# Does intelligence shield children from the effects of parental unemployment? 

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## Motivation

Parental job loss has negative impact on children's outcomes

- education Coelli (2011); Rege, Telle, and Votruba (2011)
- earnings and employment Oreopoulos, Page, and Stevens (2008)
- personality and well-being Angelini, Bertoni, and Corazzini (2018); Brand and Thomas (2014)

Potential mechanisms

- loss of income Coelli (2011); Oreopoulos, Page, and Stevens (2008)
- psychological distress Rege, Telle, and Votruba (2011)
- change in preferences Taylor and Rampino (2014)

Different interactions with cognitive skills of children

## This paper

## Research questions

- How parental unemployment effects vary with intelligence of children
- What do the interactions imply for the mechanisms


## Overview

- UK largest household survey
- Parental unemployment at age 14
- Interaction with $I Q$ score of respondents
- Causal interpretation in difference-in-differences framework


## Preview of results

- Higher IQ worsens the effect of parental unemployment on education
- Most of the losses among children of less-educated parents
- Dynamic complementary of skills (Cunha and Heckman 2007)
- Higher IQ mitigates some of the effects later in the labour market
- More stable and prestigious jobs; higher earnings
- Wage penalty remains
- Employer-learning theory (Farber and Gibbons 1996)
- Support income loss channel


## Data

## Understanding Society (UKHLS)

Cross-sectional: wave 3 (2011-13)

- Main variables:
- six cognitive test results
- employment status of parents when respondents were 14

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Aggregate Detailed
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- Education: post-16 school, tertiary degree, years of education
- Labour market: empl status, earnings, hours worked, hourly wages, job ranking


## Difference-in-differences

## Difference-in-differences

$$
Y_{i}=\beta_{0}+\beta_{1} U P_{i}+\beta_{2} I Q_{i}+\beta_{3} U P_{i} \times I Q_{i}+\beta_{4} \mathbf{X}_{i}+\beta_{5} \mathbf{P}_{i}+v_{i}
$$

$Y_{i} \quad$ outcome
$U P_{i} \quad 1$ if parent unemployed when child was 14
$I Q_{i} \quad$ child's intelligence score
$\mathbf{X}_{i} \quad$ child's pre-determined characteristics (gender, birth year \& country, ethnicity, immigrant)
$\mathbf{P}_{i} \quad$ parents' pre-determined characteristics (highest qual, country of birth)

## Causal interpretation

Potential outcomes: $Y^{0}$ when parents are employed; $Y^{1}$ when parents are unemployed
Parallel trends: constant selection bias across intelligence

$$
\frac{\operatorname{Cov}\left(Y^{0}, I Q \mid U P=1\right)}{\operatorname{Var}(I Q \mid U P=1)}-\frac{\operatorname{Cov}\left(Y^{0}, I Q \mid U P=0\right)}{\operatorname{Var}(I Q \mid U P=0)}=0
$$

$$
\beta_{3}=\frac{\partial}{\partial I Q} \mathbb{E}\left(Y^{1}-Y^{0} \mid U P=1, I Q\right)
$$

How intelligence chanages the effect of parental unemployment

Results

## Education

|  | Dependent variables |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Age left school | Post-16 school | Degree |
| Parent unemp | $-0.167^{* * *}$ | $-0.081^{* * *}$ | $-0.039^{* * *}$ |
| IQ | $(0.029)$ | $(0.014)$ | $(0.013)$ |
|  | $0.301^{* * *}$ | $0.138^{* * *}$ | $0.131^{* * *}$ |
| Parent unemp $\times$ IQ | $(0.008)$ | $(0.004)$ | $(0.004)$ |
|  | $-0.066^{\dagger \dagger}$ | $-0.035^{\dagger \dagger \dagger}$ | $-0.036^{\dagger \dagger \dagger}$ |
| Obs. | $(0.025)$ | $(0.012)$ | $(0.011)$ |
| Outcome mean | 20,293 | 20,307 | 20,307 |
| Outcome sd | 16.62 | 0.37 | 0.27 |

${ }^{\dagger} q<0.1 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger} q<0.05 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger \dagger} q<0.01$ based on false discovery rate q -values (Benjamini and Hochberg, 1995)
${ }^{*} p<0.1 ;{ }^{* *} p<0.05 ;{ }^{* * *} p<0.01$ based on conventional p-values

