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## The 2021 February Newsletter Issue

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The February issue of the newsletter reflects the rich tradition of the IPM section: The symposium brings together seven scholars – Hertel, Jackson, Maroto Pettinicchio, Parolin, Rauscher and Williams - who reflect from their individual perspective on the relevance of COVID-19, Black Lives Matter and the U.S. election for future IPM research. The newsletter spotlights Desi Rodriguez-Lonebear as promising junior faculty and we also revived the IPM Dialogue section. It felt that previous questions of scholars starting their careers received a new dimension in the current pandemic. My Two Cents throws a glance at the events in 2020 from the outside perspective of a German scholar who also is a longtime lecturer at the University of Washington. The books, publications and news section finally reflect the scholarly dynamic within the IPM-community.

Please send any comments, thoughts, and potential contributions, to [ipmsection.news@gmail.com](mailto:ipmsection.news@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

Happy Reading — Jessica Ordemann (IPM Newsletter Editor)

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## Letter from the Chair

### **Claudia Buchmann, The Ohio State University**



Dear Colleagues –

It has been a while since the last IPM newsletter was published (in May 2020) and if you are like me, that span of time feels like many years as opposed to many months! Looking back, about a year ago when news commentators started saying things like “life may never be the same again” and “time will be divided into before and after the pandemic” I recall thinking “surely they are exaggerating.”

Well, after a year of pandemic experience under our belts, I think we all understand the deep truth of those words. With the hope of Spring and the slow but steady increase in numbers of people vaccinated, we dare to wish that life may soon return to “normal.” Of course for so many, life will never be the same again – due to the deaths of loved ones, jobs and homes lost, chronic hunger, mental anguish, derailed relationships, and crucial learning lost for cohorts of children worldwide. Now, just as you are ready to stop reading, bear with me as I make my main point: Let us hope that we never go back to what was seen as “normal” in pre-pandemic times, instead we need to recover to better – better more-equitable school systems, fully-funded comprehensive public health systems, actively anti-racist social justice reforms, better policies that provide real safety nets to protect the most vulnerable in our societies – to name just a few realms in dire need of change.

Some aspects of pre-pandemic society are not worth returning to. And as we look to the future with a combination of fatigue and hope, I know that the voices and ideas of scholars and students of inequality, poverty and mobility are more important than ever.

I am also painfully aware of the losses to our IPM section due to the move to virtual of two ASA meetings – the missed opportunities for mentoring lunches, animated face-to-face discussions about our research, celebrating accomplishments and life transitions, and honoring those in our community who have passed away. As cliché as it sounds, I know we will have a newfound appreciation for these vital aspects of our community; we will not take these connections for granted when we are finally able to gather face-to-face again. Until then, we can look forward to the next best kind of gathering, via Zoom, for the ASA virtual meeting in August. Section session organizers have received many excellent submissions for papers; once the sessions are finalized, we will post the sessions, so you can see for yourself.

In the meantime, our section newsletter provides the invaluable service of keeping us connected. I am very grateful to our newsletter committee: Jessica Ordemann, Michaela Curran, Cassandra Engeman, Zachary Kline and Anita Li for curating and assembling the fascinating content found on the pages that follow. I am grateful too for the IPM section council members who have kept the section running behind the scenes: Fenaba Addo, Siwei Cheng, Anna Haskins, Michelle Maroto, Emily Rauscher, and Jessi Streib.

With best wishes for wellness and resilience,  
Claudia

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## Robert Denis Mare

### Distinguished Sociologist and Demographer, Dies at 69



Robert D. Mare, an eminent sociologist and demographer who recently retired from his position as Distinguished Professor of Sociology at UCLA, died of leukemia in his home in Marina Del Rey, California, on Monday February 1, 2021.

Robert Mare was a world leader in the areas of social stratification, sociological methods, and demographic processes. He contributed definitive scholarship on social trends in schooling, employment, and assortative mating. His latest work considered dynamic analysis of residential mobility and multigenerational social mobility.

Mare's first major contribution was published in a 1980 article in the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, in which he convincingly argued that factors influencing educational attainment differed in importance by transition points, such as the transition from high school completion to college. In doing so, Mare found something that others had missed: family resources mattered most earlier, rather than later, in the educational process. As students move through the system, their own performance becomes more important and their parents' resources matter less. The combination of an innovative approach and counter-intuitive finding came to be known as the "Mare Model." To this day the Mare Model continues to be used, debated, challenged, and improved upon by sociologists and economists studying educational inequality.

Mare's subsequent work in quantitative sociology and social demography addressed a broad range of areas – statistical methods, demography, social stratification – as he moved beyond standard questions of how individuals' socioeconomic status is reproduced across generations to broader issues of how social hierarchies reproduce themselves. In a highly influential paper, Mare showed that marriages between people with different amounts of schooling were less likely for the highly educated. College goers were more likely to marry other college goers, and that tendency was increasing. A key implication of an increase in educational assortative mating is that it can increase inequality in family resources and children's socioeconomic achievement. In the decade before his retirement, Mare focused on one of the oldest, most vexing sociological problems: how a combination of individual behaviors at the micro level leads to societal changes. Studying the connection between family structure and poverty, educational assortative mating, and residential mobility and segregation, Mare's latest work applied advanced statistical techniques to micro-data to model the determinants of individual social and demographic outcomes and then used simulations to examine alternative scenarios and illustrate the implications of these scenarios for population changes. This work advanced our understanding of fundamental social processes, such as residential segregation by race. Until his death, he had been working with his collaborators to model the effects of demographic events such as marriages, having children, and death on multigenerational inequality.

