

# the MINORITY REPORT



AMERICAN  
ECONOMIC  
ASSOCIATION

The annual news of the AEA's Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession, the National Economic Association, and the American Society of Hispanic Economists

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## HOW ERRORS IN CENSUS COUNTS AFFECT FEDERAL SPENDING

By Juan Carlos Suárez Serrato, Duke University

The US Constitution (Art. 1, Sec. 2) charges the government with conducting a Census every ten years for the purpose of apportioning representatives. In advance of the 2020 Census, the Trump administration sought to add a question about citizenship status to the Census. This proposal generated significant controversy over its intent. The Secretary of Commerce justified it by citing a request from the Department of Justice stating that citizenship data were necessary to better enforce the Voting Rights Act.<sup>1</sup> This motive was challenged in court.

As part of the lawsuit, emails from the Department of Commerce revealed the involvement of proponents of voter-eligible redistricting—that is, political representation based on voter-eligible population rather than total population—in the proposal to add the citizenship question,<sup>2</sup> as well as the role of the Department of Commerce in soliciting the original data request from the Department of Justice.<sup>3</sup> The Supreme Court blocked the citizenship question for the 2020 Census, noting that adding a citizenship question “cannot adequately be explained in terms of DOJ’s request for improved citizenship data to better enforce the VRA.”<sup>4</sup>

Although the outcome is that the citizenship question will not be added to the Census in 2020, the Supreme Court did not rule directly on its legality, and therefore the impact of collecting citizenship data in the Census remains an important issue to consider. Beyond the controversy over political representation, collection of



citizenship data in the Census could have significant implications for the allocation of federal spending.

Opponents of the citizenship question note that this question would intimidate immigrant communities from responding to the Census, which would result in errors in population counts. Errors can also result from other factors, such as limited testing due to underfunding of the Census as well as the use of new but untested technologies (Elliot et al. 2019). Because a large number of federal spending programs rely on local population estimates to allocate spending, these errors could lead to misallocation of federal funds.

This report describes recent economic research on how errors in Census population counts, regardless of

continued on page 4 ▶

# CONTENTS

## FEATURES

### **How Errors in Census Counts Affect Federal Spending**

by Juan Carlos Suárez Serrato,  
Duke University. . . . . 1, 4-6

### **The National Economic Association at 50 Years: Looking Ahead**

by Margaret C. Simms, The Urban Institute, and Charles Z. Wilson,  
University of California,  
Los Angeles . . . . . 9-11

### **(Professional) Climate Change**

by Amanda Bayer,  
Swarthmore College. . . . . 16-19

## PIPELINE PROGRAMS

**Summer Training Program** . . . . . 3

**Summer Economics Fellows Program** . . . . . 3

**The Mentoring Program** . . . . . 3

## ECONOMISTS TO WATCH

**Gerald Jaynes**  
*Reaching Beyond Economics to Answer the Big Questions* . . . . 7-8

**Rhonda Vonshay Sharpe**  
*A WISE(R) Woman* . . . . . 12-13

**Patrick Mason**  
*Challenging Orthodoxy* . . . . 14-15

## ECONOMIC JOBS BEYOND ACADEMIA . . . 20-22

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACTIVITIES . . 23-35

## THE MINORITY REPORT

### Advancing Minority Representation in the Economics Field

The Minority Report is a joint publication of the American Economic Association's Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession (CSMGEP), the American Society of Hispanic Economists (ASHE), and the National Economic Association (NEA). Published annually, The Minority Report showcases the people, programs, research, and activities of the three groups, which together work to increase the representation of minorities in the economics profession.

### **Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession (CSMGEP)**

was established by the American Economic Association (AEA) in 1968 to increase the representation of minorities in the economics profession, primarily by broadening opportunities for the training of underrepresented minorities. CSMGEP, which is composed of economists from all areas of the profession, also works to ensure that issues related to the representation of minorities are considered in the work of the AEA, and engages in other efforts to promote the advancement of minorities in the economics profession.

[www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/committees/csmgep](http://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/committees/csmgep)

**The American Society of Hispanic Economists (ASHE)** is a professional association of economists whose primary goals are promoting the vitality of Hispanics in the economics profession, promoting rigorous research on economic and policy issues affecting US Hispanic communities, and engaging more Hispanic Americans to effectively participate in the economics profession.

[www.asheweb.net](http://www.asheweb.net)

### **National Economic Association (NEA)**

was founded in 1969 as the Caucus of Black Economists to promote the professional lives of minorities within the profession. In addition to continuing its founding mission, the organization is particularly interested in producing and distributing knowledge of economic issues that are of exceptional interest to promoting economic growth among native and immigrant African Americans, Latinos, and other people of color.

[www.neaecon.org](http://www.neaecon.org)

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# PIPELINE PROGRAMS

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## ► Summer Training Program

The AEA Summer Training Program (AEASP) at Michigan State University is an intensive two-month residential program that offers talented undergraduates from underrepresented minorities the opportunity to develop and solidify skills needed in doctoral programs in economics and related fields. The program consists of courses—in math, microeconomics, econometrics, and research methods—as well as seminars, workshops, and trips designed to support the needs of students seriously considering postgraduate studies in economics. Depending on their incoming level of preparation, participants are enrolled at the foundations or advanced level. After completing the foundations level, students may apply again in future years to return at the advanced level.

Program includes travel costs to/from Michigan, room and board, and a \$3,250 stipend.

**When:** May 28–July 26, 2020

**Where:** Michigan State University, in collaboration with Western Michigan University

**Application download:** <http://econ.msu.edu/aeasp>. Essays, references, and transcripts required for consideration.

**Application deadline:** January 31, 2020

**For more information:** email [AEASP@msu.edu](mailto:AEASP@msu.edu), call (517) 884-8468, or visit <http://econ.msu.edu/aeasp> @AEASPmsu

## ► Summer Economics Fellows Program

Sponsored by the American Economic Association and the National Science Foundation, the Summer Economics Fellows Program is designed to increase the participation and advancement of women and underrepresented minorities in economics.

Fellows spend a summer in residence at a sponsoring research institution, such as a Federal Reserve Bank or other public agency. Summer economics fellowships are available to senior graduate students and junior faculty.

Fellowships are open to all economists without regard to gender or minority status, although the goal of the program—advancing the careers of women and underrepresented minorities—will drive the selection process.

**Application deadline:** February 1, 2020

**For more information,** visit the AEA website at <https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/committees/summer-fellows-program>

## ► The Mentoring Program

Established in the mid-1990s, the AEA Mentoring Program (formerly known as the Pipeline Program) is generously supported by the National Science Foundation. The program matches black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native American economics PhD students and new PhD graduates with mentors in the field, and also facilitates networking between senior economists and students at all stages of the educational and career pipelines. One of the program's main activities is the Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference, which brings together the mentees in the program, their mentors, other senior economists in and outside of academia, and the undergraduate students in the AEA Summer Training Program. Moreover, the Mentoring Program provides limited funding to support the research and travel of the mentees, including for presentations at major conferences.

**For applications and more information,**

see the AEA website:

<https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/committees/csmgpep/mentoring>

[AEAMentoring@gmail.com](mailto:AEAMentoring@gmail.com)

@AEAMP1

**Deadlines for funding requests:** March 1, August 15, and October 1, 2020

cause, can impact the distribution of federal spending. Because minority communities face a higher risk of being undercounted, limiting the extent of errors in Census counts can ensure that minority communities receive planned expenditures and are not otherwise shortchanged.

## SPENDING AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF CENSUS UNDERCOUNTS AND ERRORS

Censuses usually result in substantial revisions to local population estimates. In Suárez Serrato and Wingender (2016), we estimate that when Census counts replaced intercensal population estimates in 1990, 2000, and 2010, more than half of US counties saw a change in population estimates of more than 2.5 percent. Moreover, one in five counties saw a change of more than 5 percent. One concern is that these adjustments could be larger after the 2020 Census since it will be the first to be completed largely online.

## MECHANICAL SPENDING EFFECTS

It is surprisingly hard to tally all the federal spending programs that directly or indirectly depend on Census counts. Given the numerous programs, statutory formulas, and other spending limitations, the question is complicated. Two recent efforts use statutory spending formulas to estimate the extent to which federal funding depends on the Census. Blumerman and Vidal (2009) calculated that 15 percent of federal outlays in 2007, or about \$440 billion, relied on population estimates. More recently, the George Washington University project “Counting for Dollars” estimated that about \$883 billion in federal funding depended on Census data (George Washington Institute of Public Policy 2017). While these efforts identify a large amount of federal spending,

they are not comprehensive of all spending programs that depend on Census data. Moreover, they do not calculate how undercounting a single person impacts the distribution of federal funds.

In Suárez Serrato and Wingender (2016), we estimate the effect of an additional person on all federal spending. To do so, we use revisions of population estimates that follow when data from a new Census replace previous estimates. Our estimates show that changes in population estimates are strong predictors of changes in federal spending. We calculate that counting an

additional person results in about \$476 in additional federal funds per year.

As an example of how errors in counts could affect federal spending, consider the case of California. According to the Public Policy Institute of California (Johnson and Sanchez 2019), 2 million undocumented immigrants lived in California in 2010. If the citizenship question intimidates 10 percent of these people from participating in the Census, California could lose close to \$95 million per year in federal funds. If the citizenship question also intimidates US

citizens who are relatives of undocumented immigrants, the number could be even higher.<sup>5</sup> For example, Elliot et al. (2019) estimate that a low-risk assessment for California implies a 0.95 percent undercount of the state population, which would result in a loss of \$180 million per year.

In addition to California, states that face a relatively higher risk of undercounting include Texas, Nevada, and North Carolina. Washington, DC, also is at risk of undercounting. Moreover, black and Hispanic communities face a higher risk of being undercounted and underfunded. Since Census numbers are used as the basis for future population estimates, these errors would have lasting effects on the distribution of federal spending.

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## ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF MISALLOCATED SPENDING

One important question is whether the allocation of federal spending has any effect on economic outcomes. Answering this question is complicated by the fact that automatic stabilizers lead additional spending to be allocated to areas in economic decline, which would bias a simple regression of economic growth on federal spending. In Suárez Serrato and Wingender (2016), we use revisions in population estimates as an instrumental variable for federal spending to show that additional federal spending has multiplier effects on local economic activity. Specifically, we find that personal income increases by \$1.80 for every dollar of additional federal spending.

We also find that a new job is created with every \$30,000 of additional spending. Importantly, we find that the additional economic activity is not driven by geographic reallocation and that spending has larger effects in areas with slower economic growth.

