

## Master's Thesis Abstract

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<i>Thesis Title</i> Selection Effects on Season of Birth Variation in Later Life Outcomes: The Case of Education Attainment in Malawi.	
<i>Abstract</i> Identifying the mechanisms that influence education attainment is important for designing effective interventions to improve education outcomes. This thesis explores how selection intervenes through maternal nutrition to cause unexpected seasonal variation in years of schooling in Malawi. Foetal conditions are known to influence later life outcomes including education attainment. In Malawi, maternal nutrition during pregnancy varies by season. However, contrary to expectations birth weight does not vary by season of birth. On the other hand, years of schooling vary by season of birth but the direction of association with maternal nutrition is opposite to expectations. Evidence is presented that suggests that the selection mechanism can explain these discrepancies. The revelations provide important insights into the interpretation of assessments of education interventions.	