

Supplementary Information for

Quantifying Hierarchy and Prestige in US

Ballet Academies as Social Predictors of Career Success

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21 **S1 Youth America Grand Prix**

22 The Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) is a highly influential ballet competition that aims to
23 discover and reward young dancers. This paid event provides education and job opportunities
24 to dance students in pre-professional training, and is seen as an effective way to promote dancers
25 on the path to successful careers. The competition is held in two stages, with multiple regional
26 semi-finals and one final competition each year. Participants are divided into age categories:
27 Pre-Competitive (9-11 years old), Junior (12-14 years old), and Senior (15-19 years old; 20 years
28 old after the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020).

29 The competition recognizes dancers with two types of awards. The first are the competition
30 medals: gold, silver, and bronze, which are given based on aggregate scores across various
31 judges and dance categories. The second is the Grand Prix, which is a subjective appreciation
32 of exceptional performance, awarded by a committee of judges without explicit criteria. Both
33 awards can be given during the semi-finals or finals; the medals may reflect ties, while the
34 Grand Prix is only awarded to one student per division, or may not be given at all. The YAGP
35 publicly reports the medal and Grand Prix winners, and overall top students (up to top 12)
36 by year and location. As many YAGP competitors are awarded scholarships and professional
37 contracts in ballet companies, the YAGP also reports on the successes of its alumni, including

38 their pre-professional affiliations and current job placements.

39 **S2 Ballet Schools**

40 We define a ‘ballet school’ as any organization that offers ballet training. In the US, the structure
41 of ballet schools vary in their organization. There are both university and non-university pro-
42 grams. For instance, the Higher Education Arts Data Services 2020-2021 report lists 76 univer-
43 sities affiliated to the National Association of Schools of Dance. For the context of this research,
44 we must consider that most dancers competing at YAGP would engage in pre-professional ballet
45 training in non-university institutions because of the competitive age divisions, ranging from 10
46 to 19 years old.

47 **S2.1 Distribution of Ballet Schools across the U.S.**

48 We explore the geographic location of schools to map the distribution of ballet academies across
49 the US. To do this, we perform a Google search of all schools’ addresses to find their georefer-
50 ence. Simultaneously, we confirm the formation of communities in the network of ballet schools
51 using the Louvain algorithm [1], as this helps understand whether schools tend to compete in
52 clusters. We find that the communities detected with the algorithm and their geographical re-
53 gions strongly overlap. We show the resulting network in Figure S1 with colors assigned based

on the community detected and node's position based on actual US regions, as: Northeast, East,
Midwest, South, and West.