Beyond affecting income and employment, federal funds support local services, including social services, community development, transit system infrastructure, and schools. If these nonmarket goods are highly valued by recipients, the loss in federal funds will have broader economic implications. In Suárez Serrato and Wingender (2014), we measure the willingness to pay for the services provided with these additional funds. We do this by estimating the degree to which additional spending attracts new residents. By comparing this migration response to that of shocks that increase local income, we calculate how much workers value the consumption of local public services. We find that workers value an additional dollar of federal funds at \$1.55. This additional value is largely due to the consumption of publicly provided goods. Moreover, we find that additional spending disproportionately benefits workers without a college degree since they place a larger value on public services.

These results show that when a population is undercounted, the economic losses to the community are larger than the simple loss in federal funds. In addition to affecting local employment and income, a population undercount prevents the government from providing the amount of public goods that would correspond with the actual population. When considering how a citizenship question and other potential sources of error can affect Census counts and spending, economists must therefore consider local fiscal multiplier effects as well as effects on the provision of local public services.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

This report focused on the spending implications of errors in population counts that could arise from the addition of a citizenship question to the Census or other reasons. Because local economic activity and the provision of local public services depend on accurate population counts, further research should investigate how to produce more reliable population estimates at the local level.

In addition to spending implications, collection of citizenship data in particular could impact political representation. The Census produces data used for apportioning House seats. If Congress decides to apportion House seats on the basis of the voting-eligible population rather than total population, states with a large share of undocumented Americans could lose political representation.<sup>6</sup> States could also decide to use data on the voting-eligible population to draw district lines, which could diminish the representation of immigrant communities. The data could also be used to further partisan gerrymandering.<sup>7</sup> It is therefore important to consider how changes in political representation could further affect the distribution of federal funds. ■

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross to Karen Dunn Kelley, Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Re: Reinstatement of a Citizenship Question on the 2020 Decennial Census Questionnaire, March 26, 2018, [https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2018-03-26\\_2.pdf](https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2018-03-26_2.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Email from Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, July 14, 2017, in Commerce Department's Administrative Record for Census Citizenship Question Lawsuits, <https://apps.npr.org/documents/document.html?id=4500011-1-18-Cv-02921-Administrative-Record#document/p776/a428457>.

<sup>3</sup> An email noted: "We need to work with Justice to get them to request that citizenship be added back as a census question." Email from Earl Comstock to Wilbur Ross and Ellen Herbst, May 2, 2017, page 3710 of Administrative Record for Census Citizenship

Question Lawsuit, <https://apps.npr.org/documents/document.html?id=4616785-May-2-2017-Email-From-Earl-Comstock#document/p1/a441444>.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Commerce et al. v. New York et al., No. 18-966, 588 US (2019) at 4-5, [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/18-966\\_bq7c.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/18-966_bq7c.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Additionally, nonlinear effects of population estimates could lead to larger losses of federal funds. Specifically, formulas like the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages rely on population estimates in a nonlinear fashion. See, e.g., RULE 26(A)(2)(B) Expert Report and Declaration of Andrew Reamer, PhD, New York Immigration Coalition et al. and State of New York et al. v. United States Department of Commerce and Wilbur L. Ross Jr., in his official capacity as Secretary of Commerce, et al., US District Court for the Southern District of New York, Civil Action No.

1:18-cv-0502, <https://www.dropbox.com/s/7yfywwqggymxok/Expert%20Report%20of%20Andrew%20Reamer.pdf?dl=0>.

<sup>6</sup> For reports of ongoing uncertainty over the apportionment of House seats, see Wang (2019).

<sup>7</sup> Letter from Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP and American Civil Liberties Union to the Honorable Jesse M. Furman, United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, Re: NYIC Plaintiffs' motion for an order to show cause, in State of New York, et al. v. U.S. Dep't of Commerce, et al., 18-CV-2921 (JMF), [https://www.commoncause.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-05-30-Letter-Motion-dckt-587\\_0.pdf](https://www.commoncause.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-05-30-Letter-Motion-dckt-587_0.pdf).

# REACHING BEYOND ECONOMICS TO ANSWER THE BIG QUESTIONS

Gerald Jaynes

*Professor of Economics & African American Studies, Yale University*



An unexpected snowstorm that blanketed the Midwest one Friday in 1968 set Gerald Jaynes on his career path. He was a 21-year-old soldier stationed near Boston on a flight to Chicago when the storm hit. The passengers finally reached their destination Sunday morning by train. Many of them were bound for an American Economic Association meeting in Chicago.

"I ended up spending the weekend with all these economists," said Jaynes, who was about to start his freshman year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "You've got to take economics!" they told him.

Today Jaynes is an expert on the economic conditions of African Americans and known for his research on the economic impact of immigration. His varied career accomplishments span academic disciplines. One he is most proud of is developing Yale's combined doctoral degree in African American Studies and what is now 14 different disciplines.

Jaynes grew up in the Illinois prairie town of Streator, the son of a mason. His family was among the area's few black residents, and many of them, including his father, had graduated

from high school at a time when few African Americans did. Jaynes knew from a young age he was headed to college.

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**This nice black face was smiling at me. I said, 'I'll take this as a sign,' and I went into economics.**

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"I was sheltered from problems a lot of black males in large cities might have had in believing that they could succeed and compete in the larger society," he said. "I'm the only black person in any class, and I'm finding out that I'm smart."

After three years in the Army, including a year in South Vietnam, he enrolled at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He liked the economics courses he took but fell in love with philosophy and chose it as his major.

Soon after graduation, he was still debating which graduate program to pursue when he picked up a copy of the American Economic Review. Inside he saw a picture of Sir William Arthur Lewis, who later won a Nobel Prize in economics. "This nice black face was smiling at me. I said, 'I'll take this as a sign,' and I went into economics."

Not long after completing his PhD at Urbana-Champaign, he published a groundbreaking paper describing an economic result now known as the Jaynes-Hellwig-Glosten allocation. It describes how markets where buyers and sellers have incomplete information about each other, such as insurance or credit markets, arrive at a state where supply equals demand.

Much of his work is more interdisciplinary, drawing on methods from history and the humanities. Jaynes credits the influence of two early mentors—one a historian and

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the other a professor of African American literature—for his interest in “conceptually big” research questions that cannot “be answered with a simple economic model.”

In his first book, which drew on historical records from the Freedmen’s Bureau, he upended the prevailing idea among both historians and economists that family-based sharecropping in the American South had arisen quickly after the end of the Civil War.

He also led a monumental interdisciplinary study for the National Research Council on the status of black Americans since World War II. The report, *A Common Destiny: Blacks and American Society*, won acclaim and served as a resource for researchers and policymakers.

In recent years, he has testified before Congress and the US Civil Rights Commission on the economic impact of immigration.

Working with a demographer, he expected to find that immigrants were displacing the least educated black men from low-wage employment. Their findings surprised them. The effect on African American employment was either zero or very low and only in isolated industries and locations, such as meatpacking in Arkansas and Nebraska.

“Shutting off immigration, which has a net positive effect for the entire economy, to protect a few thousand black workers, I don’t think that’s good policy,” he said. “We should be doing something else for those black workers.”

Jaynes advises doctoral students and early-career economists to seek out original problems and methods that allow them to be conceptually creative. He says he never wrote a paper he thought that someone else could just as easily write. “When I spend a lot of time on a project, it’s because I have something unique to bring to it.” ■

## PROUST QUESTIONNAIRE

*A salon and parlor game of the 19th century, made most famous by Marcel Proust’s answers, the Proust Questionnaire (adapted here) gets to the heart of things...*

▶ **What’s on your nightstand?**

A book called *Playing the Numbers: Gambling in Harlem Between the Wars*. Also *Pride and Prejudice*. I’m a romantic. I love Jane Austen.

▶ **Which job would you like to have if you weren’t an economist?**

Civil rights attorney. That’s keeping it to something I could actually do. If it’s wide open, I would be a jazz musician.

▶ **What’s your greatest fear?**

That I won’t finish the two books I’m writing.

▶ **What’s the hardest thing you’ve ever done?**

I survived a year in the Vietnam War; that was pretty hard. But telling my children their mother had unexpectedly died was harder. So was being a widower.

▶ **What historical figure do you most identify with?**

Mahatma Gandhi, since I first learned about him in the fourth or fifth grade.

▶ **What trait do you most deplore in other people?**

Intellectual dishonesty.

▶ **What trait do you most admire in other people?**

Compassion.

▶ **Which talent would you like most to have?**

I would like to be a much better networker and self-promoter. I am really very introverted. Most people wouldn’t guess it, but I am.

▶ **What’s your biggest regret?**

I didn’t have any girls to date in high school because there wasn’t any interracial dating. I was the only guy on the football team that couldn’t get a date.

▶ **What do you consider your greatest achievement?**

You’re not supposed to answer children, which would be the answer. But it would be my role in creating the combined doctoral program with African American Studies and the many departments at Yale. That will be a living, breathing thing long after I’ve gone.

# THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION AT 50 YEARS: LOOKING AHEAD

By Margaret C. Simms, *The Urban Institute*, and Charles Z. Wilson, *University of California, Los Angeles*

The National Economic Association (NEA) turned 50 in December 2019. It began as the Caucus of Black Economists (CBE), a name that reflects its origins in the marginalization of black economists within the American Economic Association (AEA) and the profession as a whole. Two leaders of the effort to engage the AEA in the

campaign to increase the number of black economists in the profession and to expand their participation in the annual meetings were Charles Z. (C.Z.) Wilson and Marcus Alexis. They had forged an alliance when both were on the faculty at DePaul University in 1961 and

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*A meeting of the Caucus of Black Economists, circa 1973. Pictured, left to right, are Robert Vowels (1974 CBE Chair), Thaddeus Spratlen (1970-75 CBE Secretary-Treasurer), Karl Gregory (1974 CBE Chair), Charles Z. Wilson (1972 CBE Chair), Margaret Simms (1978-79 CBE Chair), and John Jenkins of the Office of Minority Business Enterprises.*

received Ford Foundation postdoctoral fellowships designed to strengthen teaching in economics.

They started with a realistic demand for attention to the paucity of black economists that was well within the AEA's organizational capability and piggybacked on an interest expressed in an AEA program session announced for December 1969, "Increasing the Supply of Black Economists." Using financial resources from the UCLA Faculty Development Program, Wilson and Alexis reached out to black economists all over the country, urging them to attend the annual meetings in New York in December 1969 and to support an organized effort to challenge the AEA to engage in strategies to increase opportunities for black economists' development.

