

# 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

Issue 13 | Winter 2021

## CORONA, THE GREAT EXPOSER: HOW THE PANDEMIC HAS EXACERBATED INEQUALITIES IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

By Carycruz M. Bueno, Brown University, and Cruz Caridad Bueno, SUNY–New Paltz



Communities of color in the United States and throughout the world are suffering because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This health crisis has not just eroded the well-being of people of color (POC); it has exacerbated and brought to the forefront the racial, health, economic, gender, and education inequalities at the foundation of American society. The visible eruption of a multiethnic, multiracial, multigenerational, and international movement led by Black activists within the context of the pandemic is not a coincidence but a deliberate, organized effort to demand social justice for the very communities where this health crisis is felt most deeply. Coronavirus is not the “great equalizer” but the great exposor of how race in this country overdetermines social, health, and economic outcomes for POC.

Amid some lawmakers’ use of the racist terms “China virus” and “kung flu virus” and the media’s failure to report that the coronavirus actually arrived in the United States via Europe (not Asia), the Asian American community was among the first to feel the impacts of COVID-19 in the form of physical and verbal assaults. The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council has found an increase in the reporting of hate crimes against Asian Americans, with over 2,500 cases filed from March to early August 2020 (Asian Pacific Policy and Planning

Council 2020, Berman 2020, New York State Attorney General 2020). The heightened risk of physical and verbal attacks creates an untenable situation for Asian Americans, who must both protect themselves from the virus and attempt to stay safe amid the violence directed at them.

As coronavirus-related hate crimes against Asian Americans were beginning to be documented in early March, *Essence* magazine was among the first media outlets to document the health impacts of the virus on Black communities and POC (Christian 2020). On April 2, 2020, *Essence*, citing economic and healthcare discrimination, reported that Black people constituted 40% of coronavirus-related deaths in Michigan despite being only 14% of the population (Bandeled 2020). A week later, the *New York Times* stated that the coronavirus was “killing Black and Latino people in New York City at twice the rate that it is killing white people” (Mays and Newman 2020). Native American communities are 19 times more likely to not have running water than white communities (DigDeep and US Water Alliance 2019), and their coronavirus-related death rate is 3.3 times higher than for whites (APM Research Lab 2020).

continued on page 4 ▶

# CONTENTS

## FEATURES

### **Corona, the Great Exposer: How the Pandemic Has Exacerbated Inequalities in American Society**

by Carycruz M. Bueno, Brown University, and Cruz Caridad Bueno, SUNY–New Paltz..... 1, 4-6

### **Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander and 100 Years of African American Economics**

by Nina Banks, Bucknell University.....9-12

### **Making It Through: Coping Hacks for Underrepresented Minorities in Economics Graduate School and Beyond**

by Arkey Barnett and Ebonya Washington, Yale University ..... 15-17

## PIPELINE PROGRAMS

### **Summer Training Program and Scholarship Program . . . . . 3**

### **Mentoring Program . . . . . 3**

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

## ECONOMISTS TO WATCH

### **Randall Akee**

*Small Groups, Big Economic Stories* ..... 7-8

### **Nada Eissa**

*Watching the Economy at Work in Current Events and Public Policy*..... 13-14

### **Darrick Hamilton**

*The Economics of Inequality*..... 18-19

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACTIVITIES . . 23-31

## 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 U.S. 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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*(treasurer) BWI Marshall Airport*



# PIPELINE PROGRAMS

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## ▶ Summer Training Program and Scholarship Program

The AEA Summer Training Program and Scholarship Program promote diversity by preparing talented undergraduates for doctoral programs in economics and related disciplines. Hosted at Howard University, students receive eight weeks of intensive training in microeconomics, mathematics, econometrics, and research methods from prominent faculty and economists at the Federal Reserve Board. Students have the opportunity to earn up to 12 college credits, participate in experiential learning, and join inclusive mentoring groups.

**For more information and to apply:** Go to <http://economics.howard.edu/aeasp>

**Application deadline:** January 31, 2021

## ▶ 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/csmgep/mentoring>

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

@AEAMP1

**Deadlines for funding requests:** March 1, August 15, and October 1, 2021

## ▶ 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, another public agency, or a nonprofit research institution. 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, 2021

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

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By early April it was clear that the lack of a coherent and effective government response to the public health crisis, coupled with the long-standing levels of discrimination and inequality in America, was killing Black and Brown people at much higher rates than whites. The much higher death rate among POC versus white people is rooted not only in long-standing racism in the healthcare system but also in the fact that POC in America are less likely to have health insurance (Grooms, Ortega, and Rubalcaba 2020). Not to be overlooked is the mental health crisis that has been exacerbated by these disparities in physical health: Black essential healthcare workers report higher levels of anxiety and Latinx essential workers report higher levels of depression when compared with white essential workers (Grooms, Ortega, Rubalcaba, and Vargas 2020).

Compounding the health crisis is the economic crisis due to the shutdowns intended to slow the spread of the virus. In Q2 annualized GDP retracted by 32.9%; this unprecedented decline, exacerbated by government stimulus focused more on businesses rather than families and individuals, impacts every economic aspect of the lives of POC. To begin, larger percentages of Black and Latinx individuals work in jobs that cannot be done remotely, resulting in greater unemployment among these groups and greater health risks for those whose jobs remained, such as essential workers (Gould and Shierholz 2020). In the second quarter of 2020, unemployment figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) were Black 16.1%, Latinx 16.7%, and Asian 14.3%, whereas whites had 12.0%; when gender is considered, Latinx women had the highest unemployment rate at 18.7%, followed by Black women at 16.2% (BLS 2020).<sup>1</sup> Using BLS monthly data, Dr. Diane Lim notes that Asian women experienced the largest absolute increase in unemployment, 8.5 percentage points, from February to August 2020 (Lim 2020). These substantial

figures underestimate the total impact on employment, given low response rates, underemployment, errors in employment classification, and people being discouraged from applying for unemployment benefits, such as by long wait times for applying for benefits (Kochhar 2020). Furthermore, it is important to note that Native American numbers are not reported separately, raising the question of how bad their labor outcomes are, given the lack of data for this community.

Unemployment creates a host of economic problems for POC and their families: food insecurity, housing insecurity, potential lack of access to healthcare, and gender violence in the household. For example, the Urban Institute, using data from the U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, reported: "About a quarter of Black and Latino renters who responded to the survey did not pay or deferred rent in May, compared with 14 percent of white renters. And while a quarter of white renters expressed slight or no confidence in their ability to pay rent in June, nearly half of Black and Latino renters expressed similar concern" (Greene and McCargo 2020).

Housing insecurity remains a looming threat, and the stalemate in Washington over the second round of stimulus disproportionately impacted families of color (Badger et al. 2020).

At the intersection of race, class, and gender discrimination is the plight of Black and Latinx women during this health and economic crisis. The virus and its mishandling by federal lawmakers is not just killing Black and Brown people; the difficulty of life amid the pandemic is stoking fires of anger and tension among people living in already marginalized communities, leading to violence that often falls disproportionately on women of color. Bueno and Henderson (2017) find that economic variables are correlated with women's reporting of experiencing intimate partner violence; for

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example, women who are employed and women who report having money for their own use are both less likely to report experiencing intimate partner violence. This pandemic and its ramifications (such as the shift to virtual learning and working from home) are pushing women out of the labor force and into precarious situations. Previous research has documented the heightened risk of gender violence that women of color experience (Blackburn Center 2017), and current research has reported how coronavirus-related teleworking, unemployment, shelter-in-place mandates, and remote learning for students have coincided with increased levels of intimate partner violence (Lee et al. 2002, Usher et al. 2020).

Related to the issue of women's increased burdens is the impact of the coronavirus on the education of children of color. Students and families of color have been stressed from daycare through college level due to the interruption of in-person schooling by COVID-19. Mothers especially are impacted: women are three times more likely than men to be the sole care provider for children during the pandemic (Miller 2020). For students, attending a full-time virtual school reduces achievement for elementary and middle school students and graduation rates for high school students (Bueno 2020). Early evidence suggests that Black, Latinx, and low-income students have been disproportionately affected in terms of education loss during the pandemic (Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker 2020); some reasons are the lack of space to work and the higher likelihood of COVID-19 infection and unemployment in these groups, on top of the already existing Black-white and Latinx-white achievement gaps from kindergarten through college education (Center for Education Policy Analysis n.d.). Meanwhile, wealthy Americans have turned to "learning pods" (Bastian 2020), banding together with other well-off families for small-group learning and sometimes even hiring tutors or teachers, which will further widen the achievement gap along racial and economic lines. The current administration's demand during summer 2020 to open schools without providing the proper funding to do so safely overwhelmingly impacts vulnerable populations. On the first day of school, 74% of the 100 largest districts opened remote only (Education Week 2020), but it is unclear how many of these students had adequate equipment, Wi-Fi, parental guidance, or space to successfully learn.

The level of racial economic inequality, the lack of universal government-sponsored healthcare, the overwhelming number of POC deemed essential workers, and the massive number of layoffs due to the

shutdown have combined to create a dismal outlook for people of color in the United States. The brutal murders of Mr. George Floyd and Ms. Breonna Taylor within the context of a health crisis has intensified the movement to address racism, white supremacy, and the inequities that the coronavirus has worsened. Previous research shows that civil rights protests and riots are positively correlated with improvements in the wages of Black people vis-à-vis whites (King 2005); given the rise in protests, we are hopeful that positive economic changes will follow for POC. In addition to the need to continue demanding change at the local and state levels is the need for a comprehensive federal economic plan to address the economic concerns of POC and other vulnerable populations in the short run and the long run. There is a clear and pressing need for universal healthcare, fiscal policy that promotes full employment, consistent stimulus payments to households to increase consumption to boost GDP, funding of education that benefits children of color, resources for women and girls to protect themselves from violence during this crisis, and the need for reparations to the Black community to begin to correct the structural inequality and racism at the foundation of American economic growth. ■

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<sup>1</sup> The Bureau of Labor Statistics uses the terms *Black or African American* and *Hispanic or Latino*; we use the terms *Black* and *Latinx* for these groups.

