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Are They All Like Bill, Mark, and Steve? The Education Premium for Entrepreneurs

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Abstract

We rely on the Survey of Consumer Finances to study the return to education of US entrepreneurs since the late 1980s. We calculate the average yearly income that an entrepreneur expects to obtain during his venture, combining labor income, dividend payments, and capital gains upon selling the business. We find that the premium for postgraduate education has increased substantially more for entrepreneurs than for employees. Today an entrepreneur with a postgraduate degree earns on average $100,000 a year more than one with a college degree. And the difference is substantially greater at the higher quantiles of the income distribution. In the late 1980s, the differences had been close to zero. The rise in the postgraduate premium is mainly due to increased complementarity between the advanced formal skills provided by higher education and the applied practical expertise acquired through past labor market experience. In combination, these two factors have become increasingly valuable to running successful businesses.

Keywords: Skill premium, entrepreneurship
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1 Introduction

There is widespread evidence that the return to skills, defined for example as the wage premium attributable to college or post-graduate education, has increased over recent decades in most industrialized countries. The evidence is mainly about employees (see for example Card (1999) for a review), while we know very little—if anything—on the evolution of the skill premium for entrepreneurs. The anecdotal evidence is somewhat mixed. On the one hand, some of the most successful new US companies, such as Microsoft, Facebook, Apple and Twitter, have been founded by college drop-outs: Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, Steve Jobs and Evan Williams. This could indicate that higher education has become less useful to entrepreneurship, possibly because of its high opportunity cost in terms of time. On the other hand, successful entrepreneurs with little or no formal education have been common throughout the history of capitalism.[1] And in more recent years, the US has also experienced a boom in the number of successful high-tech firms created by entrepreneurs with postgraduate education, which might rather suggest an increase in its return for entrepreneurs. Google began as a research project by Sergey Brin and Larry Page during their Ph.D in computer science at Stanford, where they eventually obtained their M.S. Both Michael Bloomberg, founder of the global financial data and media company Bloomberg L.P., and Scott McNealy, co-founder of Sun Microsystems, have an MBA—Bloomberg from HBS and McNealy from Stanford GSB. The three leading companies in the booming US biotechnology industry, Amgen, Gilead Sciences and Celgene, were founded by entrepreneurs with Ph.Ds.[2] And even Peter Thiel, a serial entrepreneur and a leading figure in Silicon valley who has recently funded a fellowship program to encourage young people to skip or drop out of college to start businesses, holds a Juris Doctor degree from Stanford Law.

In this paper we use the Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF) to supply evidence on the evolution of the educational composition and the return to education of US entrepreneurs over the period 1989-2013. We identify entrepreneurs as individuals whose primary job consists of actively managing one or more privately-held businesses, which they own in part or in full. According to this criterion, around 10% of employed individuals in the

[1] Michael Dell, the founder of Dell Computers, and Ralph Lauren, CEO and Chairman of Ralph Lauren Corporation, are examples of well-known entrepreneurs who dropped out of college. George Eastman, the founder of Kodak, Henry Ford, John D. Rockefeller, the founder of Standard Oil, Ray Kroc, who founded McDonald's, and Walt Disney are all examples of entrepreneurs who never attended college at all and in some cases (Eastman, Kroc, Rockefeller, and Disney) did not even finish high school.

[2] Amgen by George Blatz Rathmann, who holds a Ph.D in physical chemistry from Princeton; Gilead by Michael L. Riordan who holds both an M.D. from Johns Hopkins and an MBA from Harvard; and Celgene by Sol J. Barer together with David Stirling, who both hold Ph.Ds in biochemistry—Barer from Rutgers and Stirling from the University of Warwick.

US are entrepreneurs.[3] In measuring the return to entrepreneurship, we consider that an important part of entrepreneurs' income comes from capital gains realized upon selling the business. An entrepreneur also immobilizes part of his wealth as well as his human capital in his business. Upon exit (due to failure or sale), the entrepreneur recovers some wealth that can be re-invested elsewhere or consumed, while the human capital can be re-employed in the labor market. Based on this insight, we construct a simple measure of *return to entrepreneurship*, which can be implemented using data from the SCF, which consists of repeated cross-sectional surveys with information just on the date of start-up, current income from the entrepreneurial venture (in the form of either labor income or dividend payments), its current market valuation and the investment to acquire or start and develop the business. We define the *extra* return from entrepreneurship as the income that the entrepreneur obtains because of running the business in excess of the income that he would have obtained if he had invested his wealth in financial markets and employed his human capital in the labor market. With this definition, the duration of the entrepreneurial venture is relevant to the return, as a quicker exit implies that the entrepreneur can re-employ his or her wealth and human capital more quickly in alternative uses, which drives up the return.

Our measure of the return to entrepreneurship can be generalized to account for some possible biases due to the repeated cross-sectional nature of the SCF. There could be a composition bias, which arises because entrepreneurs with lower failure rates or less opportunities to sell are over-represented in the cross-section. There could be a valuation bias, due to firm failure, which arises because the return from entrepreneurship depends on the expected capital gains from the venture, which should account for the fact that capital gains are never realized if the business fails before a profitable selling opportunity materializes. Finally, there could be a recycling bias due to the fact that entrepreneurs can re-employ their entrepreneurial skills to start new ventures, which implies that the return to entrepreneurship should be cumulated over the expected future sequence of ventures that an entrepreneur will start and complete.

We group entrepreneurs by education: (i) post-graduate degree, (ii) college degree, (iii) high school degree, and (iv) high school dropout. In our data the fraction of entrepreneurs with a college degree has increased, while that of entrepreneurs with a postgraduate degree has remained stable at around one third. The premium of having a college degree relative to a high school degree has increased, but only by about as much as the analogous premium for employees, which implies that the extra return to entrepreneurship has remained stable

[3]Notice that "Bill, Mark and Steve" were part of the population sampled by the SCF until they entered the Forbes list of the wealthiest 400 people in the US, since these individuals are explicitly excluded from the SCF sampling.

for college graduates. Instead the premium for postgraduate education has increased substantially more for entrepreneurs than for employees. On average, entrepreneurs with a post-graduate degree nowadays earn more than twice as much as they used to earn in the early 1990s. The analogous percentage increase for entrepreneurs with a college degree is at most 50 percent, while for entrepreneurs with less than a college degree the increase is small or negligible. Today an entrepreneur with a postgraduate degree earns on average $100,000 per year more (at 2010 prices) than one with only a college degree. This difference more than doubles at the higher quantiles of the entrepreneurs' income distribution. In the late 1980s, these differences were close to zero. The sharp increase in the skill premium for entrepreneurs with postgraduate education is partly due to the higher dividends paid by the firms they ran and partly due to the higher capital gains realized upon sale of the business. The premium for postgraduate education holds both for entrepreneurs with an M.A. or an MBA degree and for those with a Ph.D; it has remained high during the Great Recession (despite a drop in absolute returns), it increases substantially in the higher deciles of the entrepreneurs' income distribution, and it is little affected by conditioning on earnings in the previous job (a rough control for changes in the quality composition of entrepreneurs). All this suggests that the more advanced skills associated with higher education have become increasingly important for entrepreneurial success: the experience of "Bill, Mark and Steve" has been the exception rather than the rule.[4]

Following Lazear (2004, 2005), some recent research has emphasized that entrepreneurs need a balanced mix of skills to succeed. Entrepreneurial skills come partly from formal education and partly from past labor market experience. So an increase in the skill premium can be the result of an increase in the return to education, in the return to labor market experience or in the complementarity between the two (EE-complementarity). We find that the complementarity between higher education and labor market experience has increased substantially. The increase is specific to entrepreneurship and accounts almost fully for the rise in the premium to postgraduate education. This holds true after controlling for several alternative explanations for the rise in the premium, including changes in (i) the sectoral specialization of businesses ran by entrepreneurs with different educational levels; (ii) their access to internal or external finance; (iii) the importance of vintage technology effects; (iv) the intergenerational transmission of wealth; and (v)

[4]We do not attempt to identify any causal effect of education on entrepreneurship. However, in one of our robustness checks we use the entrepreneur's past earnings in her main previous job as a proxy for ability, finding that the increase in the premium to postgraduate education is robust to this additional control. This suggests that the increase in the premium is unlikely to be explained by pure selection, driven by the fact that more talented individuals may self-select into higher education.

compensating differentials—due to greater business risk or lower possibilities of recycling entrepreneurial skills into new ventures. Overall our evidence is consistent with the notion that, in today's technologically advanced and highly competitive world, running successful businesses requires both the advanced theoretical competence provided by higher formal education and the applied practical expertise acquired through labor market experience.

We believe that our findings on the increase of the return to postgraduate education for entrepreneurs are novel. We are not aware of any work that documents the evolution of the skill premium for entrepreneurs. This lack of evidence is partly explained by inherent difficulties in measuring the return to entrepreneurship discussed in this paper. Kaplan and Rauh (2013) study the characteristics of the 400 wealthiest individuals in the US over the past three decades according to the Forbes 400 list and document that the share of college graduates has increased from 77 to 87 percent, which is consistent with our findings that the return to education has increased. There is also some cross-sectional evidence on the return to education for entrepreneurs, which is reviewed in Van der Sluis, Van Praag, and Vijverberg (2008). Queiro (2016) shows that there is a positive relationship between the educational level of the entrepreneur and the performance of the firm in terms of survival probability, profitability, and growth. Van der Sluis et al. (2008) also review studies that compare the return to education for entrepreneurs and employees. Van Praag, Van Witteloostuijn, and Van der Sluis (2013) use the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY) and find a higher return to education for entrepreneurs than for employees, which is consistent with our findings. Hamilton (2000) studies earnings differentials between the self-employed and employees by focusing on a sample of male school leavers from the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) over the 1983-1986 period. He finds that the majority of entrepreneurs earn less than employees with comparable characteristics. Levine and Rubinstein (2017) use the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79) to argue that a better definition of "entrepreneur" is a self-employed individual who runs an incorporated businesses. They show that "true" entrepreneurs are more skilled (in terms of education and learning aptitude) and more prone to take risk, and that they do earn substantially more than comparable employees. Here we focus on the return to education in entrepreneurship, study its evolution over time and find that the return to postgraduate education has increased also using Levine and Rubinstein's preferred definition of entrepreneur.

Hall and Woodward (2010) study the risk-adjusted return to entrepreneurship for a sample of entrepreneurs backed by venture capital. They document that the return to entrepreneurship is highly skewed and that, even for modest degrees of risk aversion, the certainty equivalent of the distribution of returns at start-up is only slightly above zero.

Even if our measure of entrepreneurial returns does not control for risk, we think that risk aversion alone cannot explain the rising premium to higher education observed in the data, because the entire distribution of returns has generally become more favorable to highly educated entrepreneurs: failure rates have evolved similarly across educational groups, while the skill premium to entrepreneurship has increased in all the higher quantiles of the income distribution. Further, our results are robust to controlling for a measure of income uncertainty.

Several other papers have used the SCF to study features of US entrepreneurs. De Nardi, Doctor, and Krane (2007) investigate the role of liquidity constraints and personal wealth for business development. Moskowitz and Vissing-Jorgensen (2002) and Kartashova (2014) estimate the aggregate return to private equity, which accrues mainly to entrepreneurs, and compare it to the return from investing in public equity. Here we focus on differences in individual entrepreneurial returns due to labor income, dividend payments, investment and capital gains, rather than on the aggregate financial return to private equity. None of these papers has examined the return to education for entrepreneurs and its evolution over time.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 discusses how to measure the return to entrepreneurship in the SCF. Section 3 describes the data. Section 4 characterizes the evolution of the average return to entrepreneurship across educational groups and Section 5 focuses on different quantiles of the entrepreneurs' return distribution. Section 6 provides evidence of the increased complementarity between education and labor market experience and tests for alternative explanations of the rise in the premium for postgraduate education. Section 7 concludes. The Appendix gives some formal derivations, further details on the data and additional empirical results.

2 Measuring the return from entrepreneurship

To measure the return to entrepreneurship using the SCF data, we first recognize that an entrepreneur immobilizes part of his wealth and his human capital when running a business. Upon exit, the entrepreneur regains some wealth that can be re-invested or consumed, while the human capital can be re-employed in the labor market. For the sake of comparison with conventional wage regressions (Mincer, 1958), we measure the *return to entrepreneurship* as a flow, calculating the yearly income that an entrepreneur expects over the course of the venture, summing labor income, dividend payments, and realized capital gains upon sale of the business. We define the *extra* return to entrepreneurship as the income obtained from running the business in excess of what would have been earned by investing (or consuming) wealth and employing human capital in the labor market. We

start with a simple framework that we can later extend to allow for (i) business failure, (ii) heterogeneity in business types, and (iii) repeated episodes of entrepreneurial activity.

2.1 The baseline measure

Time is continuous. The entrepreneur is infinitely lived and risk-neutral and initially we posit that he can run at most one business in the course of a lifetime. Let k denote the initial investment in the business, d the per period dividend payments —which in theory can be negative if the entrepreneur injects capital into the business—and l the labor income from the business. The entrepreneur's total income in a period is then equal to $y \equiv d + l$. We assume that these quantities are constant over time. Nothing changes if y evolves stochastically, provided these fluctuations do not lead to a liquidation of the business, an issue we discuss below. Assume the market interest rate is $r \geq 0$ and that the entrepreneur discounts cash flows at rate $\rho > r$. This recognizes that securities held by a large number of investors are more liquid and more diversified than those privately held by the entrepreneur. We assume that the difference between ρ and r is large enough so that the entrepreneur always sells the business when an opportunity to do so arises in the market, which occurs with instantaneous arrival rate μ. In this case, the entrepreneur sells the business at its market value, which is $M = d/r$, given that the market discounts dividends at rate r. In this simple set-up, μ also represents the instantaneous probability that the entrepreneur will exit the venture, which we denote by $\lambda = \mu$. The parameter λ characterizes the rate at which the entrepreneur can recycle wealth and human capital into alternative uses, while the expected duration of the venture is $1/\lambda$. At any time the entrepreneur could work in the labor market, earning per period income w. So the value of his human capital is equal to

$$W = \frac{w}{\rho}. \tag{1}$$

Notice that the entrepreneur discounts cash flows at the discount rate $\rho > r$. The value of the venture to the entrepreneur, after the initial investment k, is equal to U which solves the following standard asset type equation:

$$\rho U = d + l + \lambda \left(M + W - U \right). \tag{2}$$

The left hand side is the business's yield to the entrepreneur; the right hand side the entrepreneur's expected income from the venture equal to the sum of the instantaneous return (first two terms) and the expected capital gain from selling the business in the market, cashing in the full market value of the business M and re-employing human capital W in the labor market (third term). The net value of becoming an entrepreneur is denoted

by S, equal to the difference between the value of the business to the entrepreneur, U, and the opportunity cost of the physical and human capital that the entrepreneur invests in the business, of value k and W, respectively. So we have:

$$S = U - k - W. \tag{3}$$

We convert this net value into a flow value for the sake of comparison with conventional wage regressions, see Mincer (1958). The *extra return* to entrepreneurship for an entrepreneur who has invested k units of wealth in the business is denoted by ϕ, which we define using the notion of Chisini mean (Chisini, 1929). Formally ϕ is obtained by equating the actual wealth gains that the entrepreneur expects, as measured by S in (3), with the hypothetical expected present value of wealth that the entrepreneur would get from a constant income flow ϕ in each period of the venture. Since the entrepreneur exits the venture at the Poisson arrival rate λ, ϕ should satisfy the following implicit functional Chisini equation condition:

$$\frac{\phi}{\lambda + \rho} = S. \tag{4}$$

Using the definition of S in (3) and noticing that (2) implies that

$$U = \frac{d + l + \lambda (M + W)}{\lambda + \rho}$$

with W given by (1), we have

$$\phi = \theta - w. \tag{5}$$

Here w measures the labor market opportunity flow cost from running the business while

$$\theta = d + l + \lambda (M - k) - \rho k \tag{6}$$

measures the *expected return* from becoming an entrepreneur gross of the opportunity cost of human capital. This return θ is the sum of three components. The first is the instantaneous income (in the form of dividend payments d and labor income l) that the business delivers to the entrepreneur in each period. The second is the *per period* expected capital gain, which corresponds to the third term in the right hand side of (6). To understand this expression, note that the entrepreneur invests k while the expected value of the business upon exit is M , so $M - k$ is the realized capital gain. Now let $\tau \geq 0$ denote the overall duration of the entrepreneurial venture. Since the entrepreneur exits the business with Poisson arrival rate λ, τ is a negative exponential random variable with expected value equal to $1/\lambda$. Thus the third term on the right hand side of (6) can be expressed as

$$\frac{M - k}{E(\tau)}, \tag{7}$$

which is a measure of the per period capital gain generated over the (expected) life of the business. Finally, the last term in the right hand side of (6) measures the cost to the entrepreneur of immobilizing his wealth in the business. Notice that this cost is calculated using ρ rather than r, because the entrepreneur should be compensated for the lack of liquidity and the (idiosyncratic) risk of his investment in the business.

Our baseline measure for the expected return from entrepreneurship is based on θ in (6), after recognizing that the SCF data are cross-sectional and in discrete time. In particular, let $a = 1, 2, 3...$ denote the discretized age of the venture and h be the size of the interval over which the time line is discretized. Finally, we denote current time by t, which for simplicity we assume to be discrete. The SCF provides cross-sectional data on entrepreneurs with information about (i) the value of the businesses M ; (ii) the total income flow obtained by the entrepreneur in a period in the form of either dividend payments dh or labor income lh; (iii) the discretized age of the venture a; (iv) the entrepreneur's investment in the business k; and (v) the current time t. To measure λ, we build on Nickell (1979,) who observes that hazard rates out of a pool can generally be recovered by combining information on the cross-sectional distribution of age a and the inflow rate into the pool. For each entrepreneur-educational group we construct a measure of the mass of new ventures at time t, which we denote by m_t.[5] The mass of ventures of age a at time t is then equal to

$$f_{ta} = m_{t-a}\left(1 - \widetilde{\lambda}\right)^a \tag{8}$$

where

$$\widetilde{\lambda} = 1 - \exp(-\lambda h) \simeq \lambda h$$

is the exit rate out of the venture over an interval of size h and $\exp(-\lambda h)$ is the probability of not selling the business in an interval of size h. The approximation in the expression above works well when λh is small enough. To use cross-sectional data to infer λ and to account for possible heterogeneity in the entry rate, an observation pertaining to a given entrepreneur should be normalized by the mass of new ventures started at the same time. We denote by

$$n_{ta} = \frac{f_{ta}}{m_{t-a}} = \left(1 - \widetilde{\lambda}\right)^a \tag{9}$$

the fraction of ventures started at $t - a$ still in existence at t. In the cross-section for any t, we can weight each observation by the inverse of the size of the corresponding cohort

[5]This index is constructed separately for each educational group: we first use information from the US Census Bureau's Longitudinal Business Database (LBD) to construct a measure of the total business creation rate in any year since 1976 and then multiply the year-specific value of the index by the share of ventures started in that year by entrepreneurs with the given educational level.

of new ventures and then calculate the resulting weighted average age of ventures. In practice, at any time t we divide the weights in the SCF assigned to an entrepreneur with a periods in the venture by the mass of new ventures started at the same time as our entrepreneur started, as measured by m_{t-a}. This is tantamount to normalizing the entry flow into entrepreneurship to 1 at any point in time. The cross-sectional average age normalized by the magnitude of these cohort effects is then equal to

$$E_n(a) \equiv \frac{\sum_{a=1}^{\infty}(an_{ta})}{\sum_{a=1}^{\infty} n_{ta}} = \frac{\widetilde{\lambda}}{1-\widetilde{\lambda}} \cdot \sum_{a=1}^{\infty}\left[a\left(1-\widetilde{\lambda}\right)^{a}\right] = \frac{1}{\widetilde{\lambda}} \simeq \frac{1}{\lambda h}. \tag{10}$$

where the second equality makes use of (9). This means that $1/E_n(a)$ measures the exit rate out of entrepreneurship.[6] This implies that the capital gains in (7) can be measured by

$$\frac{M-k}{E_n(a)} \simeq \lambda h\,(M-k)\,. \tag{12}$$

Finally, we calculate a measure of the opportunity cost of capital as equal to

$$\rho = R(t-a,t)^{\frac{1}{a}} - 1$$

where $t-a$ is the date of start of a venture of age a at time t and $R(t-a,t)$ is a measure of the total return from investing in the US stock market over the period $(t-a,t)$. Eventually, our baseline measure for the return from entrepreneurship θ is given by

$$\widetilde{\theta} = dh + lh + \frac{M-k}{E_n(a)} - \left[R(t-a,t)^{\frac{1}{a}} - 1\right]k \tag{13}$$

where $\widetilde{\theta}$ denotes the empirical counterpart of θ in (13).[7]

[6] We experimented with alternatives to (10) in order to calculate λh. These alternatives allow to test for whether the exit rate out of entrepreneurship varies as entrepreneurs age in the business (duration dependence). For each two age groups of ventures, say at age a and at age $a-i$ we can calculate

$$\widetilde{\lambda}_{ai} \equiv 1 - \left(\frac{n_{ta}}{n_{ta-i}}\right)^{\frac{1}{i}} \tag{11}$$

where n_{tj} is the mass at time t of entrepreneurial ventures of age j—again normalized by the size of the corresponding cohort of newly created entrepreneurial ventures, as defined in (9). In the absence of duration dependence we would have that $\widetilde{\lambda}_{ai} = \widetilde{\lambda} \simeq \lambda h$. By fixing i and comparing $\widetilde{\lambda}_{ai}$ with $\frac{1}{E_n(\tau)}$ for different values of a we can then evaluate the importance of duration dependence among entrepreneurs. In practice, in our data, we do not find strong evidence of duration dependence and we present results by measuring λ using (10).