After the session, a group of 65 black economists, from academic and non-academic institutions, met to discuss how they would move these issues forward. They established a steering committee for the newly named Caucus and presented a bill of particulars to the AEA Executive Committee. It included requests for greater representation and decision-making by black economists within the AEA and partnerships to develop long-term programs for increasing the supply of black economists. The AEA did not grant all the demands, such as a request for the appointment of an associate secretary, identified by the Caucus of Black Economists, who would be responsible for activities designed to improve the status of economists from black and other ethnic communities. But outgoing president William

Fellner and incoming president James Tobin did establish a committee that evolved into the Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession (CSMGEP), and they agreed to allow the Caucus of Black Economists to develop several panels that were

included in the 1970 annual meetings. The AEA also agreed to sponsor a summer program for undergraduates of color interested in pursuing economics as a career. However, the AEA put relatively little money into the program.

UCLA, where early officers C.Z. Wilson and Thaddeus Spratlen were on the faculty, served as the fiscal agent for the Caucus and provided funds through its Faculty Development Program. It was able to do so because of the university's overall support for diversity within academia and its financial resources to develop black faculty established by Charles Hitch, who became president of the University of California system in 1968. In addition to university funding, the Caucus secured outside funding through grants and contracts. Wilson, recently appointed to President Nixon's Advisory

Council for Minority Enterprises, began conversations with John Jenkins, at that time the director of the Office of Minority Business Enterprises (OMBE), about the prospects of funding the Caucus to create "clusters" of research and services to aid minority-owned enterprises. After considerable discussion, OMBE agreed to fund the development of regional research clusters for two years beginning in spring 1972, just as a 1971 Ford Foundation grant for a research and service program for black economists based at UCLA was coming to an end.

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In the days before social media and widespread electronic communication, the fledgling organization had to convene the small group of black economists in order to share views, exchange information at length, and critique each other's work. To do this, the Caucus formed regional chapters and sponsored research workshops.

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In the days before social media and widespread electronic communication, the fledgling organization had to convene the small group of black economists in order to share views, exchange information at length, and critique each other's work. To do this, the Caucus formed regional chapters and sponsored research workshops. One early effort to support scholarship among young black economists was a summer PhD fellowship program spearheaded by UCLA. Some of these summer fellows presented papers at the 1971 AEA meetings.

While UCLA was an anchor for black economists on the West Coast, Atlanta University's School of Business, where Robert Vowels was dean, provided support and meeting facilities in the Southeast. The business school hosted several meetings of academic and policy-oriented black economists from HBCUs, including a 1973 meeting that brought together black researchers and black entrepreneurs to discuss black economic development in the South. The business school also hosted many Caucus board meetings. The Atlanta University Center consortium was the academic home for several early officers who guided the Caucus of Black Economists as it became the National Economic Association, including Vowels, Edward Irons, Barbara Jones, and Margaret Simms.

That transition, in 1975, reflected the organization's decision to take up initiatives independent of its shared commitment with the AEA to promote the advancement of people of color within the profession. Among these was the establishment of awards and recognitions to honor blacks for their accomplishments within the economics profession. For those who had made significant contributions through scholarship, teaching, and policy work, the NEA established the Westerfield Award, named after the first recipient, Ambassador Samuel Z. Westerfield. To recognize scholarly contributions of new PhDs of color, the Rhonda Williams Dissertation Award was established. And to highlight work in international economics, the NEA established the W. Arthur Lewis lecture, presented by scholars continuing in the tradition of the noted black scholar and Nobel laureate.

Concurrent with the Caucus's development was the founding of the Black Economic Research Center (BERC) by Robert S. Browne of Fairleigh Dickinson University. Based in Harlem, New York, BERC provided a supportive research environment for black scholars and others interested in black economic development. Browne also founded *The Review of Black Political Economy* in 1970 and transferred ownership of the journal to the NEA in 1976 when BERC closed. The Atlanta University Center, and later Clark Atlanta University, served as the copublisher of the *Review* for over two decades. The journal, still owned by the NEA, moved its publishing home to Sage Publications in 2018.

Over the years, the larger environment has changed, and the NEA has adapted accordingly. With increasing diversity within the economics profession, the NEA has developed strong relations with CSMGEP and the American Society of Hispanic Economists (ASHE) to support areas of overlapping interest. The number of black economists has grown slowly, and a larger proportion are based in majority white institutions. They increasingly work in research institutes, both freestanding and within their academic institutions. Exchanging views on economic issues and circulating preliminary research are increasingly done by electronic means rather than face-to-face.

But much remains the same in terms of the need to expand black economists' presence and role within the profession. The summer program for undergraduate students pioneered by Marcus Alexis in the 1970s continues to be needed, and it continues to thrive, currently under the leadership of Lisa D. Cook at Michigan State University. And the leadership of the National Economic Association moves ahead under a new generation of black economists with their own ideas about how to help black economists advance within the profession. But with change there is continuity: the 2019 NEA president, Omari Swinton, who recalls attending AEA and NEA meetings as a child, now leads the organization once guided by his father, 1983 NEA president David Swinton. ■

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## RESOURCES

*The Review of Black Political Economy* and *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, various years; CBE and NEA records.

## A WISE(R) WOMAN

### Rhonda Vonshay Sharpe

Founder and President, Women's Institute for Science, Equity, and Race

Choosing the alt-ac path is rarely easy. Just ask Rhonda Sharpe. But as she'll also contend, the alternative path can also be the most rewarding.

Sharpe is the founder and president of a new think tank on equity, the Women's Institute for Science, Equity, and Race, or WISER. WISER is working to ensure that policy research addresses the economic, social, cultural, and political well-being of Asian, black, Hispanic, Native American, and multiracial women.

"I want to shine a light on populations that have been very much ignored," she said. In economics, for example, there have been efforts to advance women in the field. But while women as a group have made small strides, "some women of color weren't included in that list." In economics, and society more broadly, she says, "when we talk about women, we mean white women."

Sharpe has been thinking about WISER for nearly a decade, beginning when she was a tenured professor at Bennett College. In 2012, she left Bennett, giving up tenure in the process. "People will tell you to suck it up, you've got a job for life," she said of giving up tenure. "But they don't think about what being in a hostile space does to you mentally and physically."

She took a visiting position at Duke to collaborate with William "Sandy" Darity. In 2008, the two had founded the Diversity Initiative for Tenure in Economics (DITE), a mentoring program to seed the pipeline with

“

People will tell you to suck it up, you've got a job for life. But they don't think about what being in a hostile space does to you mentally and physically.

”

more diverse faculty. Yet she kept the idea of WISER alive all the while. A visiting professorship beckoned her to Bucknell University. The courtship seemed to go well, but in the end, they wanted to hire a more junior faculty member. The irony did not escape her.



"I'm in this profession that keeps talking about diversity," she said. "I'm the co-founder of a program that's about mentoring junior faculty to tenure, I've been the associate director for the AEA Summer Program. And yet here I am, I can't find a job."

Sharpe's research has focused on questions of representation, from a study of whether math requirements were holding women back from economics (they weren't), to diversity in STEM programs, to who attends for-profit colleges. A through-line in the work is an underlying question of access and gender bias.

In her case, she suspects that her deviation from the preferred path came with penalties. "It puts question marks around you," she said.

But looking back, maybe it was the nudge she needed to return to the goal of setting up WISER. And if she was looking for another sign, she found one early in the process. Concerned about being without a paycheck, she wanted to get WISER off the ground, pronto. She paid \$100 to fast-track the nonprofit status

paperwork in 24 hours. Compulsively checking her email, she waited. And waited. She went running to calm her nerves. When she checked her email again in Starbucks after her run, there it was, the confirmation she'd been waiting for. Her running partner reminded her of what day it was: International Women's Day. "That is when I knew this is what I should be doing," she said.

The process has not always been easy, but "I'm learning so much about me. I look at all the things I've done in academia, but this is mine, my legacy."

Ultimately, she says, she wants the work that WISER does to make it hard

for people to talk about women, or any group, as a monolithic group. And in doing so, as a former student told her, she will build a wiser generation of women.

Sharpe will be the first to admit that flying without a net isn't easy. "There's days when I wake up and think, 'What makes you think you can do this?'" She also feels alone at times.

"I sometimes feel like I don't have a community. I'm doing something that most people don't get. I do a lot of this alone."

Alone, however, doesn't mean without support. She says her mom, Betty, her stepdad, Aubrey, and her uncle Jack

are her cheerleaders. "My family has taught me the difference between co-signing a dream and supporting a dream," she said.

She also likes to keep it all in perspective. Not landing an academic job was hard, but she didn't fall apart. "It didn't paralyze me," she said. "It was a failure, but not the end of the world. And I entered a new world that I probably should have entered 10 years ago. WISER is my biggest achievement. Even if I never do anything with it, even if the reports we publish gain no attention, it's still my biggest achievement. It's still me stepping out." ■

## PROUST QUESTIONNAIRE

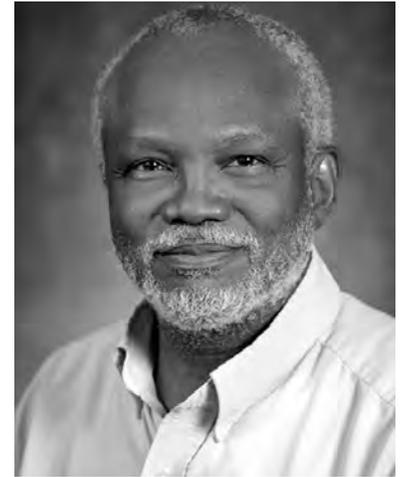
*A salon and parlor game of the 19th century, made most famous by Marcel Proust's answers, the Proust Questionnaire (adapted here) gets to the heart of things...*

- ▶ **What's on your nightstand?** Technology: a laptop, iPad, tablet, phone.
- ▶ **What's your greatest fear?** That I might not be dreaming big enough.
- ▶ **Which words or phrases do you most overuse?** You are not the boss of me!
- ▶ **What fictional figure do you most identify with?** Miss Piggy. She's a portly woman with confidence.
- ▶ **What trait do you most deplore in other people?** Insincerity. People who are inconsistent, and people who lie. Also, complainers with no skin in the game.
- ▶ **What trait do you most admire in other people?** I admire folks who don't tear others down. There's lots of people reminding you of all the things you're not.
- ▶ **Which job would you like to have if you weren't an economist?** A life coach.
- ▶ **What is your airport vice?** Hot dogs or nachos.
- ▶ **What is your greatest extravagance?** My niece and my nephews. They suck up a lot of my money.
- ▶ **What do you consider your greatest achievement?** WISER and ignoring the chatter. People still send me job announcements.
- ▶ **Mountain or beach vacation?** Beach.
- ▶ **What's the hardest thing you've ever done?** Being true to me. I don't walk in spaces and conform. This is me all the time. That's hard.