# SMALL GROUPS, BIG ECONOMIC STORIES

**Randall Akee**

*Associate Professor, Departments of Public Policy and the American Indian Studies Program, UCLA*



Growing up in a single-parent household in a sugarcane plantation town in Hawaii where money was tight was an early introduction to budget constraints for Randall Akee, though he didn't know the term for it at the time.

But the lessons stuck with him, as did his desire to learn more about the economic forces at work in his own life and in the world around him. These interests led him to enroll in an Advanced Placement economics class in the all-Native Hawaiian high school he attended. The teacher piqued his interest even further with this loud-and-clear message to the class: "You Native Hawaiians need to take a stronger interest in economics, because otherwise Mr. Charlie will get you."

So Akee, now an associate professor in the Departments of Public Policy and the American Indian Studies Program at UCLA, headed to Dartmouth College with an economics major firmly in mind. He continued his exploration of economics at Yale, then Harvard, at each step focusing on how economics affects people and groups that standard research often overlooks.

His early work kept his efforts close to home, quite literally. In the State

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One of the things I'm interested in is opening the door for more underrepresented minorities in the economics profession.

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of Hawaii's Office of Hawaiian Affairs' Economic Development Division in the late 1990s, he looked at programs that could help the economic outlook of Native Hawaiian communities at a time when the sugarcane and pineapple industries were in steep decline.

Issues impacting Native and Indigenous peoples have remained a focus of Akee's research. Another area he's explored is the effect of casinos on children living on Native American reservations. In some cases, revenue from casinos goes to tribal governments to fund housing, schools, and services in the community. Some tribes also designate cash payments to members, which function as universal basic income payments. What Akee found in his studies of such payments in one tribe is that "when you make households and families less poor, their children achieve more." They attain higher levels of education and, as adults, are more civically engaged. And their parents don't tend to work any less, he says.

Of course, his study focused on just one small group, as did a different research project that focused on immigration patterns among Micronesians, who face few or no restrictions on immigration to the U.S. given Micronesia's Compact of Free Association with the U.S. government. The people who were moving from the Federated States of Micronesia, in the western Pacific Ocean, to Guam and Hawaii at the time of his research tended to be

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highly skilled, with above-average education levels, which indicated that these immigrants tended to be positively selected.

"And those were the things that were interesting to me," he says. "Who is leaving and who are they leaving behind, and then what are the secondary issues because of that?"

While small groups may seem somewhat insignificant, Akee has learned that insights from such studies can really say a lot.

"That's been my take on how I do my research from the beginning," he explains. "People have said, 'Why are you studying this? This has no value to the economics profession.' And I've always claimed, 'Ah, but it does.' It's interesting and important in and of itself, but beyond that, it can also inform us about broader fundamental questions that we care about in economics."

Another group, somewhat larger, that Akee thinks about a lot is economists themselves. At the Allied Social Science Associations annual meeting in early 2020, he participated in a panel hosted by the AEA and convened by its president, Janet Yellen, titled "How Can Economics Solve Its Race Problem?" (AEA Mentoring Program director Trevon Logan and past director Marie Mora also participated. A recording is available at <https://www.aeaweb.org/conference/2020/preliminary/2264>.)

The problem, as Akee sees it, is twofold: First, studying the economics of race or ethnicity isn't a standard field in economics. It gets tucked into labor economics sometimes, but rarely is it accepted as its own valid field of study. "That affects how others see the profession as being open or not," he says. "Because if you're interested

in this as a PhD student going into it and there's no place for you, then why wouldn't you go into political science? Or why wouldn't you go into sociology or anthropology for your career? ... Having it be an accepted area of research and acceptable to conduct research on this and to publish on this and to get tenure with this is going to be important in the future for attracting a broader array of individuals."

To help support more economic research of underrepresented groups, Akee and some colleagues recently launched the Association for Economic Research of Indigenous Peoples, which will facilitate networking, sponsor events, and advocate for this area of study.

The second problem is that the profession tends to "replicate itself," he says, with those in authority tending to promote people who look like them professionally and come from a similar background when it comes to doctoral program admissions, mentoring assignments, job recommendations, and tenure decisions. Decision-makers may find "the outsider or the unusual person" harder to evaluate and to recommend. One potential way to solve these problems is through implicit bias training, which can help decision-makers see beyond what's established and comfortable and make room for more perspectives.

"One of the things I'm interested in is opening the door for more underrepresented minorities in the economics profession," says Akee. "Because I think we all benefit from having a broader range of people in the profession across genders, across national origins, across backgrounds of all types, class types as well. So I'm quite interested in that and I'm happy to support that." ■

## 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?**  
Two mystery novels and my Kindle.
- ▶ **What is an ideal day?**  
Early morning at my local coffee shop. Working from there and home.
- ▶ **What trait do you deplore in other people?**  
Selfishness.
- ▶ **What trait do you most admire in people?**  
Selflessness.
- ▶ **What is your favorite extravagance?**  
Baked goods.
- ▶ **What is your worst habit?**  
Baked goods.
- ▶ **What is your airport vice?**  
Baked goods.
- ▶ **Mountain or beach vacation?**  
Both.
- ▶ **Maynard Keynes or Milton Friedman?**  
Keynes.
- ▶ **What's the hardest thing you've ever done?**  
Getting a PhD.



# SADIE TANNER MOSSELL ALEXANDER AND 100 YEARS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ECONOMICS

By Nina Banks, Bucknell University



The National Economic Association (NEA) is commemorating 100 Years of African American Economics this year. In 1921, Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander became the first African American to earn a PhD in economics in the United States. Her achievement prefigured the work of the group described by Patrick Mason (2020) as “the cornerstone economists” for their foundational thinking in African American economics, shaped by the Civil Rights and Black Power movements underway when they began their graduate studies (mid-1960s to mid-1970s). The NEA’s 2021 ASSA sessions will focus on the contributions and intellectual thought of these early and influential African American economists.

## WHO WAS SADIE TANNER MOSSELL ALEXANDER?

Born Sadie Mossell into a prominent Black family in Philadelphia in 1898, Alexander wrote her dissertation in response to the Great Migration of African Americans from the south to the north. She analyzed obstacles that migrants to Philadelphia encountered in making a living in the city. Their ability to earn a fair standard of living—a living wage—was an important question at the time, given the hostility they faced from longtime Philadelphia residents who believed that they were an economic drain on the city. Her doctoral research countered this assumption. By calculating income needed to cover expenditures according to family size, Sadie Mossell determined that the majority (64%) of migrant families were able to meet the standard with their combined earnings.

She made recommendations to decrease impediments that prevented migrants from achieving a fair standard of living (Mossell 1921).

Despite her advisors’ support and praise for her outstanding dissertation, no local employer offered her employment as an economist. After working for two years in North Carolina as an assistant actuary, she married Raymond Alexander when he finished Harvard Law School, and a year later she entered law school at the University of Pennsylvania. She fought for equal rights and protections for African Americans through her family law practice, membership in the National Bar Association, and extensive public service that included serving on President Truman’s Civil Rights Committee, whose landmark report *To Secure These Rights* provided the foundation for the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Most economists were unaware of Alexander until Julianne Malveaux’s seminal publication, “Missed Opportunity,” in 1991. Malveaux discussed the implications of Alexander’s inability to find employment as an economist in terms of its impact on the economics profession and how it shaped Alexander’s contributions to scholarly knowledge more generally. I started researching Alexander’s extensive archival records at the University of Pennsylvania in 2003 in response to Malveaux’s powerful analysis. I discovered through meticulous review of professional and personal correspondence and speeches that Alexander maintained her interest in economic issues

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and remained active as an economist while working as an attorney. My recovery and dissemination of Sadie Alexander's economic thought has aimed to bring her analysis into the canon of economic thought. She provided a framework for thinking about connections between race, markets, law, politics, and power in a liberal democratic order by arguing that the state had an obligation to ensure economic security and well-being as a safeguard for democracy. Drawing on the tradition of political economy in her use of historical analysis and power relations to explain economic outcomes, Alexander foreshadowed the cornerstone economists in her analysis of structural and ideological factors that sustain racial disparities. Her interdisciplinary training, like theirs, contributed to her expertise within multiple fields of economics.

## ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ECONOMISTS

This report lays out ways in which Alexander's economics framework exemplifies core aspects of Black American economic thought (BAET). BAET provides critical perspectives on economic relations and economic outcomes that distinguish it from mainstream economics. Below, I briefly discuss some features of BAET through the work of Alexander and some of the cornerstone economists.

### Group Analysis

In neoclassical economics, the individual is the unit of analysis; in BAET, the group is the unit of analysis. Alexander focused on racial conflict between groups of workers and on discriminatory employment practices that gave white workers advantages in hiring over Black workers. Stewart (1995) discussed the need for economists to theorize group behavior by outlining a model of intergroup conflict. He argued that economic models are of little relevance to the Black community when they fail to address the effect of group identity on economic behavior. Darity (2005) developed a new field—stratification economics—as an empirical approach that examines the intentional and structural processes that create and sustain hierarchies and inequities between ascriptively different groups.

### Persistence of Racial Disparities

BAET recognizes the inability of markets to eliminate discrimination based on ascriptive characteristics.