At both UCLA and the University of Wisconsin, where he was Professor of Sociology prior to coming to UCLA, Mare was legendary in mentoring young scholars. In the words of Elizabeth Bruch, one of Mare's recent doctoral students and now Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Michigan, "Rob offered a road map for the process of research: how to navigate, how to get unstuck, what to do with confusion and despair, and how to find joy and discovery. Importantly, he made a potentially isolating experience sociable, even fun." Esther Freidman, another of Mare's doctoral students and now Social and Behavioral Scientist at the RAND Corporation, said: "Conversations with Rob were the highlight of graduate school – always intense and electrifying, whether focused on the lofty or the everyday. There was a strong feeling of shared mission. He managed to instill in his graduate students a sense that we were all part of something special and significant."

Born in North Vancouver, Canada in 1951 to Helen and Arthur Mare, he completed his bachelor's degree at Reed College in 1973 and his Ph.D. at the University Michigan in 1977. Between 1977 and 1997, he was on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he directed the Center for Demography and Ecology between 1989 and 1994. He joined the faculty at UCLA in sociology and was the founding director of the California Center for Population Research at UCLA beginning in 1998. He also held an appointment in statistics at UCLA.

Mare's contributions were widely recognized by social and population scientists. He was elected President of the Population Association of America in 2009, President of the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) in 2006, and fellow of both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences in 2010. For his lifetime contributions to sociological methodology, the Methodology Section of the American Sociological Association awarded him the Paul F. Lazarsfeld Award for lifetime achievement in 1999. For his career

of research on inequality he received the Robert M. Hauser Award from the Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility section of the American Sociological Association in 2016. His published articles received multiple awards.

A highly respected and well-liked scholar, Mare will be dearly missed by a large international community of sociologists and demographers who admire him and his work. His scholarship and mentorship will continue to influence future generations of social scientists who study the intersection of demography, family, and social inequality. In the words of Robert Sampson, the Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard University, “Rob Mare was a brilliant scholar who made major contributions to demography, stratification, and methodology. His work on the multi-generational transmission of inequality, for example, was pathbreaking in my view. Rob’s keen insights were essential to the Los Angeles Family and Neighborhood Survey wave of data collection and our analysis of persistence and change in spatial inequality over two decades in greater Los Angeles.”

Mare is survived by Judith Seltzer, also recently retired Professor of Sociology at UCLA, his spouse and colleague since their graduate studies at the University of Michigan. Contributions in Robert Mare’s honor may be made to the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank (<https://www.lafoodbank.org/>) or other local foodbanks.

Yu Xie, Princeton University

Jennie E. Brand, UCLA

Michael Hout, NYU

Robert Hauser, American Philosophical Society and UW-Madison

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## Symposium

The Symposium serves as a platform for IPM section members to engage in public conversations on issues relevant to our scholarly community. We feature contributions from four members in this issue.

### *February Topic:*

## **The relevance of COVID-19, Black Lives Matter and the U.S. election for future IPM research: *How will these issues change the future of inequality, poverty and mobility research?***

### **When social distancing is increasing social distances: COVID-19 and its possible effects on social mobility**

by Florian Hertel, University of Hamburg



Since COVID-19, we have been keeping our distance from one another. Of course, some are forced to remain mobile, to produce goods, scan food and carry the water while others can hunker down in the safe space of their home office and await vaccination. While it is easy to observe that the pandemic is unequally affecting those with privileges and those without - it is not so easy to project its effects on the future. In terms of social mobility, however, it seems clear that social distancing will likely end up increasing mobility barriers. Because social mobility entails the whole trajectory from family origins to one's socioeconomic position via educational and occupational attainment, it is likely to be affected in various ways by the pandemic.

Families and individuals who are directly affected by COVID-19 are among those hit the hardest. Because the pandemic is more likely to infect people that are poorer and cannot shelter in the safe space of home offices and the virtual reality of white-collar work, the likelihood of an infection is higher among less privileged families. Due to preconditions and limited economic resources, those families are also more likely to become seriously ill and die once they contract the virus. While the emotional toll of a loved one passing is dire for all families, the loss of an income or a crucial member of the familial support system is especially challenging for those who cannot compensate the material losses. The same is true for the possible long-term detrimental effects COVID-19 can have on the cured ones or even the uninfected ones. If a partner's resources cannot compensate for a long sick leave, furlough, or unemployment, families will have to do with what they have and that might well mean to cut expenses to the bone and renounce investments of time, money and energy in risky career strategies.

Of course, the pandemic also indirectly hits the neediest and marginalized the hardest. The prolonged phase of home schooling might not be too harmful for students from privileged families with all the required conditions for successful learning: a quiet space, a working computer, learning materials, knowledge about how to learn what (and what not), and someone who enforces and rewards discipline. Such conditions are less accessible to students from less privileged backgrounds. As every summer break shows, schools generally do a good job in reducing the achievement gap between pupils from different class origins. Prolonged homeschooling will almost certainly exacerbate existing disparities between students with advantages and those without.