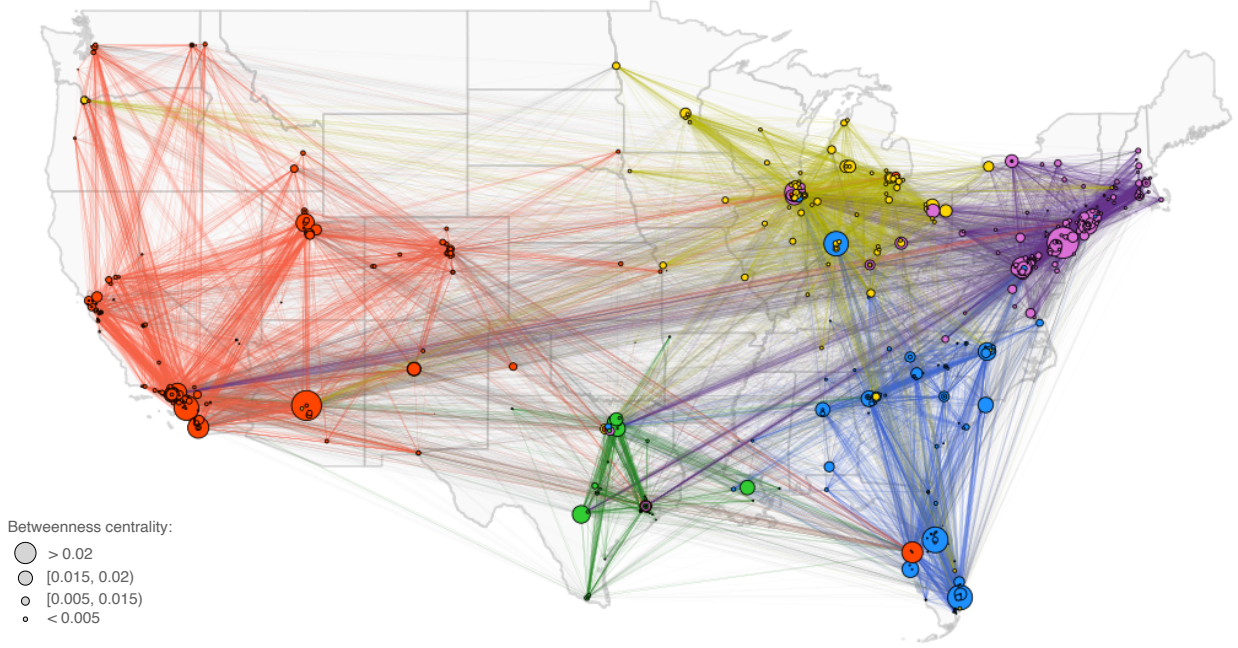


Figure S1: **Network of ballet schools in the US.** Ballet schools are nodes, and two schools are linked by winning in the co-competition of the YAGP. Node size by schools' betweenness centrality, B_k . Schools' location corresponds to their actual geographical location. Nodes are colored by detected communities Γ : Northeast (purple), East (blue), West (orange), South (green), and Midwest (yellow). Edge color/gray for intra/inter community links.

S2.2 Schools' achievement

Achievement, measured by the number of awards received per school, is an important factor influencing prestige because it can capture the level of social recognition that one institution has for its outstanding performance. Here, we explore schools' achievement in the YAGP competition and the existing patterns in the distribution of awards, to test the relationship with network centrality. This analysis provides insights on whether social prestige is rooted in achievement,

62 or it is also related to the richness of professional connections.

63 From the YAGP's structured data, we quantify schools' achievement as a proxy derived from
64 the number of awards received during their participation in the competition. We compute the
65 following metrics:

66 i. *School's total number of awards, A_k* : the sum of awards a from the total competitions J
67 (semi-finals and finals), that each student i from the set of students I obtains per competi-
68 tion j when they are affiliated to school k . This can be noted as $A_k = \sum_{i=1}^I \sum_{j=1}^J A_{ij} \theta_{ijk}$,
69 where A_{ij} is the individual sum of awards per competition, $\theta_{ijk} = 1$ is given if the student
70 i is affiliated to school k for the competition j , and $\theta_{ijk} = 0$ otherwise.

71 ii. *Ratio of awards per school, R_k* : the ratio of obtained awards derived from the number of
72 competitions where affiliated students ranked as top 12. The ratio of awards for schools is
73 $R_k = \frac{A_k}{T_k}$ where T_k is the total top students affiliated to school k , given by $T_k = \sum_{i=1}^I \theta_{ik}$
74 for $\theta_{ik} = 1$ if a student is affiliated to k , and $\theta_{ik} = 0$ otherwise; then R_k gives the number
75 of awards per student affiliated to each school. Here, $R = 0$ indicates that no awards were
76 obtained, $R = (0, 1)$ indicates less than one award per competition, $R = 1$ gives an even
77 relation between the number of awards and competition, and $R > 1$ for those with more
78 than one award per competition in top 12. We label each group as 'no medals', 'under-
79 achiever', 'break-even', and 'high-achiever', respectively for each ratio group mentioned

above.

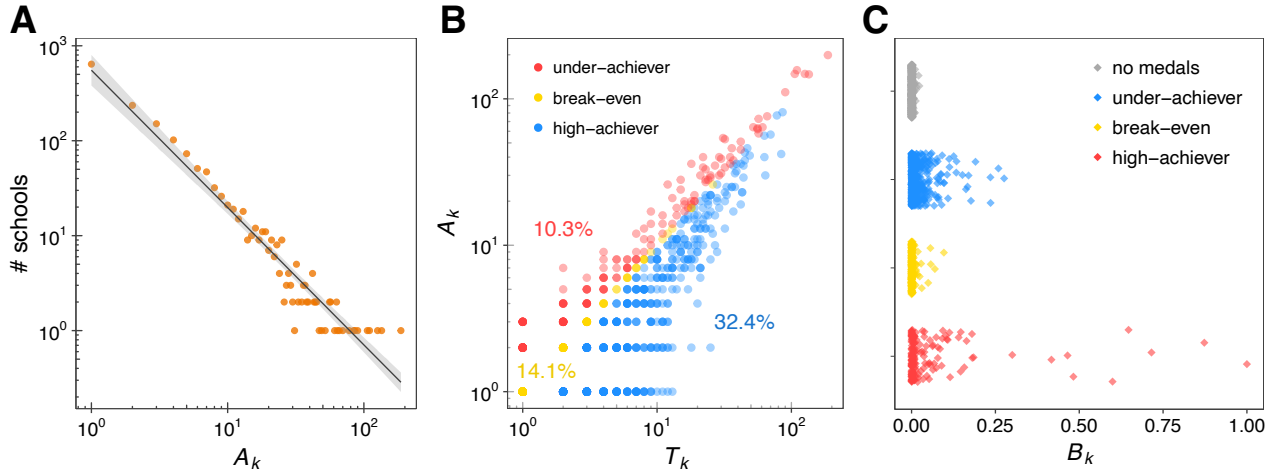


Figure S2: **Awards and centrality of ballet schools.** **A** shows the fat-tailed distribution of total awards per school, A_k , indicating that from those schools obtaining awards, most of the have only one, and only a few have more than more than 100 awards. **B** shows the log distribution of awards A_k respect to the number of students T_k per school k , i.e. ratio of awards, R_k . Color indicates the corresponding group by ratio of awards and their percentage (plot not displaying schools with ‘no medals’, $A_k = 0$). Only 56.8% of schools obtained at least one award, and the total number awards increases proportionally to the number of students. However, the ratio of ‘high-achievers’ is independent from their number of top students. **C** shows the relationship of betweenness centrality, B_k , with each group by ratio of awards. Schools with no medals (in gray) have the lowest centrality value, while only highly central schools are in the ‘high-achievers’ group.