[7] Some small discrepancies between $\widetilde{\theta}$ and θ are due to the approximation in (12) and the discretization of the time line.

2.2 Valuation, composition, and recycling bias

So far we have assumed that the entrepreneur exits the venture only by selling the business. But businesses can also fail before they can be sold. This introduces a first type of bias in our baseline measure for the entrepreneurial return θ in (13), which we call *valuation bias*. This arises because entrepreneurs in the SCF report the market value of their business and not the wealth that they expect to realize upon exit, which could be due to failure rather than a decision to sell. Moreover, the rates at which entrepreneurs exit may be heterogeneous. For example, worse businesses may be more likely to fail, or else entrepreneurs running better businesses may be able to sell more quickly. This heterogeneity introduces a second type of bias, which we call *composition bias*. Finally, after exiting, an entrepreneur can recycle his entrepreneurial skills and start a new venture, which implies that the return to entrepreneurship should be cumulated over the expected future sequence of possible ventures. Failing to control for this might produce what we call *recycling bias*. We now briefly discuss these three biases and how to handle them in the SCF. The Appendix contains the full details.

Valuation bias. Assume that the business fails with instantaneous probability $\delta \geq 0$ and has liquidation value L. The overall exit rate from the venture is now equal to $\lambda \equiv \mu + \delta$ where μ is the arrival rate of selling opportunities. All the other assumptions of the framework are as before. We show in the Appendix that in this case the extra return to entrepreneurship ϕ of a business with initial investment k is given by

$$\phi_v = \theta_v - w \tag{14}$$

where θ_v is the return to entrepreneurship adjusted for the fact that the venture can fail before it can be sold, which is equal to

$$\theta_v = d + l + \lambda \left[\mathbb{E}_x \left(V \right) - k \right] - \rho k, \tag{15}$$

with

$$\mathbb{E}_x \left(V \right) = (1 - \gamma) M + \gamma L = M - \gamma (M - L) \tag{16}$$

denoting the expected value of the business upon exiting entrepreneurship. In (16), $\gamma = \frac{\delta}{\lambda} < 1$ is the probability of failing conditional on exiting the venture, while $M = \frac{d + \delta L}{r + \delta}$ is the market value of the business. In the SCF, entrepreneurs are asked about the market value of their business, and if they say the business has no value they are asked to report its liquidation value, which we take as a measure of L. The interviews in the SCF are conducted over a time interval h, and we can infer that averaging the responses on the

value of the business we actually measure

$$\overline{V} = (1 - \delta h)\, M + \delta h L = M - \delta h (M - L) = \mathbb{E}_x (V) + (\gamma - \delta h)(M - L), \tag{17}$$

where δh is the fraction of failed businesses in a cross-sectional wave of the SCF.[8] $\overline{V}$ differs from $\mathbb{E}_x (V)$ because γ is generally different from $\delta h = \gamma \lambda h$. The smaller h, the larger this difference. For $\lambda h < 1$, we have that $\theta - \theta_v > 0$. This difference is what we call the *valuation bias* equal to

$$\Theta \equiv \theta - \theta_v = \lambda \left[\overline{V} - \mathbb{E}_x (V) \right] = \lambda (\gamma - \delta h)(M - L) = (1 - \lambda h)\, \delta (M - L). \tag{18}$$

This bias arises because the total expected return to entrepreneurship depends on the expected value of the wealth realized by the entrepreneur upon exit, $\mathbb{E}_x (V)$, which is generally lower than the cross-sectional average business value $\overline{V}$. This difference arises because the entrepreneur's conditional probability of exiting due failure γ is typically higher than the fraction of failures in the sample δh. After constructing measures of the failing rate δ and of the difference between M and L, we can then use (15) together with (16) to calculate θ_ν as follows:

$$\widetilde{\theta}_v = d + l + \frac{\overline{V} - k}{E_n(a)} - \widetilde{\Theta} - \left[R(0,t)^{\frac{1}{t}} - 1 \right] k = \widetilde{\theta} - \widetilde{\Theta}, \tag{19}$$

where $E_n(a)$ is as in (10) and

$$\widetilde{\Theta} = \left[1 - \frac{1}{E_n(a)} \right] \delta (M - L) \tag{20}$$

measures the valuation bias in (18).

Composition bias. A second bias is due to the fact that the composition of entrepreneurs in a cross-section does not necessarily reflect the composition of the businesses at the time of the start-ups. Assume for simplicity that there are n types of businesses that pay (potentially) different dividends, d_i, have (potentially) different failure rates δ_i and (potentially) different selling opportunity arrival rates μ_i, which imply different exit rates $\lambda_i = \delta_i + \mu_i$, $\forall i = 1....n$. Also assume that immediately after starting the business the entrepreneur discovers what type the business is, namely type i with probability α_i, with $\sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i = 1$. The expected total return to entrepreneurship in (6) is now equal to

$$\theta^* = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \alpha_i \theta_{vi} \tag{21}$$

[8] In practice, the fraction of failed businesses in a wave of the SCF is likely to be even smaller than δh, with h denoting a one-year interval, because the interviews are conducted at a specific date between May and December in each survey year, so the fraction of failures at the time of the interview is typically smaller than fraction of businesses that fail over the entire year, δh.

where θ_{vi} is the type-i specific measure of total entrepreneurial return analogous to (15). The (expected) extra return to entrepreneurship is equal to $\phi^* = \theta^* - w$. In practice we are interested in comparing θ^* with the value of θ_v in (15), which we obtain from cross-sectional data. The problem is that the unconditional ex-ante expected value of the variable $x = d,\ l,\ M,\ k$

$$E(x) \equiv \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i x_i \tag{22}$$

is different from its cross-sectional average $\overline{x}$. To analyze this issue more formally, assume for simplicity that at every point in time there is a mass one of new entrepreneurs, which corresponds to the normalization (discussed above) of the observations in the SCF by size of the cohort of start-ups. In steady state, the cross-sectional average of the variable $x = d,\ l,\ M,\ k$ is given by

$$\overline{x} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sigma_i x_i, \tag{23}$$

where the (cross sectional) shares σ_i's are equal to

$$\sigma_i = \frac{\frac{\alpha_i}{\lambda_i}}{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \frac{\alpha_j}{\lambda_j}}. \tag{24}$$

In general the shares σ_i's are different from the true shares in the population α_i, because entrepreneurs with lower λ_i are over-represented in the cross-section and have $\sigma_i > \alpha_i$. This causes what we call the *composition bias*, which results in $E(x)$ in (22) being generally different from $\overline{x}$ in (23). We can try to compare the magnitude of θ^* with that of θ_v or θ. The comparison depends on whether the heterogeneity in the exit rate λ_i is driven by heterogeneity in failure rate δ_i or by heterogeneity in the arrival rate of selling opportunities μ_i. Consider first the case in which all heterogeneity in λ derives from heterogeneity in δ. We can think that failure rates are decreasing in d and therefore also decreasing in the market value of the businesses M. If this is the case, then entrepreneurs with high returns are *over-represented* in the cross-section, which makes the cross-sectional average higher than true expected value. In this case θ_v (or θ) would tend to overestimate the true overall return to entrepreneurship as measured by θ^* in (21), due to the composition bias. Consider now the case where all the heterogeneity in λ derives from heterogeneity in μ. We can also presume, as in Gompers, Kovner, Lerner, and Scharfstein (2010), that better businesses, which have higher d and M, are easier to sell, which would imply that the arrival rate μ is higher for the entrepreneurs with higher ex-post returns. If this effect dominates, then high-return ventures are *under-represented* in the cross-section. In this case, the cross-sectional averages will tend to underestimate the true overall unbiased expected values, which are the relevant inputs for calculating θ^* in (21). This allows us to

conclude that the sign of the composition effect generally depends on whether it is driven primarily by heterogeneity in failure rates δ's or in selling rates μ's. This is ultimately an empirical question, whose answer could also be different at different points along the distribution of the total return to entrepreneurship.

To gauge the importance of the composition bias, notice that this bias is small for recent start-ups but potentially more and more important as entrepreneurial ventures age. Under our assumption that exit rates are constant, we can even calculate a measure for the expected value of $x = d,\ l,\ M,\ k$ free of any compositional bias by looking at recent start-ups. Comparing this value with that for older ventures, we can infer the sign and magnitude of the composition bias in measuring entrepreneurial returns.

Recycling bias. Lastly, we can extend the framework to allow for the possibility that the entrepreneur can recycle his or her entrepreneurial skills and start another venture; on this sort of serial entrepreneurship, see Gompers et al. (2010) and Hall and Woodward (2010). We assume that after exiting the current venture, the entrepreneur can start up another with probability $\nu \in [0, 1]$. All the other assumptions are as in Section 2.1. The net return to entrepreneurship with initial investment k now becomes

$$\phi_r = \varphi(\nu)\,(\theta - w) = \varphi(\nu)\phi, \tag{25}$$

where entrepreneurial return θ is exactly as in (15) while

$$\varphi(\nu) = \frac{\rho + \lambda}{\rho + \lambda\,(1 - \nu)}$$

assumes that entrepreneurs re-employ their skills with probability ν, which implies that the return to entrepreneurship should be cumulated over the expected future sequence of ventures. The expression for the extra return to entrepreneurship ϕ_r in (25) multiplies the extra return to each venture ϕ by the factor $\varphi(\nu)$, which is generally greater than 1 and increasing in the probability of recycling entrepreneurial skills ν. Only when there is no such possibility, $\nu = 0$, do we have $\varphi = 1$ and the two measures for extra return coincide, $\phi_r = \phi$.

3 The data

We use data from the Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF) to study how the return to entrepreneurship has evolved over time. The SCF is a triennial cross-sectional survey of US households conducted by the Federal Reserve Board of Governors over the period 1989-2013. Around 4,000 households were sampled in each wave, save the last two where

sample size increases to 6,000. The SCF is unique in that it collects data on the household finances of a representative sample of Americans. Wealthy individuals are over-sampled in order to derive a good characterization of the right tail of the income and wealth distribution, where entrepreneurs are more likely to be found. All the analysis in our paper, both descriptive and regression-based, uses the SCF sampling weights.[9] For the detailed definition of all the variables, see the Appendix.

We focus on household heads, defined as the male individual in a mixed-sex couple and the older person in a same-sex couple. We follow De Nardi et al. (2007) in defining as *entrepreneurs* all respondents who simultaneously satisfy three requirements intended to identify individuals who own the business they run. Since in the SCF an individual who runs and owns a business is explicitly coded as being self-employed in his main job (mnemonic X4106), we first require the respondent to be *self-employed*. Second, the respondent must *own or share ownership in at least one privately-held business* (mnemonic X3103).[10] Finally, the respondent must *actively manage* the business he owns (mnemonic X3104). According to this definition, around 7% of the household heads qualify as entrepreneurs (11.5% of those employed). The share is stable over time.

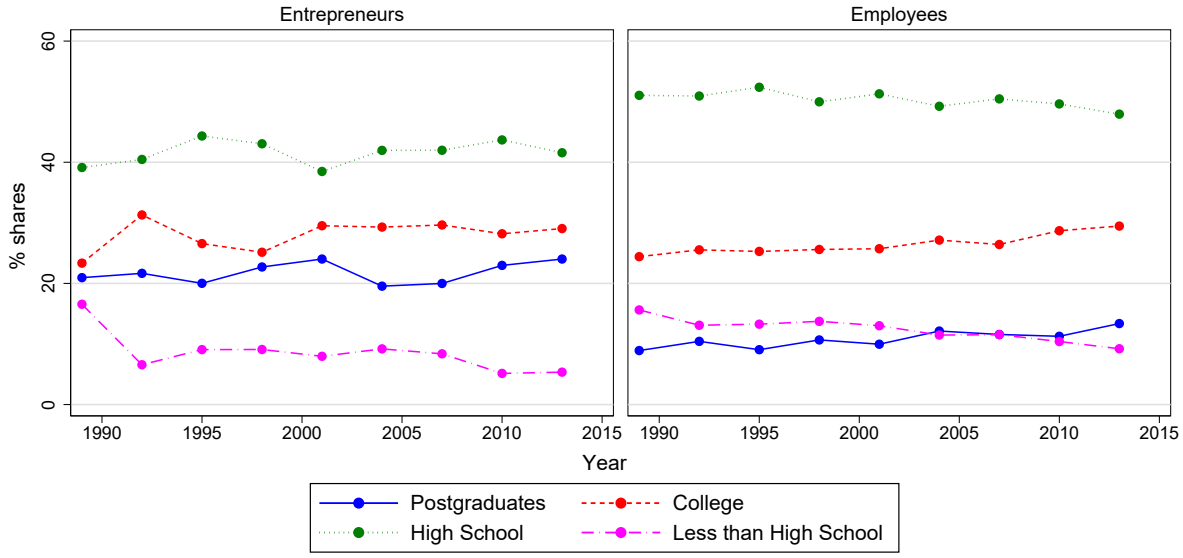
We group individuals (either entrepreneurs or employees) into 4 educational groups: postgraduate degree, college degree, high school degree and high school dropout. Dropouts are defined as household heads who report less than 12 years of education; high school graduates, as those having completed high school and, possibly, up to 3 years of college but no college degree; college graduates, as those with a BA or equivalent but no more than 16 years of education and no postgraduate degree; postgraduates, as those with either a Master's or Ph.D. Figure 1 characterizes the evolution of the educational composition of the population of entrepreneurs (left panel) and employees (right panel). As in Hacamo and Kleiner (2016), we find that entrepreneurs are more highly educated than employees. The share of college graduates is around 30%, just slightly higher among entrepreneurs than among employees, while the share of entrepreneurs with postgraduate education, about a quarter, is twice as large as the analogous share for employees. This difference is offset by a higher share of high school graduates among employees than entrepreneurs (50% vs. 40%). The shares are fairly stable over time, with a slight increase in the

[9] To account for measurement error and missing observations, the SCF reports five separate imputation replicates (implicates) for each record: see Kennickell (1998) for details. All statistics are calculated following the procedure suggested by the SCF: for each implicate we calculate the desired statistic using the SCF sampling weights (mnemonic X42001) and then average across the five implicates.

[10] Of those who say they are self-employed, approximately 15% report that they do not share any ownership in privately held businesses. Presumably, these individuals are self-employed but work independently for somebody else. This interpretation is confirmed by the more recent waves (since 2004) of the SCF, which contain specific questions for this group of respondents.

proportion of college graduates and postgraduates, and a corresponding decrease in the share of high school dropouts, which falls below 10% for entrepreneurs and employees alike. Given their limited numbers and particular socio-economic conditions, we exclude high school dropouts from the rest of the analysis.

Figure 1: Entrepreneurs and employees: Shares by education



Source: Survey of Consumer Finances.

To calculate the total return to entrepreneurship $\tilde{\theta}$, we construct each of its components in (13). *Labour income* l is measured using the following question in the SCF (mnemonic X4112): "About how much do you earn before taxes on your main job in salary and wages?". *Dividend payments* d are measured using mnemonic X4131: "In addition to salary and wages, how much do you personally receive from the business before taxes?". The measure for the *Value of the business* M is obtained from mnemonic X3129: "What is the net worth of (your share of) the business?; Probe: What could you sell it for?". The measure for the value of the entrepreneurs' (overall) *Investment in business* k is obtained from mnemonic X3130: "If you sold the business now, what would be the cost basis for tax purposes of your share of the business? Probe: What was your original investment? What was the value when you received it? Definition: The tax basis is the amount of the original investment (or the value when it was received) plus additional investments." All variables are calculated at constant 2010 prices. The return to entrepreneurship is then measured as equal to

$$\theta = d + l + \lambda(M - k) - \rho k, \tag{26}$$

where the entrepreneur's opportunity cost of capital over the relevant time period is calculated as follows:

$$\rho = R(t-\tau, t)^{\frac{1}{\tau}} - 1.$$

$R(t-\tau, t)$ is the total return to investment in the US stock market over the period $[t-\tau, t]$, using the real value (nominal returns deflated with the CPI) of the S&P500 Total Return Index (from Bloomberg), which also includes income from dividend payments; t is the current date, τ is the age of the venture so that $t-\tau$ is the star-up date; λ is our measure of the exit rate from entrepreneurship, which is calculated separately for each educational group as the inverse of the average age of entrepreneurial ventures in the SCF, after normalizing the weight of each venture for the size of the entry flow into entrepreneurship, as discussed in Section 2.1.[11]

Table 1 gives descriptive statistics for the population of employees and entrepreneurs. The latter average seven years older, are more likely to be married, white and male, and report one more year of schooling. The labor income of entrepreneurs and employees is about the same, but entrepreneurs' total income (which also includes dividends and expected capital gains) is twice the average labor income of employees. Entrepreneurs' total income also displays higher dispersion than employees' labor income: the median is comparable, but at the 90^{th} percentile income is 2.3 times the median for employees and 6.4 times for entrepreneurs. More than 10% of entrepreneurs have negative returns, and the returns in the bottom quartile of the distribution of entrepreneurial income come to just \$12,000, half of employees' income at that quartile. Considering the different components of total entrepreneurial income, we find that a large portion consists in labor income plus dividends. The average market value of a venture is about \$900,000 and the investment in business averages \$457,720. Sectoral composition is similar for the two groups, except for under-representation of entrepreneurs in manufacturing and their over-representation in construction, which reflects the fact that average firm size in terms of employment is larger in manufacturing than in construction.

Table 2 reports descriptive statistics for entrepreneurs with different educational levels. We include all the variables that are used in our subsequent regression analysis. On average, more educated entrepreneurs get a higher total return from entrepreneurship θ. The market value of the business M also increases with education. Entrepreneurs lacking a college degree are also more likely to run unincorporated businesses and to operate in construction or trade, while those with a postgraduate degree are more likely to be in

[11] See the Appendix for details on how we aggregate information for all businesses actively managed by the entrepreneur. We checked that results are robust to alternative aggregation choices, for example to focussing solely on the first actively managed business.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics: Employees and entrepreneurs

Variable	Mean	sd	p10	p25	p50	p75	p90
Employees							
Labor income, l	55.7	99.0	15.6	26.9	43.1	65.1	97.2
Age	41.7	12.5	26	32	41	50	59
Female	0.26	0.44	0	0	0	1	1
White	0.74	0.44	0	0	1	1	1
Married	0.60	0.49	0	0	1	1	1
Years of schooling	14.1	1.9	12	12	14	16	17
Agriculture	0.02	0.11	0	0	0	0	0
Mining and Construction	0.07	0.26	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	0.18	0.38	0	0	0	0	1
Trade	0.16	0.36	0	0	0	0	1
Finance and Services	0.12	0.32	0	0	0	0	1
Transp., Communic. and Utilities	0.37	0.48	0	0	0	1	1
Public Administration	0.08	0.28	0	0	0	0	0
Entrepreneurs							
Total return, θ	125.6	811.7	-0.6	11.9	47.3	125.1	303.0
Labor income, l	46.3	141.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	51.9	130.0
Dividends, d	73.1	429.2	0.0	0.0	11.2	5.5	153.9
Value of business, M	898.9	5586.4	0.0	21.0	105.2	460.8	1535.4
Investment in business, k	457.7	5007.1	0.0	3.0	30.0	158.2	647.6
Gross capital gains, $\lambda(M-k)$	35.6	423.0	-4.3	-0.01	2.1	16.9	68.9
Net capital gains, $\lambda(M-k)-\rho k$	6.0	619.5	-27.6	-3.3	0.24	10.6	50.8
Age	49.0	12.6	33	40	49	58	66
Female	0.09	0.29	0	0	0	0	0
White	0.88	0.33	0	1	1	1	1
Married	0.78	0.42	0	1	1	1	1
Years of schooling	14.7	2.0	12	12	16	17	17
Agriculture	0.05	0.21	0	0	0	0	0
Mining and Construction	0.18	0.38	0	0	0	0	1
Manufacturing	0.08	0.27	0	0	0	0	0
Trade	0.15	0.36	0	0	0	0	1
Finance and Services	0.19	0.39	0	0	0	0	1
Transp., Communic. and Utilities	0.36	0.48	0	0	0	1	1

Note: Pooled SCF data over the period 1989-2013. All monetary values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices. Age is in years; Female, White and Married are dummies; Years of schooling is the number of completed years of schooling; Agriculture, Mining and Construction, Manufacturing, Trade, Finance and Services, Transp., Communic. and Utilities and Public Administration are dummies for the sector of occupation. See the Appendix for more details.