Finally, entering the labor market now may be worse than at any other times because the job queue is not moving. Stock market all-time highs should not fool us. In times of great insecurity, people usually do not leave their current jobs to find better ones and entrepreneurs do not open up new branches or expand their workforce – of course there might be some more opportunities to break your back carrying and delivering other people's purchases. The lack of opportunities may harm those who should have entered the job market or were up for promotion during the pandemic. For some, opportunities will be lost forever in the competition against their own and the succeeding cohorts. Others again do not rely on mere seniority or arbitrary chances to make their way up but may still profit of pandemic-independent advantages. And of course, as the stock market keeps telling us, some people must actually profit from the pandemic. Finally, families that (have to) react to the disruption of educational and care services with the reanimation of a traditional division of labor might seriously hamper women's occupational mobility chances in the future.



All of this is little more than reading tea leaves. Until we can actually measure the mobility outcomes of current cohorts of pupils or labor market entrants, COVID-19 will (hopefully) be gone. What is clear today, however, is the tragic loss of life and health and their unequal distribution across social groups. To prevent more losses, we correctly engage in social distancing. It is easy to think about social distancing as something individuals are asked to do, as a form of correct individual behavior. Social distancing, however, means not only to keep one's physical distance but also to shut down important places of contact, places of learning and of working seriously limiting support infrastructures. This collective response and its consequences, as I have tried to show, are not equally felt across social groups. As we all profit from social distancing, we have to compensate those that suffer from it. When designing policies to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, we should therefore not (only) spend on big industries or large employers but rightfully compensate working-class families, refugees, homeless people – all those whom social distancing hit the hardest.

## How will 2020 change the future of inequality research?

by Michelle V. Jackson, Stanford University



Photo courtesy of CASBS

We feel that the world has changed, as we go about our diminished and altered day-to-day lives. We see it in the statistical summaries of cases, deaths, and job losses, and in the analyses of the effects of the events of 2020 on socioeconomic outcomes. We all understand that the changes of the past year will shape our lives and work in the years to come.

There is change, but there is also continuity. As we reckon with what has changed, our task as sociologists of inequality must be to highlight the continuity between 2020 and all that came before it. For 2020 pulled on loose threads, but our social fabric was already frayed.

Before Covid-19, income inequality was at unprecedented levels, and many types of social and economic mobility were stalling and even declining. The racial wealth gap was considered to be a persistent feature of the American economic landscape, while mass incarceration and police violence devastated poor and minority communities. These and other inequalities had already stretched the social contract to the breaking point.

It would be tremendously unfortunate for our field to focus on deviations from the pre-2020 world, when that world was already so far from the more equal worlds that could be treated as our baseline. Those harmed most over the past year are almost certainly those who were already suffering under our pre-2020 social arrangements. The BIPOC communities who have lost so many to the virus are the same communities who contended with lower life expectancies and high rates of morbidity in the past. The children who will fall behind as a result of lack of access to technology and face-to-face teaching are the same children who were losing out before 2020. Those groups who had their votes questioned in 2020 are the same groups who have had to fight for access to basic democratic rights in the recent past. This year may have produced some social cohesion in pitting us all against a common enemy in the virus, but it has also cast our existing social fractures into sharp relief.

As we emerge into the post-pandemic world, sociologists of inequality should be deliberate in framing our research. First, when we note a fraction-of-a-standard-deviation increase in test-score inequalities over the past year, we should highlight that the increase is from a base level of inequality that would require many more fractions-of-a-standard-deviation to describe. Discussions of inequalities in mortality and morbidity during the pandemic should be appreciated alongside the gulf in life-expectancy in “normal” years.<sup>1</sup> Second, insofar as we engage with normative or policy issues, we should firmly reject the language of “recovery”. The language of recovery implies that our pre-2020 world represents a desirable end state. It is surely tempting, given all that we have experienced over the past year, to wish only for the lives that we had before. But the world that would bring comfort through familiarity is also the world that produced our current crises. Our pre-2020 world was the rotten foundation upon which 2020 was built, and as we reemerge in the weeks and months to come, our science should be oriented toward creating social structures that will allow us to better withstand the next crisis.

<sup>1</sup>See, e.g., Wrigley-Field, Elizabeth. “US racial inequality may be as deadly as COVID-19.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117, no. 36 (2020): 21854-21856.

## What will the “new normal” look like for people with disabilities and chronic health conditions?

by Michelle Maroto, University of Alberta and David Pettinicchio, University of Toronto



The COVID-19 pandemic has made more salient the ways in which extant inequalities based on status characteristics like race, class, gender, and disability make individuals from these groups more vulnerable to the virus. At the same time, the crisis has also revealed broader structural problems highlighted by how pandemic policy responses have excluded people from historically marginalized groups. Although the pandemic has presented numerous opportunities to enact policies that could address and lessen inequality, most governments have not stood up to the task. It is clear that the kind of marginalization happening during the pandemic will compound inequality. Uneven recovery efforts will leave people from marginalized groups even further behind health-wise and socioeconomically. It really does beg the question about what the “new normal” will look like. To answer that, we only have to look at what is going on right now.



Here, we focus on a large and diverse group that is often overlooked within stratification research – people with disabilities and chronic health conditions. Reports from all over the world have pointed to the extremely high mortality rates among people with disabilities and chronic health conditions during the pandemic. For example, a troubling recent report found that people with learning disabilities aged 18-34 in the UK face a 30 times higher death rate from COVID. Similar concerns have been raised in the United States as well.