Figure S2A shows the total number of awards per school, from which we observe a fat-tail distribution, indicating that most schools who have won awards have obtained only one or two awards, while a few schools collected more than 100 awards. To better understand the relationship between the total number of awards (A_k) and the total number of students (T_k) per school k , we compute the ratio of awards as $R_k = A_k/T_k$. From this ratio, four groups of schools are observed (see distribution of in Figure S2B). We find that about 75% of schools have a low ratio of awards. For instance, 692 schools (43.2% of all) did not receive any awards

88 ($R_k = 0$), even though they had top students listed by the YAGP; and 519 schools (32.4%) are
89 ‘under-achievers’, with less than one award per top student ($R_k = (0, 1)$, in blue). Conversely,
90 only 227 schools (14.1%) have a ‘break-even’ ratio ($R_k = 1$, in yellow), indicating one award
91 per top student; and only 10.3% of schools (165 schools) are ‘high-achievers’ ($R_k > 1$, in red),
92 meaning that their students obtain more than one award. Noteworthy, the ‘high-achiever’ group
93 ranges from very low to a higher number of students, indicating that a high ratio of awards is
94 independent of the frequency of schools’ participation in the competition.

95 Next, we examine the relationship between schools’ ratio of awards and betweenness centrality.
96 In Figure S2C, we observe that most schools are located in the lower quartile of betweenness
97 centrality, B_k . Schools with no medals (in gray) have the lowest centrality values, closer to zero.
98 On the contrary, only highly central schools are in the ‘high-achievers’ group, yet this group
99 also includes low centrality schools. Moreover, ‘under-achiever’ schools have a wider distribution
100 across the lower quartile, indicating that these schools can have higher centrality than the other
101 groups.

102 Taken together, these findings help contextualize the existing relationship between achieve-
103 ment and its variation by schools’ network position.

S2.3 Ranking of Ballet Schools

To rank schools by their social prestige, we first evaluate different network centralities and schools’ achievement to test what measure captures prestige more accurately. The network centralities are listed in Table S1 and were selected based on the reported association of network position and social prestige [2] (For more details, see Methods 4.2). Achievement is measured by the number of awards received per school (see SI S3.1), an important factor influencing prestige because it can capture the level of social recognition that one institution has for its outstanding performance [3, 4]. To control the effect of the number of awards (A_k) by the number of students (T_k , a proxy of schools’ size), we compute the ratio of awards as $R_k = A_k/T_k$ and include it as a metric of achievement.

Table S1: Centrality metrics to assess the prestige of ballet schools. Formula in general notation as described in the specified citation.

Network measure	Description	Formula
Betweenness	how much a node connects two other nodes	$B_i = \sum_{s,t} \frac{n_{s,t}^i}{n_{s,t}}$ [5]
Closeness	a node’s proximity to other nodes	$C_i = \frac{n-1}{\sum_{v=1}^{n-1} d(v,u)}$ [6]
Degree	a node’s connectivity	$D_i = \frac{k_i}{N-1}$ [7]
Eigenvector	a node’s influence	$E_i = \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_k a_{k,i} E_k$ [8]

Separately, we collect an external selection of prestigious schools by ballet experts from different sources. First, *Dance Magazine*, a leading multimedia platform in the dance world, that