## Human capital investments

Dynamic complementarity (Cunha and Heckman 2007)
Loss of HC investments has larger effect on high-skilled children
Intergenerational transmission of earnings (Mulligan 1997)
Only poor households $\downarrow \mathrm{HC}$ investments in response to income shocks

- Strongest effects among individuals with less-educated parents


## Labour market

|  | Dependent variables |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Work | $\% \Delta$ earnings | $\% \Delta$ hourly wage | Hours |
| Parent unemp | $-0.061^{* * *}$ | $-0.279^{* * *}$ | $-0.111^{* * *}$ | $-2.752^{* * *}$ |
| IQ | $(0.013)$ | $(0.045)$ | $(0.027)$ | $(0.520)$ |
|  | $0.052^{* * *}$ | $0.296^{* * *}$ | $0.161^{* * *}$ | $1.870^{* * *}$ |
| Parent unemp $\times$ IQ | $(0.004)$ | $(0.014)$ | $(0.009)$ | $(0.154)$ |
|  | $0.048^{\dagger \dagger \dagger}$ | $0.130^{\dagger \dagger \dagger}$ | $-0.051^{\dagger}$ | $1.552^{\dagger \dagger \dagger}$ |
| Obs. 0.013$)$ | $(0.040)$ | $(0.026)$ | $(0.466)$ |  |
| Outcome mean | 20,307 | 20,307 | 15,643 | 20,307 |
| Outcome sd | 0.74 | 2.63 | 0.16 | 25.52 |

[^0]
## Employer learning theory (Farber and Gibbons 1996)

- Initially, education is the only signal of worker ability
- Over time, receive additional signals about worker productivity


## Testable implications

- No differential impact on first jobs Job rankings
- Remediation effect increasing with age Age profiles


## Robustness checks

- Alternative parental unemployment measures
- Subsample born before 1981 (high match with aggregate unemployment rates)
- Broad measure including parental death and separation
- Unemployment vs long-term poverty:
- Sample composition

Table

- Replication in the British Cohort Study 1970 Table


## Mechanisms of parental unemployment

Loss of human capital investments is key

Supporting evidence

- less heterogeneity by $I Q$ at younger ages (BCS70) Table
- father's unemployment is the main driver of results Table HH income
- psychological distress: little difference by children's gender Table


## Conclusion

- New: how intelligence changes parental unemployment effects on children
- Higher IQ exacerbates costs on educational attainment
- born by children of less educated parents
- Higher IQ mitigates some labour-market outcomes later in life
- consistent with employer-learning theory (Farber and Gibbons 1996)
- Loss of human capital investments as the driving mechanism

Thank you!

## Appendix

## Intelligence score: principal component analysis

- 5 tests administered in wave 3 to all $16+$ respondents
- Use PC1 as the intelligence score ( $42.2 \%$ of variation)

| Test | Measure | PC1 loading |
| :--- | :--- | ---: |
| Immediate word recall | Episodic memory | 0.46 |
| Delayed word recall | Episodic memory | 0.45 |
| Serial 7 subtraction | Working memory | 0.32 |
| Number series | Fluid reasoning | 0.40 |
| Verbal fluency | Categoric fluency | 0.36 |
| Numeric ability | Numerical knowledge | 0.44 |

- Standardize to mean 0 and sd 1 by sex and 5-year birth cohorts

Intelligence score: graph

## Average intelligence score



## University admission in the UK

GCE/SCE as main entry qualification


Under age 20


Data sourceHigher Education Statistics Agency (1994-) $\square$ Universities' Statistical Record (1972-1993)

## Parental unemployment (aggregate)


$\longrightarrow$ Parental unemployment
UK male unemployment rate, aged 40-49
UK unemployment rate

Recession

## Parental unemployment (detailed)



## Unemployment benefits

## Net household income during unemployment



[^1]
## Relative stability of intelligence score (BCS70)



## Parental unemployment and gap in outcomes



## Parallel trends

Potential outcomes

- $Y^{0}$ when parents stay employed
- $Y^{1}$ when parents are unemployed

Parental unemployment

- $U P=0$ stay employed
- $U P=1$ unemployed

Parallel trends requires

$$
\frac{\operatorname{Cov}\left(Y^{0}, I Q \mid U P=1\right)}{\operatorname{Var}(I Q \mid U P=1)}-\frac{\operatorname{Cov}\left(Y^{0}, I Q \mid U P=0\right)}{\operatorname{Var}(I Q \mid U P=0)}=0
$$