In addition to pre-existing barriers in accessing up-to-date health related information and services, and comorbidity, people most vulnerable to the pandemic are placed in situations that increase the chances of contracting the virus. Some people with disabilities and health conditions continue to struggle with protective and social distancing measures – from wearing masks to not receiving in-home care to navigating long-term care homes.

Many people face labor market obstacles and higher costs of living as a result of their disabilities and chronic health conditions, many also navigating a complex (and often perverse) system of government financial supports and benefits. Although employment income helps to reduce the risk of financial hardship, workers with disabilities experience added burdens. They are disproportionately clustered in low-paying, precarious non-union jobs in the food and service sectors- areas most impacted by COVID-19. They’ve either been laid off or are working even longer hours, further increasing risk of exposure especially in work dealing with the public. Others transitioned to remote work, which poses a different set of challenges. While for some, working from home has made work more accessible, this is contingent on having necessary tools and technologies from equipment like adapted home office furniture people may not have had a need for prior to screen reading software, tone detectors and noise cancelling technologies that not everyone has automatic access to.

The pandemic has caused exogenous shocks in every aspect of life – social, health and economic – and not surprisingly, it has affected people’s emotional and mental health and wellbeing. Such shocks are especially problematic for people who were already struggling with mental health issues. Prolonged social distancing coupled with more limited access to mental health care professionals has contributed to worsening mental health.

In response to this situation in June of 2020, our team began a mixed-methods study that included the first nationwide survey of Canadians with disabilities and chronic health conditions and a set of follow-up in-depth interviews. Our survey asked a variety of questions touching on how individuals managed the pandemic – e.g., protective measures, work arrangements, finances, mental health, and attitudes about government policy responses. The interviews then let a subset of respondents provide more depth about their situations.

Our findings revealed that many Canadians with disabilities and chronic health conditions were not financially secure before the pandemic. We found that many were unemployed and looking for work when the pandemic hit. Others were laid off during the pandemic. Many of those who remained employed reported increasing hours of work, and others told us they were trying to stay safe while keeping their jobs. Those who transitioned to working remotely expressed a mix of positive and negative feelings about their situations. Respondents who were looking for work before the pandemic continued to struggle, lacking adequate income supports. Those who received federal support felt more financially secure although many still expressed worry about their financial futures.

For our respondents, economic and mental health situations were clearly linked. Worry about contracting the virus and about the future of work and finances more generally have been contributing to declining mental health. We found that respondents experienced increasing stress, loneliness, and anxiety.

The pandemic has changed so much for so many people. It has affected how we work and learn, and how we interact with family and friends. It has also directed a spotlight to the inequality embedded within our social systems. This is important in framing any conversation about a return to the so-called new normal. The new normal may mean working from home permanently, and it may mean wearing masks on a regular basis. What it should not mean is standing by while entire segments of the population are left further behind, discounting their voices from critical policy debates.

As a shock, the pandemic can also present new and more positive opportunities for people. Many of our respondents saw the pandemic as a time to change jobs, go back to school, or get further training, jobs skills, and credentials. Some of our respondents in certain occupations and with the appropriate accommodations found working remotely more accessible with fewer barriers. Others told us that even though they weren't directly benefitting from government income supports, the pandemic has made them realize how important basic universal income for many people who are living on the edge of poverty. Some optimistic, other less so, they see this as a moment for potentially significant policy change to improve the lives of so many Canadians who entered the pandemic without adequate social, health, and economic resources.

## Poverty in the Pandemic: Implications for Sociological Research

by Zachary Parolin, Bocconi University & Columbia University



The COVID-19 pandemic has brought poverty and hardship in the U.S. to the forefront of the national policy discussion. Consider that in the past month alone, the President of the United States proposed a legislative package that could cut child poverty in half; two weeks later, a Republican Senator introduced a poverty-reduction plan that would, in some ways, improve upon the signature policy in the President's proposal. These are not normal times.

From a research perspective, the pandemic has also challenged the way we conceptualize and measure the experience of poverty. Most glaringly, the volatility of family incomes throughout the pandemic has demonstrated the limited usefulness of a once-per-year poverty measure. Indeed, my colleagues and I have worked throughout the past year to provide monthly estimates of poverty rates and the impacts of social policies. Timeliness of estimates aside, the pandemic has at least two central implications for sociological research related to poverty and inequality during the crisis.

First, in studying disparities in poverty amidst the pandemic, we ought to not only consider the multitude of crises in 2020, but the inability of the American welfare state to adequately support jobless parents, and Black and Latino parents in particular, long before the COVID-19 pandemic arrived.

In the initial months after the pandemic, for example, media coverage and public attention were largely focused on the dysfunctions present within state-run unemployment insurance (UI) systems. The UI system is not simple to navigate: a mountain of administrative hurdles, particularly in states trying to reduce UI caseloads, contribute to a burdensome application process that many unemployed adults choose, at least in pre-pandemic times, to avoid altogether.

Despite the increase in attention to the challenges of the UI system, however, the program's dysfunctions are far from new. The primary difference today is that more Americans – including a new set of White workers with decent pre-pandemic incomes – have joined the ranks of their lower-income (often Black and Latino) peers in navigating the labyrinth of the American welfare state. Calls to overhaul the American welfare state are welcome, but families experiencing poverty and hardship prior to the onset of the pandemic would be right to question why, only now, their needs are deemed worthy of adequately addressing.

