

Il Dipartimento di Economia Organizza il Seminario

REGIONAL CONVERGENCE OF BIOLOGICAL STANDARD OF LIVING: THE PATTERNS OF ITALIAN STATURE IN THE LAST CENTURY

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Abstract

The paper extends the conceptual framework of convergence in per-capita income to that of biological standard of living by dynamics in height. We extend the exogenous growth model to derive a close form for the biological standard of living convergence. The empirical strategy is then performed in two steps. First, we empirically show that height is largely defined by conditions of an individual at birth. We exploit homogeneous data regarding military conscripts at the age of medical examination, to estimate the speed of convergence of regional height for more than a century, and test the existence of catching-up patterns between southern and northern areas of Italy. Based on conscripts' micro-data, we also estimate the speed of convergence of height of the Italian provinces for the period 1951-1980, as a sensitivity analysis of the results obtained from regional data. Lastly, we estimate the contribution of South-North internal migrations on over-estimation of the convergence of southern areas.

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La partecipazione è aperta a tutti gli interessati