

BIEN @ WZB

Zeit: 20. Juni 2017, 9.30-11 Uhr

Ort: Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB)

Reichpietschufer 50, 10785 Berlin

Raum A 310

Von 9-9.30 Uhr Frühstück (Croissants, Kaffee/Tee, Saft)

Speaker: Douglas Downey (Professor of Sociology, Ohio State University,
<https://sociology.osu.edu/people/downey.32>)

Title: „Villain or Hero? How Schools Shape Inequality“

Abstract: In the half century since the 1966 “Coleman Report,” scholars have yet to develop a consensus regarding the relationship between schools and inequality. While the Coleman Report suggested that schools play little role in generating achievement gaps, social scientists have identified many ways in which schools provide better learning environments to advantaged children compared to disadvantaged children. As a result, a critical perspective that views schools as engines of inequality (or as a "villain") dominates contemporary sociology of education. However, an important body of research using seasonal comparison methods (observing how achievement gaps change when school is in versus out) challenges this critical view. Indeed, the results from seasonal comparisons suggest that schools are probably compensatory--they play the role of "hero". I discuss the advantages of seasonal comparison methods and the costs of limiting ourselves to a mostly critical perspective of schools.