Consider that even prior to the onset of the pandemic, the U.S. featured one of the highest child poverty rates in the rich world. Within the U.S., Black and Latino children were around twice as likely as White children to live in poverty. Among all Black and Latino families experiencing food insufficiency amidst the pandemic, 72 percent report that they also experienced food insufficiency prior to the onset of the pandemic, according to data from the Census Household Pulse Survey. Put simply, the American welfare state had been failing the vast majority of these families long before the onset of COVID-19. The disparities we see amidst the pandemic cannot simply be pinned to the high rates of unemployment in the spring, the school closures in the fall, or the health crisis throughout; they are the natural continuation of the structural inequalities that have long been embedded in the country's social institutions.



Second, the pandemic has revealed, that sociologists ought to play a larger role in shaping public and academic debate regarding the measurement and lived experience of poverty. Contemporary poverty measures in the U.S. and across other high-income countries are typically based on an annual measure of household or family income. Despite increasing complexity in the measurement of income and poverty thresholds (particularly in the U.S.), it is not clear that modern poverty measures are any more effective than before at capturing the lived experience of families. Consider, for example, that 70 percent of U.S. families experiencing food insecurity in 2018 were not deemed to be living beneath the U.S. Supplemental Poverty Measure threshold.

Sociologists, in contrast, have historically recognized that poverty is dynamic and volatile, rather than an experience that can be confined to a once-per-year measure; that the correlates of poverty cannot simply be reduced to income; that the neighborhood in which one lives affects the experience of poverty, independent of one's own resources; and that no two families beneath the poverty line experience poverty in the same way. Yet these insights into the “shape and form” of families' lived experiences of poverty are rarely embedded in national estimates of poverty – the metrics that policymakers and the public use to assess the socio-economic condition of the nation's residents. Our collectively ability to measure, understand, and reduce levels of poverty is worse off as a result.

## A Case for an Effectiveness Scale in Research on Racial Equality

by Emily Rauscher, Brown University



What if the rioters who invaded the capitol were Black? This question appeared in many outlets as soon as news of the capitol invasion broke, thanks to the Black Lives Matter movement waking the media to blatantly unequal treatment. This question illustrates widespread use of counterfactual thinking. What if X had occurred? Counterfactual thinking is a valuable tool in social science and uses experiments and natural experiments to identify how the world would differ if we implemented a specific change (such as a policy change to increase education, income, or health). Identifying rigorous counterfactual scenarios is difficult and

the challenge is greater for ascribed characteristics, such as race and gender. Many social scientists have risen to this challenge, developing experiments that allow us to identify effects of racism or sexism. In a well-known example, Devah Pager conducted an audit study to test whether callback rates differed for Black and white job applicants with or without a felony record.

The Black Lives Matter movement has created a rare moment of widespread concern and criticism of racial inequality, coupled with the ability to apply counterfactual thinking. In this moment, sociologists are well positioned to provide evidence on policies that can reduce racial inequality. Sociology has documented racial inequality from birth to death and nearly every step along the way. Less is known about how to reduce those inequalities. The new presidential administration values science and seeks to reduce inequality, but which policies are most effective for reducing which aspects of inequality? Do some policies reduce inequality while also increasing efficiency? How do effects of labor market reforms, education funding, decarceration, healthcare access and quality compare or enhance each other?

Scholars in the Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section of ASA already tackle these types of questions. As research from this section advances knowledge about how effectively specific policies reduce racial inequality, it will encourage the media and the public to ask new types of questions. My hope for the future is that inequality research can encourage the media and the public to imagine new counterfactual scenarios with more racial equality. Rather than asking, what if the rioters were Black, I hope future questions will ask what changes could place all people on equal, humane footing.

It is difficult to determine the best ways to increase equality. The task becomes more challenging when acknowledging politics and the need for broad support. Hard work of the Black Lives Matter movement has created widespread awareness and interest. Work from our section can provide rigorous evidence about the effectiveness of policies for reducing inequality. I hope the section can create a norm of providing standardized estimates of effectiveness (effect size) and cost effectiveness (effect size per dollar required) in publications whenever applicable. Kraft (2020) provides a useful scale for interpreting these measures in education and our section could develop a similar scale for other contexts. Effectiveness measures can provide a lightning rod to harness widespread counterfactual thinking and focus it on support for policies that most effectively increase racial equality.

## Centering Racism, not Race, in Racial Inequality Research

by Deadric T. Williams, University of Tennessee



Racial inequities in health and economic wellbeing persists in the United States. The rise in COVID-19 cases exacerbated these inequities. For instance, racialized minorities, when compared to White Americans, are more likely to die from the disease. Moreover, racialized minorities are more likely to be unemployed as businesses took the necessary precautions of reducing capacity to stop the spread of the disease. Even more, as the country was dealing with issues related to the global pandemic, many citizens marched on the streets to protest police killings of unarmed Black Americans. The existence of racial inequities before COVID-19, the exacerbation of racial inequities due to COVID-19, and the racial inequities in police killings thrust systemic racism as a fundamental cause of racial inequities to the forefront of discussions among news anchors, talking-heads, public officials, and scholars.