# CHALLENGING ORTHODOXY

**Patrick Mason**

*Professor of Economics and Director, African American Studies Program,  
Florida State University*



When Patrick Mason was studying economics, there was a moment when it all began to fall apart for him. He was in graduate school at the University of Michigan, deep into the study of economic theory, when he came across a central tenet of neoclassical economics: that labor is never exploited. Having toiled from age 4 to 19 picking fruit in the orange groves of the Deep South for piece-rate pay, he knew better. It was a disillusioning moment that cemented his many other doubts about the theories he was studying. It was also the moment when he began his search for an economics that made sense to him, and that better represented the working class of America.

Mason grew up in Sebring, Fla., pop. 6,000, and like his neighbors and family members, he worked in the fields picking oranges, watermelon, tomatoes, and cucumbers and then moving north with the season to pick peaches in South Carolina. "It is hard, nasty work," he said. Piece-rate work—being paid per bushel of produce picked—converts to less than minimum wage and is "an excellent way to brutally exploit people." There were no such things as overtime pay, health insurance, disability insurance, vacation time, sick days—and no other options for him or his neighbors. Agricultural work in the South, which

largely employed black workers, was not covered by labor laws, part of the bargain the Dixiecrats required if they were to support labor laws and unions in the North.

His parents encouraged him to get out of the fields and into college, and he landed a scholarship to St. Edward's University, a small Catholic school in Austin, Texas. The school was struggling financially, and to ward off its demise, it sought to broaden its student base by recruiting Mexican and African American students under the College Assistance Migrant Program. Mason received one of those scholarships. He arrived in Austin in 1976 with a small group of fellow black students, whose only common tie to the Mexican recruits was their background as agricultural workers. It was eye-opening for Mason, who until then was unaware that anyone other than African Americans were being exploited in the fields. "And they didn't know blacks were doing it either," he said of his fellow students. Despite their differences, "we saw the world in the same way because of our work backgrounds."

Although he'd set out to become a lawyer, by his senior year he'd instead applied to a PhD program in economics. It had been a sudden decision, and he knew nothing

about a PhD program, he said. But he forged ahead. He moved from Austin to Ann Arbor to attend the University of Michigan. Michigan, he said, was "a whole different world." With most of his friends working and living in Detroit, he saw firsthand the difference a union could make for workers.

Slowly he was building an interest in labor economics. "Each step of the way, labor and social justice were my interests. How working-class people live," he said. But the university, with its deep grounding in neoclassical theory, was not fitting snugly into his understanding of the world. "I couldn't connect the modeling to the issues I was interested in," he said. "In graduate school, you learn the technical first, and only then do you get to study interesting issues." Impatient, he left for New York and The New School in the fall of 1983.

"That for me was absolutely fantastic," he said of his education at The New School. "I was finally in a place that was interested in the issues I was interested in and where the technical and policy interests came together." It was also at The New School where, ironically, he began to better understand neoclassical economics as he sorted through multiple schools of thought.

After completing his dissertation, he followed the job market to Tuskegee University, Atlanta University, University of California Riverside, Wayne State, and Notre Dame before coming back home in 1999 to Florida State, where he is now a full professor of economics. His work has covered labor economics, political economy, education, crime, and social identity.

It was the latter field of study that confirmed, again, that certain economic theories are too pat.

Neoclassical economics says that if you increase the cost of something, people will do less of it. But how does that explain racial identity, he wondered? If the theory holds, then why would anyone identify as black in today's world? What's the economic benefit of that? In fact, he found that instead of a waning black identity, "most African Americans have a fierce attachment to being black. So that forced me to think that maybe the way we think about benefits and costs and social interactions needs expansion."

An expanded vision and alternative theories have dominated in Mason's

research. From early documentation of wage and work disparities between people of color and whites, to his more recent exploration of alternative theories of competition and alternative explanations of poverty (such as social exclusion and lack of wealth and power), Mason has continued to challenge orthodoxy.

He also thinks the economic field needs an expanded vision, with more people of color rising up the ranks. But until things change, he isn't surprised the pipeline isn't full. The field is not attracting black students in particular, he thinks, because of the messages black students constantly hear.

"There's a permanent search for alleged sources of black inferiority that goes on in economics courses and models," he said. "All black students hear about is essentially 'bad black families'" as the reason for disparities and poverty, instead of, say, lack of wealth and power or socioeconomic exclusion. "You could spend years hearing this negative message, or you can get an MBA

in finance and not have to hear it and make more money." At least in this case, the "rational man" argument might just hold after all.

Mason sees glimmers of hope for working America today, despite the gutting of unions. Once again, alternative options are on his radar, starting in the fields and orchards of Florida where he once worked. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers, he said, is negotiating agreements with the end users of tomatoes to pay a penny more per pound than the market rate. Fast food outlets, the government of Norway, and other end users have agreed to the slightly higher rate, which is passed through to workers. The agreement is monitored by the Fair Foods Standard Council. The result has been a 45 percent pay increase for the laborers.

"People are getting elected with broader ideas about what government should do," he said. For nearly forty years, the government has ignored and undercut workers. "It's good to see new and better ideas today concerned for the workforce." ■

## PROUST QUESTIONNAIRE

*A salon and parlor game of the 19th century, made most famous by Marcel Proust's answers, the Proust Questionnaire (adapted here) gets to the heart of things...*

- ▶ **What's on your nightstand?** Mostly history and econometrics books. Right now I'm reading *Black Society in Spanish Florida* by Jane Landers.
- ▶ **What's your greatest fear?** Thunder and lightning.
- ▶ **Which words or phrases do you most overuse?** Well...
- ▶ **What historical figure(s) do you most identify with?** Martin and Malcolm.
- ▶ **What trait do you most deplore in other people?** Lying.

- ▶ **What trait do you most admire in other people?** Loyalty.
- ▶ **Which talent would you like most to have?** That's a tie between a singer and a point guard in the NBA.
- ▶ **Which job would you like to have if you weren't an economist?** Lawyer or politician.
- ▶ **What is your greatest extravagance?** Restaurants and books.
- ▶ **What do you consider your greatest achievement?** Family.
- ▶ **Mountain or beach vacation?** Mountain. I live in Florida.



## (PROFESSIONAL) CLIMATE CHANGE

By Amanda Bayer, Swarthmore College

Economists are coming to recognize that our profession has a climate problem: the professional environment includes attitudes and actions that adversely impact the well-being and participation of women and members of historically underrepresented racial and ethnic minority groups (e.g., Bayer and Rouse 2016, Cook and Opoku-Agyeman 2019, Wu 2018). To understand and address the problem, the American Economic Association (AEA) is collecting evidence and taking action.

In the past year, the AEA surveyed current and past members, asking them about their experiences in the profession and their views on the professional climate. When releasing the main findings, AEA president Ben Bernanke, along with immediate past president Olivier Blanchard and president-elect Janet Yellen, stated that

“many members of the profession have suffered harassment and discrimination during their careers, including both overt acts of abuse and more subtle forms of marginalization. This is unacceptable. Excluding or marginalizing people based on their gender, race, or other personal characteristics is not only deeply unfair to those who are excluded, it damages the field as a whole by limiting the diversity of perspectives and dissuading talented people from becoming economists” (AEA 2019a).

This article takes a closer look at the survey results for underrepresented minority respondents, using a few representative items to highlight some patterns that emerged in the responses.<sup>1</sup> It concludes by summarizing major steps the AEA is taking to change the climate.

The table on the next page presents the responses of economists by race/ethnicity and gender to a few items that illustrate survey findings on the experiences, impacts, and views of the professional climate in economics.<sup>2</sup> The first section of the table shows that many underrepresented minority economists experience racial/ethnic discrimination in the profession and bear direct and indirect costs as a result.

At the high end, a majority of black women, 60 percent, report having been discriminated against or treated unfairly on the basis of their racial/ethnic identity. Women of all races and ethnicities report high rates of discrimination or unfair treatment on the basis of gender and are also more likely than their male counterparts to report feeling that their work is not taken as seriously as that of their colleagues. Women and underrepresented minority economists take costly actions in attempts to avoid further harassment, discrimination, and unfair and disrespectful treatment: over a fifth of black men and women left an employment position to avoid such negative treatment.

The second set of facts documents the harmful effects of the profession's climate on the development of economic knowledge. As underrepresented minority economists attempt to navigate a biased, unwelcoming, and/or hostile professional climate, the discipline misses out on their perspectives and insights. While the table presents responses by subgroup, overall 40 percent of black, Latinx, and Native American economists have not presented a question, idea, or view at their school or place of work; over 20 percent have not participated in a conference; and nearly a quarter have not started or continued research in a particular field to avoid possible harassment, discrimination, or unfair or disrespectful treatment. Escaping this equilibrium may be difficult: the very economists whose contributions are constrained may be the ones who are best positioned to produce knowledge necessary for reducing racial inequality (Bayer 2018, Price and Sharpe 2018).

The final set of facts highlighted in this table offers good news. Many in the profession—including white men,

who constitute the vast majority of economists and survey respondents—believe it is time for change. A minority of survey respondents in each race-by-gender subgroup is satisfied with the overall climate within the field of economics. Few, including only 15 percent of white men, believe that discrimination is rare within the field of economics today, and even fewer think that

it is not important for the field to be inclusive toward people with different backgrounds. The benefits of a more inclusive profession are widely acknowledged: two-thirds of survey respondents believe that economics would be a more vibrant discipline if it were more diverse. Many economists appear to want to make the field more diverse and inclusive, but they may need better knowledge of what to do differently and better appreciation of the lived experiences of individuals who are being excluded.

