

Common structural changes: the case of university enrollment rates

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Abstract:

The paper scrutinizes the issue of similarity of structural changes among heterogeneous panel data units, delivering a procedure that tests a cosine similarity measure for being equal to zero with the use of the bootstrap. The methodology provides first empirical evidence on similarity of mechanisms of reaction of dynamics of a variable on shocks among panel data units. Applying the methodology to study changes in growth rates of university enrollment in countries, the paper discovers the role of internet technologies' development, dynamics of enrollment by skill levels and globalization in explanation patterns of acceleration in the 1990s and deceleration after 2010 of growth rates of university enrollment.