also partners with other dance sources in multiple publications (e.g. Pointe, Dance Spirit, and Dance Teacher). We use their selection of top pre-professional academies for the academic year 2022-2023 [9]. Separately, we collect the list of top ballet schools in the US and the 2023 Summer Intensive Guide from the blog *A Ballet Education*, one of the most reliable online ballet experts for teachers, students, ballet professionals, and ballet lovers [10]. In total, the list of top schools formed from these sources, contains 60 schools' names, shown in Figure S3.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The Rock School for Dance Education, PA | 31. Houston Ballet Academy, TX |
| 2. Master Ballet Academy, AZ | 32. Milwaukee Ballet, WI |
| 3. Indiana Ballet Conservatory Inc, IN | 33. A&A Ballet, IL |
| 4. Southland Ballet Academy, CA | 34. Boston Ballet School, MA |
| 5. Orlando Ballet School, FL | 35. BalletMet Dance Academy, OH |
| 6. The Art of Classical Ballet, FL | 36. Interlochen Center for the Arts, MI |
| 7. Ballet West Academy, UT | 37. Ballet Conservatory at Skyra, FL |
| 8. Ellison Ballet, NY | 38. Nashville Ballet, TN |
| 9. Cary Ballet Conservatory, NC | 39. West Met Classical Training, MN |
| 10. Metropolitan Ballet Academy & Company, PA | 40. National Ballet Academy Denver, CO |
| 11. Anaheim Ballet Academy, CA | 41. Nutmeg Conservatory, CT |
| 12. Colorado Ballet Academy, CO | 42. Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, PA |
| 13. The Sarasota Cuban Ballet School Inc, FL | 43. Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet, PA |
| 14. Maryland Youth Ballet, MD | 44. The School of American Ballet, NY |
| 15. Elite Classical Coaching, TX | 45. School of Ballet 5:8, IL |
| 16. Joffrey Ballet Academy, NY | 46. Dmitri Roudnev Ballet School, IL |
| 17. Sarasota Ballet School, FL | 47. Oregon Ballet Academy, OR |
| 18. Joffrey Academy of Dance, IL | 48. Neglia Ballet, NY |
| 19. Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy, OH | 49. Tulsa Ballet Center for Dance Education, OK |
| 20. The Ballet Clinic, AZ | 50. Sacramento Ballet, CA |
| 21. Koltun Ballet Boston, MA | 51. Alonzo King LINES Ballet School, CA |
| 22. Harid Conservatory of Music Inc, FL | 52. Saint Louis Ballet School, MO |
| 23. Texas Ballet Theater School, TX | 53. Oklahoma City Ballet Yvonne Chouteau School, OK |
| 24. Timothy M Draper Center for Dance Education Inc, NY | 54. Philadelphia Ballet, PA |
| 25. Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, PA | 55. Ballet Austin Academy, TX |
| 26. Kansas City Ballet School, MO | 56. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at ABT, NY |
| 27. Vitacca Vocational School for Dance, TX | 57. Miami City Ballet School, FL |
| 28. City Ballet San Francisco, CA | 58. State Street Ballet, CA |
| 29. BalletCNJ, NJ | 59. The Portland Ballet, OR |
| 30. San Francisco Ballet School, CA | 60. Princeton Ballet School, NJ |

Figure S3: **List of top schools.** Selection of top schools by US experts from *Dance Magazine* and *A Ballet Education*. Schools listed in no particular order.

We implement a classification model using a binary system for the list of Top Ballet Schools (1:top school, 0:no top school) to test the schools' centrality and achievement measures' accuracy

124 to capture social prestige. Considering each metric in separate models, we measure the area
 125 under the curve (AUC) of the classification model (Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve,
 126 ROC) using the `pROC` package for R [11]. The AUC is a score between 0 and 1, where a value
 127 closer to 1 indicates a probability of correct classification, while a score lower than 0.5 indicates
 128 that the model performs no better than random guessing. AUC and ROC for each centrality
 129 are shown in Figure S4. The AUC=0.75 suggests that betweenness centrality (Fig. S4A) is
 130 the most accurate centrality measure capturing social prestige, respect to the other centrality
 131 metrics (Fig. S4B-D). On the other hand, when we explore the ratio of awards (number of total
 132 awards controlled by school size) we observe the lowest accuracy in predicting schools' prestige
 133 (Fig. S4F), with an AUC=0.71.

134 Further, we order the schools by their betweenness centrality and create a ranking list. In this
 135 rank, a school k with $r_k = 1$ has the largest centrality value, i.e. is more central or prestigious,
 136 and the largest rank value (e.g. $r_k = 945$) has the lowest centrality in the set of schools K .
 137 Based on the number of observations per school, we select the upper 5% of schools from the
 138 network-based ranking. The list of schools is shown in Figure S5. We use this selection for the
 139 further treatment effect of being in a top school on job placement, notated as $Y_i = 1$ for students
 140 affiliated to a prestigious school, and $Y_i = 0$ for students who attended a less prestigious school.