The AEA is taking action to address problems in the profession with new urgency and insights from the survey. The new initiatives focus on changing the profession to identify and remove biased and hostile behaviors—not merely to help diverse economists adapt to a flawed profession, as many previously established programs had to do. In an announcement to members in June 2019, the AEA

Executive Committee (AEA 2019b) described recent actions taken. They include creating a Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Professional Conduct charged with finding ways to make meaningful improvements in the professional climate; establishing a Code of Professional Conduct and a Policy on Harassment and Discrimination, both of which must be accepted by any economist participating in any AEA-sponsored activity; approving formal vetting and removal processes to ensure that the AEA does not have leaders and honorees who have violated the Code of Professional Conduct or the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination; engaging an ombudsperson to serve as a resource for addressing issues of harassment and discrimination throughout the profession; creating a new task force to develop and disseminate best practices

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As underrepresented minority economists attempt to navigate a biased, unwelcoming, and/or hostile professional climate, the discipline misses out on their perspectives and insights.  
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## AEA Professional Climate Survey Responses by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

	Black or African American, non-Latinx		Hispanic or Latinx, of any race		Asian, non-Latinx		White, non-Latinx	
	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W
<b>EXPERIENCES</b>								
<i>Percentage responding yes to each question:</i>								
Have you personally been discriminated against or been treated unfairly by anyone in the field of economics based on racial/ethnic identity?	46%	60%	20%	27%	24%	32%	3%	2%
Have you personally been discriminated against or been treated unfairly by anyone in the field of economics based on sex?	5%	56%	2%	57%	4%	44%	4%	51%
Have you ever felt that your work was not taken as seriously as that of your economist colleagues?	52%	71%	48%	69%	48%	65%	41%	71%
Have you ever left a particular employment position to avoid possible harassment, discrimination, or unfair or disrespectful treatment by one or more economists?	22%	25%	13%	17%	11%	12%	5%	14%
<b>IMPACTS</b>								
<i>Percentage responding that they had ever done the following to avoid possible harassment, discrimination, or unfair or disrespectful treatment:</i>								
Not presented your question, idea, or view at your school or place of work	35%	57%	33%	47%	29%	44%	23%	49%
Not participated in a conference	23%	31%	18%	23%	13%	19%	8%	19%
Not started or continued research in a particular field	29%	31%	18%	28%	16%	25%	12%	23%
<b>VIEWS</b>								
<i>Percentage agreeing or strongly agreeing with each statement:</i>								
I am satisfied with the overall climate within the field of economics	38%	15%	33%	18%	31%	22%	41%	17%
Discrimination is rare within the field of economics today	7%	8%	11%	9%	10%	5%	15%	3%
It is not important for the field of economics to be inclusive towards people with different backgrounds	6%	7%	6%	9%	8%	4%	7%	4%
Economics would be a more vibrant discipline if it were more diverse	83%	85%	69%	85%	68%	86%	58%	84%

**Note:** There are too few observations to report results for non-Latinx men and women in other racial categories, such as American Indian or Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

in economics, a second task force to increase outreach to high school and college students, and a new Committee on the Status of LGBTQ+ Individuals in the Economics Profession; and organizing featured sessions on the profession's gender and race problems at recent Allied Social Science Associations meetings.

The AEA encourages all economists, broadly defined, to support and use these initiatives. For example, "Any AEA member who believes they have suffered harassment or discrimination or any person who believes they have suffered harassment or discrimination by an AEA member or in the context of an AEA-sponsored activity, as well as anyone who has witnessed such conduct, is encouraged to contact the ombudsperson."<sup>3</sup> All economists should become familiar with the AEA Code of

Professional Conduct, the AEA Policy on Harassment and Discrimination, and the AEA Best Practices and use these resources to guide their behavior and their expectations of others.<sup>4</sup>

Exclusion, harassment, discrimination, dismissiveness, and unfair treatment are longstanding problems in the economics profession. Their effects are likely even larger than the results reported here, given that the survey reached current and recent AEA members only; undoubtedly some promising economists previously left or never joined the profession. Nevertheless, the growing recognition of these problems is promising, and the economics profession is on the brink of a new era of inclusion, encouragement, openness, appreciation, and fair treatment. It is time for the climate to change. ■

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<sup>1</sup> Readers are encouraged to review the full report, available at <https://www.aeaweb.org/resources/member-docs/final-climate-survey-results-sept-2019>.

<sup>2</sup> Unlike the full report, this table presents survey results only for respondents residing in the United States. The figures reported here do not control for citizenship or nativity status, which the survey did not collect, nor for other characteristics such as age.

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/aea-ombudsperson>.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/code-of-conduct>, <https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/aea-policy-harassment-discrimination>, and <https://www.aeaweb.org/resources/best-practices>.

# ECONOMIC JOBS BEYOND ACADEMIA

While many people are familiar with the responsibilities of academic jobs, less is known about jobs for economists outside of academia. The following are examples of nonacademic positions held by economists, described in their own words.



## INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

WASHINGTON, DC

Era Dabla is a division chief in the Fiscal Affairs Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Headquartered in Washington, DC, the IMF is an international organization that brings 189 countries together to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. The Fiscal Affairs Department provides policy and technical advice on public finance issues to member countries.

Describing an economist's career at the IMF, Dabla explains: "During one's career as an IMF economist, you face a succession of challenging assignments with increasing responsibilities for economic analysis, policy and program design, and technical assistance to member countries, both advanced and developing. Fund economists work either on economic developments and policies in one or more member countries as a 'desk economist' in an area department, or on general policies or more specialized functions in a functional department, such as the Research Department or the Fiscal Affairs Department. Most of the assignments involve visits to member countries, or 'missions' in IMF-speak."

Dabla notes that the missions are "one of the most interesting—and central— aspects of an IMF economist's responsibilities. A typical mission consists of a small team of four or five economists who visit a member country for about two weeks. Having carried out a thorough analysis of the latest data before the mission, the team reviews economic developments and policies with the authorities

and, if the country wishes to borrow from the IMF, negotiates a financial program. The team then returns to Washington and prepares a report that is submitted to and discussed by the IMF's Executive Board. An economist typically travels two to four times a year."

Dabla joined the IMF as part of the Economist Program (EP), which is the point of entry for early-career professionals who have recently completed their graduate studies. (The IMF also employs midcareer economists.)



### **Dabla's advice for newly minted economists interested in the Economist Program:**

"You should refresh your knowledge of core macroeconomics and keep yourself current on world financial and economic events. You should also have thought through the broader implications of your job market paper and have considered how the outcomes could apply to the Fund ... the EP interviews explore how you approach the core economic issues you are likely to face on a regular basis as an IMF economist and assess your ability to link issues, apply your learning, and think logically through situations."

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### WASHINGTON, DC



Anne Hall is an economist in the Office of Microeconomic Analysis within the Office of Economic Policy at the US Treasury Department. The Office of Economic Policy analyzes and reports on current and prospective economic developments in the United States and world economies and assists in the determination of appropriate economic policies. Economists in the Office of Microeconomic Analysis conduct policy-related analysis on issues of concern to the current administration and self-directed research.

Hall joined the office as a midcareer hire after working at the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) in the Department of Commerce. Since joining the Treasury Department, she has continued to work on research coauthored with BEA colleagues and has started new research projects. She also participates in an interagency working group on policy recommendations for the private long-term care insurance industry and coordinates the interagency working group responsible for recommending economic and demographic assumptions for the trustees' annual reports on the Medicare and Social Security trust funds. "There is a mix of short- and long-term work as well as a mix of discussion, writing, and economic and data analysis," she explains.

When asked about the most interesting aspect of her job, Hall highlights "being able to work on economic issues of immediate concern to the administration and the American people and being able to directly participate in the policy process." Multitasking is the largest challenge, she notes, as she is "often juggling multiple and

competing responsibilities with tight deadlines."

The Treasury Department takes the view that a diverse workforce increases productivity and enhances the department's ability to maneuver in an increasingly competitive market. Its Office of Civil Rights and Diversity is devoted to ensuring the recruitment and retention of a well-qualified diverse workforce to meet the current and emerging needs of the Treasury Department. Hall points out that the office is "actively looking to expand our applicant pool to promote a diversity of backgrounds and viewpoints. We post all jobs on USAJOBS (as required) and on JOE [Job Openings for Economists] and welcome input on other strategies for reaching out to underrepresented populations."



#### **Hall advises newly minted economists who might be interested in this type of job to be prepared to signal flexibility:**

"Our work is very varied and somewhat unpredictable, much more so than that of the typical academic or even other government research positions. Also, we are a small office, and economists often work on areas outside our immediate specialty. Be prepared to discuss potential policy implications of your research in your interview even if they are not specifically addressed in your papers."

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## FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD

WASHINGTON, DC

Alvaro Mezza is a principal economist in the Research and Statistics division of the Federal Reserve Board. The Federal Reserve Board is the governing body of the Federal Reserve System and employs over 300 PhD economists who represent a diverse range of interests and areas of expertise. Federal Reserve Board economists produce economic analyses and forecasts to support the functions of the Federal Reserve, and they also conduct research, producing numerous working papers and contributing to professional meetings and major journals.

Mezza works in the Consumer Finance section, which focuses on research and analysis pertaining to households' use of credit cards, auto loans, and student loans and how such borrowing interacts with other forms of household debt and assets. The Consumer Finance section also studies structured finance markets, such as that for consumer asset-backed securities, and contributes to the economic measurement of consumer debt.

"The most exciting aspect of the job," Mezza says, "is that my expertise is used to inform—through memos, research papers, or in-person meetings—the members of the Board, who set monetary policy for the biggest economy in the world. My job feels very meaningful, as my inputs are heard and considered by policymakers when deciding the course of monetary policy."

The policy relevance of the work does not come without challenges, however. "The importance of the job can

also make it stressful," he explains. "You do not want to miss or oversee risks that might be building up and provide, as a consequence, a flawed assessment to policymakers who rely on that assessment to make decisions which have the potential to affect many, many people."

Mezza advises aspiring Federal Reserve Board economists: "Go for a PhD and pick a research topic that you feel passionate about. Use those years in graduate school to learn the tools that will help you answer the questions you care about in the best possible way. That should open the door to working at a prestigious institution like the Federal Reserve Board."

Mezza also notes that "the Federal Reserve Board actively promotes the recruitment of economists with diverse backgrounds—including those from underrepresented populations—as the different perspectives that different individuals bring to the workplace enrich the culture of the institution and the output we produce." Expanding on this strategy, he explains: "To reach this goal, the Federal Reserve Board engages in various activities, including training managers on the impact of unconscious bias in the recruitment process and ensuring that our recruitment strategies effectively reach and recruit from a diverse pool of applicants."



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## STAY CONNECTED WITH CSMGEP!

- ✓ **Visit the CSMGEP website** (<https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/committees/csmgpep>) for a listing of minority job candidates (get added to the list!), profiles of "economists to watch," information about our programs, and resources for teaching and research.
- ✓ **Don't miss any CSMGEP news.** Get added to our email list: [http://mail.aeapubs.org/mailman/listinfo/aea\\_csmgepnews](http://mail.aeapubs.org/mailman/listinfo/aea_csmgepnews)
- ✓ **Follow us on Twitter:** @AEACSMGEP

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## ASHE AWARDS

### » Individual Service Award

This award was presented to **Marie Mora**, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Professor of Economics, University of Missouri–St. Louis, and Director, American Economic Association Mentoring Program. Mora’s distinguished service to ASHE and to the American Economic Association is extensive. Besides being director of the AEA Mentoring Program, she was a two-term president of ASHE and has been a board member and chair of CSMGEP. In addition, Mora has served on the Data Users Advisory Committee for the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Editorial Board of *Social Science Quarterly*, the Early Education Subcommittee of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Committee, and the Federal Reserve’s San Antonio Branch Board.