Transportation, Communication and Utilities (TCU).

Table 2: Entrepreneur characteristics by educational level

	High school		College		Postgraduate	
Variable	mean	sd	mean	sd	mean	sd
Total return, θ	62.2	532.0	138.9	916.7	229.2	1059.9
Dividends, d	35.8	264.1	71.6	453.3	146.5	605.8
Labor income, l	26.2	59.1	50.3	146.4	79.8	217.4
Value of business, M	532.5	3601.2	1149.2	6325.1	1274.9	7359.3
Investment in business, k	301.9	3346.9	551.2	6017.7	634.3	6086.9
Gross capital gains, $\lambda(M-k)$	19.4	317.3	52.5	488.1	44.6	500.1
Net capital gains, $\lambda(M-k)-\rho k$	0.2	445.1	17.0	727.4	2.9	741.7
Age	48.00	13.00	48.14	12.19	52.09	11.87
Female	0.09	0.29	0.09	0.29	0.09	0.29
White	0.87	0.34	0.88	0.32	0.90	0.30
Married	0.78	0.42	0.76	0.43	0.81	0.39
Collateral	0.20	0.40	0.25	0.43	0.24	0.43
Value of collateral	294.3	2355.6	887.3	4108.5	653.3	3242.2
Previous experience	0.61	0.49	0.58	0.49	0.57	0.50
Inherited business	0.04	0.19	0.04	0.19	0.03	0.17
Number of workers	8.99	49.65	22.04	167.16	56.20	316.96
Number of businesses managed	1.21	0.64	1.35	0.89	1.39	1.09
Past earnings	26.2	92.1	52.6	586.8	51.0	134.3
Age of entrepreneurial venture	13.20	11.11	12.35	10.04	14.21	11.57
Uncertain Income	0.43	0.40	0.35	0.48	0.28	0.45
Incorporated	0.30	0.46	0.48	0.50	0.46	0.50
Agriculture	0.07	0.26	0.03	0.17	0.02	0.13
Mining and Construction	0.29	0.45	0.13	0.34	0.02	0.15
Manufacturing	0.09	0.29	0.09	0.29	0.04	0.20
Trade	0.16	0.37	0.19	0.39	0.07	0.25
Finance and Services	0.17	0.37	0.25	0.43	0.14	0.35
Transp., Communic. and Utilities	0.21	0.41	0.31	0.46	0.71	0.46

Notes: Pooled SCF data over the period 1989-2013. High school refers to household heads who have completed high school but have no college degree; college graduates have college but no postgraduate degree; postgraduates have either a Master's or a Ph.D. All monetary values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices. Age is in years; Female, White and Married are dummies; Collateral is a dummy for using one's personal assets as collateral or supplying guarantees to obtain credit, while Value of collateral is the value of such assets and guarantees; Previous experience is a dummy for labor market experience before starting or acquiring the current business; Inherited business is a dummy if the business was inherited; Number of workers is the number of persons working for the business, including the entrepreneur; Number of businesses is the number of businesses that the entrepreneur runs; Past earnings is earnings in the main job before starting or acquiring the business (conditional on having worked before); Age of entrepreneurial venture is the number of years since the individual started or acquired the business; Uncertain income is a dummy for entrepreneurs who do not have a good idea of next year's income; Incorporated is a dummy for incorporated businesses; Agriculture, Mining and Construction, Manufacturing, Trade, Finance and Services, Transportation, Communication and Utilities are dummies for the sector of occupation. See the Appendix for more details.

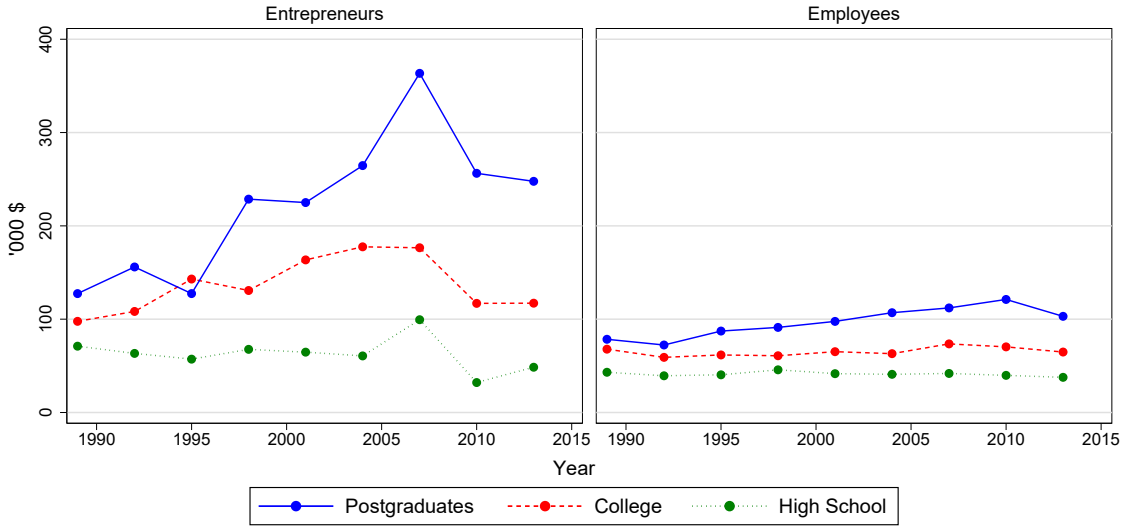
4 The empirical results

First we describe the evolution of entrepreneurial returns for different educational groups, using our baseline measure θ. Then we check the robustness of the results when accounting for the possible presence of valuation, composition and recycling biases discussed in Section 2.2, and controlling for earnings in the main previous job, which we take as a general gauge of labor market ability.

4.1 Entrepreneurs' and employees' income over time

The left panel of Figure 2 shows the evolution of the yearly return to entrepreneurship, θ, for the three educational groups. For entrepreneurs with a high school degree, returns have remained stable at about \$62,000. Until the mid 1990s the returns for college graduates and postgraduates were similar, just over \$100,000. Since then, however, the return for postgraduates has outpaced that for college graduates substantially: today an entrepreneur with a postgraduate degree averages \$100,000 more than one with only a college degree.

Figure 2: Entrepreneurs' returns θ and employees' wage income w

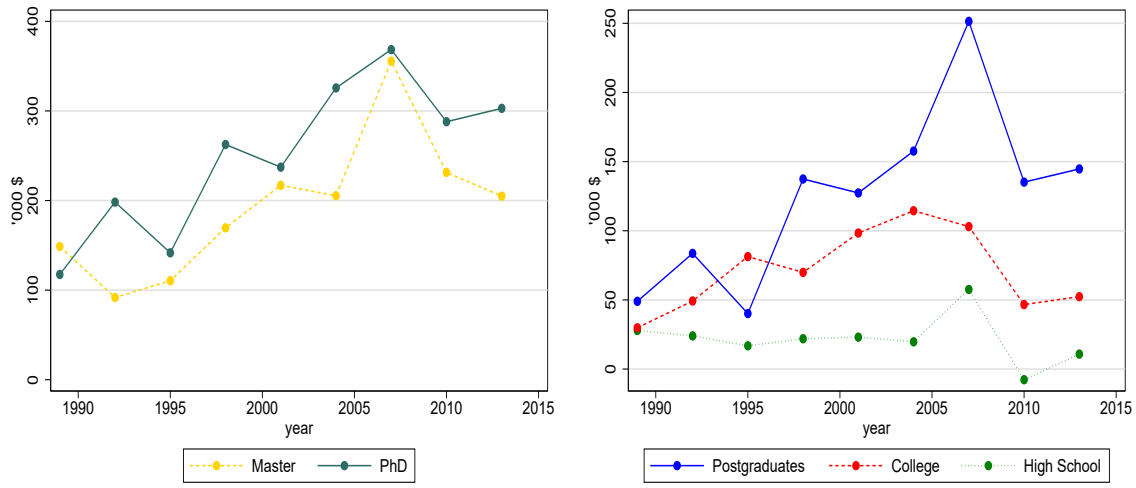


Source: Own calculations using the Survey of Consumer Finances, the Longitudinal Business Database and the S&P500 Total Return Index. Values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices.

In panel (a) of Figure 3 we plot the returns separately for entrepreneurs with a master's degree (MA, MS or MBA) and for those with a a more advanced degree (Ph.D, MD, or

JD), which is the finest partition of postgraduate degrees in the public version of the SCF. On average, Ph.Ds earn more, but the time profile of returns is fairly similar for the two groups.

Figure 3: Entrepreneurs' returns for postgraduates and extra returns



(a) θ, Master's vs. Ph.D

(b) Extra Return, $\phi = \theta - w$

Source: Own calculations using the Survey of Consumer Finances, the Longitudinal Business Database and the S&P500 Total Return Index. Values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices.

The second panel of Figure 2 shows average wage income for employees. That of high school graduates has remained fairly stable through time, albeit decreasing slightly towards the end of the sample period. That of college graduates has increased slightly, from about \$60,000 to \$70,000, while that of postgraduates has risen more sharply, from \$80,00 to over \$100,000. While this pattern matches that for entrepreneurs in qualitative terms, there are nevertheless some substantial quantitative differences. Panel (b) of Figure 3 plots the difference between the entrepreneurial return θ for a given educational group and the corresponding wage income of employees w. The extra return to entrepreneurship $\phi = \theta - w$ has remained stable for high school graduates, actually turning negative in 2010. Extra returns have increased for both college graduates and postgraduates, but the increase for the latter was much sharper: their extra returns quadrupled while those of college graduates only doubled. Extra returns diminished during the Great Recession, but the relative differences remained unchanged. In particular, extra returns for postgraduates continued to be nearly three times as high as at the beginning of the sample period.

Figure 4 plots the time profile of the various components of θ separately for the three

educational groups. Panel (a) focuses on the income flow, i.e., the sum of labor income and dividends $d+l$. The profile of $d+l$ closely matches that of total returns for all educational groups. This confirms the evidence of Tables 1 and 2 that income flows represent the most significant part of total entrepreneurial income. Panel (b) of Figure 4 characterizes the profile of Gross Capital Gains, defined as $\lambda(M-k)$, which have increased for both college graduates and postgraduates, but never exceeding \$100,000. Moreover, subtracting our measure of the opportunity cost of the capital investment, ρk, we find that net capital gain $\lambda(M-k)-\rho k$ is close to zero (and sometimes actually negative), with no clear pattern over time. This is a manifestation of the private equity premium puzzle analyzed by Moskowitz and Vissing-Jorgensen (2002) and Kartashova (2014). Overall, this suggests that capital gains account for only a small part of the return to entrepreneurship. This does not mean that the wealth that entrepreneurs realize with an IPO or the sale of the business is small: for high school graduates the average market value of businesses is half a million dollars, stable over time, while for college graduates and postgraduates it rises from around that value at the beginning to more than \$1.5 millions at the end of the sample period (panel d). The relatively small contribution of capital gains to total entrepreneurial income depends, rather, on the fact that they are converted into flows and that the typical duration of an entrepreneurial venture is around 10 years (panel f). Moreover, capital gains have increased just slightly for college graduates and postgraduates alike, both because the investment in business k has increased (panel e) and because the exit rate from entrepreneurship λ has declined (panel f), with a similar pattern for college graduates and postgraduates.[12]

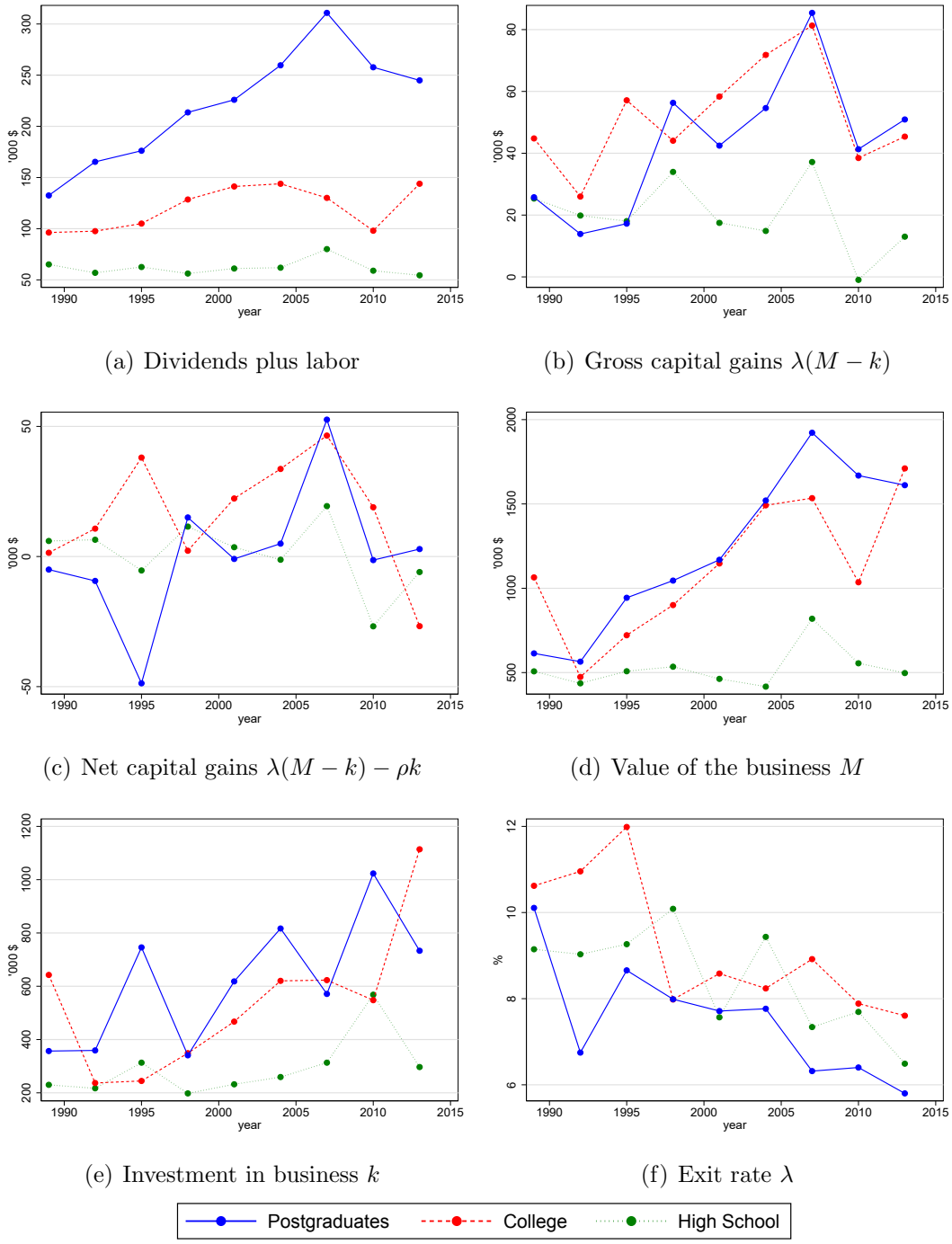
We can now apply regressions to quantify the differential changes in returns to different educational groups controlling for observable characteristics. The reference group is always high school graduates. We use three different specifications, two reported in the main text and the third in the Appendix. The first specification is based on the following regression model:

$$\begin{aligned} y_{it} =& \beta_1 College_{it} + \beta_2 Postgrad_{it} + \beta_3 College_{it} \times Post_t \\ &+ \beta_4 Postgrad_{it} \times Post_t + D_t + \beta_5' X_{it} + \epsilon_{it} \end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

where y_{it} is a measure of entrepreneurial returns (extra, total, or one of its components), $College_{it}$ and $Postgrad_{it}$ are the education dummies discussed above, $Post$ is a dummy for any year after 2000, D_t are year dummies, and X_{it} are individual controls (including a quadratic polynomial in age plus dummies for female, married and white entrepreneur).

[12]The reduction in the exit rate, and the corresponding increase in average firm age are in line with the evidence of a reduction in the dynamism of the US economy, as discussed, among others, by Decker, Haltiwanger, Jarmin, and Miranda (2014).

Figure 4: Time profiles of the components of entrepreneurial returns θ



(a) Dividends plus labor

(b) Gross capital gains $\lambda(M-k)$

(c) Net capital gains $\lambda(M-k)-\rho k$

(d) Value of the business M

(e) Investment in business k

(f) Exit rate λ

Source: Own calculations using the Survey of Consumer Finances, the Longitudinal Business Database and the S&P500 Total Return Index. Values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices.

Given that a substantial share of entrepreneurs record negative returns, we run the regressions in levels rather than logs. Our alternative second specification interacts the educational dummies with a linear trend rather than the post-2000 dummy, which allows for differential trends in returns across educational groups without having to specify a break date. Finally, the Appendix reports the results for a specification interacting educational dummies with a full set of time dummies, leaving the time profile of returns parametrically free. All the regressions are run with sampling weights and standard errors are bootstrapped using 200 replications.[13]

Table 3 gives the pre-post specification of equation (27). Column 1 shows that before the turn of the century college graduates and postgraduates earned on average $56,000 and $94,000 more per year than high school graduates. Since 2000, postgraduates have earned an average additional premium compared with high school graduates of around $112,000, while the increase was substantially smaller for college graduates ($26,000) and not significantly different from zero. The last line in Table 3 indicates, in addition, that we strongly reject the null hypothesis of an equal increase in the premium for college graduates and postgraduates in the post-2000 period. This confirms the hypothesis that the entrepreneurial return to postgraduate education has increased substantially over time. The other controls offer evidence of the typical concave age profile of income and indicate that women entrepreneurs earn almost $50,000 less than men, that white entrepreneurs earns $33,000 more than non-white and that married entrepreneurs earn $28,000 more than single.

Column (2) reports the results when the dependent variable is the extra returns to entrepreneurship ϕ, defined as the difference between total return θ and the wage income of employees in the corresponding educational group. The increase in the extra return for postgraduates falls to $84,000, but remains positive and highly statistically significant; the null hypothesis that the extra return increased by the same amount for college graduates and postgraduates is still rejected at all conventional levels of significance.

In Columns 3 to 7 the dependent variable are the various components of total returns. The increase in the premium for postgraduates is explained mostly by current income $d + l$ (column 3). The market value of businesses rose substantially for both college graduates and postgraduates after 2000 (column 4), but so did the size of the investment in the business (column 5). As a result, the differential effect on capital gains between college graduates and postgraduates is positive and sizeable, but smaller than that due to current income. For example, the increase in net capital gains for college graduates

[13]To deal with the repeated-imputation inference method of the SCF, which reports five implicates for each variable, we compute the standard error using the SCFcombo routine for STATA, described at https://www.federalreserve.gov/Standard_Error_Documentation.pdf.

Table 3: Trend in the skill premium: Pre-post specification

	(1) θ	(2) ϕ	(3) $d+l$	(4) M	(5) k	(6) GCG	(7) NCG
College	56.2***	36.2***	50.4***	318.7***	154.9**	18.2***	5.8
	(12.7)	(12.6)	(8.3)	(82.5)	(62.5)	(7.0)	(9.3)
Postgraduate	94.4***	54.3***	107.3***	175.2*	115.0	1.4	-12.9
	(17.2)	(17.1)	(10.7)	(100.2)	(91.6)	(9.3)	(15.3)
College × Post	26.8	19.5	11.8	477.8***	169.8*	22.9**	14.9
	(16.7)	(16.6)	(10.0)	(115.5)	(92.9)	(9.8)	(13.3)
Postgraduate×Post	112.7***	84.6***	82.7***	737.6***	216.6*	34.5***	30.0*
	(24.2)	(24.1)	(16.8)	(134.8)	(120.6)	(11.6)	(18.2)
Age	16.7***	16.7***	10.3***	36.3***	-25.9	4.7***	6.4***
	(2.6)	(2.6)	(1.0)	(13.9)	(18.8)	(1.5)	(2.3)
Age^2	-0.2***	-0.2***	-0.1***	-0.1	0.5**	-0.0***	-0.1***
	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.0)	(0.0)
Female	-49.0***	-48.6***	-44.1***	-435.8***	-201.0***	-18.1***	-4.9
	(10.6)	(10.5)	(8.2)	(67.2)	(52.2)	(4.5)	(6.3)
White	33.3***	33.2***	31.5***	161.2**	86.4*	6.0	1.8
	(9.5)	(9.5)	(6.3)	(72.1)	(46.6)	(4.9)	(6.6)
Married	27.8***	28.2***	34.7***	354.1***	249.0***	9.1*	-6.8
	(10.3)	(10.3)	(6.7)	(63.6)	(50.8)	(4.9)	(6.7)
H_0: College×Post = Postgrad×Post							
F-stat	12.680	7.330	14.680	3.215	0.161	0.978	0.701
P-value	0.000	0.007	0.000	0.073	0.688	0.323	0.402
N. of Obs.	7,250	7,250	7,250	7,250	7,250	7,250	7,250

Notes: All monetary values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices. GCG denotes gross capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)$, NCG denotes net capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)-\rho k$. Post is a dummy equal to 1 for the years after 2000. All regressions include year dummies. See Table 2 for the definition of the other variables. Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses, *** p-value < 0.01, ** p-value < 0.05, * p-value < 0.1.

comes to \$15,000, which is not significantly different from zero, as against \$30,000 for postgraduates, which is significantly different from zero at the 10% level and accounts for a fourth of the overall increase.