Selection bias flat across intelligence score of children

## Parallel trends (graphical)



Potential outcomes

- $Y^{0}$ when parents stay employed
- $Y^{1}$ when parents are unemployed
Parental unemployment
- $U P=0$ stay employed
- $U P=1$ unemployed


## Characteristics at birth in the UKHLS

| Dependent variable | Regressors |  |  | Obs. | Mean outcome |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Parent unemp | IQ | Parent unemp $\times$ IQ |  |  |
| Father's mother born UK | -0.007 | -0.002 | 0.002 | 20,202 | 0.759 |
|  | (0.007) | (0.002) | (0.006) |  |  |
| Father's father born UK | -0.011 | 0.002 | 0.006 | 20,202 | 0.750 |
|  | (0.007) | (0.002) | (0.006) |  |  |
| Mother's mother born UK | -0.001 | 0.001 | -0.003 | 20,202 | 0.773 |
|  | (0.006) | (0.002) | (0.006) |  |  |
| Mother's father born UK | -0.009 | 0.005*** | 0.000 | 20,202 | 0.762 |
|  | (0.007) | (0.002) | (0.007) |  |  |
| Has siblings | 0.004 | -0.000 | -0.006 | 20,202 | 0.900 |
|  | (0.009) | (0.003) | (0.008) |  |  |
| White british father | 0.010 | -0.000 | -0.008 | 20,202 | 0.674 |
|  | (0.010) | (0.003) | (0.009) |  |  |
| White british mother | 0.015 | -0.003 | -0.005 | 20,202 | 0.680 |
|  | (0.010) | (0.003) | (0.010) |  |  |

## Characteristics at birth in the BCS70

| Dependent variable | Regressors |  |  | Obs. | Mean outcome |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Parent unemp | IQ | Parent unemp $\times I Q$ |  |  |
| Parity | $0.444^{* * *}$ | $-0.069^{* * *}$ | 0.024 | 5,063 | 1.50 |
|  | (0.094) | (0.022) | (0.085) |  |  |
| Lactation attempted | -0.049** | 0.031*** | -0.026 | 5,063 | 0.32 |
|  | (0.024) | (0.008) | (0.024) |  |  |
| Birthweight, g | -60.310* | 57.119*** | -10.030 | 5,059 | 3,284 |
|  | (35.011) | (9.956) | (30.745) |  |  |
| Age of mother | 0.575* | 0.378*** | 0.380 | 5,063 | 26.18 |
|  | (0.325) | (0.082) | (0.307) |  |  |
| Age of father | $1.807^{* * *}$ | 0.440*** | 0.760 | 4,405 | 29.02 |
|  | (0.424) | (0.102) | (0.375) |  |  |
| Height of mother, cm | $-1.131^{* * *}$ | 0.346*** | -0.033 | 5,029 | 161 |
|  | (0.369) | (0.109) | (0.326) |  |  |
| Age of mother at first birth | $-0.621^{* * *}$ | 0.485*** | 0.013 | 5,043 | 21.69 |
|  | (0.217) | (0.061) | (0.204) |  |  |

## Parallel trends and intergenerational persistence of intelligence



Parallel trends condition

Intergenerational process on IQ

$$
\begin{aligned}
I Q_{\mathrm{child}} & =\rho\left(I Q_{\mathrm{par}}\right) I Q_{\mathrm{par}}+\nu \\
\rho\left(I Q_{\mathrm{par}}\right) & =\rho_{0}+\rho_{1} I Q_{\mathrm{par}}
\end{aligned}
$$

Parallel trends condition

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \frac{\operatorname{Cov}\left(I Q_{P}, I Q_{C} \mid U P=1\right)}{\operatorname{Var}\left(I Q_{C} \mid U P=1\right)}- \\
& \quad-\frac{\operatorname{Cov}\left(I Q_{P}, I Q_{C} \mid U P=0\right)}{\operatorname{Var}\left(I Q_{C} \mid U P=0\right)}=0
\end{aligned}
$$

