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**The Case for Living in a Middle Class Neighborhood  
Trends in Residential Segregation and Consequences  
for Offspring Outcomes**

**Abstract**

Based on Norwegian administrative registers we provide new empirical evidence on the effects of the childhood neighborhood's socioeconomic status on educational and labor market performance. A neighborhood's status is measured annually by its prime age inhabitants' earnings ranks within larger commuting zones, and the childhood neighborhood status is the average status of the neighborhoods inhabited from birth to age 15. Identification of causal effects

relies on within-family comparisons. Our results reveal a hump-shaped relationship between the socioeconomic status of the childhood neighborhood and school results at age 15-16, such that the optimal neighborhood is of medium rank. The top-ranked neighborhoods are as bad as the bottom-ranked. Similar results are obtained for educational and labor market outcomes measured at higher ages.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June**  
**from 1pm to 2pm**  
**Campus Luigi Einaudi**

**Seminar room n. 36**  
**Building D1 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**  
**Lungo Dora Siena 100/A, Turin**