### » Institutional Service Award

We honor **Michigan State University** and **Western Michigan University** for their success and collaborative efforts in hosting the AEA Summer Training and Scholarship Program, and in developing the next cohort of economists in the profession. We celebrate the joining of forces, the mixing of ideas, and the greater wisdom gained through this successful collaboration, which began in 2016.

### » ASHE Academic Achievement Award

The winner of this award is **Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes**, Professor of Economics, University of California, Merced; Research Fellow, CReAM, FEDEA, and IZA; and Member, Advisory Committee of the Americas Center Advisory Council at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Prior to her appointment at UC Merced, Amuedo-Dorantes was assistant, associate, and full professor at San Diego State University, where she also served as department chair. She has held several visiting and honorary appointments and has more than 100 peer-reviewed articles on a wide range of topics in labor economics, international migration, and remittances. She has published on contingent work contracts, the informal work sector, international remittances, immigrant well-being, and labor market outcomes, and, more generally, on immigration policy and its consequences.

In its award nomination, the ASHE Executive Board highlighted not only that Amuedo-Dorantes has been an influential and prolific researcher on issues important to our communities in the United States, but also that, through coauthoring and mentoring, she has played an essential role in promoting the vitality of Latinx economists in the profession. Amuedo-Dorantes served as president of ASHE in 2014 and, since 2015, as the western representative of the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP). She has a PhD from Western Michigan University, a JD from Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid, and a BA in Economics from Universidad de Sevilla.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

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## » ASHE Annual Dissertation Fellowship Award

**Camila Morales**, Georgia State University, was recognized with this award. Morales expects to complete her doctoral degree at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies with the dissertation “Three Essays on the Educational Outcomes of Disadvantaged Students and Their Peers.” This work consists of three essays: the first, and her job market paper, is “Do Refugee Students Affect the Academic Achievement of Their Peers? Evidence from a Large Urban School District.” Her other two papers are “The Impact of English Learner Classification and ESL Delivery Method on Academic Achievement” and “The Effect of Dual Language Immersion Programs on Student Outcomes: Evidence from Georgia Public Schools.” Morales already has a robust pipeline that should result in future publications, and she is currently working on two papers exploring differences in integration outcomes and peer effects between immigrant and refugee students, and an enhanced method of identifying refugees in large-scale data sets. Camila Morales received her BS from Georgia State University.

## AEA MENTORING PROGRAM

### » New Associate Director

CSMGEP is pleased to announce that **Trevon Logan** was unanimously selected as the AEA Mentoring Program’s new associate director, effective September 1, 2019. Logan, who is Professor of Economics and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at The Ohio State University and research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, served two terms on CSMGEP and is a past president of the National Economic Association. He will work closely with Program Director Marie Mora, including on the 2020 Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference (in East Lansing, Michigan, July 23-25).

### » 2019 Lewis-Oaxaca Distinguished Lecturer

The 2019 Lewis-Oaxaca Distinguished Lecture was given by **Bernard Anderson**, Whitney M. Young Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania.

An economist, Anderson was the second African American appointed to the Wharton School faculty and the first African American to earn tenure in that institution. He was also a lecturer at Swarthmore College and a visiting fellow at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School. He is the author of six books and numerous publications on labor economics, economic performance, and community economic revitalization.

Beyond academia, Anderson has held leadership positions in philanthropy, public service, business, and civic life, including with the Rockefeller Foundation, the Clinton administration, the City of Philadelphia, Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company, and the United Bank of Philadelphia. He is a co-founder of the National Economic Association and the Urban Affairs Coalition, a member and former vice chairman of the Tuskegee University Board of Trustees, and chairman of the National Urban League’s Presidential Council of Economic Advisors. He earned his AB from Livingstone College, MA from Michigan State University, and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania.

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## » 2019 Impactful Mentor Awards

**Lisa D. Cook**, AEASP director at Michigan State University, and **Charles M. Becker**, former AEASP director at Duke University, were recognized with 2019 Impactful Mentor Awards at the Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference. This award recognizes and celebrates the excellence and impact of mentors on diversity, access, and inclusion in the economics profession. In their nomination letters, Noimot Bakare, PhD student at Howard University, and Ndeye Astou Aw, PhD student at University of North Carolina, Greensboro, cited Cook's insightful encouragement and support, including how she made them feel worthy in the profession. In his nomination letter, Dr. Juan Carlos Suárez Serrato, associate professor of economics at Duke University, cited how Becker changed his life in 2005 when he was selected for that year's AEA Summer Program.

## » 2019 Job Market Bootcamp

Eight job market candidates and four coaches participated in the 2019 Job Market Bootcamp, held in conjunction with the Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference. Created in 2018, the Job Market Bootcamp is designed to help prepare candidates for the economics PhD job market and increase their chances of securing positions best suited to their interests, training, and professional and personal goals. The event involves such activities as mock interviews, elevator pitches, trial job market presentations, CV/cover letter reviews, abstract writing, and networking opportunities. To learn more, contact AEA Mentoring Program Director Marie Mora at [marie.mora@umsl.edu](mailto:marie.mora@umsl.edu).

## » 2019 CSWEP Newsletter

Based on the positive response from the joint CSMGEP-CSWEP panel discussion on "Best Practices in Mentoring Underrepresented Minority Women" at the 2018 ASSA meetings, the Spring 2019 issue of *CSWEP News* focuses on the same topic: <https://www.aeaweb.org/content/file?id=9317>.

## NEA

### » NEA 50th Anniversary Celebration and Honors Luncheon

On January 4, 2020, the National Economic Association will celebrate its 50th anniversary at a luncheon during the Allied Social Sciences Association annual conference. The event is scheduled from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. in Ballroom G of the Marriott Marquis Marina Hotel, 333 West Harbor Drive, San Diego, California. The NEA hopes you can attend as we celebrate the organization and the legacy we now enjoy.

# ACTIVITIES

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## COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF MINORITY GROUPS IN THE ECONOMICS PROFESSION (CSMGEP)

### ▶ **Allied Social Sciences Association (2020)**

#### **LAUNCHING A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

Joint Session with CSWEP

Panelists:

**Martha Bailey**, University of Michigan  
**Marie T. Mora**, University of Missouri–St. Louis  
**Maya Rossin-Slater**, Stanford University  
**Anna Opoku-Agyeman**, Harvard University

#### **HOW CAN ECONOMICS SOLVE ITS RACE PROBLEM?**

Chair: **Janet Yellen**, Brookings Institution

Moderator: **Ebonya Washington**, Yale University

Panelists:

**Randall Akee**, University of California, Los Angeles  
**Cecilia Conrad**, Pomona College  
**Trevon Logan**, The Ohio State University  
**Edward Miguel**, University of California, Berkeley  
**Marie T. Mora**, University of Missouri–St. Louis

#### **HOUSEHOLD FINANCE AND RACE**

Chair: **Vicki Bogan**, Cornell University

*Hispanic Culture, Stock Preferences, and Asset Prices*

**Carina Cuculiza**, University of Miami

*New Evidence on Racial Disparities in Financial  
Outcomes*

**Damon Jones**, University of Chicago

*Race, Millennials, and Home Ownership in the  
Aftermath of the Great Recession*

**Darrick Hamilton**, The Ohio State University  
**Christopher Famighetti**, The New School

*The Impact of Parental Wealth on College Enrollment  
and Degree Attainment: Evidence from the Housing  
Boom and Bust*

**Rucker Johnson**, University of California, Berkeley

Discussants:

**Ngina Chitegi**, New York University  
**Peter Henry**, New York University  
**Luisa Blanco**, Pepperdine University  
**Jermaine Toney**, Rutgers University

#### **CSMGEP DISSERTATION SESSION**

Chair: **Kalena E. Cortes**, Texas A&M University

*The Impact of Food Assistance on Birth Outcomes:  
Evidence from the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)  
Card in SNAP*

**Leah Shiferaw**, University of California, Berkeley

*The Educational Cost of Teenage Pregnancy: Evidence  
from Urban South Africa*

**Natalia Cantet**, University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign

*Of IVs and IUDs: Assessing the Effect of Long-Acting  
Reversible Contraception Use on Pregnancies Using  
an Instrumental Variables Approach*

**Lorissa Pagán**, University of North Carolina at  
Greensboro

*School Spending and Student Outcomes: Evidence  
from Revenue Limit Elections in Wisconsin*

**E. Jason Baron**, Florida State University

Discussants:

**Susan Dynarski**, University of Michigan  
**Marie T. Mora**, University of Missouri–St. Louis  
**Heather Royer**, University of California, Santa Barbara  
**Laura Giuliano**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
**Manuela Angelucci**, University of Texas at Austin

▶ **Southern Economic Association (2019)**

**DEPARTMENT CHAIRS OFFER ADVICE ON GETTING APPOINTED, PROMOTED, AND TENURED**

Joint Session with CSWEP

Organizer: **Ebonya Washington**, Yale University

Moderators: **Ragan Petrie**, Texas A&M University;  
**Ebonya Washington**, Yale University

Panelists:

**Scott L. Baier**, Clemson University

**Maureen Cropper**, University of Maryland, College Park

**Marionette Holmes**, Spelman College

**Omari H. Swinton**, Howard University

**Laura Taylor**, Georgia Institute of Technology

▶ **Western Economic Association International (2019)**

**PANEL OF JOURNAL EDITORS OFFERING ADVICE ON PUBLISHING**

Joint Session with CSWEP

Organizers/Moderators: **Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes**, San Diego State University; **T. Renee Bowen**, University of California, San Diego

Panelists:

**Hilary W. Hoynes**, University of California, Berkeley

**Brad R. Humphreys**, West Virginia University

**Charles I. Jones**, Stanford University

**Wesley W. Wilson**, University of Oregon

## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HISPANIC ECONOMISTS (ASHE)

▶ **Allied Social Sciences Association (2020)**

**ECONOMIC ISSUES OF HISPANICS IN THE UNITED STATES**

Organizer/Chair: **Fernando Lozano**, Pomona College

*Earnings Inequality for Asians and Hispanics:  
An Examination of Variation Across Subgroups*