*Alexander foreshadowed the cornerstone economists in her analysis of structural and ideological factors that sustain racial disparities.*

Alexander strongly believed that only government and court action could diminish employment discrimination. In the post-Civil Rights era, Swinton (1975) explained the persistence of racial discrimination through an analysis of factors that determine the absolute and relative positions of subordinate groups. He illustrated that no automatic market forces will improve the economic position of subordinate groups over time, given inequalities in the level and structure of opportunities, the distribution of resources, and high benefits from discrimination.

### Status of Black Women

In the 1930s, Alexander recognized the importance of Black women's earnings for family welfare and viewed their status as a reflection of the overall status of the Black community. She denounced unfair labor laws that undermined Black women's well-being and disadvantaged them relative to white women. Over fifty years later, Margaret Simms and Malveaux (1986) edited a groundbreaking publication, *Slipping through the Cracks: The Status of Black Women*, examining the unique concerns of Black women that are often overlooked in discussions of racial or gender disparities. Like Alexander, Jones (1985: 27) noted that because of Black women's community ties, "the economic problems of black

women in general and their problems as workers cannot be separated from the economic plight of the black community.”

### Importance of Black Institutions

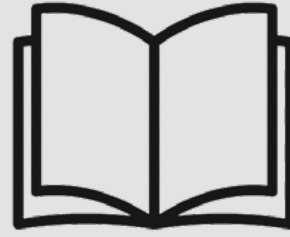
Mainstream economic theories explain racial disparities as outcomes of Black deficits and dysfunctionality. Black economists have dispelled these claims through empirical analyses and instead documented the strengths of African American formations and community institutions. Alexander’s scholarly activism through Black institution building (National Bar Association, National Urban League, Delta Sigma Theta) is similar to that of Simms, whose “contribution to the NEA since its founding is unmatched” (Jones 2018: 188–89). In addition to helping establish and build the NEA as a board member and president, Simms is an editor of another bedrock of African American economics: the *Review of Black Political Economy*, the leading journal on the economic status of Black Americans and on racial and ethnic disparities.

### Racial Justice Epistemology

BAET rejects the contention that economic analyses are value-neutral and objective. Myers (1989) challenged the claim that Black morals largely determine Black welfare, arguing instead that it is “policy makers’ moralizing about the poor, the disadvantaged and the downtrodden” that is often detrimental to Black economic welfare and the creation of effective policies. Given the role of values in economics, Black economists such as Alexander have openly embraced the moral imperative to achieve racial justice for Black people. Richard F. America (1998) used the restitution principle to argue that wrongful gains from past behavior such as slavery must be countered through reparations for African Americans as a means for achieving redistributive justice.

### Race-Conscious Policies

BAET calls for redistributive policies that are race conscious in order to obtain racial justice. Alexander saw the need for race-conscious policies in the 1930s, when New Deal programs, although racially neutral on paper, disadvantaged Black workers relative to white workers through occupational exclusions and regional variations. Through case-study analysis, Betsey (1992) demonstrated the need for race-conscious policies after finding that Black business ownership in Birmingham, Alabama,



## WORK IN PROGRESS

Nina Banks’s efforts to recover Sadie Alexander’s life as an economist recently culminated in an edited volume titled *Democracy, Race, and Justice: Select Speeches and Writings of Sadie T.M. Alexander* (Yale University Press). It will be released on June 15, 2021, the 100th anniversary of the year Sadie Alexander received her doctoral degree. Banks is currently writing a biography of Alexander that examines her contributions to civil rights.

from 1982 to 1987 might have grown in response to the mayor’s efforts to increase opportunities for Black-owned businesses.

### Public Service Engagement

Black economists apply their knowledge to benefit the Black community through public service with the express purpose of combating racial disparities. As a nonacademic economist, Alexander influenced the economic status of African Americans through her civic engagement and government service. Bernard Anderson, professor emeritus at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, shares with Alexander considerable public service in Philadelphia, their city of origin. He has advanced African American interests through 30 years in HBCU governance, service as assistant secretary of labor for employment standards during the Clinton administration, and service at the Rockefeller Foundation, where he was instrumental in getting AEA sponsorship for the Summer Institute for Minorities in Economics.

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## FROM 1921 TO TODAY: BLACK AMERICAN ECONOMISTS AT THE FOREFRONT

The 100th anniversary of Alexander's doctoral degree in economics provides an opportunity to reflect on the critical perspectives and activities of Black American economists to challenge African American oppression. The list is not long, but it is mighty: Samuel L. Myers Sr.,

Robert Weaver, Phyllis Wallace, Robert Browne, Andrew Brimmer, Marcus Alexis, and Lloyd Hogan are some of the Black economists who will be commemorated at the 2021 ASSA meetings whose pioneering scholarship, leadership, activism, and mentoring shaped the economic thought of our cornerstone economists. Black American economists—an "elite clan of warrior intellectuals" (Ruffins 1996)—stand at the forefront of economics for their scholarship on racial oppression and their actions to combat it. ■

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# WATCHING THE ECONOMY AT WORK IN CURRENT EVENTS AND PUBLIC POLICY

**Nada Eissa**

*Associate Professor, Public Policy and Economics, Georgetown University*



Photo: Georgetown University

When Nada Eissa moved from Sudan to the United States with her family at age nine, a lot changed. The weather was different, and she was no longer living within a short drive of her entire extended family. But most of all, the change in location shifted her perspective of what poverty is and whom it affects.

"I think that moving from a poor country to a place like the U.S. must have struck some chord in my mind," she recalls.

She remained attuned to the economy and its effects on people's lives as she got older, and current events became the stage on which she watched it play out.

"As a teenager, I was always interested in economic news," she says. "Whenever there was something about the economy, I found myself just listening and paying attention." The 1980s were an exciting (and troubling) time for anyone interested in economics: Inflation was high, and the Fed's efforts to curb it led to high unemployment. "Living through that piqued my interest," she says, and she knew as she entered the

University of California, Berkeley, as an undergraduate that economics was what she wanted to study.

At first, she was most interested in macroeconomics. "I was really fascinated by how the economy functioned, how the Fed could alter the trajectory of the economy so powerfully and also have this dramatic impact on people's lives," she says. "So the whole big picture was interesting to me." She entered graduate school at Harvard intending to study international macroeconomics, and then, in her third year, took a class that "opened a light," as she describes it, onto public finance, which has become the cornerstone of her work.

Much of her research as an associate professor of public policy at Georgetown University and research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research has been on the design, effects, and sometimes unintended consequences of taxes and transfers, especially the earned income tax credit (EITC). Data have shown that the program is effective in encouraging people to work and has resulted in an increase in hourly wages and after-tax incomes,

Eissa says. But it leaves out those who choose not to work or, more importantly, cannot work. Her findings have suggested flaws in the design of the program: "We could target the program better and give more money to poorer people," she says. The next set of questions Eissa is hoping to address in her research focus on the impact of the EITC on wages of eligible workers. The research will attempt to tease out what share of the credit benefits employers by enabling them to offer lower pretax wages.

More recently, her work on taxation has expanded in scope, to include developing countries and field experiments to understand tax evasion. In Rwanda, she's working with colleagues and the Revenue Authority to examine the potential for mystery shoppers to serve as auditors for the value-added tax.

The next questions are always on Eissa's mind, including some that linger from work she did in the early 2000s, upon first arriving at Georgetown, on the impact of school choice programs. She and

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colleagues helped gather and analyze data from the first federally funded voucher program, which passed in 2004, and found no consistent impact on test scores, but a strong boost to high school graduation. Still underexamined, Eissa says, is what happens to public schools when vouchers remove their top performers. How do teachers and administration respond, and how does it affect the outcomes for students still enrolled? “These are still questions that are on my list of things to do,” she says with a laugh.

When she started two years of service as deputy assistant secretary of the Treasury for economic policy, her to-do list was clear from the start. Her first day was August 29, 2005—the day Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. Instead of looking at Social Security privatization and

various options for investments and returns as she thought she would be doing, she was thrown right into helping shape the administration’s policy on recovery in New Orleans and thinking more broadly about the federal government’s role after large-scale disasters. Not long after, avian flu started to become an area of concern, and her work shifted to how government should respond to pandemics. Even though “we finally went back to more sane, normal topics like health insurance,” she says, she enjoyed the opportunity in that role to explore “things I would never have thought about otherwise.” And given the current state of the world, her experience at the Treasury proved critical to how she’s evaluating the government response to COVID-19.

Even before Congress passed \$2.3 trillion of additional spending in

March and April, Eissa said, these days the policy issues that “keep me up at night” are the deficit—“I’m very worried that we’ve cut taxes so much and haven’t done anything on the spending side, and I think sometime in the near future that’s going to hit hard,” she says—and income and wealth inequality.

Across her career, Eissa has studied how government can best support a nation’s people, and how the design and administration of taxation can have profound effects, which may be why that last concern weighs so heavily on her.

“I think we’re now beginning to see a loss of faith in institutions—people don’t believe that government works for them anymore. It all feeds into a worrisome story about where we could be in a few years.” ■

## 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?**

*Visual Intelligence* (Amy Herman) and *The World of Yesterday* (translated by Anthea Bell).

▶ **What is an ideal day?**

A quiet day.

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

Cruelty.

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

Fearlessness.

▶ **What is your favorite extravagance?**

Upgrading on very long flights.

▶ **What is your worst habit?**

Biting my nails.

