Why Go to College?

Continued…

Levels of Analysis in Education Research

- Macro
  - Policy decisions
- Intermediate
  - Individual schools, school culture
- Micro
  - The classroom

Macro Level – how is education organized?

- 3 “ideal types” of educational regimes (rooted in norms surrounding upward mobility
  - **Sponsored mobility**: typical in Europe, involves early choice and an implicitly guaranteed future
  - **Contest mobility**: rewards perseverance, achievement
  - **Tournament mobility**: a variant of contest mobility, but early failures knock student out of major academic tournament – sorting mechanism

Intermediate level – what about schools?

- Coleman’s study of American high schools
- Adolescent Society

What is the School Culture?

Academics
Athletics
Social life
A comment on selectivity...

- In general, schools are funded locally in the US.
- This creates inequality in school resources, quality
- books, computers, motivated teachers, trips, athletics, etc.

The paradox of Catholic schools

Why is the achievement of students in Catholic schools higher than that of students in public schools?

Explanations

- Selectivity of parents (more involved)
- School community values achievement
- Reduce external signs of inequality (i.e., uniforms)
- Little tracking (treat all students as having equal potential)