**Randall Akee**, University of California, Los Angeles

**Maggie R. Jones**, US Census Bureau

**Sonya R. Porter**, US Census Bureau

**Emilia Simeonova**, Johns Hopkins University

*Immigration Policy, Immigrant Detention, and the US Correctional System*

**Mary Lopez**, Occidental College

**Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes**, San Diego State University

**Manuel Pastor**, University of Southern California

*Immigration Raids and Hispanic Head Start Enrollment*

**Robert Santillano**, Mathematica Policy Institute

*Interior Enforcement, Deterrence, and Crime*

**Sandra Orozco-Aleman**, Mississippi State University

**Heriberto Gonzalez-Lozano**, Mississippi State University

continued on next page ▶

# ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

*The Educational Progress of US-Born Mexican Americans*

**Stephen Trejo**, University of Texas at Austin  
**Brian Duncan**, University of Colorado, Denver

*Discussants:*

**Fernando Lozano**, Pomona College  
**Luisa Blanco**, Pepperdine University  
**Mónica García-Pérez**, St. Cloud State University  
**Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes**, San Diego State University  
**Juan de la Cruz**, Lehman College, City University of New York

## RACE, ETHNICITY AND THE 2020 NATIONAL ELECTION

Joint Session with NEA

*Organizer/Chair:* **Fernando Lozano**, Pomona College

*A Look Ahead at the 2020 Elections: How Important Is Diversity in the Candidate Pool?*

**Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes**, San Diego State University  
**José R. Bucheli**, University of California, San Diego

*Federal Job Guarantee, Baby Bond and Reparations: A Three-Legged Stool of Racial Economic Justice*

**Darrick Hamilton**, The Ohio State University

*Estimating the Potential Effects of Adding a Citizenship Question to the 2020 Census*

**Misty Heggeness**, US Census Bureau  
**J. David Brown**, US Census Bureau  
**Susan M. Dorinski**, US Census Bureau  
**Lawrence Warren**, US Census Bureau  
**Moises Yi**, US Census Bureau

*Whitelashing: Black Politicians, Taxes, and Violence*

**Trevon Logan**, The Ohio State University

*Communities Under Siege: Ethnic Profiling Under Auspices of 287(g) in North Carolina*

**Joaquín Alfredo-Angel Rubalcaba**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Estimating the Present Value of Black Agricultural Land Loss in the United States, 1910–1977*

**Dania V. Francis**, University of Massachusetts Amherst

## ► Southern Economic Association (2019)

### ON IMMIGRATION ISSUES: IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT, LABOR MARKET PERFORMANCE, AND HEALTH

*Organizer:* **Mónica García-Pérez**, St. Cloud State University

*Chair:* **Fernando Lozano**, Pomona College

*When the American Dream Becomes a Nightmare: Health Implications of Intensified Immigration Enforcement*

**Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes**, San Diego State University  
**Susan Averett**, Lafayette College and IZA  
**Mehmet Erdem Yaya**, Eastern Michigan University

*“Immigrants Are Taking Our Jobs!”: The Influence of Labor Market Conditions on Asylum Claims*

**Melina Juárez**, University of Arkansas  
**Joaquín Alfredo-Angel Rubalcaba**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Local Labor Market Effects of E-Verify Mandates*

**Karla Paola Cordova**, University of Arizona

*From Health to Wealth, and Vice Versa: The Relation Between Health and Wealth in the Hispanic Community*

**Mónica García-Pérez**, St. Cloud State University

*Discussants:*

**Molly M. Jacobs**, East Carolina University  
**Diego A. Guerrero**, St. Cloud State University  
**Abdihafit Shaeye**, Kent State University  
**Alberto Ortega**, Whitman College

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## OUR KIDS, OUR FUTURE: EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AMONG MINORITY/ IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Organizer/Chair: **Mónica García-Pérez**, St. Cloud State University

### *Adolescent Health Behaviors Predict Adult Success*

**Molly M. Jacobs**, East Carolina University

### *Exploring Neighborhood Effects and Socioeconomic Background in College Enrollment: A Longitudinal Analysis in St. Cloud, Minnesota*

**Mónica García-Pérez**, St. Cloud State University

**Diego A. Guerrero**, St. Cloud State University

**Robert C. Johnson**, St. Cloud State University

### *Midwestern Hispanic Serving Institutions as Latino Community Development Actors*

**Rene P. Rosenbaum**, Michigan State University

**Stephen Jeanetta**, University of Missouri

### *Education Attainment of Children of Refugee and Economic Immigrants in the US*

**Abdihafit Shaeye**, Kent State University

### *Immigrant English Proficiency and the Academic Performance of Their Children*

**Alberto Ortega**, Whitman College

**Tyler Ludwig**, University of Virginia

#### *Discussants:*

**Karla Cordoba**, University of Arizona

**Marie T. Mora**, University of Missouri–St. Louis

**Joaquín Alfredo-Angel Rubalcaba**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Mónica García-Pérez**, St. Cloud State University

**Mehmet Erdem Yaya**, Eastern Michigan University

## EVALUATING LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES AND LOCAL PROGRAMS

Organizer/Chair: **Mónica García-Pérez**, St. Cloud State University

### *Globalization and Protectionism: AMLO's 2006 Presidential Run*

**Sebastián Bustos**, Harvard University

**José Ramón Morales**, Harvard University

### *Using Nighttime Lights to Measure Economic Growth: Bringing Venezuela to the Spotlight*

**Advitha Arun**, Columbia University

### *Drug Cartels and Their Distortionary Effects on Aggregate Productivity*

**Miguel Mascarúa**, University of Virginia and Banxico

### *Solidarity Against the Machine: The Role of NGO-Sponsored Kitchens in the Weathering Clientelism in Venezuela*

**José Ramón Morales-Arilla**, Harvard University

**Omar Zambrano**, ANOVA Policy and Consulting

#### *Discussants:*

**Zadia M. Feliciano**, Queens College, City University of New York

**José Caraballo Cueto**, University of Puerto Rico–Mayagüez

**Fernando I. Rivera**, University of Central Florida

**Mónica García-Pérez**, St. Cloud State University

## ROUNDTABLES ON HURRICANE MARIA IN PUERTO RICO: DISASTER RESPONSE, HEALTH, AND LABOR MARKET OUTCOMES AMONG ISLAND AND MAINLAND PUERTO RICANS

### *Panel 1: Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, I*

Organizer/Chair: **Marie T. Mora**, University of Missouri–St. Louis

### *Overview of Disaster Response and Recovery in Puerto Rico After Hurricane Maria*

**Marie T. Mora**, University of Missouri–St. Louis

**Havidán Rodríguez**, University at Albany, State University of New York

**Alberto Dávila**, Southeast Missouri State University

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# ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

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*The Health Profile of Puerto Ricans and Puerto Rican Migrants Before and After Hurricane Maria*

**Fernando I. Rivera**, University of Central Florida

*Health Effects of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico*

**José M. Fernandez**, University of Louisville

*Impacts and Consequences of Hurricane Maria and the Disaster Response and Recovery on the Mental Health of Island and Mainland Puerto Ricans*

**Amy Nitza**, State University of New York at New Paltz

**Shao Lin**, University at Albany, State University of New York

## **Panel 2: Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, II**

*Organizer/Chair: Marie T. Mora*, University of Missouri–St. Louis

*Hurricane Maria's Impact on Puerto Rico's Labor Market: Plant Closings, Job Losses, and Wages*

**Zadia M. Feliciano**, Queens College, City University of New York

*Hurricane Maria's Effect on Puerto Rico's Labor Market Composition*

**José Caraballo Cueto**, University of Puerto Rico–Mayagüez

*Understanding Hurricane Maria: Disaster Response as Transition Management*

**Marla Perez Lugo**, University of Puerto Rico–Mayagüez

**Cecilio Ortiz Garcia**, University of Puerto Rico–Mayagüez

**Didier Valdes**, University of Puerto Rico–Mayagüez

## **FINANCIAL INCLUSION, FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, AND TECHNOLOGY**

*Organizer/Chair: Myriam Quispe-Agnoli*, Mercer University

*Financial Inclusion as a Catalyst for Economic Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa*

**Noimot Bakare**, Howard University

*Rotating Credit and Savings Associations: The Modern Juntas in Peru*

**Belinda Roman**, St. Mary's University–San Antonio

**Samiré Adams**, St. Mary's University–San Antonio

**Ana Paula Saravia**, St. Mary's University–San Antonio

*Financial Inclusion: Market Interaction or Policy Strategies (Do What I Do, Not What I Say)*

**Myriam Quispe-Agnoli**, Mercer University

**Vijaya Subrahmanyam**, Mercer University

**Anatou Soumahoro**, Mercer University

*Discussants:*

**Belinda Roman**, St. Mary's University–San Antonio

**Myriam Quispe-Agnoli**, Mercer University

**Noimot Bakare**, Howard University

## **BANK MANAGEMENT, BANK FAILURES, AND PEER LENDING**

*Organizer: Myriam Quispe-Agnoli*, Mercer University

*Chair: Vijaya Subrahmanyam*, Mercer University

*How Are West Virginia Banks Different?*

**Scott Schuh**, West Virginia University

**Eduardo Guimaraes Minuci**, West Virginia University

*The Discordant Firm Position: A Product of Institutional Investors*

**Abdul Mohi Khizer**, Indian School of Business

*Recessions and Bank Failure: An Analysis of Community Bank Failures in Georgia and Florida*

**Myriam Quispe-Agnoli**, Mercer University  
**Vijaya Subrahmanyam**, Mercer University  
**Aaron Atwell**, Mercer University  
**Joseph Hernandez**, Mercer University

*Discussants:*

**Myriam Quispe-Agnoli**, Mercer University  
**Vijaya Subrahmanyam**, Mercer University  
**Eduardo Guimaraes Minuci**, West Virginia University

## ► **Western Economic Association International (2019)**

### **LATIN AMERICAN DIASPORAS**

*Organizer/Chair:* **Fernando Lozano**, Pomona College

*Environment Matters: New Evidence from Mexican Migration*

**Melanie Khamis**, Wesleyan University  
**Xiyue Li**, Wesleyan University

*Does English Fluency Affect Self-Employment Among Recent Puerto Rican Migrants on the US Mainland?*

**Marie T. Mora**, University of Missouri–St. Louis  
**Alberto Davila**, Southeast Missouri State University

*Northbound Border Crossings at US–Mexico Ports of Entry: Panel Data Evidence*

**Eduardo Saucedo**, EGADE Business School, Tecnológico de Monterrey  
**Rene Cabral**, EGADE Business School, Tecnológico de Monterrey  
**André Varella Mollick**, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley

*New Exporters: Plant Labor Structure and Female Employment*

**Raffi E. García**, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

### **ETHNICITY, MIGRATION, AND HUMAN CAPITAL**

*Organizer:* **Fernando Lozano**, Pomona College  
*Chair:* **Mary Lopez**, Occidental College