▶ **Mountain or beach vacation?**

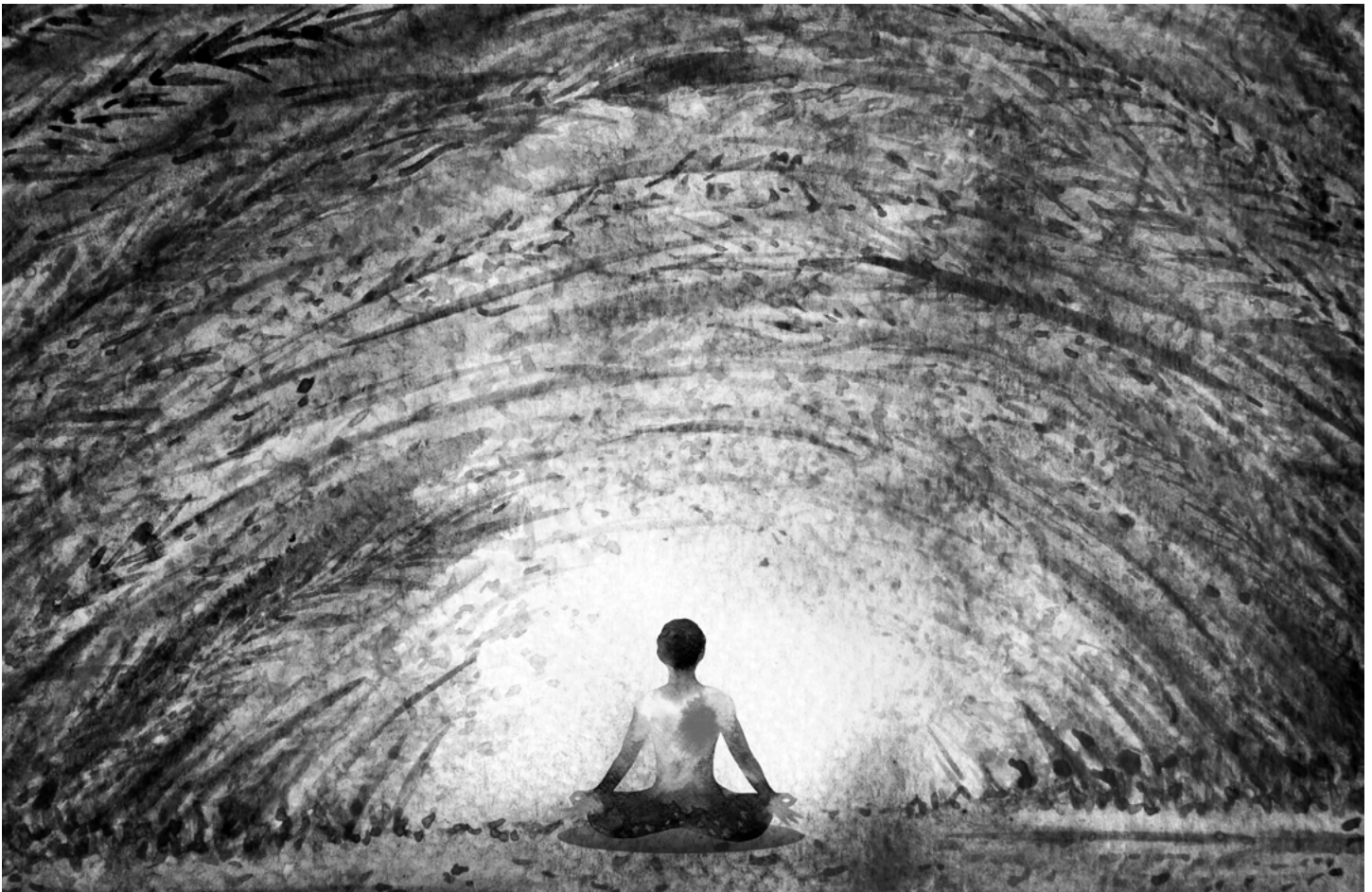
Mountain.

▶ **Maynard Keynes or Milton Friedman?**

Friedman.

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

Being a parent.



# MAKING IT THROUGH: COPING HACKS FOR UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES IN ECONOMICS GRADUATE SCHOOL AND BEYOND

*By Arkey Barnett and Ebonya Washington, Yale University*

We do not need AEA reports to tell us that working in this profession is tough for underrepresented racial and/or ethnic minorities. Long before the AEA entered recent conversations on race in economics, Black, Latinx, and Native American economists and prospective economists found ways to survive, often looking to mentors and strong peer groups for support and guidance. In this article, we highlight three coping

strategies that are more rarely discussed: confiding in someone, practicing self-care, and venturing into social media. While we draw these lessons from the graduate school experiences of Black and Brown economists interviewed for Bayer, Hoover, and Washington (2020), we believe the suggestions are applicable in all stages of the economics pipeline and are even more critical

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*Joining a club or activity on or off campus can allow you not only to de-stress, but also to network and form community with folks outside of your department.*

in light of present-day challenges in public health, economics, and the fight for racial justice.

## CONFIDE IN SOMEONE

“During my doctorate program, I had my husband,” said an African American woman, now an assistant professor. “He didn’t quite always understand what was going on, but,” she continued, “when he saw me especially frustrated, he would be the one that kind of talked me off the ledge.”

While that respondent’s husband played a critical role in her doctoral completion, other respondents found that roommates, close friends, or extended family living locally or remotely were great people to talk to. A current student suggested that even those who cannot talk back can offer comfort: “I have a dog, and she has tons of unexpected expenses because she’s such a goofball. But having support at home,” the student stressed, “even her just being happy to see me ... is important.”

Sometimes, however, seeking help from loved ones or comfort from household pets is not enough. Grit and determination cannot solve all problems, and a therapist or professional counselor may be needed. Although some respondents discussed the stigma against therapy in their communities, those who used these services expressed newfound confidence and perspective on their situation. “I was super close to not applying, but at

the time I was seeing a therapist. ... I was talking to her about this program and ... my qualms about not feeling good enough,” a respondent preparing for graduate school explained. “If it wasn’t for her, I would’ve never applied to [current predoctoral position]. ... Because of her, I reached out to my network of economists ... [and] they were all super supportive and gave me more resources.”

## MAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF AND PRACTICE SELF-CARE

“I try to do yoga,” a current graduate student shared. “I try to make an effort to work out and eat well, even though everyone around me says to just work on my [economics] stuff nonstop and not breathe. Just taking those little bits of self-care have been really important.”

A professor looking back to their graduate student days shared another approach to self-care. “While I was defending my dissertation and going through all this work, I got a black belt.” The professor explained how joining a martial arts program helped rebuild and strengthen their self-esteem and could do the same for others “especially if [in graduate school] you’re dealing with ... gaps in education ... or you’re not feeling like you are welcomed.”

Joining a club or activity on or off campus can allow you not only to de-stress, but also to network and form community with folks outside of your department, as



happened for the professor who took martial arts classes. Some respondents joined and even created campus-based minority-affiliation groups, whose members exchanged information about scholarship and employment opportunities, in addition to providing one another with companionship and support during the PhD years. Their experiences highlight the importance of creating a life outside of the economics department to maintain a healthy work-life balance.

## VENTURE INTO THE SOCIAL MEDIA SPHERE

“The lack of social capital that comes from being minority or first-gen is [in] my opinion the thing that hurts progress the most,” explained a first-generation PhD student. She has addressed this problem personally by turning to Twitter. “I just follow a bunch of women ... [and] minority economists that are very, very helpful and ... put a lot of information and advice out there.”

The #EconTwitter hashtag—used by members of the economics profession engaging on the social media platform—continues to gain popularity. And while social media may suffer from a reputation for nastiness and cruelty, respondents have found “Econ Twitter” to be a positive space to interact with individuals around the world, learn about the experiences of minority graduate students in other schools, and connect to and support one another. These benefits can be especially useful if you are a minority economics student who feels alone in your department.

Knowing others share similar interests, views, or experiences may help you feel seen in a profession that can sometimes feel isolating. Discussing the recent AEA policy change banning interviews in hotel rooms, a current PhD student noted: “Reading [about the new policy] on Twitter ... I realize there are other people fighting for change too.” The respondent expressed feeling “less

alone” and “safer knowing that there are some people who care, notice, and will work with me if I try to make change too.”

Your Twitter activity can be limited to simply reading and perhaps liking tweets. Even at that level of engagement, you can access information on research, teaching, job opportunities, and more.

Just getting started with Econ Twitter? Look for Twitter accounts of economists you admire and see who these economists are following or are being followed by. Find posts with hashtags like #econ, #EconTwitter, #blackeconomists, and #economistofcolor to see what economists are tweeting or posting with these labels. You can also search the Twitter feeds of professional groups and organizations, including the American Society of Hispanic Economists (@ASHE\_ASSA), the Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession (@AEACSMGEP), and the National Economic Association (@NEAEcon).

To learn more about the benefits of joining Econ Twitter and how to get started, check out Anna Gifty Opoku-Agyeman’s “How to Hack #EconTwitter: A Resource Guide” and Matt Clancy’s “A Beginner’s Guide to #EconTwitter” on Medium.com.

## CONCLUSION

There is no one right way or foolproof solution to cope with the stressors that underrepresented minority students face in economics graduate school. One of the most important strategies is to develop a robust network of support. Drawing on qualitative interviews with underrepresented minority economists throughout the pipeline, we have presented a variety of ideas to strengthen and grow your network and help you withstand the difficulties of economics graduate school and beyond. ■

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# THE ECONOMICS OF INEQUALITY

## Darrick Hamilton

*University Professor, Henry Cohen Professor of Economics and Urban Policy, and Founding Director, Institute for the Study of Race, Stratification and Political Economy, The New School*



Someone once referred to Darrick Hamilton as a “scholar-preacher,” and with 33,700 Twitter followers, a TED talk with more than a million and a half views, and frequent commentary in news articles and on TV news programs, his sermons, so to speak—as well as his distinguished publication record—have a wide reach.

