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Determinants of access to post-compulsory education and training: A new research agenda

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M. Souto-Otero, Determinants of access to post-compulsory education and training: A new research agenda
Abstract: This paper presents a review and assessment of existing theoretical accounts to explain differentials in access to post-compulsory education and training in advanced economies. The theories presented focus on the influence of a set of economic, sociological and political variables on access to education and they are criticised on two grounds. First, they seldom take into consideration the crucial role of political-institutional factors, and in particular, welfare states’ actions through direct investment and regulation in shaping access levels. Second, they do not reflect the current policy emphasis on lifelong-learning. The paper finishes with an outline of a future research agenda to address these gaps, and also calls for a more rigorous analysis of the weight of the different factors affecting access.

Note (Dec 2005): this paper is now to be published in Comparative Education. Once this occurs this page will then be linked to the electronic version of this journal.