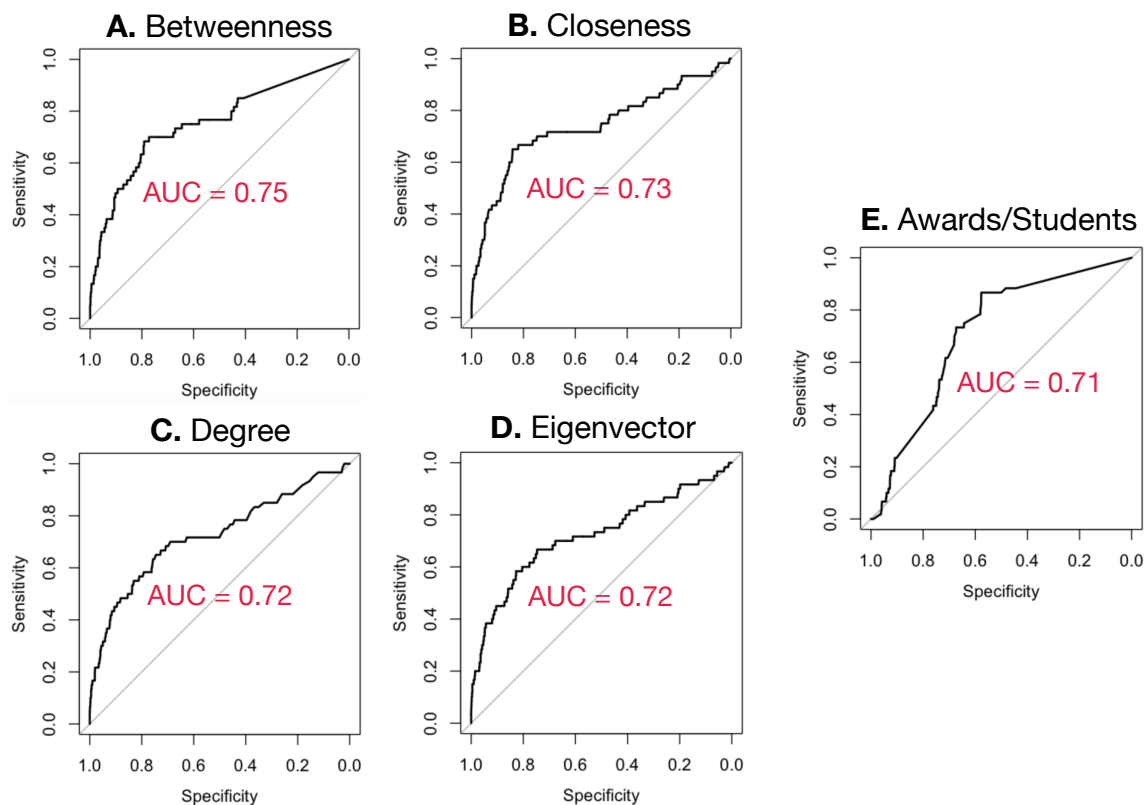


Figure S4: **AUC for network centrality and ratio of awards.** Panel **A** shows that betweenness centrality is the best indicator of prestige with the largest AUC=0.75 among all centralities in panels **B-D** and schools' achievement, in panel **E**.

- 1.The Rock School for Dance Education, PA
- 2.Master Ballet Academy,AZ,
- 3.Indiana Ballet Conservatory Inc, IN
- 4.Dmitri Kulev Classical Ballet Academy, CA
- 5.The Kirov Academy of Washington, DC
- 6.Southland Ballet Academy, CA
- 7.Orlando Ballet School, FL
- 8.Marat Daukayev Ballet Theatre Inc, CA
- 9.Faubourg Theatre Inc, IL
- 10.The Art of Classical Ballet, FL
- 11.Danceology Academy of Classical Ballet, CA
- 12.Next Generation Ballet, FL
- 13.University of North Carolina School of the Arts, NC
- 14.Ballet West Academy, UT
- 15.Pacific Coast Academy of Dance, CA
- 16.Ellison Ballet, NY
- 17.The Dallas Conservatory,TX
- 18.The Academy of Ballet Arts Inc
- 19.The Washington Ballet School, DC
- 20.The Academy of Dance Arts, IL
- 21.International Ballet School, CO
- 22.CityDance School & Conservatory, MD
- 23.Dance Center of San Antonio,TX
- 24.V&T Classical Ballet & Dance Academy, CA
- 25.The Rock Center for Dance, NV
- 26.International City School of Ballet, GA
- 27.Alwin School of the Dance, NM
- 28.Ballet Conservatory,TX
- 29.Cary Ballet Conservatory, NC
- 30.Westlake School for the Performing Arts, CA
- 31.Metropolitan Ballet Academy & Company, PA
- 32.Akhmedova Ballet Academy, MD
- 33.Greenwich Ballet Academy Inc, CT
- 34.Jacqueline's School of Ballet, UT
- 35.Classical Ballet Academy, CA
- 36.Odasz Dance Center, NY
- 37.Stars Dance Studio, FL
- 38.Los Angeles Ballet Academy, CA
- 39.Fishback Studio of the Dance, NM
- 40.Anahaim Ballet Academy, CA
- 41.Mid-Atlantic Center for the Performing Arts, MD
- 42.MorningStar Dance Academy of Atlanta, GA
- 43.Americas Ballet School, FL
- 44.Colorado Ballet Academy, CO
- 45.Yuri Grigoriev School of Ballet, CA
- 46.Marina Almayeva School of Classical Ballet, TX
- 47.Steps On Broadway, NY
- 48.Festival Ballet Providence, RI
- 49.Summit Dance Shoppe, MN
- 50.Julianas Academy of Dance, MI
- 51.Coastal Dance Centre, SC
- 52.South Carolina Governors School for the Arts and Humanities, SC
- 53.Valentina Kozlova Dance Conservatory of New York, NY
- 54.Zamuel Ballet School, CO
- 55.Long Beach Ballet, CA
- 56.International Ballet Academy, NC
- 57.The Sarasota Cuban Ballet School Inc, FL
- 58.Academy of Russian Ballet,VA
- 59.Maryland Youth Ballet, MD
- 60.Peninsula School for Performing Arts, CA
- 61.Aika Ballet School, NY
- 62.Litchfield Dance Arts Academy, SC
- 63.Academy of Russian Classical Ballet, MI
- 64.All American Classical Ballet School, FL
- 65.First State Ballet Theatre Inc, DE
- 66.Westchester Dance Academy, NY
- 67.Olga Kresin Ballet School and Studio, PA
- 68.Elite Classical Coaching, TX
- 69.Joffrey Ballet Academy, NY
- 70.Russian Ballet Academy, AZ
- 71.Sarasota Ballet School, FL
- 72.Littleton Ballet Academy, CO
- 73.Joffrey Academy of Dance, IL
- 74.Columbia Conservatory of Dance, SC
- 75.Dance Industry Performing Arts Center,TX
- 76.Art Ballet Academy, TX
- 77.Florida School for Dance Education, FL
- 78.Pittsburgh Ballet House, PA
- 79.Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy, OH
- 80.Ballet Arte Academy of Classical Ballet, CA
- 81.Columbus Youth Ballet, OH
- 82.Ballet Tech Ohio, OH
- 83.The Ballet Clinic, AZ
- 84.Russian Ballet Academy of Indiana, IN
- 85.Dancing Arts Center, MA
- 86.Burbank Dance Academy, CA
- 87.Hudson Conservatory of Ballet, OH
- 88.Menlo Park Academy of Dance, CA
- 89.School of Classical Ballet & Dance, IA
- 90.Emerald Ballet Theatre,WA
- 91.Artistry in Motion Performing Arts Center,TX
- 92.North County Academy of Dance, CA, USA
- 93.Ohio Conservatory of Ballet, OH, USA