Table 4 reports the results for the specification with a linear trend. Here the coefficient of the interaction of the educational dummies with the year-trend characterizes the differential yearly growth of returns by comparison with the excluded category (high school graduates), whose trend is captured by the full set of time dummies. Column (1) indicates that the average yearly increase in returns for postgraduates was \$7,300, as against just \$1,600 for college graduates (not significantly different from zero). The last line in Table 4 also indicates that we strongly reject the null hypothesis that the growth

Table 4: Trend in the skill premium: Time trend specification

	(1) θ	(2) ϕ	(3) $d+l$	(4) M	(5) k	(6) GCG	(7) NCG
College	54.5***	36.1*	45.8***	218.4*	90.4	17.6*	8.7
	(18.5)	(18.5)	(11.4)	(119.7)	(98.8)	(10.4)	(14.4)
Postgraduate	53.3**	22.0	78.0***	-55.3	93.0	-10.0	-24.7
	(20.8)	(20.5)	(13.5)	(120.3)	(126.3)	(11.1)	(19.4)
College×Year	1.3	0.9	0.8	28.2***	12.1*	1.1	0.5
	(1.2)	(1.2)	(0.7)	(7.9)	(7.3)	(0.7)	(1.0)
Postgraduate×Year	7.9***	6.0***	5.7***	48.9***	11.1	2.3***	2.2*
	(1.4)	(1.4)	(0.9)	(8.7)	(8.5)	(0.7)	(1.2)
Age	17.0***	16.9***	10.5***	37.0***	-26.0	4.7***	6.5***
	(2.6)	(2.6)	(1.0)	(14.0)	(18.9)	(1.5)	(2.3)
Age^2	-0.2***	-0.2***	-0.1***	-0.1	0.5**	-0.0***	-0.1***
	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.0)	(0.0)
Female	-49.0***	-48.4***	-44.1***	-438.9***	-203.5***	-18.1***	-4.9
	(10.6)	(10.6)	(8.3)	(68.4)	(52.7)	(4.6)	(6.3)
White	33.6***	33.4***	31.7***	162.8**	86.4*	6.1	1.9
	(9.5)	(9.5)	(6.3)	(72.2)	(46.6)	(4.9)	(6.6)
Married	28.4***	28.6***	34.7***	359.0***	248.7***	9.5*	-6.4
	(10.4)	(10.4)	(6.9)	(64.1)	(51.2)	(4.9)	(6.7)
H_0 : College×Year = Postgraduate×Year							
F-stat	17.670	10.950	18.370	3.709	0.013	2.420	1.843
p-value	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.054	0.909	0.120	0.175
N. of Obs.	7,250	7,250	7,250	7,250	7,250	7,250	7,250

Notes: All monetary values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices. GCG denotes gross capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)$, NCG denotes net capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)-\rho k$. Year is a variable equal to the calendar year. All regressions include year dummies. See Table 2 for the definition of all the other variables. Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses, *** p-value < 0.01, ** p-value < 0.05, * p-value < 0.1.

in total returns was equal for the two groups. In this set of specifications too we see that the largest contribution to the differential trend in returns comes from current income $d+l$.

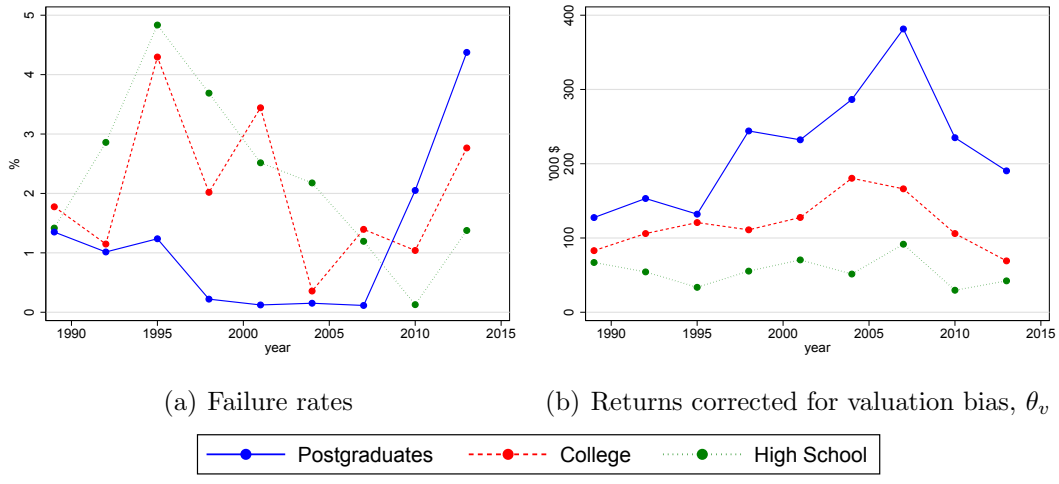
The year dummy specification in the Appendix confirms the robustness of all these results. The difference in the increase in returns to postgraduates first becomes statistically significantly different from zero in 1998, which suggests that, if anything, our pre-post specification, which uses 2000 as the break point, might actually underestimate the differences in the increase in returns.

4.2 Measurement biases and past earnings ability

We discuss the robustness of results to the possible valuation, composition and recycling biases discussed in Section 2.2 as well as to differences in the entrepreneur's ability as measured by earnings in the previous job.

Valuation bias. To obtain a measure of entrepreneurial returns $\widetilde{\theta}_v$ that is free of any valuation bias, we evaluate the correction in (20) and insert it into (19). To calculate (20) we construct, for each educational group, measures of the failure rate δ and of businesses' liquidation value L. We identify a business as failed if it is more than two years old and has zero sales and employees.[14] For each educational group, L is the average value of the businesses that we classified as failed, while δ is the ratio of failures to the total number of businesses in the corresponding group. Panel (a) of Figure 5 plots the time profile of our index of failure rates. There is some evidence of a declining trend, which is inverted during the crisis years. But the trend is common across educational groups, suggesting that valuation bias is unlikely to explain the differential trend in returns. Panel (b) confirms this conjecture, insofar as the measure of return purged of valuation biases $\widetilde{\theta}_v$ exhibits profiles that are quite similar to those obtained with our baseline measure of returns $\widetilde{\theta}$ (Figure 3).

Figure 5: Assessing the valuation bias



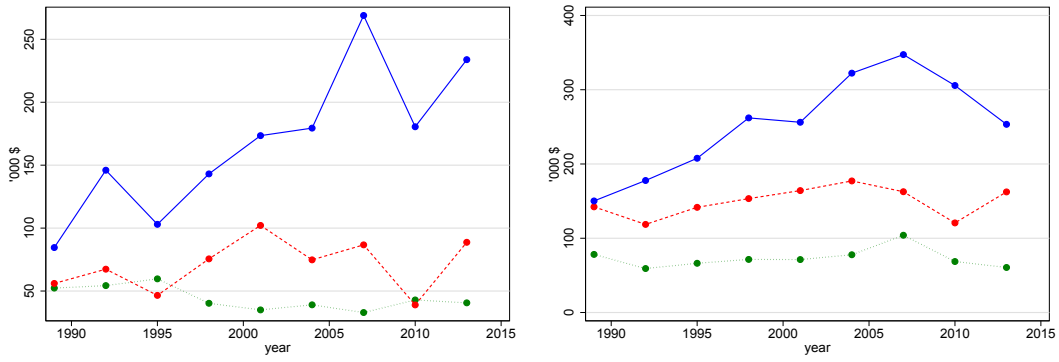
(a) Failure rates (b) Returns corrected for valuation bias, θ_v

Source: Own calculations using the Survey of Consumer Finances, the Longitudinal Business Database and the S&P500 Total Return Index. Values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices.

[14] We tested some alternative definitions of failure, such as dropping the requirement of no employees. The results are similar, although entrepreneurial returns become slightly more volatile.

Composition bias. Composition bias arises because entrepreneurs who exit their venture more slowly are overrepresented in the cross-section of current entrepreneurs. We have seen that the sign of the bias generally depends on whether the composition effect is driven by heterogeneity in failures rate δ or in the selling opportunities arrival rate μ. To assess the relevance of this issue, we noticed that this bias is small for recent entrepreneurial ventures while it gets potentially more and more important when focusing on older ones. So by comparing the value of current income $d + l$—which represents a major component of entrepreneurial returns— between recent ventures and relatively older ones, we can evaluate the sign and relevance of the composition bias. In Figure 6 we report the time profile of $d + l$ for ventures up to 5 years of age and those older than 5 years. We exclude ventures in their first year of existence, which are unlikely to distribute dividends, but the results are similar when they are included. The time profile of total current income $d+l$ is similar for young and old ventures, and in both groups the returns for postgraduates increased substantially more than for college and high school graduates. This conclusion is confirmed by the more formal results reported in Table 9, which displays the evolution of the skill premium controlling for the age of the venture, whose effect is allowed to vary by educational group and over time. Overall, this evidence indicates that the composition bias is unlikely to account for the increase in the premium to postgraduate education in entrepreneurship.

Figure 6: Composition bias: Dividends plus labor income for different venture ages

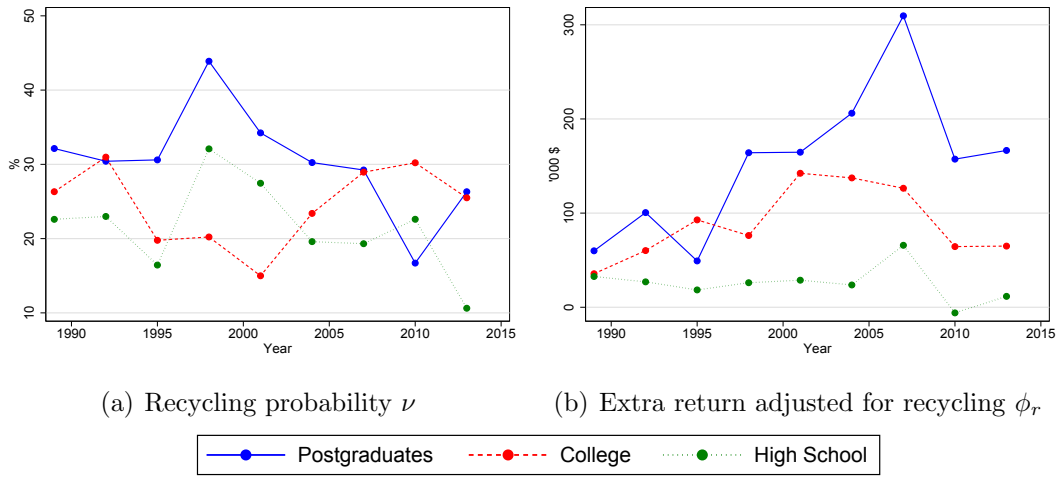


(a) Within 5 years since start (b) More than 5 years since start

Source: Own calculations using the Survey of Consumer Finances, the Longitudinal Business Database and the S&P500 Total Return Index. Values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices.

Recycling bias. To analyze the effect of serial entrepreneurship on returns, we use ϕ_r in (25). To calculate ϕ_r, we need to gauge the correction factor $\varphi(\nu) = \frac{\rho+\lambda}{\rho+\lambda(1-\nu)}$ which requires the *Recycling probability* ν, i.e, the probability of the exited entrepreneur's starting up a new venture. We construct a measure of ν by identifying within the SCF the set of individuals who were entrepreneurs in their past job and then calculate ν as the number of individuals who are current entrepreneurs and were also entrepreneurs in their previous job as a percentage of the total number of individuals who were entrepreneurs in their past job.[15] Figure 7 plots the time profile of ν for the various educational groups in panel (a) and the adjusted measure of extra returns ϕ_r in panel (b). Overall, recycling probability has remained constant for all educational groups and the resulting adjusted measures of extra returns ϕ_r have evolved very similarly to the baseline measure plotted in Figure 3, which suggests that changes in the patterns of serial entrepreneurship are unlikely to explain the increasing return to education.

Figure 7: Recycling bias



(a) Recycling probability ν (b) Extra return adjusted for recycling ϕ_r

Source: Own calculations using the Survey of Consumer Finances, the Longitudinal Business Database and the S&P500 Total Return Index. Values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices.

Controlling for earnings in previous job. Higher observed returns to education in entrepreneurship do not necessarily indicate that education has become more valuable for entrepreneurs. If ability is correlated with educational achievement, higher returns could simply indicate that entrepreneurship has attracted progressively more capable

[15] An individual is identified as an entrepreneur in his past job if he declared that he was self-employed, which is consistent with the practice in the SCF, where an individual who runs and owns a business in his main job is coded as self-employed.

individuals. To assess the likelihood of this, we exploit information from the survey on entrepreneurs' main previous job. Taking previous earnings as a general gauge of ability, we reiterate the regression in (27) on the sample of entrepreneurs who were employees in their previous job and add a quadratic in their previous earnings (*Past Wage*).[16] If the increase in the premium to education is driven by self-selection of more capable individuals into entrepreneurship, then the increase in the education premium should be attenuated or even vanish altogether controlling for past earnings ability. Table 5 reports the result for total returns θ (Columns 1-3) and extra returns ϕ (Columns 4-6). Columns (1) and (4) report the results running the regression in (27) on the sample of entrepreneurs who were previously employees. The results are similar to those in Table 3, but now the increase in the premium to postgraduate education is larger (a result we come back to in Section 6). In Columns (2) and (5) we include the quadratic in previous earnings, that are reflected one-to-one in current earnings. The increase in total returns and extra returns for postgraduates diminish, from \$153.100 to \$120.100 and from \$124.700 to \$91.800 respectively, but the increase in the premium to postgraduate education remains highly statistically significant. Overall, this evidence suggests that selection can account for around a fifth of the overall increase.

An additional concern is that the increase in the premium to education may reflect an increase in the return to innate entrepreneurial ability (correlated with educational attainment), rather than to skills acquired through formal education. To allay this concern, in Columns 3 and 6 we allow the coefficient of the quadratic in previous job earnings to vary between the pre- and post-2000 periods. An increase in the return to innate ability unrelated to education should result in an increase in the coefficients of the previous earnings and a corresponding decrease in those of the education dummies post-2000. In practice, none of the *Past Wage*×*Post* interactions is statistically significant; indeed, if anything the coefficient of the *Postgrad*×*Post* interaction is higher, suggesting that the increase in the return to postgraduate education is specific to skills acquired through formal education. We have performed this analysis for each of the components of entrepreneurial returns, and also the time trend and the full-years-dummy specification, with highly similar results.

5 Differences across the distribution of returns

We now study whether there are differences in the increase of the return to education at different quantiles of the distribution of returns. Figure 8 reports the total returns θ to the

[16]The results are substantially unchanged when individuals who were previously entrepreneurs are included in the sample.

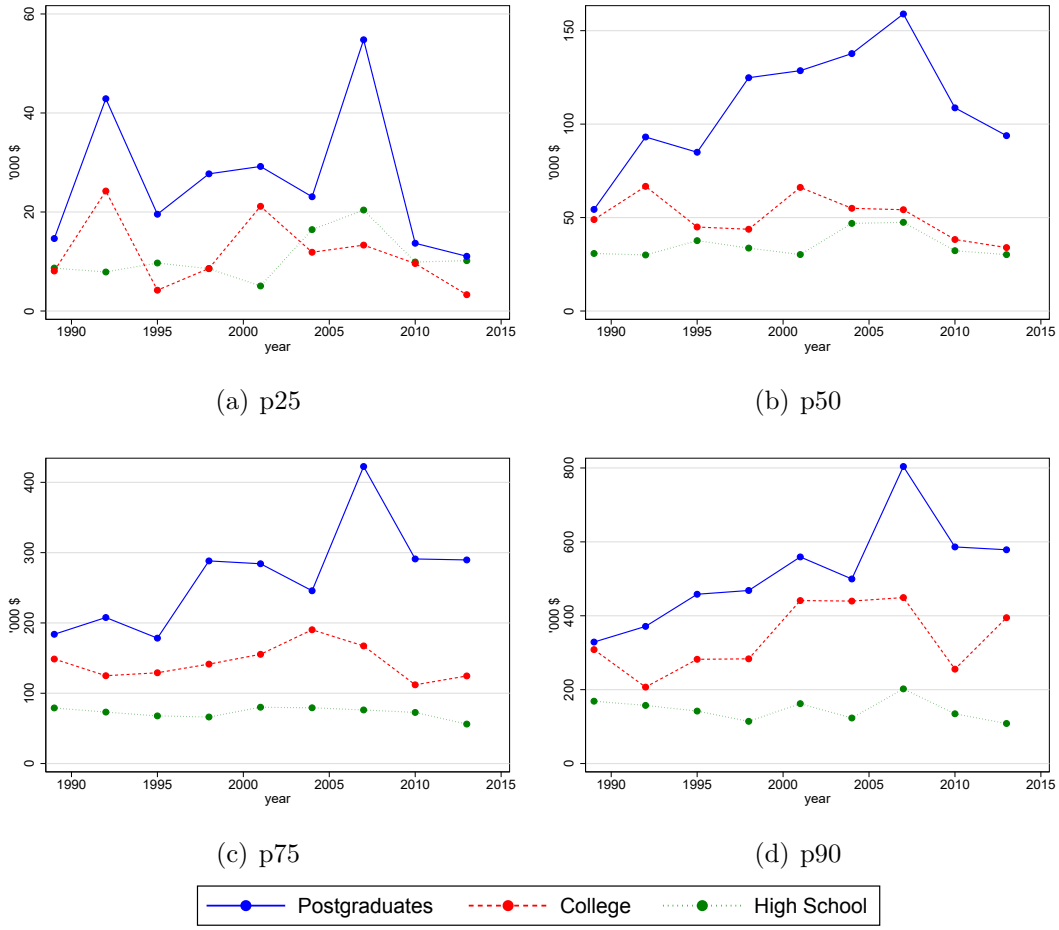
Table 5: Trend in Skill premium controlling for earnings in the previous job

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Total returns θ			**Extra returns ϕ**		
College	66.1***	42.9**	46.6***	46.1***	23.0	26.6*
	(14.8)	(16.7)	(14.2)	(14.6)	(16.5)	(14.0)
Postgrads	82.9***	62.1**	65.1**	43.2	22.4	25.4
	(30.7)	(30.6)	(30.6)	(30.5)	(30.5)	(30.4)
College×Post	32.5	32.2	30.1	25.2	24.9	22.8
	(20.2)	(19.9)	(23.2)	(20.2)	(19.9)	(23.2)
Postgrad×Post	153.1***	120.1***	120.5***	124.7***	91.8**	92.2**
	(35.2)	(38.4)	(43.0)	(34.8)	(38.1)	(42.7)
Past wage		1.0***	0.8***		1.0***	0.8***
		(0.3)	(0.2)		(0.3)	(0.2)
Past wage^2		-0.4	-0.3		-0.4	-0.3
		(0.4)	(1.1)		(0.4)	(1.1)
Past wage×Post			0.1			0.1
			(0.5)			(0.5)
Past wage^2.×Post			0.3			0.3
			(1.5)			(1.5)
Age	15.9***	11.8***	12.1***	15.9***	11.8***	12.1***
	(3.8)	(3.9)	(3.8)	(3.8)	(3.9)	(3.8)
Age^2	-0.2***	-0.1***	-0.1***	-0.2***	-0.1***	-0.1***
	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)
Female	-47.7***	-30.9**	-32.7**	-47.4***	-30.5**	-32.4**
	(14.6)	(14.6)	(14.9)	(14.5)	(14.5)	(14.8)
White	39.8***	39.7**	41.4***	39.9***	39.8**	41.4***
	(14.1)	(15.6)	(15.7)	(14.0)	(15.6)	(15.7)
Married	32.0**	32.6***	31.6**	32.3**	33.0***	32.0**
	(13.1)	(12.5)	(12.6)	(13.1)	(12.5)	(12.6)
H_0: College×Post = Postgrad×Post						
F-stat	9.738	4.693	5.298	6.719	2.749	3.164
P-value	0.002	0.030	0.021	0.009	0.097	0.075
N. of Obs.	3,472	3,472	3,472	3,472	3,472	3,472

Notes: The sample comprises entrepreneurs with work experience as employees prior to their entrepreneurial venture. All monetary values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices. Education dummies (College and Postgraduate) are included but not reported to economize on space. All the regressions include year dummies, a quadratic in age, and dummies for female, white and married entrepreneurs. Past earnings square is divided by 1000. See Table 2 for the definition of the other variables. Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses, *** p-value < 0.01, ** p-value < 0.05, * p-value < 0.1.

three educational groups at the 25^{th}, 50^{th}, 75^{th} and 90^{th} percentiles. The returns at the lowest quartile (panel a) are meager, averaging $20,000, slightly higher for postgraduates than for the other two groups. The overall time profile of this quartile is flat for all three groups. Indeed, after a sharp increase in 2007, the returns for postgraduates dropped substantially and have remained aligned with those for the other two groups. The increase in the premium to higher education emerges very clearly at the median (panel b), and it increases (in absolute value) at the higher percentiles of the distribution (panel c and d). This suggests that the increase in the average depends on a shift in the right part of the distribution, while the returns of the low performing entrepreneurs have behaved similarly across educational groups.

