

# Behavioral barriers to success in education

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# PROPOSITIONS

TO ACCOMPANY THE DISSERTATION

OF

ALEXANDRA DE GENDRE

1. Aspirations and beliefs of students, parents and teachers are important for children's success in education.
2. Large income disparities in adulthood can originate in large aspirational disparities in youth. (Chapter 1)
3. Uncertainty about eligibility to university financial aid can discourage vulnerable students. (Chapter 2)
4. Exposure to higher-achieving classroom peers can increase test scores, even without increasing aspirations or changing behavior. (Chapter 3)
5. Older siblings' ability can bias teachers in favor of younger siblings, reinforcing stereotypes and affecting long-run educational trajectories. (Chapter 4)
6. Economics is not just about efficiency, it's also about fairness.
7. Al Roth argues that economists are market engineers; Esther Duflo that they are policy plumbers. I guess the truth lies in the middle: perhaps mechanics?
8. There wouldn't be any jobs in economics if humans made perfect decisions.
9. The best advice I received during my PhD is also the simplest: just get it out.