He wears his role as a public intellectual as a badge of honor, and uses his pulpit, based on his scholarship, to talk about stratification economics, which he describes as “understanding the persistent structural disparities associated with one’s identity as it relates to economic, education, and health well-being.”

Traditionally, as economics has looked at what gets produced and how it gets distributed, there has been a giant blind spot, says Hamilton, the Henry Cohen Professor of Economics and Urban Policy and university professor at The New School in New York City and founding director of the school’s new Institute for the Study of Race, Stratification and Political Economy. What gets missed is how identity—race, gender, and more—and deeply entrenched structural hierarchies affect those central questions.

“We don’t understand group dynamics and power related to those group dynamics, and that’s the void

that stratification economics fulfills,” Hamilton says.

Much of his research has focused on ways to disrupt the dynamics that perpetuate an unfair status quo and replace them with economic processes that can open opportunity to all in America. One such solution he’s put forth is “baby bonds”—a program in which the U.S. government would place funds in an account for each baby born in the country based on the family’s income level. The funds would become accessible when the baby reaches adulthood, ensuring every American, regardless of familial wealth or economic status, has the resources needed to attain wealth-building milestones like higher education, homeownership, and entrepreneurship. As Hamilton points out, the U.S. government has long provided programs to boost such actions, but people of color have largely been shut out of them.

A program like baby bonds would be “very consistent with American history of a government seeding a population with assets so that they can have economic security in their life,” he says. “What is inconsistent with American history is that it would be done in an anti-racist way so as to ensure that everybody, particularly Black, Latinx, and Native people, would have access to the resource.”

He’s also researched, and advocated for, a federal jobs guarantee. Like baby bonds, the idea is to address income inequality by opening access to resources. Guaranteed employment would not only help the workers themselves by improving work conditions and lifting people out of poverty or the fear of destitution, he says, but it also would support the country as a whole by directing work toward infrastructure improvements and climate change mitigation.

“It could offer us the ability to reimagine the type of future that we want with public and physical infrastructure,” Hamilton says.

In a paper titled “What We Get Wrong About Closing the Racial Wealth Gap,” published in 2018, Hamilton and several coauthors gathered sobering data about modern disparities in the U.S. economy and not just who is affected, but why. And the why is something economists and everyone else have been getting wrong for decades, he says.

“When it comes to understanding inequality, our perspective of deficits within the group that’s underperforming is so strong that we don’t even interrogate the evidence to refute those claims,” he says. “And that paper is powerful in that it prevents and refutes all the notions of inequality that reduce to some

cultural, behavioral, or self-investment deficit among those that aren't performing well."

Hamilton's view of who gets what in the U.S. economy was shaped early in his life, as he grew up in a family of modest income in New York City's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood in the 1980s. With a combination of family contribution and scholarship money, he attended a private, Quaker-run school, where he saw another side to the story. "My experience growing up exposed me to two worlds," Hamilton said in a profile for *Mother Jones*. "A lot of friends that I grew up with, versus some of the friends that I went to school with—I could see that fundamentally they are similar people, but one was exposed to a greater set of resources than others, and it influenced their life outcomes."

When he started his higher education at Oberlin College, he chose economics as his focus "because I decidedly did not want to have to struggle and worry about resources as

an adult." He initially thought it'd be a good springboard for law school or business school, but then realized he had already found his passion. "The more I engaged with economics, as well as college in general, I realized that, one, I could make a good living and have the agency that I desire being a university professor, and that, two, my identity is really one of a scholar. And then, three, that economics was a way of thinking that was very consistent with how I think about things more generally, trying to address problems given constraints."

All along, he's been outspoken about his beliefs and the solutions that form the heart of his research. And he thinks economists and other scholars have a responsibility to go beyond publishing in academic journals, to reach the public, politicians, and stakeholders.

"If not us, then who?" he asks. "I think that the whole system of tenure provides us the cover to not have that threat of unemployment so as

to be more vocal to effect change. ... Thinking about providing avenues for our work to be publicly engaged is something that the academy and universities could do better at and should do better at."

And that's why "scholar-preacher" is a title he never shied away from.

"A knee-jerk reaction might be for a scholar to say, 'No, no, no, that's not me,'" Hamilton says. "I didn't distance myself from it. Instead I embraced the term and said, 'Well, to the extent that preachers are able to convey messages to a wider audience so as to improve ethics and lives more generally, that is something I wouldn't want to distance myself from, but embrace.' But one need not forget the other part of that equation, which is the scholarship. I am still not only guided by a moral compass, but also grounded by the integrity and the rigors associated with being a scholar." ■

## 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 bottle of water, remote controls, and 12 books. I will list the six that are on top: (1) *We Own the Future: Democratic Socialism—American Style*, (2) *Race for Profit*, (3) *Race After Technology*, (4) *The Worldly Philosophers: The Lives, Times, and Ideas of Great Economic Thinkers*, (5) *Hillbilly Elegy*, and (6) *The Messenger: The Rise and Fall of Elijah Muhammad*.

### ▶ What is an ideal day?

At this point, a day in which I finish writing a document that was probably long past due (smile).

### ▶ What trait do you deplore in other people?

I've got two—condescension and selfishness, but if I have to pick, selfishness.

### ▶ What trait do you most admire in people?

Humanitarianism.

### ▶ Which living person do you most admire?

This is something that changes because I know a lot of admirable and dope people, but right about now, Sen. Bernie Sanders, and it's because of more than the fact that we share the same birthday (smile).

### ▶ What is your favorite extravagance?

Unnecessary electronic gadgets.

### ▶ What is your worst habit?

Sugar.

### ▶ Maynard Keynes or Milton Friedman?

Out of those two, Keynes—shocker (smile).

### ▶ What's the hardest thing you've ever done?

I am still doing it, living without my mother.

# 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.



## WORLD BANK WASHINGTON, DC

**Carlos Arteta** is a lead economist in the World Bank's Prospects Group, which he joined in 2015. Headquartered in Washington, DC, the World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of poorer countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects. Within the World Bank, the Prospects Group conducts in-depth analysis of key global macroeconomic developments and their impact on World Bank member countries, leads the World Bank's forecasting work, and produces its semiannual *Global Economic Prospects* flagship report. It also produces the *Commodity Markets Outlook* report, policy-relevant research on topical issues, and timely updates on global economic developments. Prior to his current position, Arteta served as principal economist at the Division of International Finance of the Federal Reserve Board and as deputy chief international economist at the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Describing his work at the World Bank, Arteta explains: "As lead economist in the Prospects Group, I coordinate the work program on global and regional macroeconomic surveillance. Among various related tasks, I am one of the main authors of the *Global Economic Prospects* report." Arteta notes that an important part of his job is to "contribute to the development of the Bank's

views on critical global macroeconomic issues and help shape the associated policy debate," and he adds that one key challenge is to "be able to identify and rigorously analyze emerging global macro topics and trends under tight timeframes on a regular basis."



**Carlos Arteta's advice to newly minted economists who might be interested in this type of job is to talk to people currently working in the institution to get a better idea of their day-to-day experience.**

"It is important for potential candidates to determine whether a particular position will be a good fit to their interests and profile," he explains. He stresses that the World Bank continuously searches for qualified individuals with diverse backgrounds from around the globe, and that female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.



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## MICROSOFT RESEARCH NEW ENGLAND

### CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

**Eleanor Dillon** is a senior economist at Microsoft Research New England. Microsoft Research is a multidisciplinary research lab within Microsoft, with particular emphasis on computer science, economics, and the interactions of technology and culture. Dillon describes the atmosphere at the lab as similar to an academic department, with regular seminar series, post-docs, faculty visitors, and opportunities to share work within the lab.

Her primary responsibility is to “facilitate applications of the innovations that emerge from this lab to business problems within and beyond Microsoft,” she explains. “I am part of a team that develops new machine learning techniques for answering causal inference questions and have partnered with teams around Microsoft and in other companies on particular problems that require causal analysis. I am also continuing my research work.”

When asked about the most interesting aspect of her job, Dillon highlights the balance of applied work and research: “While there are few things more satisfying than a creative breakthrough on a research project, those moments are rare, and between them working on research can be slow, narrow, and solitary. My business work is faster paced (most projects last a few months), covers a wider range of economic questions, and involves working more in teams. With each project I know I’ve had a measurable, immediate effect on a real-world problem. For me, each part of my job refreshes my mind for the other.” She adds that she feels deeply intellectually stimulated by interactions with her colleagues—particularly with people in other fields. “Economics tends to be a bit siloed,” she notes, “and one of the best parts of this job has been learning more about how computer scientists think about causal inference and how sociologists and anthropologists think about how technology is changing the labor market.”

The main challenge is that success in her job is less clearly defined. She explains: “In academia I had little structure on how I spent each day, but the long-term requirements

to advance were clear: write papers that get published in top journals. My days now have more meetings and short-term deadlines, but the long-term goals are more open-ended and entrepreneurial. The way for economists in tech companies to succeed is to identify a gap or inefficiency in business practices and fix it. That freedom to define my own role is exciting, but also intimidating.”



**Eleanor Dillon’s advice to newly minted economists who might be interested in jobs beyond academia is to be brave and open minded, and to apply broadly.**

“Don’t be too quick to assume that you won’t be interested in a job or don’t have the necessary skills,” she warns. “I knew what traits I wanted in my work, but I only learned what opportunities were open to me and which had those traits by interviewing and talking with friends in government, think tanks, banking, consulting, and tech.” She adds that many technology firms are hiring economists now, and that a background in industrial organization or business is useful, but that economists’ most distinctive skill at tech firms is causal inference. She advises job seekers to “brush up on practical applied microeconomics and be prepared to use those tools to answer many kinds of questions.”