Figure 8: Total returns θ at different percentiles of the return distribution



Source: Own calculations using the Survey of Consumer Finances, the Longitudinal Business Database and the S&P500 Total Return Index. Values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices.

This graphical evidence is confirmed by the regression analysis. Table 6 reports the

results of quantile regressions at the 25^{th}, 50^{th}, 75^{th}, 90^{th} and 95^{th} percentiles of the distribution of returns for the pre-post specification (the specifications with time trends and time dummies are reported in the Appendix). There is no evidence of an increase in the return to education at the bottom quartile: the coefficients for total returns for both college graduates and postgraduates tend to be negative when interacted with the post-2000 dummy, although the effects are not significantly different from zero, and there is no statistically significant evidence that any component of returns has behaved differently across educational groups in the post-2000 period. For postgraduates, the increase in the premium relative to high school graduates in the post-2000 period is already appreciable at the median: the increase in total return is equal to around $32,000, almost entirely accounted for by the sum of labor income and dividends. The increase in the premium to postgraduate education is greater at the higher percentiles—more than $300,000 per year at the 95^{th} percentile. Interestingly, in this case capital gains account for almost a quarter of the overall increase, which reflects the fact that, at this percentile, the value of the business has increased by almost $2 million more for postgraduates than for high school graduates. For college graduates, the increase in returns is statistically significant only at the 90^{th} and 95^{th} percentiles, at $132,000 and $178,000 per year, respectively. At the 95^{th} percentile the contribution of the net capital gain is even larger than for postgraduates. A similar picture emerges from the specifications with the time trend or the time dummies (in the Appendix).

Overall, there is evidence that the increase in the return to education is more pronounced in the right tail of the distribution, while returns at the bottom have evolved similarly across educational groups. For postgraduates, the increase in the premium relative to high school graduates is perceptible at the median and increases as we move towards the right side of the distribution, while for college graduates it only emerges at the higher percentiles, where the contribution of the capital gain component is greater. The combined evidence of Figures 5 and 8 indicates that the entire distribution of returns has become more favorable to more highly educated entrepreneurs: failures rates and returns at the bottom of the distribution have evolved similarly across educational groups while the skill premium to entrepreneurship has increased at all the higher quantiles of the returns distribution. This also suggests that compensating differentials due to risk aversion and heightened business risk cannot fully explain the rising premium to higher education observed in the data.

To sum up: the increase in the premium to postgraduate education is unlikely to be fully explained by changes in the skill composition of entrepreneurs unrelated to education, by valuation or composition biases related to failure, or by compensating differentials due

Table 6: Quantile Regressions, pre-post specification

	(1) θ	(2) ϕ	(3) $d+l$	(4) M	(5) k	(6) GCG	(7) NCG
Post interacted with:							
				25^{th} percentile			
College	-3.2	-5.6	-1.7	6.4	2.0	-0.1	-1.2
	(4.4)	(4.3)	(5.0)	(5.3)	(1.7)	(0.2)	(1.0)
Postgrad	-8.7	-14.8**	-8.6	13.9	1.3	0.0	3.7
	(6.6)	(7.0)	(7.4)	(9.8)	(1.5)	(0.3)	(4.6)
				50^{th} percentile			
College	-4.5	-10.0	2.6	35.6	16.5**	-0.1	-0.6
	(6.5)	(6.8)	(5.5)	(25.6)	(6.6)	(1.0)	(0.4)
Postgrad	32.6***	15.9	32.0**	59.3*	16.5	1.1	0.2
	(12.6)	(11.8)	(13.0)	(34.7)	(13.6)	(1.0)	(0.5)
				75^{th} percentile			
College	6.7	-1.9	9.6	86.7	71.2**	0.9	0.0
	(16.0)	(16.0)	(12.8)	(86.1)	(31.8)	(8.0)	(5.2)
Postgrad	66.1***	36.0	51.3**	399.0***	141.2***	6.8	4.2
	(25.1)	(22.5)	(21.1)	(86.9)	(52.6)	(4.3)	(4.2)
				90^{th} percentile			
College	131.9***	117.7**	42.4	1,452.4***	336.0**	28.4	10.7
	(50.0)	(51.9)	(36.1)	(355.0)	(169.7)	(26.9)	(24.9)
Postgrad	183.4***	128.6**	153.2***	1,715.7***	566.0***	47.7**	40.5**
	(54.1)	(52.0)	(52.7)	(367.1)	(137.4)	(22.5)	(16.6)
				95^{th} percentile			
College	177.9*	150.4	112.2	3,198.2***	809.2**	138.2***	103.6**
	(99.9)	(99.6)	(80.4)	(756.9)	(401.5)	(48.3)	(41.8)
Postgrad	315.0***	208.3**	254.7***	1,967.7**	1,040.2**	82.7	92.9**
	(90.5)	(97.3)	(72.7)	(821.8)	(474.0)	(52.7)	(36.5)

Notes: Results for separate quantile regression. All monetary values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices. GCG denotes gross capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)$, NCG denotes net capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)-\rho k$. To save on space, we only report the education dummies College and Postgrad interacted with the Post dummy. All regressions also include education dummies not interacted with the post dummy, year dummies, a quadratic in age, dummies for female, white and married entrepreneurs. See Table 2 for the definition of the other variables. Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses, *** p-value < 0.01, ** p-value < 0.05, * p-value < 0.1.

to changes in the possibility of recycling entrepreneurial skills into new ventures or to greater business risk. We now explore alternative explanations for the rising premium to postgraduate education for entrepreneurs. For space considerations, we focus on the pre-post specification, but all the results set out below are confirmed with the time trend and time dummy specifications (reported in the Appendix).

6 What explains the increase in the skill premium?

We show that the complementarity between higher education and labor market experience has strengthened; and that this accounts for a good portion of the increase in the premium to postgraduate education. This finding, as we shall see, is robust to several possible alternative explanations.

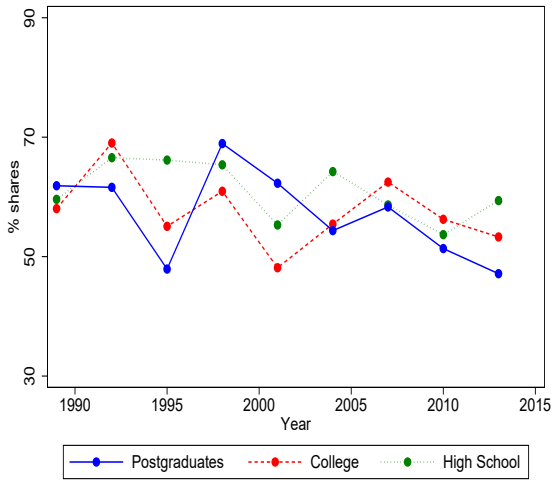
6.1 EE-Complementarity

The skills that are relevant for entrepreneurship are acquired partly by formal education and partly through labor market experience (Evans and Leighton, 1989). In fact, entrepreneurs might benefit from a balanced mix of theoretical competence and practical expertise. The 'jack-of-all-trades' hypothesis that entrepreneurs benefit from a balanced mix of skills was introduced by Lazear (2004, 2005); see Wagner (2006), Silva (2007), Astebro and Thompson (2011) and Iversen, Malchow-Møller, and Sørensen (2016) for supporting empirical evidence. We now investigate whether the complementarity between theoretical competence provided by formal education and practical expertise gained by labor market experience (EE-complementarity) has changed over time and whether this can help account for the differential time profiles of returns between educational groups. To fine-tune these ideas, let us posit that the total return of an entrepreneur $\theta(s, x)$ is a function of both formal education s and labor market experience x. An increase in the skill premium θ will then be the result of an increase in the return to education θ_s, in the return to experience θ_x, or in EE-complementarity θ_{sx}.

To analyze the evolution of EE-complementarity, we introduce one dummy if the entrepreneur had some previous labor market experience prior to the current venture, YX=1, and another if she did not, NX=1 (SCF mnemonic X4514). Figure 9 plots the share of entrepreneurs with YX=1. This share has evolved very similarly across educational groups, slipping marginally from around 60 percent in the late 1980s to 55 percent in the last years of our sample period.

We then run the same regressions as in Table 3, but now interacting the two experience dummies YX and NX with the three educational levels and allowing the interactions to vary between pre-2000 and post-2000. Entrepreneurs with a high school degree and no prior experience are the reference group. The results in Table 7 indicate that the return to entrepreneurship has increased principally for entrepreneurs with some previous labor market experience, provided they are sufficiently well educated. High school graduates show no increase in the return to entrepreneurship regardless of experience. The difference in the increase in the return between entrepreneurs with and without pre-

Figure 9: Share of entrepreneurs with previous labor market experience



Source: Survey of Consumer Finances.

vious work experience emerges for college graduates and becomes large and significant for postgraduates. The return for entrepreneurs with postgraduate education and some labor market experience was about $177,000 greater in the post-2000 period than the pre-2000 period, while for entrepreneurs with postgraduate education but no experience the gain came to only $62,000, marginally significant (at 10 percent level).[17] This indicates that EE-complementarity θ_{sx} has strengthened, and especially for postgraduates. The last panel in the table shows the significance level for the null hypothesis that the increase in the return to education has been the same for entrepreneurs with and without previous work experience. The null hypothesis of equality cannot be rejected for college graduates but is strongly rejected for postgraduates. Overall, the evidence is that the combination of the advanced theoretical competence provided by postgraduate education and the applied practical expertise acquired through labor market experience has become increasingly valuable to successful entrepreneurship.[18]

[17]One concern is that entrepreneurs with labor market experience might consist mostly in holders of an MBA, which typically requires some job experience before enrollment. To check that the increase in the return to experience for postgraduates does not reflect just an increase in returns to an MBA, we run the same regression as in Table 7 excluding all entrepreneurs with master's degrees. This specification yields very similar results: entrepreneurs with a postgraduate degree (PhD) and some experience record an increase in returns of $158,000 per year (significant at the 1 percent level) while those without experience show an increase of just $73,000, significant only at the 10 percent level.

[18]Interestingly, the strengthened complementarity is specific to entrepreneurship: when we run the same regression as in Table 7 but on a sample of employees rather than entrepreneurs, we find that the increases in wages for postgraduates with or without previous labor market experience are quantitatively

Table 7: Trends in the Skill Premium by Labor Market Experience

	(1) θ	(2) ϕ	(3) $d+l$	(4) M	(5) k	(6) GCG	(7) NCG
High Sch.×YX	-28.1*	-28.1*	-25.1***	-333.4***	-147.0**	-15.6	-3.1
	(15.0)	(15.0)	(8.0)	(116.9)	(67.6)	(10.1)	(11.2)
College×NX	31.1	11.1	47.7***	308.6*	280.1*	3.8	-16.6
	(25.1)	(25.2)	(15.8)	(173.3)	(153.6)	(14.0)	(20.3)
College×YX	42.2**	22.1	25.4**	-29.5	-81.0	10.7	16.7
	(18.8)	(18.8)	(10.5)	(134.1)	(71.7)	(12.3)	(13.7)
Postgrad×NX	105.3***	65.2***	95.4***	19.0	-98.4	5.4	10.0
	(24.5)	(24.5)	(15.3)	(174.3)	(115.9)	(14.0)	(16.9)
Postgrad×YX	57.2**	17.2	87.6***	-89.8	87.7	-17.9	-30.4
	(26.5)	(26.4)	(15.1)	(136.2)	(140.5)	(14.2)	(24.3)
Post interacted with:							
×High Sch.×YX	23.1	22.9	6.3	106.4	-85.5	16.2	16.8
	(20.5)	(20.5)	(9.6)	(140.0)	(135.1)	(12.6)	(17.0)
×College×NX	26.4	19.1	-10.4	405.8*	-17.5	35.9*	36.8
	(31.7)	(31.6)	(18.2)	(227.4)	(215.3)	(18.5)	(27.2)
×College×YX	56.1**	48.7*	37.2**	650.9***	209.6	32.1**	18.9
	(27.3)	(27.3)	(15.1)	(170.8)	(145.1)	(15.4)	(20.0)
×Postgrad×NX	61.9*	33.4	48.7**	482.8**	134.0	23.7	13.2
	(34.3)	(34.4)	(24.0)	(227.7)	(179.6)	(17.4)	(22.9)
×Postgrad×YX	177.4***	149.4***	120.0***	1,095.1***	237.2	60.0***	57.4*
	(36.9)	(37.1)	(23.6)	(171.6)	(204.7)	(17.3)	(29.8)
H_0: College×NX×Post =College×YX×Post							
F-stat	0.801	0.798	4.904	1.372	1.516	0.046	0.491
p-value	0.371	0.372	0.027	0.241	0.218	0.829	0.484
H_0: Postgrad×NX×Post =Postgrad×YX×Post							
F-stat	8.423	8.501	5.665	8.108	0.293	4.969	2.703
p-value	0.004	0.004	0.017	0.004	0.588	0.026	0.100
Obs	7,250	7,250	7,250	7,250	7,250	7,250	7,250

Notes: All monetary values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices. NX is a dummy for no previous labor market experience before staring the business and YX is a dummy for some experience. GCG denotes gross capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)$, NCG denotes net capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)-\rho k$. All regressions include year dummies, a quadratic in age, dummies for female, white and married entrepreneurs. See Table 2 for the definition of the other variables. Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses, *** p-value < 0.01, ** p-value < 0.05, * p-value < 0.1.

Decomposition. We can now measure how much of the difference in the time profile of entrepreneurial returns across educational groups is explained by changes in EE-complementarity. Let $\omega_s(x)$ denote the fraction of entrepreneurs with education s who have labour market experience x, where $x = y$ and $x = n$ identifies entrepreneurs with and without previous experience, respectively. The average return for entrepreneurs with

similar ($31.000 vs. $27.000) and not statistically different from each other. The increase in wages for college graduates is also invariant to their previous labour market experience.

education s can be written as

$$\mathbf{E_s}(\theta) = \sum_{x=y,n} \theta(s,x)\omega_s(x). \tag{28}$$

Consider two educational groups $\hat{s}$ and s, with $\hat{s}$ consisting of entrepreneurs with a postgraduate degree and s of those with only a high school or a college degree. The contribution of the strengthened EE-complementarity to the overall change in differential returns is measured by the term $\Delta\theta(\hat{s},y)\omega_{\hat{s}}(y) - \Delta\theta(s,y)\omega_s(y)$ where Δ denotes time changes (see the Appendix for the complete derivation of the decomposition). Given the estimates of the increase in the return to a postgraduate entrepreneurs with some experience, $\Delta\theta(\hat{s},y)$, (see Table 7) and the value of their shares $\omega_s(y)$ in the pre-2000 sample period, this term is approximately equal to \$110,000 dollars, or 97 percent of the differential increase in entrepreneurial returns between postgraduates and high school graduates, which is equal to \$113,000 a year (Table 3).[19] The same decomposition for the differential change in returns between postgraduates and college graduates shows that the strengthened complementarity explains around 96 percent of the differential increase.

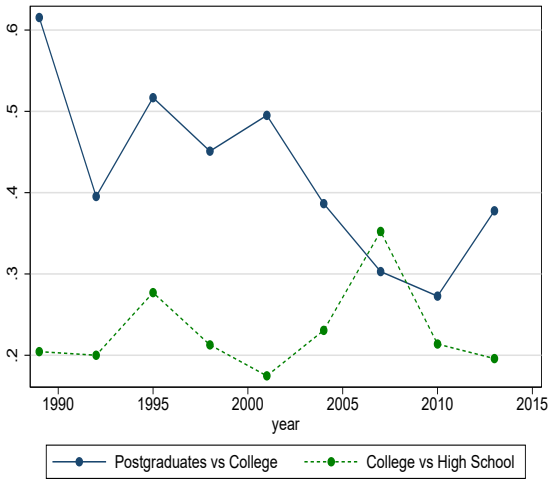
6.2 Robustness to alternative explanations

We now study the robustness of the conclusion that the strengthened complementarity between postgraduate education and previous labor market experience accounts for most of the increase in the return to postgraduate education. We show that it holds after controlling for several alternative explanations of the increase, such as changes in (i) sectoral specialization; (ii) access to internal or external finance; (iii) the entrepreneur's span of control; (iv) compensating differentials due to greater business risk; (v) the relevance of vintage technology effects; and (vi) the intergenerational transmission of wealth. The construction and the definition of the variables used in this analysis are given in the Appendix; the descriptive statistics are given in Table 2.

Sectoral specialization. As Table 2 shows, entrepreneurs with different educational levels tend to operate in different sectors, and returns could vary by sector if entrepreneurial opportunities and entry barriers differ. The rising premium to postgraduate education could then be due to a pattern of sectoral specialization increasingly more favorable to postgraduate entrepreneurs either because they have specialized increasingly

[19]The shares $\omega_s(x)$ have remained relatively stable over time and have evolved very similarly across educational groups (see Figure 9). For example, the share of entrepreneurs with some previous work experience in the pre-2000 period, $\omega_{\hat{s}}(y)$, is equal to 60% among both high school and college graduates and to 58% among postgraduates. In the post-2000 period, these shares are lower by 6, 5 and 1 percentage point for high school, college and postgraduates, respectively.

Figure 10: Differences in patterns of sectoral specialization $S(e_1, e_2)$



Source: Survey of Consumer Finances. The index is equal to $S(e_1, e_2) = \frac{1}{2}\sum_i |s_i^{e_1} - s_i^{e_1}|$, where s_i^j is the fraction of entrepreneurs of educational group $j = e_1, e_2$ working in sector i.

in high-return sectors or because sectoral returns have increased relatively more in the sectors that postgraduate entrepreneurs tend naturally to go into. In practice, however, the sectoral composition of entrepreneurial ventures has remained stable over time: if anything, the sectoral specializations of college and postgraduate entrepreneurs have grown progressively more similar. Figure 10 plots the time profile of a simple index to measure differences in the sectoral specialization of two groups of entrepreneurs grouped by educational level e_1 and e_2. The index, which builds on Krugman (1993), is equal to $S(e_1, e_2) = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{n=1}^{N} |s_n^{e_1} - s_n^{e_2}|$, where s_n^j is the fraction of entrepreneurs of educational group $j = e_1, e_2$ active in sector $n = 1, 2, ...N$. The index has support on the $[0, 1]$-interval: it is 0 when the two groups have the same sectoral shares and 1 when the shares are perfectly orthogonal. Comparing postgraduate and college entrepreneurs, we see that the index has fallen by 30 basis points since the late 1980s, which indicates substantially more similarity between the two groups in the pattern of sectoral specialization.

To formally evaluate the role of sectoral specialization in determining the rising premium to postgraduate education and the strengthened complementarity between education and experience, we augment the regressions of Table 7 with a full set of sectoral dummies both in levels and interacted with the post-2000 dummy. The excluded sector is Mining and Construction. In the years up to 2000, the only significant sector dummy is Manufacturing, although ventures in Finance and TCU also show some evidence of

Table 8: EE-Complementarity for total returns θ: Additional controls

	(1) Sector	(2) Collateral	(3) Span	(4) Risk	(5) Vintage	(6) Inherited
Post interacted with:						
×High Sch.× *YX*	32.0	24.6	21.2	28.9	20.4	23.3
	(20.4)	(20.8)	(21.2)	(21.5)	(19.5)	(20.4)
×College× *NX*	23.3	29.8	23.0	-4.7	22.7	27.6
	(33.3)	(31.7)	(32.0)	(32.6)	(34.3)	(31.8)
×College× *YX*	60.6**	61.7**	48.6*	65.2**	52.0*	56.8**
	(27.5)	(29.0)	(27.9)	(28.3)	(30.8)	(27.2))
×Postgrad× *NX*	59.3*	65.5*	48.9	51.3	49.7	62.2*
	(34.2)	(34.4)	(34.1)	(37.3)	(39.0)	(34.6)
×Postgrad× *YX*	178.1***	180.7***	158.7***	164.0***	183.4***	175.6***
	(35.7)	(37.9)	(37.7)	(41.7)	(41.8)	(36.5)
Collateral		26.3				
		(19.8)				
Value of collateral		-0.0				
		(0.0)				
Nr. of workers			0.5***			
			(0.1)			
Nr. of businesses			14.9			
			(11.5)			
Incorporated				80.3***		
				(9.3)		
Uncertain income				-38.3***		
				(9.3)		
Inherited						43.0
						(28.3)
H_0: College×*NX*×Post =College× *YX*×Post						
F-stat	1.276	0.919	0.613	4.489	0.846	0.776
p-value	0.259	0.338	0.434	0.0341	0.358	0.378
H_0: College×*NX*×Post =College×*YX*×Post						
F-stat	8.900	8.034	8.072	7.062	11.17	8.038
p-value	0.003	0.005	0.004	0.008	0.001	0.005
N. of Obs.	7250	7250	7250	6772	7250	7250

Notes: The dependent variable is total entrepreneurial returns θ in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices. Education dummies (High School, College, and Postgraduate) interacted with experience dummies (*YX* and *NX*) are included but not reported. *NX* and *YX* are dummies for no and some previous labor experience, respectively. *Collateral* is a dummy for entrepreneurs who obtained credit with some collateral and *Value of collateral* is its value. *Nr. of workers* is the number of workers in the business, including the entrepreneur; *Nr. of businesses* is the number of businesses run by the entrepreneur; *Incorporated*, *Uncertain income* and *Inherited* are dummies for incorporated businesses, uncertain next year income and inherited businesses, respectively. Column 4 excludes the 1989 survey because *Uncertain income* is unavailable. All regressions include a quadratic in age, dummies for year and female, white and married entrepreneurs. Column 1 includes 6 industry dummies and their interaction with the post-2000 dummy; Column 5 includes 6 cohort dummies and their interaction with the post-2000 dummy. See Table 2 for the definition of other variables. Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses, *** p-value < 0.01, ** p-value < 0.05, * p-value < 0.1.

yielding higher returns. In the post-2000 period, we observe significantly higher returns in Finance while those in TCU, where postgraduates tend to specialize, have if anything marginally decreased. The estimated coefficients for the changes in the return are reported in the first column of Table 8.[20] Overall, controlling for sectoral composition and allowing for time-varying sectoral returns has no significant effect on the estimated coefficients. For example, the Postgraduate×Post dummy for experienced entrepreneurs (YX=1) increases only from \$177,400 of the baseline specification in Table 7 to \$178,100. For postgraduate entrepreneurs without previous work experience (NX=1), the increase in the baseline specification is \$61,900 and that reported in Table 8 is \$59,300.