Figure S5: **Ranking of ballet schools.** The list contain the top 5% most prestigious U.S. ballet academies from the network-based ranking.

141 S3 YAGP Alumni

142 S3.1 Students' achievement

143 We quantify students' performance in the competition by means of the number of awards and
144 the times they are listed as top students by the YAGP. We use these measures as a proxy of
145 performance in ballet. We compute the following metrics:

146 i. *Student's total competitions, T_i* : the number of semi-final competitions as a top student.

147 Multiple participation in the competition per year are possible, thus T_i denotes only com-
148 petitions in the semi-finals.

149 ii. *Student's total number of awards, A_i* : the sum of awards a each student i obtains per

150 competition j , considering the medals earned in each category (c = classical, m = con-

151 temporary), and the *Grand Prix* (g). Then, $A_i = A_{ic} + A_{im} + A_{ig}$, where for $A_{ic} = \sum_{j=1}^{T_i} a_{ij}$,

152 $a_{ij} = 1$ when a dancer was awarded a medal in the classical category for the competitions

153 j up to T_i for all semi-final competitions in C , and $a_{ij} = 0$ meaning that the student

154 did not obtain a medal. The notation is the same for all possible awards in c , m , and g .

155 One student cannot win more than one medal per category in each competition, then the

156 possible number of awards in a given competition would be $A_{ij} = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$. In a similar

fashion, competition medals per student are counted by type (gold, silver, bronze).

iii. *Ratio of awards per student, R_i* : the ratio of obtained awards derived from the number of competitors ranked as top 12. The ratio of awards for students is given by $R_i = \frac{A_i}{T_i}$ and averages the awards obtained per student in each competition. Similarly to schools' ratio of awards, $R = 0$ indicates that no awards were obtained, $R = (0, 1)$ indicates less than one award per student, $R = 1$ gives an even relation between the number of awards and student (e.g. one student won one award every time he was listed as top 12), and $R > 1$ for those with more than one award per student in top 12. We label each group as 'no medals', 'under-achiever', 'break-even', and 'high-achiever', respectively for each ratio group mentioned above.