Dillon points out that Microsoft is sharply focused on attracting, recruiting, and retaining diverse talent. “We require the use of diverse slates in the hiring process for most roles and are expanding their use to help increase the number of women and minority candidates for open positions,” she explains.

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

**Kwabena Gyimah-Brempong** is a program director in the Economics Program in the Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF is an independent federal agency that supports research and education in all nonmedical fields of science and engineering, funding around 25% of all federally supported basic research conducted by U.S. colleges and universities.

Gyimah-Brempong joined NSF in 2016, having previously worked there as a program director in a short-term rotation more than a decade earlier. His work at NSF involves “communicating with research communities in economics and other social sciences, reviewing and evaluating research proposals, and making recommendations for NSF funding.” He is one of three economists managing the Economics Program at NSF. “I also work with colleagues to develop new research initiatives for the foundation,” he adds, “and prepare briefs on important achievements, such as Nobel Prize-winning research, and other research with important societal benefits that the program has funded.” He further notes that an essential part of his job involves conducting outreach in the research community, which he does through several mechanisms including workshops, presentations at professional conferences, visits to institutions, and personal contacts.

When asked about the most interesting aspects of his job, Gyimah-Brempong highlights “being surrounded by some of the best minds in academia, who value teamwork and are willing to help with and exchange ideas on academic issues. One gains a broader perspective of science at NSF than can ever be gained in an academic department. The opportunities to work across disciplines to tackle particular problems—for example, minimizing hurricane disaster—are extremely exciting.” He further notes that “one gets to see the frontiers of their field of study and indirectly shape the future of their own discipline through the awards we make,” as well as “meet many young and exciting scholars at the frontiers of research—including

future Nobel laureates before their work becomes well-known.”

The work does not come without challenges, however. “The major challenges in the job are the sheer volume of work, the breadth of topics to be covered, and the time constraints,” explains Gyimah-Brempong. “There are three program directors for the Economics Program. On average, we handle about 340–350 proposals a year, which must be processed—with decisions made—within six months of receipt. Because we cover all fields of economics, sometimes we have to cover subjects that are not directly in our research area.”



**Kwabena Gyimah-Brempong advises newly minted economists who might be interested in this type of job to focus on their research and get involved in NSF activities.**

Having a strong research record is important for this work. In addition, he recommends “contacting an NSF program director and expressing interest, becoming a proposal reviewer, volunteering to serve on an NSF panel, and attending or organizing sessions at NSF workshops.”

NSF uses professional outlets such as the American Economic Association’s Job Openings for Economists (JOE), economics journals, and letters to department chairs, as well as personal contacts to reach underrepresented groups. NSF job openings are posted on USAJobs. Gyimah-Brempong stresses that “NSF goes the extra mile to recruit from underrepresented groups.”

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## CSMGEP

### » Diversifying Economics Seminars - Speakers List

CSMGEP invites conference and seminar organizers to consult the Diversifying Economics Seminars - Speakers List to find economists who identify as underrepresented minorities, gender minorities, or LGBTQ+. The speakers list was conceived as a response to the refrain that no individuals from underrepresented groups had been invited to speak because the organizer did not know of any such individuals in the subfield. CSMGEP invites underrepresented economists to add their names and areas of expertise to the speaker database at <https://econspeakerdiversity.shinyapps.io/EconSpeakerDiversity/>.

### » New Diversity Awards

CSMGEP announces five new AEA awards to promote diversity. The **AEA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Diversity and Inclusion** recognizes departments for excellence in conceiving and implementing new programs to promote diversity and inclusion in their organization. **Department Seed Grants for Innovation in Diversity and Inclusion** offer one-time grant funding to help a department establish a new bridge or mentoring program aimed at increasing diversity in economics doctoral programs. The **Andrew Brimmer Undergraduate Essay Prize** recognizes an essay on the economic well-being of Black Americans authored by an undergraduate student. **Underrepresented Minority Travel Grants** help early-career underrepresented minority economists defray the cost of travel, lodging, and registration for the annual ASSA meetings. **Small Group Breakfast Meeting for Underrepresented Minorities** invites early-career underrepresented economists to a meeting with a prominent member(s) of the field such as AEA journal editors, executive board members, or thought leaders in specific areas of economics for the purpose of addressing issues of minority access to career-enhancing networks. See the CSMGEP website for fall 2021 application dates.

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## AEA MENTORING PROGRAM

### » New Director/Co-Director

CSMGEP is pleased to announce that **Trevon Logan** was unanimously selected as the AEA Mentoring Program's new director, effective May 26, 2020. 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 Dr. Francisca Antman, associate professor of economics at the University of Colorado–Boulder, who was selected as the new associate director of the AEA Mentoring Program, effective August 18, 2020. Dr. Antman also served two terms on CSMGEP and is the current chair of the ASHE Scholarship and Awards Committee. She will become co-director, effective January 1, 2021.

### » Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference

The AEA Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference (SMPC) is scheduled to take place in Washington, DC, on June 18–19, 2021. Funded through a generous grant from the National Science Foundation, the SMPC annually brings together the mentees in the AEA Mentoring Program, their mentors, other professional economists (inside and outside academia), and the students in the AEA Summer Training Program (AEASP). It is one of the largest gatherings of traditionally underrepresented minority economists in the country, including participants ranging from undergraduate and graduate students to new PhDs and senior-level economists. Inspiring and uplifting, the SMPC features academic paper presentations, distinguished lectures, professional development sessions, panel discussions, and networking opportunities. For more information, email [AEAMentoring@gmail.com](mailto:AEAMentoring@gmail.com).

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

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## » 2020 Impactful Mentor Award

**Rhonda Vonshay Sharpe**, founder and president of the Women's Institute for Science, Equity and Race (WISER) and associate director of the AEASP at Howard University, has received the 2020 Impactful Mentor Award, to be presented at the 2021 ASSA meetings. This award recognizes and celebrates the excellence and impact of mentors on diversity, access, and inclusion in the economics profession. Sharpe has an exceptional history in this regard, having co-founded the Diversity Initiative for Tenure in Economics, a mentoring program to help guide junior faculty from underrepresented groups through the tenure process, and serving as its associate director from 2008 to 2014. She also served as associate director of the AEASP at Duke University and is a past president of the National Economic Association.

In his nomination letter, Dr. Omari Swinton, director of the AEASP and chair of the Department of Economics at Howard University, wrote, "Dr. Sharpe is one of the few people in the profession who knows where most of her mentees are and what they are doing. This is a demonstration of the care and pride that she takes in helping others achieve their goals." Sharpe earned her doctorate in economics/mathematics from Claremont Graduate University and held a tenured professorship at Bennett College and visiting positions at Duke University and Bucknell University prior to founding WISER. WISER is a think tank working to ensure that policy research addresses the economic, social, cultural, and political well-being of Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native American, and multiracial women.

## » 2020 Job Market Bootcamp

Nine job market candidates and four mentors from academic, government, and nonprofit institutions participated in the 2020 Job Market Bootcamp, held virtually. Created in 2018, the Job Market Bootcamp helps 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. Held over five monthly sessions between August and December, the virtual bootcamp was designed to match

candidates with mentors to offer specific feedback on candidates' job market papers, elevator pitches, CVs, and research/teaching statements, as well as to facilitate networking opportunities. Sessions included presentations by mentors on the job market paper, packet preparation, and interviewing strategies as well as time for breakout conversations between mentors and job candidates. To learn more, contact the AEA Mentoring Program at [AEAMentoring@gmail.com](mailto:AEAMentoring@gmail.com).

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## ASHE

### » Individual Service Award

This award was presented to **Alberto Dávila**, in honor of his role as ASHE co-founder, president, secretary, and, most recently, treasurer. His reliable and generous service since ASHE's beginnings has been essential for the association. Dávila is currently dean of the Harrison College of Business and Computing at Southeast Missouri State University. Prior to this appointment, he was professor of economics and V.F. "Doc" and Gertrude Neuhaus Chair for Entrepreneurship at the University of Texas–Pan American, a position he held for 18 years, and most recently was the senior associate dean of business at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Dávila earned his PhD and MS in economics from Iowa State University and his BA in economics from Pan American University. Dávila's research interests include the economics of the U.S.-Mexico border, the economics of immigration, and Hispanic labor markets. He has published on border-related topics since 1982, first appearing in the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas's *Economic Review*. With Marie T. Mora, Dávila co-edited the books *Labor Market Issues along the U.S.-Mexico Border* and *Hispanic Entrepreneurs in the 2000s*. With Mora and Havidán Rodríguez, he published *Population, Migration, and Socioeconomic Outcomes among Island and Mainland Puerto Ricans*.

### » Institutional Service Award

We honor **The Samuel Dubois Cook Center on Social Equity** at Duke University for its exhaustive efforts to diversify the profession of economics in



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academia through its Diversity Initiative for Tenure in Economics (DITE) program. Funded by the National Science Foundation, DITE has mentored 10 cohorts of economists through workshops and peer-to-peer mentorship, seeking to facilitate tenure of economists from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups in academia via research and teaching. The program has mentored several well-known economists and full professors, who found professional support and a valuable network. We celebrate the success of the many colleagues who are proud DITE alumni, including ASHE's president, president-elect, and a past president.

### » ASHE Dissertation Awards

Since their creation in 2011—initially as a summer dissertation fellowship—these awards have supported young scholars who share ASHE's goals. We are happy to announce that the 2020 ASHE Dissertation Award goes to **Jetson Leder-Luis**. Leder-Luis is an assistant professor in the Department of Markets, Public Policy and Law at Boston University's Questrom School of Business, as of July 2020. He received his PhD in economics from MIT in May 2020, where his dissertation examined the economics of fraud and corruption. He was a 2019–20 Ford Foundation dissertation fellow and an NBER predoctoral fellow in Health and Aging. In 2017, he was recognized by MIT with the Levitan Teaching Award for excellence in undergraduate instruction. Originally from Yonkers, New York, Leder-Luis is an alumnus of the REACH Prep bridge program and did his undergraduate work at Caltech.