Access to finance. Another potential explanation for the increased premium to education could be related to financial constraints and the possibility that better education may help in obtaining internal or external funds. For example, postgraduates may be able to obtain more credit because they can pledge more collateral, either because they earn more as employees, enabling them to accumulate more initial wealth, or simply because they get larger inheritances, which is consistent with the evidence that children's education is correlated with parents' wealth and that this correlation has strengthened over time (Belley and Lochner, 2007). The SCF inquires into the use of collateral or personal guarantees to obtain business loans. We construct a *Collateral* dummy equal to 1 if the entrepreneur has used personal wealth to guarantee a loan and create a variable that measures the *Value of collateral* posted. Column 2 of Table 8 shows that the provision of personal guarantees is correlated with higher entrepreneurial returns. But the effect on total returns is not significantly different from zero. Moreover, the time profile of the return to postgraduate education with and without previous experience remains practically unchanged controlling for personal guarantees.

Entrepreneurs may obtain external funds even without offering personal guarantees, and education might provide greater financial literacy and other skills useful to interact with financiers. For example, Parker and Van Praag (2006) provide evidence for a sample of Dutch entrepreneurs that education helps to relax financial constraints. To test this hypothesis, we exploit a robust prediction of models of firm growth with financial constraints (Cooley and Quadrini, 2001; Clementi and Hopenhayn, 2006; Michelacci and Quadrini, 2009), namely that the more severely constrained ventures have a steeper profile of dividends with respect to the age of the venture. This is because financially constrained firms rely more on retained earnings to finance growth, which implies that dividend payments increase faster as the venture ages. To test whether ventures run by postgraduates,

[20]To save on space, we only report the results for overall returns θ and for the education dummies interacted with the post-2000 dummy.

with or without previous work experience, have become progressively less financially constrained over time, we then check whether the age profile of dividends has become flatter for them than for college graduates. We regress dividends on the usual controls plus the current age of the entrepreneurial venture interacted with the educational dummies and allow this interaction to vary across sub-periods. If ventures run by postgraduates (with or without experience) have become less constrained, we should observe a more strongly negative coefficient for age×post×postgrad than for age×post×college. The results in Table 9 do not support this null hypothesis. If anything, the behavior of total income $d + l$ (Column 1), actually supports the opposite implication. Similar conclusions stems from considering business value (Column 2) or total returns (Column 3). Overall, Table 9 suggests that the strengthened complementarity between postgraduate education and labour market experience is unlikely to be due to a relaxation of financial constraints.

Span of control. The ICT revolution might have encouraged organizational practices that favor larger businesses; see Garicano and Rossi-Hansberg (2015) for a review of the recent literature on how the acquisition, use, and communication of knowledge affects firms' organization. If higher education is complementary to the adoption of ICT-intensive organizational practices (Caroli and Van Reenen, 2001; Bresnahan, Brynjolfsson, and Hitt, 2002), it could be that the span of control of highly educated entrepreneurs has (relatively) increased, allowing them to run larger ventures today than in the past. To test this hypothesis, we consider two variables measuring the entrepreneur's span of control: *Number of workers* employed in the entrepreneur's first actively managed businesses and *Number of actively managed businesses*. Panel (a) of Figure 11 shows that the average number of workers employed by postgraduates increased from 25 in 1989 to 60 in the 2000's. *Number of workers* also increased somewhat for college graduate entrepreneurs (but less than for postgraduates), and it has remained stable for high school graduates. The *Number of actively managed businesses* (panel b) increased modestly and very similarly for college graduates and postgraduates. To quantify the effect of the size of entrepreneurial ventures (in terms of number workers or number of actively managed businesses) on the rising premium to postgraduate education, we augment our baseline regressions with these two measures of the span of control. The results are reported in column 3 of Table 8. On average, employing one additional worker is associated with an increase of \$500 in total entrepreneurial returns θ. The effect of the number of businesses is also positive, but not statistically different from zero. The results are basically unchanged if a quadratic polynomial in our size measures is added, or if log size variables are used. Relative to Table 3, the increase in the premium in the post-2000 period is slightly reduced for both college

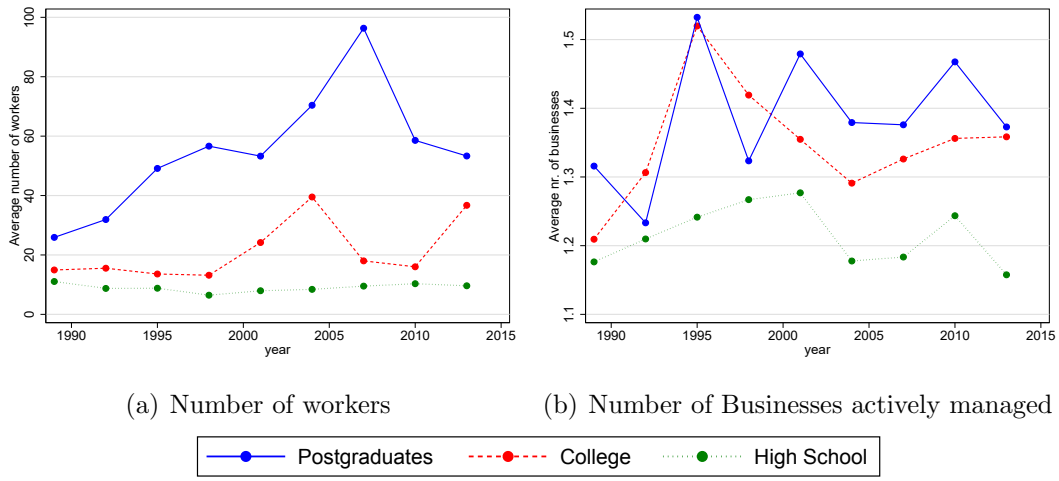
Table 9: Financial constraints and the age profile of entrepreneurial returns

	(1) $d+l$	(2) M	(3) θ
Post interacted with:			
×High Sch.× YX	8.1	-8.4	13.0
	(9.4)	(131.8)	(16.5)
×College× NX	17.7	182.8	18.7
	(19.4)	(268.1)	(33.9)
×College× YX	55.6***	322.5	39.3
	(18.9)	(206.8)	(34.0)
×Postgrad× NX	24.2	-348.4	42.7
	(27.2)	(257.3)	(38.9)
×Postgrad× YX	104.1***	393.6*	152.6***
	(25.5)	(214.2)	(35.8)
Tenure×College	2.8***	25.4	0.8
	(1.0)	(18.2)	(2.9)
Tenure×Postgrad	0.4	-30.6***	-0.6
	(0.9)	(11.3)	(1.6)
Tenure×College×Post	-2.1*	9.3	0.2
	(1.1)	(19.3)	(3.3)
Tenure×Postgrad×Post	1.6	53.5***	1.4
	(1.2)	(13.8)	(2.6)
Tenure×Post	0.8	-21.9**	-2.2
	(0.5)	(9.9)	(1.9)
Tenure	1.5***	38.4***	1.9
	(0.4)	(9.2)	(1.2)
H_0: College× NX×Post =College× YX×Post			
F-stat	3.456	0.407	0.452
p-value	0.063	0.523	0.501
H_0: Postgrad×NX×Post =Postgrad× YX×Post			
F-stat	7.029	11.41	7.337
p-value	0.008	0.001	0.007
Obs	7,250	7,250	7,250

Notes: All monetary values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices. Education dummies (High School, College, and Postgraduate) interacted with experience dummies (YX and NX) are included but not reported. NX and YX are dummies for no and some previous labor market experience, respectively. *Tenure* is the number of years since the entrepreneurs started running the business. All regressions include year dummies, a quadratic in age, dummies for female, white and married entrepreneurs. See Table 2 for the definition of all the other variables. Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses, *** p-value < 0.01, ** p-value < 0.05, * p-value < 0.1.

graduates and postgraduates: for postgraduates with some labour market experience it

Figure 11: Firm size and span of control



(a) Number of workers (b) Number of Businesses actively managed

Source: Own calculations using the Survey of Consumer Finances, the Longitudinal Business Database and the S&P500 Total Return Index. Values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices.

goes down from $177,400 in Table 7 to $158,700 in Table 8. This suggests that the combination of postgraduate education and experience has become progressively more valuable in managing larger organizations. But size does not tell the whole story, because the difference in the increase in returns between postgraduate entrepreneurs with and without previous work experience remains statistically significant, of a similar order of magnitude as before, and significantly greater than that observed among college graduates.

Income uncertainty and legal structure of businesses. In Section 5, we saw that the shifts in the distribution of returns and failure rates are inconsistent with the hypothesis that the increased premium to postgraduate education is simply a compensation for greater business risk. As a further check, we construct a direct measure of income uncertainty. Starting in 1992, the SCF has included this question: "At this time, do you have a good idea of what your income for next year will be?" We construct the dummy *Uncertain Income* equal to 1 for entrepreneurs who answer negatively. Table 2 shows that the share of entrepreneurs who are uncertain about their future business income decreases with education. We also build on Levine and Rubinstein (2017) who argue that limited liability companies are especially valuable to entrepreneurs seeking to undertake large, risky activities with high expected returns. Table 2 shows that 30% of high school-educated entrepreneurs run incorporated companies, compared with about 50% for both college graduates and postgraduates. Column 4 of Table 8 reports the results including our dummies for *Uncertain Income* and *Incorporated* businesses. Entrepreneurs with

uncertain future income record lower returns, while those with incorporated businesses gain a substantial premium ($80.000 on average), which is consistent with Levine and Rubinstein (2017). However, the relevant coefficients are hardly affected. For example, entrepreneurs with postgraduate education and some previous experience now show an increase in returns of $164.000 a year in the post-2000 period, very slightly larger than that of $163.000 obtained excluding the uncertain income dummy (results unreported for brevity).[21]

Vintage effects. Another explanation for the increase in the premium to postgraduate education relates to vintage effects and the fact that new businesses might embody more advanced technologies and/or better organizational practices, possibly related to ICT (Bloom, Sadun, and Reenen, 2012). As was first observed by Arrow (1962) and stressed by the managerial literature (Christensen and Rosenbloom, 1995), new entrants have an advantage in undertaking disruptive innovations. It could be that in a context of booming entrepreneurial opportunities like the US in the 1990s and the 2000s, postgraduates were particularly successful in embodying into their newly created ventures the latest technologies and business ideas. By this interpretation, the increase in the premium to postgraduate education should be at least partly attributable to the date of business creation. To evaluate this hypothesis, we augment the baseline regressions of Table 7 with a set of six cohort dummies for year of founding: pre-1960, 1960-1969, 1970-1979, 1980-1989, 1990-1999, and post-2000. We then interact these cohort dummies with our educational dummies and include them in the regression. The estimated coefficients for the changes in the return are reported in Column 5 of Table 8. Overall, cohort effects have little impact on the increase in the premium to postgraduate education or on the difference in the increase in returns between entrepreneurs with and without previous experience. This indicates that the strengthened complementarity between postgraduate education and labor market experience is independent of the date when the venture was started, suggesting that the combination of postgraduate education and experience has become increasingly valuable to entrepreneurial returns independently of technology/organization embodied in the business upon creation.

Intergenerational transmission of wealth. A last possible alternative we consider is the role of the intergenerational transmission of wealth. In fact, it could simply be that the better educated entrepreneurs inherit better businesses from their wealthier parents. To control for this we introduce a dummy specifying whether the entrepreneur's venture

[21] This is slightly less than the $177.000 reported in column 1 of Table 7 because of the exclusion of the 1989 survey, which lacked the question used to construct the *Uncertain Income* dummy.

is *Inherited*. Column 6 of Table 8 shows that the return to *Inherited* businesses is $44,000, although the effect is not statistically different from zero. Again, however, the increase in the return to education for entrepreneurs with or without previous labor market experience in the post-2000 period remains unchanged after adding this additional control.

We conclude that higher education combined with labour market experience produces entrepreneurial capabilities that have become more valuable over time. This is reflected for one thing in the larger size of the businesses run by postgraduates, but the effect of strengthened EE-complementarity on returns goes beyond a pure size effect. All in all, we take this evidence as consistent with the notion that running a successful business benefits from both the advanced theoretical competence provided by higher formal education and the applied practical expertise acquired through labor market experience and that this mix has become increasingly valuable in today's technologically advanced and highly competitive world.

7 Conclusions

We have examined the evolution of the educational composition of US entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial return to education since the late 1980s. The fraction with a college degree has increased, while that with postgraduate training has remained stable. The premium to entrepreneurs with a college relative to a high school degree has increased, but by about the same amount as the earnings premium for employees. The premium for postgraduate education relative to a college degree has increased substantially more for entrepreneurs than for employees: an entrepreneur with a postgraduate degree now earns fifty percent more than one with a BA or equivalent, whereas in the late 1980s their earnings were approximately equal. The analogous increase in the skill premium for employees is just 10-20 percent. The sharp increase in the skill premium for entrepreneurs with postgraduate education is due partly to the higher dividends paid by their businesses and partly to greater capital gains from selling. The premium for postgraduate education holds both for entrepreneurs with a MA or MBA degree and for those with a Ph.D or equivalent; it continued to be large during the Great Recession (although diminishing in absolute terms), and is substantially greater for higher percentiles of the entrepreneurial income distribution. Finally, the increase is largely accounted for by the strengthened complementarity between higher education and labor market experience.

Our findings indicate that skills (innate or acquired through formal education or labor market experience) have become progressively more valuable for entrepreneurship. This is consistent with the thesis that technological progress has been skill-biased, and more so for entrepreneurs than for employees. Our results seem also to indicate that the advanced

entrepreneurial skills associated with higher education have grown scarcer: if the supply of entrepreneurial skills is large enough and individuals have a free occupational choice between salaried employment and entrepreneurship, any surge in the extra return to entrepreneurship would be competed away by increased entry. This naturally raises the question of what can be done to increase the supply of entrepreneurial skills, which as emphasized by Lucas (1978) and shown by Gennaioli, LaPorta, de Silanes, and Shleifer (2013) is an important determinant of aggregate productivity.

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A Appendix

A.1 Some derivations

Valuation bias: Derivation of equation (15). When the business can fail with probability δ, the value to the entrepreneur of the business with initial investment k is equal to U that solves

$$\rho U = d + l + \lambda \left[\mathbb{E}_x (V) + W - U\right] \tag{A-1}$$

where

$$\mathbb{E}_x (V) = (1-\gamma)M + \gamma L = M - \gamma(M - L) \tag{A-2}$$

is the expected value of the business upon exiting entrepreneurship, with

$$\gamma = \frac{\delta}{\lambda} < 1 \tag{A-3}$$

and

$$M = \frac{d + \delta L}{r + \delta}. \tag{A-4}$$

The net value of becoming an entrepreneur is still given by S in (3), while the extra return from entrepreneurship ϕ should still satisfy the condition (4), which immediately yields (14) where θ_v is given by (15).

Recycling bias: Derivation of equation (25). When the entrepreneur can start another business with probability ν, the value to the entrepreneur of the business evolves as follows:

$$\rho U = d + l + \lambda \left[\mathbb{E}_x (V) + \nu S + W - U\right] \tag{A-5}$$

where $\mathbb{E}_x (V)$ is still given by (16) and W by (1), while νS incorporates the fact that upon exiting the current entrepreneurial venture, with probability ν, the entrepreneur starts another venture with net value

$$S = U - k - W,$$

which is as in (3). As in Section 2.1, the value of becoming an entrepreneur is converted into a flow value by imposing the condition

$$\frac{\phi_r}{\rho + \lambda} = S, \tag{A-6}$$

which equates the hypothetical present value of wealth obtained under the constant per period income ϕ_r to the net value of becoming an entrepreneur. After using the definition of S in (3), we obtain that (A-5) implies that

$$U = \frac{d + l + \lambda \left[\mathbb{E}_x (V) + \nu S + W - U\right]}{\rho + \lambda},$$

which can be substituted in (A-6) to solve for ϕ_r as given in (25).

Further details on the decomposition of Section 6. Given (28), the change over time of the average return for entrepreneurs with education s can be written as the sum of three terms

$$\Delta \mathbf{E_s}(\theta) = \mathbf{A_s} + \mathbf{B_s} + \mathbf{C_s} \tag{A-7}$$

where $\mathbf{A_s} = \sum_{x=y,n} \Delta\theta(s,x)\omega_s(x)$ measures the contribution of changes in returns for entrepreneurs with and without experience, $\mathbf{B_s} = \sum_{x=y,n} \theta(s,x)\Delta\omega_s(x)$ quantifies the effects of changes in the distribution of experience levels and $\mathbf{C_s} = \sum_{x=y,n} \Delta\theta(s,x)\Delta\omega_s(x)$ represents a cross term. Given (A-7), the change of the differential return to entrepreneurship for two educational levels $\hat{s}$ and s can be decomposed as follows:

$$\Delta \mathbf{E_{\hat{s}}}(\theta) - \Delta \mathbf{E_s}(\theta) = (\mathbf{A_{\hat{s}}} - \mathbf{A_s}) + (\mathbf{B_{\hat{s}}} - \mathbf{B_s}) + (\mathbf{C_{\hat{s}}} - \mathbf{C_s}), \tag{A-8}$$

whose interpretation is analogous to that of (A-7). In our application, $\hat{s}$ corresponds to entrepreneurs with a postgraduate degree and s to entrepreneurs with either a high school degree or a college degree. In the main text we relied on (A-8) to decompose the differential increase in entrepreneurial returns between postgraduates and high school graduates or college graduates. The contribution of the increased complementarity between education and labour market experience to the overall change in differential returns is measured by the term $\Delta\theta(\hat{s},y)\omega_{\hat{s}}(y) - \Delta\theta(s,y)\omega_s(y)$, which is one of the terms in $(\mathbf{A_{\hat{s}}} - \mathbf{A_s})$.

A.2 Data details

The Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF) is conducted every three years by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. We use all waves since 1989 up to the latest available survey of 2013. The SCF is unique in that it collects data on the household finances of a large sample of Americans. Wealthy individuals are over-sampled and, once weighted, SCF data are representative of the entire wealth distribution of US households. Around 4,000 households per wave are sampled, with the exception of the last two surveys where sample size increases to around 6,000 households. All statistics are calculated using the SCF provided sampling weights and closely following the SCF guidelines to deal with the repeated-imputation inference method of the survey, which reports five implicates for each variable. All regressions are run and standard errors are calculated using the SCFcombo routine for STATA, described at `https://www.federalreserve.gov/Standard/Error/Documentation.pdf`. We combine information from the SCF with information from the Longitudinal Business Database (LBD) compiled by the Census, the FRED database, and Stock market returns from Standard & Poor's. Below we describe in more details the construction of the variables used in the paper following an alphabetical order.

Age of household head. The age of the household head is obtained using variable "Reconciled age" (mnemonic X14).

Age of entrepreneurial venture, $\boldsymbol{\tau}$. This is the number of years since the entrepreneur started or acquired the main business he actively manages. We combine information on the

current year with answers to the question "In what year did you start/acquire the business?" (mnemonic X3110), and compute the *Age of entrepreneurial venture* as current year minus year of acquisition plus one.