## Cognitive test results at age 5 in the BCS70

|  | Regressors |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Dependent variable | Parent <br> unemp | IQ | Parent <br> unemp $\times$ IQ | Obs. | Mean <br> outcome |
| Composite score (PC1) | -0.123 | $0.267^{* * *}$ | 0.020 | 2,134 | -0.05 |
| Reading score | $(0.088)$ | $(0.037)$ | $(0.072)$ |  |  |
|  | -0.523 | $1.448^{* * *}$ | -0.898 | 2,215 | 3.10 |
| English picture vocab. score | $(0.353)$ | $(0.17)$ | $(0.359)$ |  |  |
|  | $-0.349^{* * *}$ | $0.375^{* * *}$ | 0.012 | 4,587 | -0.34 |
| Copying designs score | $(0.091)$ | $(0.025)$ | $(0.084)$ |  |  |
|  | -0.052 | $0.393^{* * *}$ | 0.089 | 4,587 | -0.10 |
| Draw-a-man score | $(0.062)$ | $(0.017)$ | $(0.056)$ |  |  |
|  | -0.109 | $0.288^{* * *}$ | 0.055 | 4,587 | -0.17 |
| Complete-a-profile score | $(0.077)$ | $(0.02)$ | $(0.078)$ |  |  |
|  | -0.330 | $0.480^{* * *}$ | 0.016 | 4,431 | 6.85 |

## Cognitive test results at age 16 in the BCS70

| Dependent variable | Regressors |  |  | Obs. | Mean outcome |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Parent unemp | IQ | Parent unemp $\times I Q$ |  |  |
| Composite score (PC1) | $\begin{aligned} & -0.178^{*} \\ & (0.1) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.579^{* * *} \\ & (0.026) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.129 \\ & (0.103) \end{aligned}$ | 1,297 | -0.07 |
| Reading score | $\begin{aligned} & -2.791^{* *} \\ & (1.368) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 7.387^{* * *} \\ & (0.351) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.646 \\ & (1.459) \end{aligned}$ | 1,377 | 53.58 |
| Spelling score | $\begin{aligned} & -2.178 \\ & (4.753) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 14.864^{* * *} \\ & (1.365) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.697 \\ & (4.205) \end{aligned}$ | 5,063 | 74.11 |
| Vocabulary score | $\begin{aligned} & -0.872 \\ & (1.284) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 6.146^{* * *} \\ & (0.381) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.584 \\ & (1.162) \end{aligned}$ | 5,063 | 19.64 |
| Math score | $\begin{aligned} & -0.185 \\ & (1.099) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 6.102^{* * *} \\ & (0.287) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.946 \\ & (1.175) \end{aligned}$ | 1,643 | 36.14 |
| Complete-matrix score | $\begin{aligned} & -0.285^{*} \\ & (0.172) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.575^{* * *} \\ & (0.048) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.034 \\ & (0.212) \end{aligned}$ | 1,412 | 8.81 |

## Intelligence as outcome

Parallel trend assumption

$$
\frac{\operatorname{Cov}\left(Y^{0}, I Q^{1} \mid U P=1\right)}{\operatorname{Var}\left(I Q^{1} \mid U P=1\right)}-\frac{\operatorname{Cov}\left(Y^{0}, I Q^{0} \mid U P=0\right)}{\operatorname{Var}\left(I Q^{0} \mid U P=0\right)}=0
$$

Regression interpretation

$$
\beta_{3}=\frac{\partial}{\partial I Q^{1}} \mathbb{E}\left(Y^{1}-Y^{0} \mid U P=1, I Q^{1}\right)
$$

Limitation: $Y^{1}-Y^{0}$ may interact differently with $I Q^{0}$

## Effect on education by parental qualifications

|  | Post-16 school | Degree | Age left school |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Parent unemp $\times$ IQ | 0.066 | 0.025 | 0.059 |
|  | $(0.042)$ | $(0.048)$ | $(0.077)$ |
| Qual missing $\times$ Parent unemp $\times$ IQ | $-0.125^{\dagger \dagger}$ | $-0.103^{\dagger}$ | -0.154 |
|  | $(0.049)$ | $(0.052)$ | $(0.098)$ |
| No school $\times$ Parent unemp $\times$ IQ | -0.146 | $-0.267^{\dagger \dagger}$ | -0.342 |
|  | $(0.106)$ | $(0.106)$ | $(0.236)$ |
| Some school $\times$ Parent unemp $\times$ IQ | $-0.100^{\dagger}$ | -0.052 | -0.117 |
|  | $(0.045)$ | $(0.050)$ | $(0.083)$ |
| Obs. | 20,307 | 20,307 | 20,293 |
| Outcome mean | 0.37 | 0.27 | 16.62 |
| Outcome sd | 0.48 | 0.44 | 1.06 |
| ${ }^{\dagger} q<0.1 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger} q<0.05 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger \dagger} q<0.01$ based on false discovery rate q-values (Benjamini and Hochberg, 1995) |  |  |  |
| ${ }^{*} p<0.1 ;{ }^{* *} p<0.05 ;{ }^{* * *} p<0.01$ based on conventional p-values |  |  |  |