Read more about the awards at <https://asheweb.org/2020-dissertation-awards/>.

### » Latino Economists Highlights

This year we celebrated five Latino economists during Hispanic Heritage Month: **Mark Lopez, Luisa Blanco, Susan Pozo, Ronald Oaxaca, and Mary Lopez**. Highlights included a conversation with the five esteemed scholars on why they chose to be economists and what advice they have for future economists. Read more here: <https://asheweb.org/past-latino-economists-highlights/>.

ASHE President-elect **Jose Fernandez** published features of the following Latino and Black economists on Twitter: Mark Lopez, Adela de la Torre, Monica Deza, Alberto Dávila, Luisa Blanco, Alfonso Flores-Lagunes, Gabriel Picone, Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes, Juan Carlos Suárez Serrato, Marie Mora, Fernando Lozano, Carycruz Bueno, Sebastián Tello-Trillo, Angélica Meinhofer, Ariel Ortiz-Bobea, Kalena Cortes, Ronald Oaxaca, Michelle Holder, Steve Trejo, Susan Pozo, José Caraballo-Cueto, Mónica García-Pérez, Salvador Navarro, Francisca Antman, Gilbert Gonzalez, Isabel Ruiz, Joe Benitez, Vicky Pérez, Juan Moreno-Cruz, Camila Morales, Emma Aguila, and Sandra Trejos. Read the Twitter thread here: <https://twitter.com/UofLEcon/status/1305936207331823616>.

### » ASHE Coffee with Reporters

In 2020, ASHE launched Coffee with Reporters, a series of events designed to create an open conversation about the issues covered in the news and a bridge between our members' expertise and topics of interest to economics reporters from various media outlets. More than 20 ASHE members participated in 2020 events, which included reporters from the *Wall Street Journal*, Bloomberg, and the *New York Times*. The events also aim to connect our scholarship with a more general audience.

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## NEA

### » 100 Years of African American Economics

The National Economic Association will commemorate the 100th anniversary of when Sadie T.M. Alexander received a doctoral degree in economics. Beginning with the 2021 ASSA sessions, our conference theme is 100 Years of African American Economics. Three sessions will focus on the history of African Americans in the economics profession from the 1920s to 1970s. The NEA hopes you will attend our virtual discussion of this history and other topics of importance to Black communities by registering for the ASSA meetings. The NEA also plans to commemorate the 100-year milestone with events throughout 2021.

# ACTIVITIES

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## CSMGEP

### ▶ Allied Social Sciences Association

#### CSMGEP DISSERTATION SESSION

Chair: **Renee Bowen**, University of California–San Diego

*Desegregation and Impact Aid: Does Military Presence Influence School Composition?*

**Chantal D. Smith**, Howard University

*Petroleum Extraction, Agriculture, and the Local Communities in the Niger Delta: A Case of Ilaje Community*

**Adedayo Ladelokun**, Howard University

*Nowcasting Waterborne Commerce: A Bayesian Model Averaging Approach*

**Brett Garcia**, University of Oregon  
**Jeremy Piger**, University of Oregon  
**Wesley W. Wilson**, University of Oregon

*Financial Inclusion: A Policy Impact Assessment*

**Noimot Bakare-Ayoub**, Howard University

*Work Half-Time, Receive Full-Time Pay: Effect of Novel Family Policy on Female Labor Market Outcomes*

**Luciana Etcheverry**, University of Oregon

Discussants:

**Mar Reguant**, Northwestern University  
**Rebecca Dizon-Ross**, University of Chicago  
**Mikhail Golosov**, University of Chicago  
**Marianne Bertrand**, University of Chicago  
**Graham Elliott**, University of California–San Diego

#### AGING AND RACE

Chair: **Perry Singleton**, Syracuse University

*Age and the Labor Market for Hispanics in the United States*

**Joanna Lahey**, Texas A&M University  
**Roberto Mosquera Moyano**, University of the Americas

*Healthy Aging among Older Mexican Immigrants*

**Emma Aguila**, University of Southern California  
**Maria Casanova**, California State University–Fullerton

*Incarceration and Black-White Cohort Differences in Male Employment, Earnings, and Social Security Wealth*

**Gary Engelhardt**, Syracuse University

*The Effect of Social Security Retirement Benefits on Food-Related Hardship among Older Americans*

**Perry Singleton**, Syracuse University  
**Joyce Chang**, Syracuse University

*The Effect of Opioids on Health and Physical Mobility*

**Engy Ziedan**, Tulane University

Discussants:

**Patrick Button**, Tulane University  
**Kosali Simon**, Indiana University  
**Damon Jones**, University of Chicago  
**Joanna Lahey**, Texas A&M University

### ▶ Southern Economic Association

Joint Sessions with CSWEP and the  
Committee on the Status of LGBTQ+  
Individuals in the Economics Profession

Meet the Editors

Chair: **Jose Fernandez**, University of Louisville

Panelists:

**Stefano Barbieri**, Tulane University  
**Donna Gilleskie**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
**Christopher S. (Kitt) Carpenter**, Vanderbilt University  
**Madeline Zavodny**, University of North Florida

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*Advice for the Non-Rookie Job Market*

Chair: **Jose Fernandez**, University of Louisville

Panelists:

**Nzinga H. Broussard**, Global Innovation Fund

**Douglas N. Harris**, Tulane University

**Joseph J. Sabia**, San Diego State University

**Chloe R. Gibbs**, University of Notre Dame

*Meet the Funders*

Moderator: **Jennifer L. Doleac**, Texas A&M University

Panelists:

**Stuart Buck**, Arnold Ventures

**Susana Marquez**, The Rockefeller Foundation

**Mark Steinmeyer**, Smith Richardson Foundation

**Stephen Glauser**, Russell Sage Foundation

*Increasing Racial Equity in Access to Health Care,  
Lessons from COVID-19*

**Jeannette Wicks-Lim**, University of Massachusetts–  
Amherst

*The Great Un-Equalizer: Does COVID-19 Exacerbate  
Economic and Health Disadvantage? The Case of  
American Indian Populations*

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

**Luis Quintero**, Johns Hopkins University

**Emilia Simeonova**, Johns Hopkins University

*COVID-19, Discrimination, and Asian Americans’  
Business Formation and Survival*

**Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes**, University of California–  
Merced

**Chunbei Wang**, University of Oklahoma

Discussants:

**Alberto Ortega**, Indiana University

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

**Jose Fernandez**, University of Louisville

**IMMIGRATION POLICY ISSUES, LABOR  
EFFECTS, AND MEXICAN AMERICAN  
EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS**

Joint Session with NEA

Chair: **Jose Fernandez**, University of Louisville

*Immigration Policy and Its Impact on Low-Skilled  
Workers*

**Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes**, University of California–  
Merced

**Esther Arenas-Arroyo**, Vienna University of  
Economics and Business

**Bernhard Schmidpeter**, RWI–Leibniz Institute for  
Economic Research

*Historical Roots of Educational Disadvantage and  
Progress for Mexican Americans*

**Brian Duncan**, University of Colorado–Denver

**Stephen J. Trejo**, University of Texas–Austin

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## ASHE

▶ **Allied Social Sciences Association**

**AEA-NEA-ASHE JOINT SESSION ON  
EXPLORING RACE AND ETHNICITY  
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Chair: **Juan Carlos Suárez Serrato**, Duke University

*Staying Close When Apart: The Value of “Information-  
Communication” during the COVID-19 Pandemic*

**Francis Annan**, Georgia State University

**Belinda Archibong**, Columbia University–Barnard  
College

*An Examination of Racial, Economic and Health Equity  
During the Coronavirus Pandemic*

**Jevay Grooms**, Howard University

**Alberto Ortega**, Indiana University

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

*COVID-19 and Caregiving by Black and Hispanic  
Grandparents*

**Enrique A. Lopezlira**, Grand Canyon University

# ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

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## *Illegal Immigration: The Trump Effect*

**Mark Hoekstra**, Texas A&M University  
**Sandra Orozco-Aleman**, Mississippi State University

## *The Effect of Immigration Enforcement on Labor Supply: An Examination of United States Hispanic Adolescent Youth in Mixed-Status Families*

**Joaquín Alfredo-Angel Rubalcaba**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
**José R. Bucheli**, New Mexico State University

### *Discussants:*

**Dania V. Francis**, University of Massachusetts–Boston  
**Karl Boulware**, Wesleyan University  
**Luisa Blanco Raynal**, Pepperdine University  
**David J. Molina**, University of North Texas

## HEALTH DISPARITIES AMONG HISPANICS IN TIMES OF COVID-19

*Chair:* **Alberto Dávila**, Southeast Missouri State University

## *COVID-19, Race/Ethnicity and Age: How Information Technologies Can Close the Gaps on Health Disparities*

**Juan J. Delacruz**, City University of New York–Lehman College  
**Andreas Kakolyris**, City University of New York–Manhattan College  
**Christos Giannikos**, City University of New York–Baruch College

## *A Change in the Incidence of Income Tax and Physicians' Location Choice: The Case of Puerto Rico*

**Jose Fernandez**, University of Louisville

## *The Impact of Health Shocks and Vulnerabilities on Latinos' Wealth*

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

### *Discussants:*

**Stephen J. Trejo**, University of Texas–Austin  
**Esther Arenas-Arroyo**, Vienna University of Economics and Business  
**Mark Hoekstra**, Texas A&M University  
**José R. Bucheli**, New Mexico State University

## ► Southern Economic Association

### CRIME, CORRUPTION, AND HEALTH AMONG HISPANICS

*Chair:* **Jose Fernandez**, University of Louisville

## *Moving Citizens and Deterring Criminals: Innovation in Public Transport Facilities*

**Joaquín A. Urrego**, Syracuse University  
**Gustavo Canavire-Bacarreza**, Universidad EAFIT  
**Juan C. Duque**, Universidad EAFIT

## *The Impact of Impunity on Growth and Development: Mexico and the World*

**Lucinda Vargas**, New Mexico University

## *Fleeing Hometowns for Safety: The Short-Run Effect of Crime on Migration in Mexico*

**Carmen Carrión-Flores**, Syracuse University  
**Isai Guizar**, Universidad de Guadalajara

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## NEA

## ► Allied Social Sciences Association

## *The History of African Americans in the Economics Profession: Beginnings*

*Chair:* **Willene A. Johnson**, Komaza, Inc.