Public discourse about systemic racism has the potential to shift the narrative away from racism as an individual flaw towards an understanding of racism as ideology and structure undergirding everyday life. From this view, individuals can begin to recognize that a person's intentionality is not a necessary condition for producing and maintaining racial inequities. The point of emphasis is on the conditions (e.g., policies and laws, social practices, etc.) that make racial inequities possible in the first place.

Increased attention to systemic racism is not only important for the public but also for future research on racial inequality. The heightened awareness of structural racism provides an opportunity for inequality scholars to gauge critical theories of race. My research calls for scholars to center racism, not race, in racial inequality research (Williams 2019). My argument is conventional racial inequality research begins with the question: what accounts for racial inequality in a given outcome? By addressing racial inequality in this way, three central limitations emerge. First, scholars tend to treat racialized groups as an ahistorical demographic characteristic of the population (i.e., nominal variables). Second, scholars proceed to offer attributes (e.g., education, family structure, etc.) as potential mechanisms to attenuate the racial gap. This approach treats the key attributes as race neutral. This is surprising given that the key attributes tend to vary across racialized groups. Last, the execution of analytical models tends to use White Americans as the reference group as the standard against which racialized minorities are measured. Taken together, these studies reproduce essentialist understanding of race and render invisible how racism drives racial inequality.

Instead, given the role racism plays in creating racial inequities, I argue racial inequality scholars should begin with the question: how does racism maintain racial inequality in a given outcome? Leading with this question allows researchers to focus on the mechanisms and processes via racism that contribute to racial inequality. This approach has important implications for future research. First, centering racism, and not race, challenges researchers to be upfront with their conceptualization of race at the onset of the study. For instance, race is not only historically and socially constructed but also constructed by racism (Fields and Fields 2014). As Hirschman and Garbes (2019) note: "Race can never be an explanatory factor apart from racism because race is always already a function of racism". Second, given the social construction of race, the point of emphasis is racism, which refers to both ideology (the belief that humans are biologically different and can be hierarchically ordered) and structure (the laws, policies, and social practices) that subordinate the races deemed as inferior (Golash-Boza 2016). Last, and relatedly, racial inequality scholars should move beyond race comparative analyses toward a focus on within-group heterogeneity, which could potentially isolate the mechanism(s) driving racial inequities (Sen and Wasow 2016). Thus, rather than viewing attributes as a mechanism to close the racial gap, this approach views attributes as mechanisms that maintain the racial gap. Not only is this approach aligned with the social construction of race but also sees racism as inseparable from race.

The exacerbation of racial inequality in the United States due to the rise of COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter movement put structural racism at the center of discussion for understanding glaring racial inequities. Future research on racial inequality must follow this lead. Racial inequality researchers must go "beyond the perpetual re-discovery of discrimination" (Seamster and Ray 2019) whereby racism is typically highlighted in the discussion and conclusion of research studies. Racism, as the central mechanism, must be front and center.

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- Williams, Deadric T. "A Call to Focus on Racial Domination and Oppression: A Response to "Racial and Ethnic Inequality in Poverty and Affluence, 1959–2015." *Population Research and Policy Review* 38(5): 655-663.

Please send any suggestions for further topics and potential contributions to [ipmsection.news@gmail.com](mailto:ipmsection.news@gmail.com).

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## Junior Faculty Spotlight

### Desi Rodriguez-Lonebear, University of California, Los Angeles



#### What excites you most about your work right now?

Right now, my work examines how the persistent inequalities that Indigenous communities experience are being amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. Though most days I'm filled with sadness and anger, I'm also uplifted by testimonies of hope and resilience. All of the cracks in all of the systems are becoming visible. But we can't forget that many of us were born in these cracks. We've learned to thrive in these cracks. And we have something to say about it. Now is the time to dismantle and build anew. So that's what I'm writing right now. It's raw and real. I believe social scientists have an important role to play in easing human suffering though we may not be treating patients on the front lines. We are the truth tellers and the data bearers. Social scientists can and are helping our society reimagine what justice and equity actually look like in action at the people level. For Indigenous Peoples, I argue there is no equity or justice without sovereignty.

#### What's the best paper or book you've read recently, and why do you like/love it?

Everyone should read Dr. Whitney Laster Pirtle's article "Racial Capitalism: A Fundamental Cause of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Inequities in the United States." This paper brilliantly and succinctly explains how racial capitalism is THE foundation of this country and connects it to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Laster Pirtle further argues that we must address the stark and persistent inequalities that stem from racial capitalism if we are to stand any chance at getting through this pandemic (and future pandemics) in a just and equitable manner. A focus on interventions has never been sufficient, and it certainly isn't now during the pandemic. I also recommend Dr. Tyson Yunkaporta's book *Sand Talk: How Indigenous Thinking Can Save The World*. This book gives me combined feelings of a warm sip of tea and a good walk out on the land. It's a story that honors how Indigenous knowledges remain despite every effort otherwise.

#### What has surprised you most about life after grad school?

Life after grad school has been completely unpredictable due to the pandemic. It's odd being faculty at an institution where I don't even have an office yet. I look forward to physically being in my office and engaging with students and colleagues. I will also say that one of the biggest surprises is the sheer amount of email I now get. It makes me all the more thankful that faculty ever replied to my emails when I was a student!

**Desi Rodriguez-Lonebear** is assistant professor of Sociology and American Indian Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles.