Collateral. This dummy variable is constructed using answers to the question "Are you or your family living here using personal assets as collateral or did you have to co-sign or guarantee any loans for this business?", which is available separately for business one and two under mnemonics X3120 and X3220, respectively. *Collateral* is equal to one if X3120=1 or X3220=1.

Dividend payments, d. This corresponds to the annual earnings gross of taxes from the main job, other than wages and salary for household heads who are *Entrepreneurs*. Current USD amounts are deflated with CPI at constant 2010 prices from FRED. *Dividend payments* are obtained by multiplying the dollar amount from the question X4131 with the frequency of payments within a year as obtained from X4132 for Entrepreneurs who report receiving some additional non labor income as obtained from X4127. The text of the questions X4127, X4131 and X4132 is as follows: X4127: "Do you also receive some other kind of income?"; X4131: "In addition to regular salary and wages, how much do you personally receive from the business before taxes?"; and X4132: "How often do you receive that amount?".

Educational dummies. The educational groups are determined based on the following three questions: "What is the highest grade of school or year of college you completed?" (mnemonic X5901); "Did you get a college degree?" (mnemonic X5904); and "What is the highest degree you have earned?" (mnemonic X5905). Variable X5901 allows for the following answers: "(-1) No grades completed; (1) 1st grade; (2) 2nd grade; (3) 3rd grade; (4) 4th grade; (5) 5th grade; (6) 6th grade; (7) 7th grade; (8) 8th grade; (9) 9th grade; (10) 10th grade; (11) 11th grade; (12) 12th grade; (13) 1 year college; (14) 2 years college; (14) 3 years college; (15) 3 years college; (16) 4 years college; (17) Graduate school." Answers to X5905 allows for the following options: "(1) Associate's and other junior college degree; (2) Bachelor's; (3) MA/MS, MBA and other master's; (4) Ph.D (including post-doctorate), MD, DDS/DMD, Doctor of Osteopathy, Law JD, Other doctorate (DVM, Doctor of Divinity, etc.); (10) Nursing degree (RN, LPN) or other certificate, Chiropractic, Naprapathy, Homeopathy, Pharmacology, teaching certificate." The dummy variable for *Less than High School* is equal to one if X5909<12. The dummy variable for *High School* includes college dropouts: it is equal to one if X5909=12, or 13≤X5909≤16 but X5904=5, which means that the household head has not obtained any college degree. The dummy variable for *College* identifies household heads who have obtained a college degree without having any postgraduate degree: it is equal to one if X5901≤16, X5904=1, and X5905=1 or X5905=2. The dummy variable for *Postgraduate* is equal to one if X5901=17, and X5905=3 (Master's) or X5905=4 (PhD). In the public version of the SCF, X5905=3 also includes MBA's while X5905=4 also includes JD's and MD's.

Employee. The household head works for someone else (mnemonic X4106=1) and he does not own or share ownership in any privately-held businesses (mnemonic X3103=5).

Entrepreneur. An household head is classified as an *Entrepreneur* if the three following conditions are jointly satisfied: i) his main job is either self-employed or owns a closely held business (mnemonic X4106=2); ii) he holds shares or owns some privately held businesses (mnemonic X3103=1); iii) he has an active management role in any of these businesses (mnemonic X3104=1). The text of the questions X4106, X3103 and X3104 is as follows: X4106: `"Do you work for someone else, are you self-employed, or what?"`; X3103: `"Do you own or share ownership in any privately-held businesses, farms, professional practices, limited partnerships or any other types of partnerships?"`; and X3104: `"Do you have an active management role in any of these businesses?"`. The answers to questions X4106 is as follows: `1. Someone else; 2. Self-employed, other closely held business owned by PEU, Partnership, law firm, medical/dental partnership, other non-publicly-traded business in which he has an interest, contractor`. The *Entrepreneur* dummy is equal to one if X3104=1, X3103=1 and X4106=2. Notice that in the SCF an individual who runs and owns a business is explicitly coded as being self-employed in his main job (X4106=2).

Entrepreneurial return, $\boldsymbol{\theta}$. It is the sum of *Dividend payments, d* defined above, *Labor income, l* and the *Expected net capital gains,* $\lambda(M-k)-\rho k$, defined below.

Exit rate, $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$. The household can separately report values for up to three actively managed businesses until 2007, and up to two afterwards. The exit rate out of the entrepreneurial venture λ_i, $i=1,2$ is calculated for up to the first two actively managed businesses. The exit rate λ is a weighted average between λ_1 and λ_2 with the weight of λ_2 equal to the fraction of entrepreneurs with at least two actively managed businesses. For each business $i=1,2$, λ_i is calculated as the inverse of the average normalized *Age of entrepreneurial venture,* τ_i. *Age of entrepreneurial venture* is normalized by the amount of firm entry of the corresponding educational (and/or income) group of the year when the venture was started. The index of firm entry is obtained by combining data from LBD with information from the SCF on the educational composition of newly started ventures. From LBD, we obtain the number of newly created firms, which is available since 1977. For each wave of the SCF, we calculate the educational (and/or income) shares of entrepreneurs who started their venture within the last three years. These shares are then multiplied with the previously discussed measure of firm creation from LBD to construct an education/income specific index of entry into entrepreneurship. Educational shares are available for the period 1989-2013, business creation data are available since 1977, while in the SCF there are ventures that started as back as in 1922. To extend our series we impute the last available observation in the sample to all the previous years. For each educational (income) group we divide the individual specific weights in the SCF (mnemonic X42001) by the corresponding index of business creation of the year when the venture was started. With these normalized weights, and separately for business one and two, we then calculate the average age of all entrepreneurial ventures in each wave of the SCF. By inverting this average we then obtain our measure of the exit rate.

Expected gross capital gains, $\boldsymbol{\lambda(M-k)}$. This is obtained by multiplying the *Exit*

rate λ defined above by the difference of the *Value of business,* M and the *Investment in business,* k, which are both described below.

Expected net capital gains, $\boldsymbol{\lambda(M-k)-\rho k}$. This is the difference between the *Expected gross capital gains,* $\lambda(M-k)$ and a measure of the opportunity cost of the capital invested by the entrepreneur in the business ρk. ρk is calculated as equal to $\rho_1 k_1 + \rho_2(k_2 + k_{res})$, where the variables ρ_1 and ρ_2 are defined in the construction of the variable *Opportunity cost of capital*, while k_1, k_2, and k_{res} are defined in the construction of the variable *Investment in business*.

Experience Dummies, **YX**, **NX**. These dummies distinguish between entrepreneurs with at least one full-time job that lasted three years or more before starting or acquiring the current business (YX=1) and those without any such job (NX=1). They are constructed using question X4514, "Now, not counting your current job, have you ever had a full-time job with a different employer that lasted three years or more?" and X4515, "I would like to know about the longest such job you had. Did you work for someone else, were you self-employed, or something else?". The possible answers to question X4514 are: "(1) Yes; (5) No; (0) Inappropriate"; those to question X4515 are "(1) Someone else; (2) Self-employed, other non-corporate business owned by PEU; (3) partnership, law firm, medical/dental partnership, other non-publicly-traded business in which R/SP has an interest; (6) consultant/contractor; (7) other; (0) Inappropriate (no job longer than 3 years; volunteer work not considered a job)". The dummy YX is equal to 1 if X4514=1 and X4515 is different from zero and the dummy NX is equal to one if X4514=5 or X4515=0. The two dummies are exhaustive and exclusive.

Failure rate, $\boldsymbol{\delta}$. The household can separately report values for up to three actively managed businesses until 2007, and up to two afterwards. We calculate a measure of the failure rate for each educational group, δ_i, $i = 1, 2$ for the first two actively managed businesses by the entrepreneur. δ is then calculated as a weighted average between δ_1 and δ_2 with weight equal to the fraction of entrepreneurs with at least two actively managed businesses. A business has failed if: (i) it has zero sales (answer "-1. Nothing" to the question "What were the gross sales of the business as a whole?," mnemonic X3131 and X3231 for business one and two, respectively); and (ii) it has zero employees (answer "-1. No one working in business: business is about to be sold" to the question "How many people work in this business, including you, members of your family, or anyone who is working without pay?," mnemonic X3111 and X3211 for business one and two, respectively), excluding the entrepreneur itself (X3111=1 or X3211=1 admitted). We exclude from the calculation firms which are less than 2 years old. δ_i is calculated as the ratio of the number of failed businesses over the total number of businesses in the corresponding age and educational group.

Female. This is a dummy variable which is equal to one if mnemonic X8021=2; zero otherwise. It identifies whether the household head is a female.

Industry dummies. The industry dummies are obtained from the variable X7402 which contains answers to the question "What kind of business or industry do you work

in?", which is recorded consistently though all waves of the SCF. In the public version of the dataset, the Census 1998 3-digit industry codes have been collapsed to the seven groups discussed in the paper.

Inherited business. This variable is constructed using answers to the question "How did you first acquire this business; was it bought or invested in, started by you, inherited, given to you, or what?" (mnemonic X3108), which focuses on business one. The following answers are available: 1. "Bought/Invested; 2. Started; 3. Inherited; 4. Given; 5. Joined/Became partner/ Promotion; -7 other." The venture is classified as being *Inherited* if X3108=3 or X3108=4.

Investment in business, $\boldsymbol{k}$. The household can separately report values for up to three actively managed businesses until 2007, and up to two afterwards. The investment in business in the first three actively managed businesses is computed using answers to the following question "If you sold the business now, what would be the cost basis for tax purposes (of your share of this business)? Probe: What was your original investment? What was the value when you received it? Definition: The tax basis is the amount of the original investment (or the value when it was received) plus additional investments", which correspond to mnemonics X3130, X3230, and X3330 for first, second and third business, respectively. These values are denoted as k_1, k_2, ad k_3, respectively. To construct the variable for the total *Investment in business*, k, we add the value of the investment in all remaining businesses actively managed by the household (mnemonic X3336), to the sum of the value of the investment in first, second and third business as obtained above. The investment in the third business is available up to 2007. We denote by k_{res} the sum the value of the investment in all remaining businesses actively managed by the household (mnemonic X3336) plus the investment in business three k_3. The current USD amounts are deflated using CPI index at constant 2010 prices (2010=100) taken from FRED. To deflate investment in business we need information on the year when the venture was started which for business one and two is available from the variable X3110 and X3210, respectively. For all the remaining businesses (including the third one to guarantee consistency over time), we use the CPI deflator associated with the start of business two.

Labor income, $\boldsymbol{l}$. This corresponds to the annual earnings gross of taxes from main job. Current USD amounts are deflated with CPI at constant 2010 prices (2010=100) from FRED. Annual wage income is obtained by multiplying the dollar amount from mnemonic X4112 with the frequency of payments within a year as obtained from mnemonic X4113. Variable X4112 reports answers to the question "About how much do you earn before taxes on main job in salary or wages?". Variable X4112 reports answers to the question "How often do you receive that amount?".

Liquidation value of business, $\boldsymbol{L}$. A business has failed if it satisfies the criteria used to construct the variable *Failure rate*. For all failed businesses we calculate the average value from the question "What is the net worth your share of this business?. If Respondent says the business is worth nothing or can not be sold ask: About how much would it cost to buy a similar asset?" (mnemonic X3129 and X3229 for first and second business, respectively).

Married. It identifies whether the household head is married or has a partner using mnemonic X8023. It is a dummy variable which is equal to one if X8023=1 or X8023=2 and zero otherwise.

Number of businesses actively managed. This is the answer of an *Entrepreneur* to the following question: "Including your (farm/ranch) business, in how many (farms/ranches), privately-held businesses, professional practices, limited partnerships, or other business investments that are not publicly traded do you own or share ownership in and also have an active management role?", which corresponds to mnemonic X3105.

Number of workers. The household can separately report values for up to three actively managed businesses until 2007, and up to two afterwards. For homogeneity, we therefore calculate employment in the first two actively managed businesses. *Number of workers* is the sum employment in business one and two. *Number of workers* in business $i = 1, 2$ is obtained from the answers to the questions "How many people work in this business, including you, members of your family, or anyone who is working without pay?", whose mnemonic for business one and two is equal to X3111 and X3211, respectively.

Opportunity cost of capital, $\boldsymbol{\rho}$. We calculate a measure of the opportunity cost of capital ρ_i, $i = 1, 2$ for up to the first two actively managed businesses by the entrepreneur. The value obtained for business two is then imputed also to all the other businesses actively managed by the entrepreneur, if any. ρ_i, $i = 1, 2$ is calculated combining information on the age τ_i of the entrepreneurial venture of business i together with information on the average return from investing in the US stock market, as measured by the S&P500 Total Return Index which comprises also dividend payments as taken from Bloomberg. The S&P500 Total Return Index is deflated using CPI at constant 2010 prices (2010=100) taken from FRED. ρ_i, $i = 1, 2$ is then calculated as follows: $\rho_i = R(t - \tau_i, t)^{\frac{1}{\tau_i}} - 1$, where $R(t - \tau_i, t)$ is the increase in the CPI-deflated S&P500 Total Return Index from $t - \tau_i$ to t, where t is the current date.

Past earnings. This corresponds to the annual earnings gross of taxes from the longest previous job, among the jobs that lasted at least 3 years. Current USD amounts are deflated with CPI at constant 2010 prices as obtained from FRED. Annual wage income is obtained by multiplying the dollar amount from mnemonic X4520 with the frequency of payments within a year as obtained from variable X4521. Variable X4520 reports answers to the question "About how much were you earning before taxes when you stopped?". Variable X4521 reports answers to the question "And that amount is per...? Day. Week...".

Recycling correction, $\boldsymbol{\varphi(\nu) = \frac{\rho+\lambda}{\rho+\lambda(1-\nu)}}$. The recycling correction is calculated using the formula $\varphi(\nu) = \frac{\rho+\lambda}{\rho+\lambda(1-\nu)}$ where ρ is the *Opportunity cost of capital*, λ is the *Exit rate* and ν is the *Recycling probability* discussed below.

Recycling probability, $\boldsymbol{\nu}$. We identify the set of individuals who were entrepreneurs in their past job using the following two questions: "Not counting your current job, have you ever had a full-time job with a different employer that lasted

three years or more?" (mnemonic X4514); and "I would like to know about the longest such job you had. Did you work for someone else, were you self-employed, or something else?" (mnemonic X4515). A individual is identified as entrepreneurs in his past job if he declared to be self-employed (X4515=2). Notice that in the SCF an individual who runs and owns a business is explicitly coded as being self-employed in his main job. The *Recycling probability*, ν is calculated as the ratio of individuals who are *Entrepreneur* today and were self-employed in their past job (X4514=1 and X4515=2) over the total number of individuals who were self-employed in their past job (X4514=1 and X4515=2).

Uncertain Income. This is a dummy equal to one for entrepreneurs that respond negatively to the following questions: "At this time, do you have a good idea of what your income for next year will be?" (Mnemonic X7586). The question is not present in the first wave of the survey (1989).

Incorporated. This variable is constructed using answers to the question "Is it a partnership, a sole proprietorship, a subchapter S corporation, another type of corporation, or what?" (mnemonic X3119), which focuses on business one. The following answers are available: "1. Partnerships; 2. Sole proprietorship; 3. Subchapter S; 4. Other Corporation (including C chapter corps); 6. Foreign business type; 11. Limited partnership; 12. Limited liability company (LLC); 15. Cooperative; 40. Not a formal business type; -7 other. The venture is classified as *Incorporated* if X3119=3 or 4 or 6 or 11 or 12.

Value of business, $\boldsymbol{M}$. This is the self-reported market value of the shares owned by the household in all actively managed businesses, net of credits or debts with the household. The household can separately report values for up to three actively managed businesses until 2007, and up to two afterwards. The value of the first three actively managed businesses is computed as follows: sum of the net worth of household's shares of the business (mnemonic X3129, X3229 and X3329 for first, second and third business, respectively), plus the amount of money owed to the household by the business (mnemonics X3124, X3224, and X3324 for first, second and third business, respectively) minus the amount the household owes to the business (mnemonics X3126, X3226, and X3326 for first, second, and third business, respectively). To construct the variable for the total *value of business* we add the value of all remaining businesses actively managed by the *Entrepreneur* to the sum of the value of the first and second business as calculated above. The value of all remaining businesses is calculated as the sum of the net worth of the third business, which is available up to 2007, to the value of the shares in all the remaining actively managed businesses, which is obtained from mnemonic X3335. The current USD amounts are deflated using CPI at constant 2010 prices (2010=100) taken from FRED.

Value of collateral. This is constructed using answers to the question "How much is guaranteed or collateralized?" which is available separately for business one and two under mnemonics X3121 and X3221, respectively. *Amount of personal guarantees* is the product of the *Collateral* dummy discussed above and the positive values of the variable X3121 and X3221.

White. This is a dummy variable which is equal to one if mnemonic X5909=5 until wave

1995, then X6809=1; zero otherwise. It identifies whether the household head is white.

Year of schooling. This is the answer to the following question: "What is the highest grade of school or year of college you completed?" (Mnemonic X5901). It goes from 1 (first grade) to 17 (graduate school).

A.3 Additional empirical results

For expositional simplicity, in the main text we allowed the effects of education to be different in the pre-1995 and in the post-1995 period. Here we provide the results when the effects of education are allowed to vary at each point in time, by interacting the education dummies with a full set of time dummies. We also report the results of some further specifications, such as the quantile regressions with the time trend.

Table A1: Trend in the Skill premium, year dummies specification

	(1) θ	(2) ϕ	(3) $d+l$	(4) M	(5) k	(6) GCG	(7) NCG
1992×College	28.4	33.4	17.0	-488.1*	-393.7	-10.9	11.4
	(47.8)	(48.0)	(25.3)	(249.6)	(249.1)	(26.3)	(38.9)
1995×College	68.5	72.0	21.9	-220.7	-402.8	23.3	46.6
	(52.5)	(52.6)	(26.6)	(284.7)	(262.3)	(29.2)	(41.3)
1998×College	50.7	60.4	48.7*	-228.1	-332.3	-7.3	2.0
	(51.7)	(51.9)	(25.5)	(321.6)	(248.8)	(31.7)	(42.3)
2001×College	69.9	71.1	45.0*	86.8	-212.7	20.9	25.0
	(48.6)	(48.7)	(25.9)	(290.6)	(256.6)	(27.1)	(39.1)
2004×College	98.1**	100.7**	52.9**	466.9*	-122.9	38.7	45.3
	(49.3)	(49.4)	(23.7)	(283.7)	(279.5)	(27.9)	(42.2)
2007×College	58.2	51.2	23.0	142.1	-137.0	25.9	35.1
	(52.7)	(52.9)	(26.1)	(322.6)	(260.0)	(31.5)	(42.6)
2010×College	53.4	47.7	2.0	-163.4	-490.3	17.4	51.4
	(55.0)	(54.9)	(23.8)	(277.0)	(312.6)	(29.7)	(44.7)
2013×College	42.5	40.1	57.1**	633.2*	379.2	13.0	-14.6
	(54.1)	(54.3)	(28.4)	(334.9)	(314.1)	(30.6)	(45.2)
1992×Postgrad	55.7	58.1	50.0*	-40.0	-97.2	-3.1	5.7
	(46.3)	(45.6)	(27.8)	(239.6)	(209.3)	(24.1)	(36.9)
1995×Postgrad	42.3	30.7	61.0**	285.5	180.1	4.3	-18.7
	(59.9)	(60.3)	(27.4)	(300.0)	(339.1)	(31.4)	(58.1)
1998×Postgrad	125.0**	114.9**	101.6***	387.7	-58.5	26.0	23.5
	(50.3)	(49.2)	(30.1)	(285.0)	(215.8)	(25.6)	(38.1)
2001×Postgrad	122.0**	101.3**	107.9***	604.3**	206.9	28.7	14.1
	(49.7)	(48.6)	(36.8)	(265.3)	(210.7)	(23.8)	(36.4)
2004×Postgrad	158.9**	128.2**	135.8***	980.5***	378.9	41.9*	23.1
	(62.1)	(61.1)	(42.5)	(306.4)	(283.0)	(25.3)	(39.8)
2007×Postgrad	225.9***	191.0***	172.4***	955.6***	40.2	51.2*	53.5
	(45.2)	(43.8)	(31.4)	(359.3)	(215.5)	(27.6)	(37.7)
2010×Postgrad	182.2***	136.2**	137.7***	949.0***	236.5	44.0	44.5
	(53.6)	(53.1)	(29.8)	(291.9)	(323.6)	(28.7)	(45.2)
2013×Postgrad	174.7***	144.7***	141.5***	1,009.3***	212.6	44.5**	33.2
	(48.2)	(47.4)	(34.5)	(298.7)	(245.4)	(21.9)	(35.5)
N. of Obs.	7250	7250	7250	7250	7250	7250	7250

Notes: All monetary values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices. Education dummies (College and Postgrad) are included but not reported to save on space. All regressions include year dummies, a quadratic in age, dummies female, white and married entrepreneurs. GCG denotes gross capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)$, NCG denotes net capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)-\rho k$. See Table 2 for the definition of all other variables. Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses, *** p-value < 0.01, ** p-value < 0.05, * p-value < 0.1.