## Heckman two-step: labour-market results

|  | Dependent variables |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | IHS earnings | IHS hourly | Hours | IHS current job |
|  |  | wage |  | rank |
| Parent unemp | $-0.270^{* * *}$ | $-0.037^{* * *}$ | $-1.539^{* * *}$ | $-0.086^{* * *}$ |
| IQ | $(0.064)$ | $(0.009)$ | $(0.431)$ | $(0.016)$ |
|  | $0.290^{* * *}$ | $0.046^{* * *}$ | $0.526^{* *}$ | $0.129^{* * *}$ |
| Parent unemp $\times$ IQ | $(0.036)$ | $(0.005)$ | $(0.252)$ | $(0.008)$ |
|  | $0.122^{* *}$ | 0.010 | $0.697^{*}$ | $0.026^{*}$ |
| Obs. | $(0.061)$ | $(0.009)$ | $(0.410)$ | $(0.015)$ |

${ }^{*} \mathrm{p}<0.1,{ }^{* *} \mathrm{p}<0.05,{ }^{* * *} \mathrm{p}<0.01$

## Job rankings

|  | Dependent variables |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | IHS first job rank | IHS current job rank |
| Parent unemp | $-0.039^{* * *}$ | $-0.234^{* * *}$ |
| IQ | $(0.013)$ | $(0.046)$ |
|  | $0.029^{* * *}$ | $0.248^{* * *}$ |
| Parent unemp $\times$ IQ | $(0.004)$ | $(0.013)$ |
|  | 0.005 | $0.159^{\dagger \dagger \dagger}$ |
| Obs. | $(0.012)$ | $(0.043)$ |
| Outcome mean | 16,400 | 20,307 |
| Outcome sd | 2.84 | 2.72 |
| ${ }^{\dagger} q<0.1 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger} q<0.05 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger \dagger} q<0.01$ based on FDR q-values | 1.54 |  |
| ${ }^{*} p<0.1 ;{ }^{* *} p<0.05 ;{ }^{* * *} p<0.01$ based on conventional p-values |  |  |

## Age profiles

|  | Dependent variable |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Work | IHS earnings | IHS hourly wage | Hours |
| Ages 16-20 | 0.020 | -0.469 | $-0.231^{* *}$ | -0.534 |
| Ages 21-25 | $(0.049)$ | $(0.415)$ | $(0.112)$ | $(1.649)$ |
|  | 0.017 | -0.289 | $-0.151^{* *}$ | -0.551 |
| Ages 26-30 | $(0.036)$ | $(0.334)$ | $(0.066)$ | $-0.176)$ |
|  | 0.018 | -0.404 | $(0.064)$ | $(0.864)$ |
| Ages 31-35 | $(0.025)$ | $(0.277)$ | -0.581 |  |
|  | 0.009 | -0.308 | $(0.085$ | $(0.653)$ |
| Ages 36-40 | $(0.018)$ | $(0.247)$ | -0.068 | $(0.046)$ |
| Ages 41-45 |  | -0.275 | -0.052 | $(0.036)$ |
| Ages 56-60 | $(0.219)$ | 0.002 |  |  |
|  |  | 0.064 | $(0.050)$ | 0.198 |
| Ages 61-65 | 0.009 | -0.004 | -0.055 | $(0.819)$ |
|  | $(0.021)$ | $(0.178)$ | $(0.070)$ | $(1.2812$ |
| Obs. | 0.015 | 0.070 | 134,279 | 175,124 |