#### Recent Publications:

- Walter, Maggie, Tahu Kukutai, Stephanie Russo Carroll, Desi Rodriguez-Lonebear, eds. 2020. *Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Policy*. Routledge Press. Available open access at: <https://tinyurl.com/17sa512m>
- Rodriguez-Lonebear, Desi. 2021. The Blood Line: Racialized Boundary Making and Citizenship Among Native Nations. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. Doi: 10.1177/2332649220981589. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/2332649220981589> Doi: 10.1177|2332649220981589
- Rodriguez-Lonebear, Desi, Nicolás E. Barceló, Randell Akee, Stephanie Russo Carroll. 2020. American Indian Reservations and COVID-19: Correlates of Early Infection Rates in the Pandemic. *J Public Health Manag Pract* 26(4):371-77. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32433389/>

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## IPM Dialogue

IPM Dialogue presents students with the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers from more seasoned members, who will volunteer their responses. The column aims to help IPM members develop intellectually and professionally. This issue Anita Li, PhD Student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, talked to Dave Brady, University of California, Riverside, and Fabian T. Pfeffer, University of Michigan, about the challenges of starting a career in times of COVID-19.

### **What are your tips for project management and building a research agenda for graduate students and early career researchers?**

**Brady:** I like to keep these three dimensions in play when putting together my research agenda; you can also think of it as a Venn diagram. First, is there an audience/market for this? Second, what is your unique skills/capacity and what are you bringing to the field specifically? You can think of your own comparative advantages, such as computational skills and great interviewing methods. The third thing is, what are you most passionate about? Maybe you like solving puzzles in the literature. Maybe you care deeply about policy impact or some big significant problem in the world. Not all of these dimensions overlap all the time, something may matter to you personally a lot but there is no audience for it. Some papers drift toward only one or two dimensions, and that is okay. To me personally, I have to do something that I feel passionate about – it is what makes me come back to it day after day.

How do we proactively identify if something has a market? Maybe one can look at job growth. What kind of jobs are in demand right now? But it is very hard to identify that in advance. I am not sure if we know that. For example, when Devah Pager published *The Mark of A Criminal Record*, there was not such a big audience for it. But since then, the field has grown so much and now, there is a huge market for research on crime and mass incarceration.

I also want to emphasize is that we often underappreciate the importance of writing in our training. We are living in an age of computational methods, and that is great. But I also think that early scholars would really benefit from more investment in writing skills.

Another advice to early scholars is that you want to have more than 1 project but not too many. That is something senior scholars including myself have to grapple with a lot. Sometimes I have too much going on and it becomes very reactionary.

**Pfeffer:** Have an “ideas document” where you jot down ideas for topics or research questions that occur to you during a class, a presentation, a conversation, or a walk through the park. Even if, at that moment, the idea may seem too small, too big, or too weird.<sup>2</sup> Many of these ideas won’t be pursued further, some of them will come to fruition, and some you may pick up on much later (hopefully, you will come out of graduate school with a long “ideas document”). As some ideas grow and take clearer shape, I recommend moving them to their own “notes document” early on so you can easily add and expand. Writing is thinking – even if it’s just fragmentary notes. I suspect that most papers don’t start with a “blank page”, they grow out of these “notes documents”. Personally, I like giving them a structure (even a table of contents) early on as that helps me allocate further thoughts/links/questions.

Having a cohesive research agenda pays off – both as a graduate student and even more so as an assistant professor (you will be asked to describe the arc of clearly identifiable research strands for your tenure file). Nevertheless, I would not worry too much about the cohesiveness of the different ideas you collect. Most ideas grow out of some latent interest of yours. In my experience, it sometimes becomes apparent only later how some of the ideas connect with each other and end up forming a research agenda.

### **Are these specific things graduate students should be doing (differently) to prepare ourselves in what seems to be a very tough job market in the next several years?**

**Brady:** Unfortunately, I don’t have any good news for you. But I want to emphasize that this is not a time to focus on individual agency. Don’t blame yourself. This is a structural crisis, and it is not your fault if you are having a tough time in the job market. One thing I would encourage students to do is to think about life and academia. Life is so much more than an academic job in a sociology department. Try to think about what a good life is to you personally, and work toward that. It is perfectly fine to work at a non-academic job. It is also okay to look into other fields that are growing and see how you can contribute as a sociologist. There are many other departments that would hire

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<sup>2</sup>Here is a plug for my favorite children’s book for all ages: “What do you do with an idea?” by Kobi Yamada and Mae Besom.



sociologists, such as policy schools, business schools, and education departments. I hope students have a realistic outlook of the job market and keep in mind that it is a structural thing.

**Pfeffer:** Your faculty mentors have a lot of useful advice for you. When it comes to career advice, it's generally also good to take into account selection on the outcome (relatedly, be careful about lottery winning advice from lottery winners). One area where the limitations of faculty in providing useful career advice are most obvious are job market options outside of academia. Since you will likely have heard that preparing yourself for a potential job outside of academia is helpful, I recommend asking your department to provide resources on this topic. For instance, your department may invite back former students who have landed non-academic jobs to talk about their experience.

**Many of us have been feeling very isolated and disconnected during these last several months. What can we do to stay connected and engaged with our academic community?**

**Brady:** I would say that the faculty feels the same way. Again, I would encourage students not to take it too personally. It's a structural crisis that we are all living through. To me, Twitter has been a big source of engagement. Keep in mind that it can be toxic. But I have gotten to know so many amazing people on the platform that I wouldn't have known otherwise. I would also recommend students to go to as many web-based colloquia and seminars as you can. It is nice to learn what other people are up to or just to see some faces.