In Figure S6A, we observe the power-law distribution of students' number of awards, A_i . This indicates that only a few students win multiple awards, while the majority can achieve at least one medal. This distribution of awards is consistent with the one observed in the number of awards per school (Figure S2A). Most students (75%, 4824 students) have a success ratio lower than one, indicating that they win less than one award per competition. From this fraction, 3642 students (57% of all) obtained 'no medals', $R_i = 0$, even though they were listed in the top 12. Figure S6B shows that, from those who obtained at least one medal, a 18.5% (1182 students, in blue) are 'under-achievers', $R_i = (0, 1)$, meaning that they obtained less awards

175 than the number of times they were listed in the top 12 ($A_i < T_i$). Conversely, a very small
 176 fraction of students (4.8%, 309 students, in red) are ‘high-achievers’, characterized by a high
 177 success ratio, $R_i > 1$, with more awards than the number of times they were listed in the
 178 top 12 ($A_i > T_i$). Only 19.7% of students (1260 students, in yellow) obtained a ‘break-even’
 179 success ratio ($R_i = 1$). One would expect that the number of awards per student (A_i) strongly
 180 correlates with the total times in the top 12 (T_i), indicating that awards accumulate as students
 181 participate in the competition. Such relationship is moderate (Pearson’s corr. coefficient=0.68),
 182 suggesting that being listed in the top 12 multiple times is not a strong but a mild predictor
 183 of the total number of awards. The majority of students (3511 students, 55%) have only one
 184 reported competition in the top 12 ($T_i = 1$), but we see in Figure S6D that all groups by ratio
 185 of awards have an exponential distribution respect to T_i . This indicates that there is a general
 186 pattern of variability in T_i that is independent of students’ success ratio, S_i and also illustrates
 187 that the awards are actually scarce, even among top contenders.

188 To explore the distribution of awards, we compute the observed probability of obtaining an
 189 award, $P(\Lambda)$, where Λ represents each award by their implied rank. Such implied rank Λ is for
 190 semi-finals (SF): no medals, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Grand Prix; and for the finals (F): no medals,
 191 Bronze, Silver, Gold, Grand Prix (this rank does not assume the award value given by individ-
 192 uals). We divide the total number of awards per rank by the total number of top 12 students in

193 the competition pool. Figure S6C shows that YAGP competitors have a 0.62 probability of being
194 positioned in the top 12 without winning an award, while winning a competition medal in the
195 semi-finals has about 0.1 of probability for gold, silver, and bronze. Interestingly, the probability
196 of winning the *Grand Prix* in the semi-finals is rather low (0.03) but higher than being in the top
197 12 of the finals without obtaining an award (0.017 probability). Winning any competition medal
198 in the YAGP finals has a very small probability ($Pr(\Lambda = \{\text{F: bronze, silver, gold}\}) < 0.005$),
199 and the probability of winning the Grand Prix at this competition level is even smaller (0.002).
200 Taking all together, our findings draw a picture of the level of competitiveness that YAGP com-
201 petitors face and shows how repeated competitions do not imply a higher success ratio, even
202 among top contenders, and raise the question about what factors different from persistence –and
203 accumulated practice/experience– can determine dancers to be recognized by the jury in the
204 YAGP competition venues.