## Robustness: alternative unemployment (born before 1981)

|  | Post-16 <br> school | Degree | Work | $\% \Delta$ <br> earnings | $\% \Delta$ <br> hourly wage | Hours |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Parent unemp | $-0.058^{* * *}$ | -0.007 | $-0.042^{* * *}$ | $-0.213^{* * *}$ | $-0.114^{* * *}$ | $-1.949^{* * *}$ |
| IQ | $(0.017)$ | $(0.016)$ | $(0.015)$ | $(0.052)$ | $(0.032)$ | $(0.605)$ |
|  | $0.137^{* * *}$ | $0.137^{* * *}$ | $0.059^{* * *}$ | $0.326^{* * *}$ | $0.172^{* * *}$ | $2.021^{* * *}$ |
| Parent unemp $\times$ IQ | $(0.004)$ | $(0.004)$ | $(0.004)$ | $(0.015)$ | $(0.009)$ | $(0.173)$ |
|  | $-0.029^{\dagger}$ | -0.017 | $0.049^{\dagger \dagger \dagger}$ | $0.138^{\dagger \dagger}$ | -0.039 | $1.383^{\dagger \dagger}$ |
| Obs. | $(0.015)$ | $(0.014)$ | $(0.015)$ | $(0.050)$ | $(0.031)$ | $(0.591)$ |
| Outcome mean | 15,907 | 15,907 | 15,907 | 15,907 | 12,661 | 15,907 |
| Outcome sd | 0.36 | 0.28 | 0.80 | 2.85 | 0.17 | 27.35 |
| ${ }^{\dagger} q<0.1 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger} q<0.05 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger \dagger} q<0.01$ based on FDR q-values |  |  | 0.16 | 17.19 |  |  |
| ${ }^{*} p<0.1 ;{ }^{* *} p<0.05 ;{ }^{* * *} p<0.01$ based on conventional p-values |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Robustness: alternative unemployment (incl. death and separation)

|  | Post-16 <br> school | Degree | Work | $\% \Delta$ <br> earnings | $\% \Delta$ <br> hourly wage | Hours |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Parent unemp | $-0.082^{* * *}$ | $-0.034^{* * *}$ | $-0.048^{* * *}$ | $-0.233^{* * *}$ | $-0.107^{* * *}$ | $-2.182^{* * *}$ |
| IQ | $(0.012)$ | $(0.011)$ | $(0.011)$ | $(0.037)$ | $(0.023)$ | $(0.413)$ |
|  | $0.140^{* * *}$ | $0.132^{* * *}$ | $0.051^{* * *}$ | $0.291^{* * *}$ | $0.161^{* * *}$ | $1.830^{* * *}$ |
| Parent unemp $\times$ IQ | $(0.004)$ | $(0.004)$ | $(0.004)$ | $(0.014)$ | $(0.009)$ | $(0.156)$ |
|  | $-0.043^{\dagger \dagger \dagger}$ | $-0.033^{\dagger \dagger \dagger}$ | $0.039^{\dagger \dagger \dagger}$ | $0.124^{\dagger \dagger \dagger}$ | -0.030 | $1.406^{\dagger \dagger \dagger}$ |
| Obs. | $(0.010)$ | $(0.009)$ | $(0.011)$ | $(0.034)$ | $(0.020)$ | $(0.388)$ |
| Outcome mean | 20,329 | 20,329 | 20,329 | 20,329 | 15,655 | 20,329 |
| Outcome sd | 0.37 | 0.27 | 0.74 | 2.63 | 0.16 | 25.52 |

${ }^{\dagger} q<0.1 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger} q<0.05 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger \dagger} q<0.01$ based on FDR q-values
${ }^{*} p<0.1 ;{ }^{* *} p<0.05 ;{ }^{* * *} p<0.01$ based on conventional p-values

## Robustness: neighbourhood characteristics at age 15



|  | Inner city |
| :--- | :---: |
| Parent unemp | $0.047^{* * *}$ |
|  | $(0.011)$ |
| IQ | $-0.015^{* * *}$ |
|  | $(0.003)$ |
| Parent unemp $\times$ IQ | 0.007 |
|  | $(0.010)$ |
| Obs. | 20,303 |
| $* \mathrm{p}<0.1,{ }^{* *} \mathrm{p}<0.05,{ }^{* * *} \mathrm{p}<0.01$ |  |