### *Panelists:*

**Nina Banks**, Bucknell University  
*Topic:* *Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander*

**Samuel L. Myers Jr.**, University of Minnesota  
*Topic:* *The African American Experience at Harvard University Graduate Economics Department during the World War II Era*

**Bernard Anderson**, University of Pennsylvania  
*Topic:* *Marcus Alexis and Andrew Brimmer*

**David Swinton**, Benedict College  
*Topic:* *Robert Browne*



**Linwood Tauheed**, University of Missouri–Kansas City  
*Topic: Lloyd Hogan*

**William Darity Jr.**, Duke University  
*Topic: African Americans in Desegregating  
the Economics Department at MIT*

## **ECONOMICS AND RACISM: THE LONG VIEW**

**Joint Session with  
History of Economics Society**

*Chair: Evelyn Forget*, University of Manitoba

*Economists, Race and Racism: The Long View*

**Sandra J. Peart**, University of Richmond  
**David M. Levy**, George Mason University

*Fighting Racism with/in Economics? The Journey  
of Phyllis A. Wallace, 1944–1975*

**Cléo Chassonnery-Zaïgouche**, University of  
Cambridge

*Francis Galton's Pictorial Statistics:  
The Eugenic Origins of Ethnic Profiling*

**Marcel Boumans**, Utrecht University

*Discussant:*

**Guy Numa**, Colorado State University

## **CORRELATES OF WEALTH INEQUALITY WITHIN AND ACROSS COUNTRIES**

*Chair: William Darity Jr.*, Duke University

*Wealth Inequality in Young Adulthood: Defining the  
Black Middle Class*

**Fenaba Addo**, University of Wisconsin–Madison

*Intergenerational Economic Mobility and the Racial  
Wealth Gap*

**Jermaine Toney**, Rutgers University  
**Cassandra Robertson**, Cornell University

## *Inequality and Socioeconomic Outcomes*

**Omer Ali**, Duke University

**William Darity Jr.**, Duke University

**Avra Janz**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Marta Sánchez**, University of North Carolina  
Wilmington

*Assessing Value, Cultivating Inequality: How Home  
Racialized Appraisal Practices Have Exacerbated  
Wealth Inequality from 1980 to 2015*

**Junia Howell**, University of Pittsburgh

*Discussants:*

**Alexandra Killewald**, Harvard University

**Bradley Hardy**, American University

## **DISEASE, UNCERTAINTY AND AFRICAN ECONOMIES**

**Joint Session with African Finance  
and Economics Association**

*Chair: Leonce Ndikumana*, University of  
Massachusetts–Amherst

*Weather Shocks, Economic Consequences,  
and Climate-Proofing Infrastructure in Africa*

**Hanan Morsy**, African Development Bank

**Eman Moustafa**, African Development Bank

**Lacina Balma**, African Development Bank

*How Income Uncertainty Affects Child Labour:  
Evidence from the Cocoa Households' Financial  
Diaries*

**Samuel Amponsah**, Tokyo International University

**Nathan Munier**, Tokyo International University

**Savannroeun Samreth**, Saitama University

*Germes, Globalization, and Trade Spillovers: How  
Could COVID-19 Affect African Economies and  
AfCFTA?*

**Gouranga Das**, Hanyang University

**Jean-Claude Maswana**, Ritsumeikan University

**Yumeka Hirano**, World Bank

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# ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

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*Do Better Institutions Broaden Access to Sanitation in Sub-Saharan Africa?*

**John Nana Francois**, West Texas A&M University  
**Johnson Kakeu**, University of Prince Edward Island  
**Cristelle Kouame**, World Bank

*Is Regional Trade Integration a Growth and Convergence Engine in Africa?*

**Vigninou Gammadidge**, Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO)

*Discussants:*

**Kwabena Gyimah-Brempong**, National Science Foundation

**Belinda Archibong**, Columbia University–Barnard College

**Julius A. Agbor**, Vanguard University of Southern California

**Mina Balliamoune-Lutz**, University of North Florida  
**John Nana Francois**, West Texas A&M University

## RACE, GENDER AND CLASS INEQUALITY

Joint Session with  
Association for Social Economics

*Chair: Rhonda V. Sharpe*, Women’s Institute for Science, Equity and Race

*Busting the Myth of Black Women’s Weak Labor Force Attachment*

**Jeannette Wicks-Lim**, University of Massachusetts–Amherst

*The “Double Gap” and the Bottom Line: African American Women’s Wage Gap and Corporate Profits*

**Michelle Holder**, City University of New York

*Bank Failures, Credit Allocation and Income Inequality*

**Salvador Contreras**, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

**Amit Ghosh**, Illinois Wesleyan University  
**Iftekhar Hasan**, Fordham University

*Gender Economics, Race, and Intersectionality*

**Reginald Noël**, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
**Whitney J. Hewlett**, Georgetown University

*Wage Inequality Pre and Post the Great Recession*

**Enrique A. Lopezlira**, Grand Canyon University

## ADDRESSING LABOR MARKET BARRIERS FOR THE INCARCERATED AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED: EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP AND OTHER STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

*Chair: Ngina Chiteji*, New York University

*Panelists:*

**Olugbenga Ajilore**, Center for American Progress  
**Peter Blair**, Harvard University

**Robynn Cox**, University of Southern California

**Jessica Gordon-Nembhard**, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

**Colin Cannonier**, Belmont University

## HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE ECONOMICS PROFESSION: POST-CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF BLACK POWER

*Chair: Romie Tribble Jr.*, Spelman College

*Panelists:*

**Juliet Elu**, Morehouse College

**Patrick Mason**, Florida State University

**William E. Spriggs**, Howard University and AFL-CIO

**Gregory N. Price**, University of New Orleans

**Rhonda V. Sharpe**, Women’s Institute for Science, Equity and Race

## RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND DISPARITIES: EFFECTS OF INSTITUTIONAL AND HISTORICAL FACTORS

*Chair: Andria Smythe*, Howard University

*Ghosts of Mississippi: Long-term Impacts of Racial Lynchings*

**Matthew Robinson**, University of Missouri–Kansas City

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*Competition and Discrimination in Public Accommodations: Evidence from the Green Books*

**Maggie E.C. Jones**, University of Victoria  
**Lisa D. Cook**, Michigan State University  
**Trevon D. Logan**, Ohio State University  
**David Rosé**, Wilfrid Laurier University

*The Evolution of Civil Rights Enforcement and Economic Prosperity of Minorities*

**José Joaquín López**, University of Memphis  
**Jamein P. Cunningham**, University of Memphis

*A Comparative Analysis: Examining University and College's Faculty Characteristics That Influence Educational Outcomes at HBCUs*

**Nicholas Hill**, Claflin University  
**Omari Swinton**, Howard University

*The Impact of Access to Collective Bargaining Rights on Policing and Civilian Deaths*

**Rob Gillezeau**, University of Victoria  
**Jamein P. Cunningham**, University of Memphis  
**Donna Feir**, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and University of Victoria

*Discussants:*

**Algernon Austin**, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund  
**Andria Smythe**, Howard University  
**Jhacova Williams**, Economic Policy Institute

## **FACTORS IMPACTING NATIONAL VITALITY IN EMERGING AFRICAN NATIONS**

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

*Political Distance: Regional Favoritism in the Economic Effects of Epidemics*

**Belinda Archibong**, Columbia University–Barnard College  
**Francis Annan**, Georgia State University  
**Uche Ekhatior-Mobayode**, University of Pittsburgh–Bradford

*Quality of Life, Growth and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA): A Re-examination of the Evidence*

**Akpan H. Ekpo**, University of Uyo

*The Demand for Gasoline and Pollution Control Using Fiscal Instruments in Nigeria*

**Douglason G. Omotor**, West African Institute for Financial and Economic Management and Delta State University  
**Baba Y. Musa**, West African Institute for Financial and Economic Management  
**Christopher O. Orubu**, Delta State University  
**Jacob S. Oboreh**, Delta State University

*The Quandary of Growth in Africa: The Stabilizing Role of Economic Integration*

**Oladele Omosogbon**, Indiana Wesleyan University

*Remittances and Domestic Output in the Long Run*

**John Nana Francois**, West Texas A&M University  
**Nazneen Ahmad**, Weber State University  
**Andrew Keinsley**, Weber State University  
**Akwasi Nti-Addae**, Drew University

*The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the Way Forward for Nigeria*

**Miesha J. Williams**, Morehouse College

*Discussants:*

**Linda Loubert**, Morgan State University  
**Ruth Uwaifo**, Agnes Scott College  
**Jan Christopher**, Delaware State University  
**Andria Smythe**, Howard University  
**John Ned**, Loyola University Maryland

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## THE MINORITY REPORT

Issue 13 | Winter 2021



**AMERICAN  
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