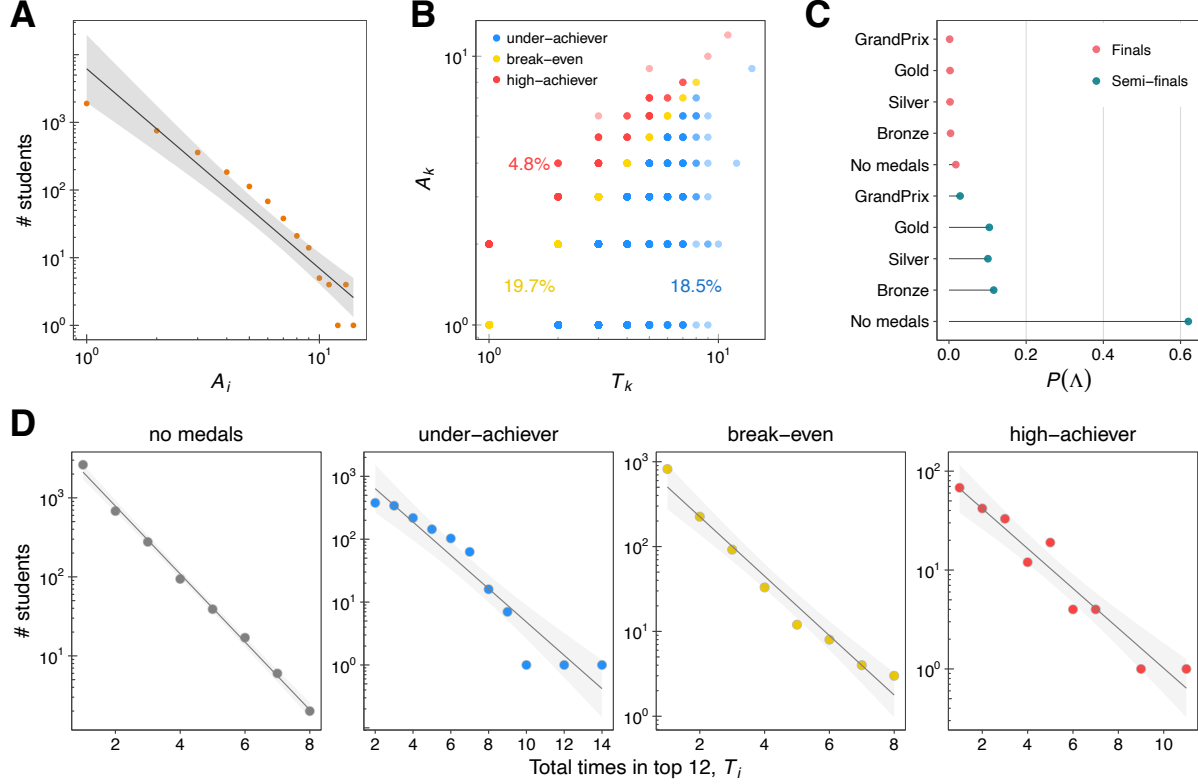


Figure S6: **Awards of ballet students.** **A** shows the count of the number number of awards per student A_i , with a power-law distribution. This indicates that most students obtained only one award, while only a few obtained more than 10 awards. **B** shows the percentage of students by group of success ratio, R_i , obtained from dividing the number of awards by the number years they positioned as top student. Taken together, ‘no medals’ ($R_i = 0$, in gray) and ‘under-achievers’ ($R_i = (0, 1)$, in cyan) represent the 75.3% of the total number of competitors (6393 students), meaning that most competitors win less than one award per top positioning. About 19.7% of students (1260 students) wins one award per top positioning ($R_i = 1$, in yellow), while only 4.8% of students (309 students) obtains more than one award per time they position as top student. **C** shows the probability of obtaining awards by rank for the finals/semi-finals in orange/blue. We see that a most top students do not obtain an award, and the probability of being awarded decreases as the rank increases, emphasizing scarcity in high rank awards (i.e. Finals). **D** shows the count of students and their number of competitions, T_i by their ratio of awards group, R_i , and demonstrates that all groups display an exponential distribution, suggesting that there is a general pattern of variability in the number of awards obtained per student disregarding of the number of semi-finals competitions.

205 S3.2 Students' success

206 Table S2 shows four variations of our base model. Model 1 corresponds to model described in
207 Eq. 2. In model 2, we test for the potential effect of advancing to the competition finals by
208 adding a dummy variable for being a finalist ($F_i = 1$) or not ($F_i = 0$). Models 1 and 2 are
209 discussed in the results section.

210 In model 3, we examine the role of an affiliation for a job placement. Here, we replace the
211 measure of school's prestige with a dummy variable for being affiliated ($D_i = 1$) or being an
212 independent competitor ($D_i = 0$). This model shows no statistical effect for attending a school
213 versus being an independent competitor, suggesting that there is no statistical difference of
214 being affiliated or not regarding the chances of obtaining a job placement. Separately, in model
215 4 we explore the effect of total competition medals and observe that winning any medal has a
216 significant but small positive effect on the chances of obtaining a job placement, increasing only
217 by 49%.

218 In addition, we check for robustness of our treatment effect analysis on being affiliated to a
219 top school, and observe that when we use the top 10% of schools (148 schools, 4217 controls,
220 3501 treated), the chances of job placement increase by 43% ($p = 0.0015$).

221 In sum, our analyses show that school prestige has a robust and significant positive effect on

dancers' job placement, a comparable effect respect to being a finalist, but more importantly,
that even when performance is similar, there are social factors such as prestige driving the
selection of dancers towards successful company positions.

Table S2: **Model Coefficients for the Probability of Success.** Model coefficients labeled by p -value. Standard errors in parentheses.

	<i>Dependent variable = Success S_i (job placement)</i>			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Affiliation D_i			0.319 (0.391)	
Prestige	1.201*** (0.190)	1.136*** (0.193)		1.203*** (0.190)
Grand Prix	0.809*** (0.113)	0.515*** (0.127)	0.862*** (0.110)	0.831*** (0.112)
Gold	0.45*** (0.091)	0.344*** (0.093)	0.448*** (0.088)	
Silver	0.45*** (0.091)	0.413** (0.091)	0.472*** (0.089)	
Bronze	0.276** (0.096)	0.258** (0.097)	0.295** (0.095)	
Total				0.403*** (0.053)
Finalist F_i		1.0*** (0.184)		
Competitions	-0.238*** (0.058)	-0.208*** (0.058)	-0.234** (0.059)	-0.244*** (0.058)
Gender: male	0.754*** (0.121)	0.756*** (0.121)	0.915*** (0.116)	0.751*** (0.121)
Constant	-3.135*** (0.111)	-3.193*** (0.112)	-3.608*** (0.393)	-3.138*** (0.111)
<i>Note:</i>				
			* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$	
Observations	6393	6393	6475	6393
McFadden pseudo R^2	0.085	0.095	0.075	0.08
AIC	2640.3	2615.3	2911.5	2638.9
AUC	0.7327	0.7374	0.7286	0.7312

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