## Robustness: subgroup analysis

|  | Post-16 <br> school | Degree | Work | $\% \Delta$ <br> earnings | $\% \Delta$ <br> hourly wage | Hours |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| White British |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parent unemp $\times 1 \mathrm{Q}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.035^{\dagger \dagger} \\ (0.013) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.039 \dagger \dagger \dagger \\ (0.011) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.052^{\dagger \dagger \dagger} \\ (0.014) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.145^{\dagger \dagger \dagger} \\ (0.044) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.050^{\dagger} \\ (0.028) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.703^{\dagger \dagger \dagger} \\ (0.497) \end{gathered}$ |
| Obs. | 18,176 | 18,176 | 18,176 | 18,176 | 14,209 | 18,176 |
| Born in England |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parent unemp $\times 1 \mathrm{~L}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.034 \dagger \dagger \\ (0.014) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.035^{\dagger \dagger} \\ (0.013) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.055^{\dagger \dagger \dagger} \\ (0.015) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.148^{\dagger \dagger \dagger} \\ (0.045) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.045 \\ & (0.030) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.634 \dagger \dagger \dagger \\ (0.547) \end{gathered}$ |
| Obs. | 15,222 | 15,222 | 15,222 | 15,222 | 11,742 | 15,222 |
| Born in Wales |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parent unemp $\times 1$ Q | $\begin{aligned} & -0.045 \\ & (0.053) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.060 \\ & (0.042) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.031 \\ (0.070) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.171 \\ (0.148) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.134 \\ & (0.078) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.670 \\ (2.032) \end{gathered}$ |
| Obs. | 1,337 | 1,337 | 1,337 | 1,337 | 1,003 | 1,337 |
| Born in Scotland |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parent unemp $\times 1 \mathrm{~L}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.012 \\ (0.063) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.001 \\ (0.046) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.044 \\ (0.060) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.098 \\ (0.139) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.181^{\dagger \dagger} \\ (0.068) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.079 \\ (2.125) \end{gathered}$ |
| Obs. | 1,927 | 1,927 | 1,927 | 1,926 | 1,502 | 1,927 |

## Robustness: BCS70



## Robustness: BCS70

|  | Post-16 school | Degree | Work | $\% \Delta$ earnings | \% $\Delta$ current job rank |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| UKHLS sample born in 1970 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parent unemp $\times 1 Q$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.051 \\ & (0.026) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.004 \\ & (0.014) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.106^{\dagger \dagger \dagger} \\ (0.016) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.197 \\ (0.222) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.367 \\ (0.194) \end{gathered}$ |
| Obs. | 578 | 578 | 578 | 578 | 578 |
| BCS70 at age 34 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parent unemp $\times 1$ Q |  | $\begin{aligned} & -0.039^{\dagger} \\ & (0.018) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.087^{\dagger \dagger} \\ & (0.028) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.210 \\ (0.170) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.003 \\ (0.055) \end{gathered}$ |
| Obs. |  | 5,063 | 3,757 | 1,375 | 2,118 |
| BCS70 at age 38 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parent unemp $\times 1 Q$ |  | -0.005 | 0.023 | -0.065 | 0.234 |
|  |  | (0.026) | (0.028) | (0.153) | (0.209) |
| Obs. |  | 3,555 | 3,542 | 3,148 | 5,046 |
| $\begin{aligned} & { }^{\dagger} q<0.1 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger} q<0.05 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger} q<0 \\ & { }^{*} p<0.1 ;{ }^{* *} p<0.05 ;{ }^{* * *} p< \end{aligned}$ | based on FDR based on con | values | values |  |  |

## Effect on degree by age at exposure (BCS70)

Parental unemployment recorded

|  | at birth | at age 10 | at age 16 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Parent unemp | 0.004 | $-0.033^{*}$ | $-0.048^{*}$ |
|  | $(0.025)$ | $(0.019)$ | $(0.025)$ |
| IQ | $0.116^{* * *}$ | $0.126^{* * *}$ | $0.137^{* * *}$ |
|  | $(0.005)$ | $(0.006)$ | $(0.008)$ |
| Parent unemp $\times$ IQ | -0.001 | $-0.069^{* * *}$ | $-0.085^{* * *}$ |
|  | $(0.023)$ | $(0.020)$ | $(0.026)$ |
| Obs. | 5,707 | 5,443 | 3,463 |
| $* \mathrm{p}<0.1,{ }^{* *} \mathrm{p}<0.05,{ }^{* * *} \mathrm{p}<0.01$ |  |  |  |