Table A2: Quantile Regressions, Time Trend specification

	(1) θ	(2) ϕ	(3) $d+l$	(4) M	(5) k	(6) GCG	(7) NCG
Year ×:							
	25^{th} percentile						
×College	-0.4	-0.4*	-0.3	0.4	0.1	0.0	-0.2*
	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.1)	(0.0)	(0.1)
×Postgrad	-0.6	-1.0**	-0.7*	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.2
	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.6)	(0.1)	(0.0)	(0.3)
	50^{th} percentile						
×College	-0.7*	-1.0**	-0.1	2.2	1.5***	-0.1	-0.1*
	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.3)	(1.8)	(0.5)	(0.1)	(0.0)
×Postgrad	2.1**	1.0	2.4**	3.2	1.4	0.1	0.0
	(0.8)	(0.8)	(1.0)	(2.1)	(1.0)	(0.1)	(0.0)
	75^{th} percentile						
×College	0.1	-0.5	0.7	6.4	8.4***	-0.3	-0.5
	(1.3)	(1.2)	(1.1)	(6.3)	(2.5)	(0.5)	(0.4)
×Postgrad	5.3***	3.0**	4.1***	30.4***	10.0***	0.6*	0.2
	(1.4)	(1.4)	(1.3)	(6.2)	(3.7)	(0.3)	(0.3)
	90^{th} percentile						
×College	6.7**	5.8*	2.2	72.6**	33.9***	-0.4	-1.0
	(3.1)	(3.3)	(2.6)	(28.7)	(12.3)	(1.7)	(1.5)
×Postgrad	13.5***	9.7***	11.2***	103.6***	37.7***	3.4***	2.8***
	(3.1)	(3.4)	(3.2)	(23.5)	(12.3)	(1.3)	(1.0)
	95^{th} percentile						
Year×College	8.5	6.8	6.9	224.4***	65.3***	6.1**	4.7*
	(6.5)	(6.6)	(5.0)	(42.4)	(22.9)	(2.7)	(2.5)
Year×Postgrad	19.3***	12.2*	23.2***	135.0***	57.7	6.4**	6.4***
	(7.0)	(7.1)	(5.4)	(44.8)	(39.9)	(3.0)	(2.0)

Notes: Notes: Each percentile reports the results of a separate quantile regression. All monetary values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices. GCG denotes gross capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)$, NCG denotes net capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)-\rho k$. Year is a variable equal to the calendar year. To save on space, we only report the education dummies College and Postgrad interacted with Year. All regressions include education dummies not interacted, year dummies, a quadratic in age, dummies female, white and married entrepreneurs dummies. See Table 2 for the definition of all other variables. Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses, *** p-value < 0.01, ** p-value < 0.05, * p-value < 0.1.

Table A3: Quantile regressions, year dummies specification

	Total return θ				**Extra return ϕ**			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	p25	p50	p75	p90	p25	p50	p75	p90
1992×College	18.84	29.69*	-5.22	-93.84	22.19	29.78*	-6.69	-87.66
	(15.07)	(17.16)	(44.98)	(126.26)	(15.08)	(17.15)	(45.20)	(127.11)
1995×College	-3.75	7.63	-5.51	-6.89	-1.86	5.27	-9.24	-1.28
	(9.00)	(18.60)	(48.40)	(156.97)	(8.99)	(18.64)	(48.58)	(157.23)
1998×College	9.12	10.40	16.91	6.97	13.85	11.31	15.15	18.77
	(11.07)	(18.57)	(49.87)	(149.71)	(11.40)	(18.46)	(49.78)	(150.18)
2001×College	22.20*	22.54	6.82	132.71	22.38*	17.99	-3.51	128.49
	(12.55)	(19.87)	(54.53)	(155.26)	(12.51)	(19.81)	(54.39)	(155.17)
2004×College	-2.84	14.92	41.78	147.32	-1.17	10.40	34.99	145.19
	(10.79)	(17.75)	(48.75)	(133.90)	(10.60)	(17.95)	(48.97)	(133.94)
2007×College	-4.04	9.73	11.97	80.46	-5.74	0.03	-0.30	71.61
	(10.54)	(19.84)	(44.96)	(222.62)	(10.27)	(20.00)	(44.66)	(223.01)
2010×College	3.80	3.01	-28.45	-50.80	4.82	-2.06	-37.89	-53.97
	(8.63)	(17.41)	(47.80)	(131.57)	(8.54)	(17.29)	(47.67)	(131.82)
2013×College	-2.41	0.93	-0.10	108.91	-1.75	-1.79	-9.55	96.85
	(7.79)	(17.94)	(49.38)	(136.47)	(7.82)	(18.06)	(49.23)	(137.07)
1992×Postgrad	37.66	26.68	38.15	11.65	38.12	20.90	35.76	9.67
	(23.15)	(27.63)	(53.11)	(89.04)	(23.67)	(28.45)	(53.09)	(93.29)
1995×Postgrad	24.63	18.46	29.23	148.34	28.77	11.27	19.46	122.69
	(17.79)	(24.38)	(46.12)	(118.63)	(18.16)	(24.43)	(46.32)	(123.43)
1998×Postgrad	27.83	55.12	127.65**	173.54*	29.47	41.15	117.43**	160.24*
	(24.52)	(42.28)	(49.61)	(92.39)	(24.59)	(42.03)	(48.88)	(94.17)
2001×Postgrad	26.07	61.05*	100.58	213.16*	24.64	48.93	81.99	165.87
	(18.45)	(34.47)	(61.42)	(120.80)	(18.46)	(34.42)	(60.95)	(120.20)
2004×Postgrad	5.13	55.73*	62.27	175.08	-2.69	33.43	21.83	131.22
	(22.78)	(30.47)	(47.70)	(132.02)	(23.45)	(30.65)	(47.23)	(131.49)
2007×Postgrad	33.58	79.49**	235.06***	411.80***	33.00	55.87*	213.11***	373.34***
	(21.05)	(32.46)	(73.85)	(101.15)	(21.10)	(32.10)	(73.35)	(103.26)
2010×Postgrad	7.46	53.25*	126.70**	260.03**	-0.31	22.88	71.36	139.87
	(18.39)	(27.75)	(56.10)	(123.07)	(18.45)	(28.32)	(56.42)	(127.74)
2013×Postgrad	7.01	34.40	130.52***	307.46***	4.23	16.15	95.37**	245.23**
	(18.76)	(26.05)	(47.14)	(117.51)	(19.05)	(25.97)	(47.17)	(120.39)

Notes: All monetary values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices. Education dummies (College and Postgrad) are included but not reported to save on space. All regressions include year dummies, a quadratic in age, dummies female, white and married entrepreneurs. GCG denotes gross capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)$, NCG denotes net capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)-\rho k$. See Table 2 for the definition of all other variables. Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses, *** p-value < 0.01, ** p-value < 0.05, * p-value < 0.1. Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses, ** See Table 2 for the definition of all other variables.* p-value < 0.01, ** p-value < 0.05, * p-value < 0.1.

Table A4: Quantile regressions, year dummies specification cont'd

	Total current income $d+l$				Firms market value M			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	p25	p50	p75	p90	p25	p50	p75	p90
1992×College	21.91**	29.74***	39.69	-66.14	8.80	38.01	-317.75	-946.90**
	(9.39)	(10.25)	(28.48)	(118.11)	(16.82)	(67.84)	(296.12)	(372.15)
1995×College	1.65	13.74	46.21*	3.80	-1.66	-6.84	-254.92	-504.45
	(8.33)	(10.95)	(23.89)	(116.03)	(14.26)	(66.48)	(297.32)	(426.10)
1998×College	19.89**	23.86**	81.64**	62.57	12.35	9.84	-175.77	-416.70
	(9.32)	(10.57)	(34.49)	(119.34)	(15.25)	(69.01)	(307.54)	(932.59)
2001×College	29.41***	29.65***	47.62	76.61	23.25	12.82	-159.82	623.72
	(7.59)	(11.41)	(32.13)	(118.30)	(18.96)	(74.07)	(325.65)	(690.05)
2004×College	2.60	25.79**	93.52***	71.29	21.93	130.97*	-26.19	1,607.71**
	(9.36)	(10.50)	(26.19)	(125.47)	(24.15)	(75.96)	(347.83)	(728.45)
2007×College	-2.62	21.91*	44.52*	-28.17	7.01	32.54	-239.19	550.41
	(8.32)	(12.14)	(25.81)	(116.49)	(14.17)	(78.38)	(300.19)	(1,564.84)
2010×College	2.77	10.43	20.90	-43.16	6.56	-11.17	-264.14	365.59
	(6.68)	(9.37)	(23.16)	(109.39)	(13.16)	(66.85)	(289.84)	(970.27)
2013×College	6.29	14.88	96.21**	85.76	16.78	154.47	297.66	1,282.99
	(6.92)	(9.81)	(37.35)	(133.69)	(16.02)	(94.51)	(450.39)	(1,233.05)
1992×Postgrad	21.83	35.41	27.18	64.83	9.46	6.79	151.93	-145.08
	(18.31)	(28.65)	(41.92)	(70.20)	(21.11)	(66.51)	(119.72)	(526.49)
1995×Postgrad	18.02	26.83	12.72	164.48*	-4.63	-73.94	273.54**	286.08
	(20.14)	(24.41)	(40.87)	(95.51)	(17.39)	(60.44)	(132.72)	(533.59)
1998×Postgrad	17.30	73.21**	88.86**	195.48**	28.57	33.92	350.17**	1,428.29
	(26.91)	(33.48)	(40.22)	(76.03)	(19.15)	(74.91)	(175.08)	(900.58)
2001×Postgrad	15.14	66.87**	73.35	229.94**	37.25	30.02	523.08***	1,395.93**
	(19.26)	(29.69)	(52.68)	(91.69)	(25.06)	(67.08)	(150.56)	(587.91)
2004×Postgrad	8.32	65.62**	54.25	173.08	5.96	64.36	468.13***	2,805.25***
	(21.70)	(27.55)	(36.09)	(115.10)	(23.20)	(88.87)	(164.33)	(1,034.29)
2007×Postgrad	23.76	82.83***	145.55**	377.17***	53.79**	33.65	666.64***	2,746.35**
	(19.91)	(30.48)	(67.84)	(79.87)	(27.17)	(86.98)	(187.38)	(1,175.90)
2010×Postgrad	-4.91	64.71**	91.72*	267.76***	13.00	79.72	580.89***	1,062.97
	(17.92)	(30.87)	(51.73)	(94.55)	(21.53)	(90.44)	(196.52)	(812.54)
2013×Postgrad	-1.10	56.11*	92.27**	241.00**	20.37	58.98	753.67***	2,124.83***
	(18.00)	(30.19)	(39.04)	(108.25)	(18.17)	(73.54)	(227.25)	(626.13)

Notes: All values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices. GCG denotes gross capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)$, NCG denotes net capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)-\rho k$. All regressions include entrepreneur's characteristics (gender, race and marital status dummies and a quadratic polynomial in age), year dummies and a constant. Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses, *** p-value < 0.01, ** p-value < 0.05, * p-value < 0.1.

Table A5: Quantile regressions, year dummies specification cont'd

	Investment k				Gross Capital gains, GCG				Net Capital gains, NCG			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	p25	p50	p75	p90	p25	p50	p75	p90	p25	p50	p75	p90
1992×College	2.15	12.91	78.38	-20.86	-0.09	0.92	-29.46	-86.61**	-0.99	-0.51	-21.97	-86.31**
	(4.05)	(11.15)	(112.80)	(306.37)	(0.67)	(4.03)	(44.01)	(41.37)	(5.09)	(2.93)	(40.52)	(40.88)
1995×College	-2.22	12.52	117.87	122.00	0.04	-2.54	-29.73	-54.41	-3.58	-2.28	-25.68	-67.42
	(4.62)	(10.75)	(109.45)	(270.90)	(0.63)	(3.58)	(43.68)	(51.16)	(5.16)	(3.33)	(40.28)	(54.50)
1998×College	3.10	24.49	137.12	213.16	0.39	-2.00	-41.09	-68.32	-7.43	-2.51	-41.04	-95.37**
	(4.39)	(18.38)	(115.28)	(344.56)	(0.64)	(3.47)	(44.42)	(52.66)	(7.94)	(3.09)	(39.59)	(45.63)
2001×College	1.37	21.02	94.54	143.44	-0.00	-0.41	-24.83	-24.01	-2.41	-0.21	-15.38	-38.94
	(6.20)	(17.39)	(116.29)	(331.75)	(0.73)	(3.53)	(42.53)	(59.75)	(5.53)	(3.12)	(38.32)	(59.27)
2004×College	6.44	51.16***	248.16*	410.35	-0.33	-0.78	-24.14	21.95	-6.84	-3.12	-18.24	-13.09
	(5.67)	(17.99)	(135.00)	(321.77)	(0.89)	(3.89)	(44.11)	(59.98)	(6.04)	(3.59)	(42.15)	(69.10)
2007×College	1.86	18.48	131.51	260.38	0.01	-1.30	-23.91	15.04	-2.67	-2.16	-22.66	-57.98
	(4.51)	(11.65)	(112.51)	(293.91)	(0.70)	(4.24)	(41.36)	(96.02)	(4.93)	(3.22)	(39.49)	(95.49)
2010×College	-0.60	12.69	87.03	244.93	-0.03	-1.82	-39.29	-68.79	-3.20	-2.46	-33.74	-63.77
	(4.44)	(12.71)	(118.05)	(504.63)	(0.56)	(3.52)	(42.78)	(47.43)	(4.91)	(3.26)	(40.20)	(48.05)
2013×College	6.16	75.89***	526.91**	1,819.54***	0.15	-1.33	-28.78	-54.85	-15.38	-2.71	-34.77	-93.17*
	(5.02)	(28.53)	(215.36)	(477.34)	(0.60)	(3.41)	(43.41)	(52.45)	(11.34)	(3.09)	(39.72)	(48.12)
1992×Postgrad	1.33	-27.90	-31.36	29.38	0.53	2.19	5.01	-9.97	17.51	0.30	7.39	-11.09
	(5.04)	(43.16)	(119.39)	(547.41)	(2.68)	(2.68)	(9.14)	(39.07)	(12.14)	(1.94)	(10.13)	(31.67)
1995×Postgrad	1.66	-7.81	95.26	377.54	-1.30	-0.15	2.28	11.44	5.30	-0.79	-2.19	4.13
	(5.98)	(46.73)	(144.49)	(590.86)	(2.81)	(2.04)	(8.45)	(45.51)	(12.24)	(2.41)	(9.16)	(35.01)
1998×Postgrad	2.25	-7.89	64.70	346.56	1.18	3.31	9.51	71.09	14.83	0.55	2.22	35.36
	(6.07)	(43.81)	(127.92)	(585.73)	(2.74)	(3.29)	(12.35)	(59.04)	(13.54)	(2.02)	(14.09)	(38.40)
2001×Postgrad	-1.15	-12.76	83.61	791.26	0.70	5.10*	17.49*	50.53	17.42	3.27	15.28	47.38
	(5.53)	(45.07)	(128.08)	(560.11)	(2.87)	(3.04)	(10.48)	(49.84)	(12.66)	(2.51)	(11.83)	(39.03)
2004×Postgrad	7.76	4.11	317.43**	818.15	0.11	0.05	4.60	45.46	13.62	-1.82	1.56	25.58
	(8.48)	(55.14)	(151.43)	(810.41)	(2.91)	(2.29)	(9.26)	(57.61)	(13.45)	(2.02)	(12.05)	(43.32)
2007×Postgrad	1.74	-11.57	119.62	724.23	0.48	4.14	15.04	106.29	15.26	1.15	3.34	45.24
	(5.30)	(45.61)	(145.52)	(630.61)	(2.77)	(2.69)	(12.93)	(68.27)	(12.17)	(2.38)	(13.35)	(64.39)
2010×Postgrad	0.97	32.93	305.26**	711.90	0.05	1.19	7.86	9.47	12.66	-0.10	4.76	10.30
	(6.19)	(48.35)	(152.71)	(652.68)	(2.82)	(2.10)	(11.03)	(44.32)	(12.37)	(1.90)	(10.57)	(32.73)
2013×Postgrad	3.53	11.54	104.35	671.74	0.58	2.55	26.47*	90.46**	16.09	0.73	11.77	80.72**
	(5.31)	(43.15)	(144.55)	(626.00)	(2.72)	(2.10)	(14.48)	(41.24)	(12.14)	(1.91)	(12.79)	(33.48)

Notes: All values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices. GCG denotes gross capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)$, NCG denotes net capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)-\rho k$. All regressions include entrepreneur's characteristics (gender, race and marital status dummies and a quadratic polynomial in age), year dummies and a constant. Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses, *** p-value < 0.01, ** p-value < 0.05, * p-value < 0.1.

Table A6: Sectoral specialization, year dummies specification

	(1) θ	(2) ϕ	(3) $d+l$	(4) M	(5) k	(6) GCG	(7) NCG
College	-5.5	-30.2	27.2	597.6**	588.0**	6.1	-32.6
	(52.3)	(52.3)	(22.3)	(244.6)	(294.3)	(28.2)	(45.9)
Postgraduates	46.1	10.8	61.5***	293.6	262.0	7.7	-15.4
	(40.0)	(39.2)	(23.1)	(250.3)	(193.5)	(21.7)	(31.3)
1992×College	51.8	56.8	14.4	-501.9*	-535.4*	2.4	37.4
	(54.6)	(54.8)	(26.0)	(259.3)	(304.6)	(29.1)	(47.3)
1995×College	95.9	99.3	20.2	-325.2	-616.2*	34.9	75.7
	(60.6)	(60.7)	(28.5)	(303.9)	(320.8)	(32.9)	(50.2)
1998×College	73.2	82.9	48.2*	-324.4	-492.9	0.2	25.1
	(58.7)	(58.7)	(27.8)	(328.6)	(301.9)	(33.9)	(49.8)
2001×College	88.8	90.0	40.6	27.7	-363.2	31.2	48.2
	(55.5)	(55.5)	(27.0)	(299.1)	(309.6)	(30.2)	(47.7)
2004×College	126.0**	128.6**	55.9**	512.6*	-228.6	53.5*	70.0
	(56.7)	(56.8)	(26.6)	(301.5)	(341.5)	(30.0)	(50.1)
2007×College	74.1	67.1	16.9	267.5	-178.6	41.1	57.2
	(62.3)	(62.5)	(26.7)	(359.0)	(316.1)	(36.9)	(52.8)
2010×College	75.3	69.5	-3.8	-90.7	-591.9	33.8	79.0
	(62.3)	(62.2)	(25.0)	(288.3)	(368.1)	(32.8)	(53.1)
2013×College	50.3	47.9	41.8	466.9	177.2	20.1	8.5
	(61.3)	(61.6)	(29.4)	(326.4)	(355.6)	(33.2)	(52.9)
1992×Postgrad	23.8	26.2	18.5	-274.8	-220.1	-14.7	5.3
	(47.7)	(47.0)	(30.3)	(283.3)	(247.9)	(24.6)	(36.5)
1995×Postgrad	55.6	44.0	50.2*	241.9	13.9	14.9	5.4
	(58.1)	(58.4)	(28.1)	(349.8)	(324.2)	(30.2)	(51.4)
1998×Postgrad	113.4**	103.3**	82.1***	309.1	-165.8	26.1	31.3
	(47.1)	(46.2)	(30.3)	(337.6)	(237.1)	(25.9)	(35.7)
2001×Postgrad	112.8**	92.1*	99.0**	645.0*	205.1	29.1	13.8
	(54.6)	(53.7)	(39.1)	(335.5)	(224.1)	(26.7)	(35.9)
2004×Postgrad	152.4**	121.7*	131.6***	979.7***	400.3	36.6	20.9
	(63.3)	(62.2)	(42.4)	(364.0)	(297.5)	(27.2)	(39.0)
2007×Postgrad	210.2***	175.4***	152.7***	1,100.0**	86.1	53.5*	57.6
	(52.8)	(51.4)	(35.2)	(428.3)	(219.9)	(31.5)	(38.7)
2010×Postgrad	149.7***	103.7*	113.8***	928.6***	316.5	31.9	35.9
	(55.9)	(55.4)	(32.3)	(342.7)	(340.6)	(29.9)	(44.8)
2013×Postgrad	153.7***	123.7**	122.7***	864.7**	140.6	35.3	30.9
	(51.1)	(50.3)	(36.5)	(343.5)	(281.4)	(23.2)	(36.1)
N. of Obs.	7250	7250	7250	7250	7250	7250	7250

Notes: All values are in thousands of dollars at constant 2010 prices. GCG denotes gross capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)$, NCG denotes net capital gains equal to $\lambda(M-k)-\rho k$. All regressions include entrepreneur's characteristics (gender, race and marital status dummies and a quadratic polynomial in age), year dummies and a constant. Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses, *** p-value < 0.01, ** p-value < 0.05, * p-value < 0.1.