

Equality of Opportunity, Cultural Differences, and Familial Intimacy

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Abstract

Recent empirical work documenting the great importance of families to educational outcomes and the enormous discrepancies among the families suggests that there are difficult trade-offs between pursuing equal opportunity and respecting cultural diversity and familial intimacy. This essay aims to defend a controversial construal of equality of opportunity, to describe what can be done to lessen inequalities in opportunity without threatening either familial intimacy or cultural diversity, and to clarify the remaining conflicts, to which I will unfortunately propose no general solution.