## Distribution of household income

General Household Survey 1972


General Household Survey 1980


## Effect of parental unemployment by parent's gender

|  | Dependent variables |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Degree | Work | $\% \Delta$ earnings | $\% \Delta$ hourly wage | IHS first job rank | IHS current job rank |
| IQ | $\begin{gathered} 0.133^{* * *} \\ (0.004) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.046^{* * *} \\ (0.005) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.279^{* * *} \\ (0.016) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.157^{* * *} \\ (0.010) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.033^{* * *} \\ (0.004) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.228^{* * *} \\ (0.016) \end{gathered}$ |
| Father unemp | $\begin{gathered} -0.037^{* *} \\ (0.016) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.055^{* * *} \\ (0.016) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.246^{* * *} \\ (0.054) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.123^{* * *} \\ (0.024) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.028^{*} \\ & (0.015) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.215^{* * *} \\ (0.056) \end{gathered}$ |
| Father unemp $\times 1 Q$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.032 \\ (0.014) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.039 \\ (0.017) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.091 \\ (0.051) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.081^{\dagger} \\ & (0.029) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.001 \\ (0.014) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.160^{\dagger} \\ & (0.054) \end{aligned}$ |
| Mother unemp | $\begin{gathered} 0.010 \\ (0.008) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.034^{* * *} \\ (0.008) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.169^{* * *} \\ (0.028) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.015 \\ & (0.018) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.021^{* * *} \\ (0.007) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.122^{* * *} \\ (0.027) \end{gathered}$ |
| Mother unemp $\times 1 \mathrm{Q}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.001 \\ & (0.007) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.016 \\ (0.008) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.032 \\ (0.028) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.006 \\ (0.018) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.010 \\ & (0.007) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.036 \\ (0.027) \end{gathered}$ |
| Obs. | 18,496 | 18,496 | 18,496 | 14,381 | 15,066 | 18,496 |

[^2]
## Effect of parental unemployment by children's gender

|  | Dependent variables |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Degree | Work | $\% \Delta$ earnings | $\% \Delta$ hourly wage | IHS first job rank | IHS current job rank |
| Parent unemp | $\begin{aligned} & -0.033^{*} \\ & (0.020) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.045^{* *} \\ (0.019) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.270^{* * *} \\ (0.067) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.135^{* * *} \\ (0.031) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.034^{*} \\ & (0.020) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.194^{* * *} \\ (0.067) \end{gathered}$ |
| IQ | $\begin{gathered} 0.131^{* * *} \\ (0.005) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.052^{* * *} \\ (0.006) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.299^{* * *} \\ (0.021) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.172^{* * *} \\ (0.009) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.014^{* *} \\ & (0.005) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.235^{* * *} \\ (0.019) \end{gathered}$ |
| IQ $\times$ Female | $\begin{gathered} 0.000 \\ (0.006) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.000 \\ (0.008) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.006 \\ & (0.026) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.023 \\ & (0.018) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.030^{* * *} \\ (0.007) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.026 \\ (0.025) \end{gathered}$ |
| Parent unemp $\times 1 \mathrm{Q}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.034 \\ (0.017) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.027 \\ (0.020) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.080 \\ (0.067) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.066 \\ & (0.034) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.001 \\ (0.018) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.091 \\ (0.068) \end{gathered}$ |
| Parent unemp $\times 1 \mathrm{~L} \times$ Female | $\begin{aligned} & -0.004 \\ & (0.021) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.037 \\ (0.026) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.093 \\ (0.086) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.032 \\ (0.051) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.004 \\ (0.024) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.120 \\ (0.088) \end{gathered}$ |
| Obs. | 20,307 | 20,307 | 20,307 | 15,643 | 16,400 | 20,307 |

[^3]
[^0]:    ${ }^{\dagger} q<0.1 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger} q<0.05 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger \dagger} q<0.01$ based on FDR $q$-values
    ${ }^{*} p<0.1 ;{ }^{* *} p<0.05 ;{ }^{* * *} p<0.01$ based on conventional p -values

[^1]:    - Single person with 2 children
    -     - Couple with 2 children - partner is out of work
    - Couple with 2 children - partner's earnings: AW

[^2]:    ${ }^{\dagger} q<0.1 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger} q<0.05 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger \dagger} q<0.01$ based on FDR q-values
    ${ }^{*} p<0.1 ;{ }^{* *} p<0.05 ;{ }^{* * *} p<0.01$ based on conventional p-values

[^3]:    ${ }^{\dagger} q<0.1 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger} q<0.05 ;{ }^{\dagger \dagger} q<0.01$ based on FDR q-values
    ${ }^{*} p<0.1$; ${ }^{* *} p<0.05$; *** $p<0.01$ based on conventional p-values