*Immigrant English Proficiency and the Academic Performance of Their Children*

**Alberto Ortega**, Whitman College  
**Tyler Ludwig**, University of Virginia

*Do Social Learning Skills Improve Cognitive and Noncognitive Skills?*

**Carycruz Bueno**, Georgia State University

*Nontraditional Returns to Skill by Race and Ethnicity? Evidence from the PIAAC Prison Supplement*

**Anita Alves Peña**, Colorado State University  
**Thomas Briggs**, Colorado State University

*Local Financial Shocks and Its Effect on Crime*

**Salvador Contreras**, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley  
**Amit Gosh**, Illinois Wesleyan University

*Informal Caregiving and the Labor Market Outcomes of Grandparents*

**Enrique Lopez-Lira**, Grand Canyon University

### **FINANCE AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

*Organizer/Chair:* **Raffi E. García**, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

*Global Perceptions of the United States and International Student Enrollments*

**Mary Lopez**, Occidental College  
**Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes**, San Diego State University  
**Ashley Muchow**, Pardee RAND Graduate School

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# ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

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*Input-Output Linkages and Sectoral Volatility*

**Michael Olabisi**, Michigan State University

*Crowding Out or Standing on Shoulders: Measuring the Effects of Knowledge Stocks and International Collaboration on Patent Quality*

**Wei Jia**, Brandeis University

*Survival and Labor Decisions: Experience Versus Sunk Costs in Exporting*

**Raffi E. García**, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

## NATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

### ▶ Allied Social Sciences Association (2020)

#### DISCRIMINATION IN LABOR MARKETS AND EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS: EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE

Organizer: **Dania V. Francis**, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Chair: **Timothy Diette**, Washington and Lee University

*Do Workers Discriminate Against Their Out-Group Employers? Evidence from an Online Labor Market*

**Sher Afghan Asad**, Iowa State University

*Ageist Language in Job Ads and Age Discrimination in Hiring: Evidence from a Field Experiment*

**Patrick Button**, Tulane University

*Statistical Discrimination Versus Implicit Bias: Disentangling the Sources of Gender and Racial Bias in an Educational Setting*

**Dania V. Francis**, University of Massachusetts Amherst

*Race, Religion, and Immigration: Experimental Evidence from the Labor Market*

**Deborah Rho**, University of St. Thomas

*Constructing Capital in the Twentieth Century: Prisons and Forced Labor in British Colonial Africa*

**Belinda Archibong**, Barnard College

*Do Language Restrictions on Obtaining Driver's License Influence Immigrant Labor Market Outcomes?*

**Colin Cannonier**, Belmont University

Discussants:

**Mackenzie Allston**, Texas A&M University

**Robynn Cox**, University of Southern California

**Daniel Silverman**, Arizona State University

**Marcus Casey**, University of Illinois at Chicago

**Duha Tore Altindag**, Auburn University

#### DISPARITIES ACROSS RACE AND GENDER: ECONOMICS OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Organizer: **Joaquín Alfredo-Angel Rubalcaba**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chair: **Jevay Grooms**, Howard University

*Examining Racial and Ethnic Differences in Substance Use Treatment*

**Jevay Grooms**, Howard University

**Alberto Ortega**, Indiana University

*Drug Quality and Gender Parity of Clinical Trial Participants*

**Britni Wilcher**, American University

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*About Face: Seeing Class and Race*

**Mark Paul**, New College of Florida  
**Imari Smith**, Duke University  
**Sarah E. Gaither**, Duke University  
**William Darity**, Duke University

*Pursuit of Happiness*

**Joaquín Alfredo-Angel Rubalcaba**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
**Candis Watts Smith**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Health Expenditure, Gender, and Rent Seeking in the United States and Other OECD Countries*

**Mina Baliaoune-Lutz**, University of North Florida and African Center for Economic Transformation

*The Reparations Bill: Adding Late Charges and Securing a Funding Source*

**Robert Williams**, Guilford College

*Discussants:*

**Olugbenga Ajilore**, Center for American Progress  
**Alberto Ortega**, Indiana University  
**Jamein Cunningham**, University of Memphis  
**Dania V. Francis**, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
**Fafanyo Asiseh**, North Carolina A&T State University

## **BLACK WOMEN IN THE ECONOMICS PROFESSION**

*Chair:* **Miesha J. Williams**, Morehouse College

*Panelists:*

**Carycruz Bueno**, Brown University  
**Andria Smythe**, Howard University  
**Nzinga Broussard**, Global Innovation Fund  
**Lisa D. Cook**, Michigan State University

## **ENSLAVEMENT, RACIAL INEQUALITY AND MAKING VICTIMS WHOLE**

*Chair:* **Jerome S. Paige**, Jerome S. Paige & Associates

*Compensating Versus Making One Whole*

**Charles Betsey**, Howard University

*CARICOM: Unjust Enrichment and the Case for Restitution*

**Richard America**, Georgetown University

*From Here to Equality: A Framework for Restitution for Descendants of the Formerly Enslaved*

**William Darity Jr.**, Duke University  
**Kirsten Mullen**, Artefactual

*Discussants:*

**Sibylle Scholz**, Forensic Economist  
**Dania V. Francis**, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
**Jerome S. Paige**, Jerome S. Paige & Associates

## **RELATIONSHIPS AMONG HEALTH, EDUCATION AND INEQUALITY**

*Organizer/Chair:* **Andria Smythe**, Howard University

*State Mental Health Insurance Parity Laws and College Educational Outcomes*

**Keisha Solomon**, Temple University

*The Relationship Between Student Debt and Health*

**Gerald Eric Daniels Jr.**, Howard University  
**Venoo Kakar**, San Francisco State University

*Do Ethnic Enclaves Protect Foreign-Born Women from Intimate Partner Violence?*

**Rebecca Hsu**, Howard University

continued on next page ▶

# ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

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*The Causes and Consequences of Neighborhood Sorting: Evidence from School Finance Reforms*

**Kenneth Whaley**, Clemson University  
**Patrick Bayer**, Duke University  
**Peter Blair**, Harvard University

*Higher Education and Racial/Ethnic Differences in Intergenerational Mobility*

**Andria Smythe**, Howard University

*Macroeconomic Aspects of Income Inequality*

**Karl Boulware**, Wesleyan University  
**Kenneth N. Kuttner**, Williams College

*Discussants:*

**Jevay Grooms**, Howard University  
**Marcus Casey**, University of Illinois at Chicago  
**E.J. Ume**, Miami University  
**Omari Swinton**, Howard University  
**Jamein Cunningham**, University of Memphis

## CRIME, FINANCIAL SHOCK, EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP

*Chair: Olugbenga Ajilore*, Center for American Progress

*Local Financial Shocks and Its Effect on Crime*

**Salvador Contreras**, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley  
**Amit Ghosh**, Illinois Wesleyan University

*Crime, Employment, and Broad-Based Employee Ownership Opportunities*

**Robynn Cox**, University of Southern California

*Media Influences on Entrepreneurship and Innovation*

**David T. Robinson**, Duke University  
**Angelino C. G. Viceisza**, Spelman College

*Disparities in Homeownership and Mortgage Lending: Understanding the American Indian Experience from 2005–2017*

**Jeffrey Burnette**, Rochester Institute of Technology  
**Javier Espinosa**, Rochester Institute of Technology

*Trends in Global Female Labor Participation: 1990–2017*

**Hanadi Alabaad**, Howard University  
**Zhun Xu**, Howard University

*The Green Books and the Geography of Segregation in Public Accommodations*

**Lisa D. Cook**, Michigan State University  
**Maggie E. C. Jones**, Michigan State University  
**Trevon Logan**, The Ohio State University  
**David Rosé**, Michigan State University

*Discussants:*

**Robynn Cox**, University of Southern California  
**Salvador Contreras**, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley  
**Samuel L. Myers Jr.**, University of Minnesota

## CRIME, RACE, AND PUBLIC POLICY

*Chair: Miesha J. Williams*, Morehouse College

*Effect of Proposition 47 on Minority Labor Market Outcomes*

**Robynn Cox**, University of Southern California  
**Jamein Cunningham**, University of Memphis

*Racial Divisions and Criminal Justice: Evidence from Southern State Courts*

**Benjamin Feigenberg**, University of Illinois at Chicago  
**Conrad Miller**, University of California, Berkeley

*Network Effects in Police Use of Force*

**Bocar Ba**, Duke University  
**Justin Holz**, University of Chicago  
**Roman Rivera**, Columbia University

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*Racial and Gender Congruence in Police Use of Force Encounters*

**Andrea M. Headley**, Ohio State University  
**James E. Wright III**, Florida State University

*Household Responses to the Escalation of Violent Crime in Mexico*

**Luisa Blanco**, Pepperdine University  
**Robin Grier**, Texas Tech University  
**Kevin Grier**, Texas Tech University  
**Daniel Hicks**, University of Oklahoma

*Campus Carry Laws on Campus Violence*

**Olugbenga Ajilore**, Center for American Progress

*Discussants:*

**Scott Cunningham**, Baylor University  
**Marcus Casey**, University of Illinois at Chicago  
**Damon Jones**, University of Chicago  
**Jhacova Williams**, Clemson University  
**Luisa Blanco**, Pepperdine University

**FACTORS IMPACTING EMERGING AFRICAN NATIONS**

*Chair:* **Juliet Elu**, Morehouse College

*A Dynamic Path to Infrastructural Development in Africa: The Role of Economic Integration*

**Oladele Omosegbon**, Indiana Wesleyan University and Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

*The Effects of Recent Violent Conflict Exposure on Labor Supply of Agricultural Households in Nigeria*

**John Chiwuzulum Odozi**, University of Ibadan  
**Ruth Uwaifo Oyelere**, Agnes Scott College and IZA

*Development Funding in Africa: The Case of West Africa*

**Juliet Elu**, Morehouse College  
**Miesha J. Williams**, Morehouse College

*Financing Electricity and Transportation Infrastructure in Selected Sub-Saharan African Countries*

**J. O. Saka**, Lagos State University  
**Douglason G. Omotor**, West African Institute for Financial and Economic Management

*Economic Development and Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa*

**Emmanuel Obi**, Morehouse College

*Governance, Growth and Development in Sub-Sahara Africa: A Revisit of the Evidence*

**Akpan H. Ekpo**, University of Uyo and Foundation for Economic Research and Training

*Discussants:*

**John Ned**, Loyola University Maryland  
**Cruz Bueno**, State University of New York at New Paltz  
**Jamein Cunningham**, University of Memphis  
**Linda Loubert**, Morgan State University  
**Jan Christopher**, Delaware State University

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