing inheritance of status **within educational groups**
- Support for theories that ascribe an equalizing function to less-tracked education