**Pfeffer:** It's a terrible time. The challenges differ – some are incredibly isolated in their homes while others, such as student parents, are longing for periods of isolation from their home environment. There are a few Zoom-based options to connect – virtual lunch breaks, coffee breaks, writing hours, etc. Most of us, however, are pretty zoomed out. This semester, I want to try to transition some 1-on-1 meetings back to phone calls in an effort to get back to my normal practice of walking meetings. Depending on infection rates, perhaps some of you may even be able to take some physically distant walking meetings?

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## My Two Cents

### Teaching Online at the University of Washington (Seattle) when George Floyd Was Killed. A Personal Note



by Karl-Dieter Opp, Universität Leipzig (Emeritus), University of Washington, Seattle (Affiliate Professor)

This note is about how I experienced two major events in the United States in 2020: Covid19 and the killing of George Floyd. This experience is based on teaching at the University of Washington (Seattle) from the end of March to the beginning of June (this is the spring quarter) as an Affiliate Professor. I offered a class in which the viability of different explanations of social movements and political protest were discussed. This was a small class with 12 students, consisting of 3 graduates and 9 undergraduates.

The first quite unpleasant impact of the Corona virus was President Trump's travel ban in March 2020. I had prepared my stay, as usual (in 2020 I have taught in Seattle for 17 years): I had received the relevant US visa, had booked flights to Seattle and back to Hamburg, and rented an apartment in Seattle. All this had to be canceled. In addition, the university switched to remote teaching and provided access to ZOOM. The department director, Prof. Kate Stovel, and the IT department were very helpful in adapting to the situation. For example, the department director arranged regular online meetings in which experiences of colleagues and students with the new situation were exchanged.

Did the Corona pandemic affect students differently with different socio-economic status? Because the US is a highly unequal country, it is to be expected that due to remote teaching poor students had limited access to an own computer, had problems of participating in class and of preparing for class due to poor housing conditions. I have not experienced such problems with my students. But this is certainly a selection problem: students at the University of Washington are probably better off than other young people in Seattle. Furthermore, the university offered a loan program for laptops. An advantage of remote teaching was that students from quite diverse areas could participate. I had one student from Singapore, so online teaching allows overcoming long distances (Seattle – Hamburg – Singapore). Nonetheless, the students told me that they missed personal communication.

The situation changed after May 25 when George Floyd was killed. Racial discrimination has become a major theme in the department and, of course, in the US. Attendance of the class decreased by about 50% because some students wanted to participate in the demonstrations. But I have not experienced any behavioral differences between students of different ethnic groups. My classes are always composed mainly of Asian students (Chinese, Vietnamese, Japanese), students from Latin America, and African American students. Some of them were American citizens, some visitors. The faculty and the administrative staff of the department of sociology are also mixed in this regard. I have always observed respectful interactions between these groups and students. This may be at least in part due to the special situation of Seattle and the state of Washington: 69.3% are White, 12.4% Hispanic, 3.7% African American, and 8.11% Asian.

It seemed obvious that in a class on social movements and protest there is a strong interest to discuss the protests in the wake of George Floyd's death. The question was which of the existing explanations of protest and social movements provides the best explanation of these protests. I expected a very emotional and value-laden discussion. I was surprised that this did not happen. The students systematically applied the different theories and provided clear arguments about their strengths and weaknesses.

This discussion was largely speculative because there was no data for applying the theories in a rigorous way. A suggestion for further research in the field of social movements and protest is to further test and refine existing theories of protest. This implies the collection of new data. Such data should refer to different social situations, such as the state of Washington and a southern state such as Alabama. A micro-macro approach should be pursued with individual data about, for example, the extent of internalized protest norms and beliefs about effects of protests. Such individual data could then be aggregated to explain regional differences in protest behavior. Another theme would be to explain the effects of the protests on politicians' policies: which measures were taken to reduce discrimination and police violence, and did the policies vary across locations, and how can the different measures be explained?

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## Work in Progress

[Work in Progress](#) is a public sociology blog intended to disseminate sociological research and findings to the general public, with a particular emphasis on contributing to policy debates. It is a joint project co-sponsored by the following four kindred ASA sections:

- Organizations, Occupations, and Work (OOW)
- Economic Sociology (Econ Soc)
- Labor and Labor Movements (LLM)
- Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility (IPM)

After considering a number of names intended to strike a balance between covering the breadth of focus of the four sections while not overloading on specific terms, the editorial team decided on the following:

### **Work in Progress: Short-form sociology on the economy, work and inequality**

We call it short-form sociology: substantially shorter than the traditional formats of academia - books and journal articles - yet distinct from personal blogs, specialist blogs and more informal blogs in having an editorial team and a focus on polished, analytical articles written in accessible language. The typical length is around 800-1,200 words.

The editorial team includes eight members, with representatives from each of the four Sections. The blog is followed on Twitter by reporters from the New York Times, Washington Post, NPR, MSNBC, BBC and many other outlets.

The WIP Blog is available at <http://WIPsociology.org/>

**Call for Submissions:** We will publish summaries of all books recently published by Section members. Additionally, we invite proposals for three types of short-form article: research findings (from your own study or summarizing the findings of others), news analysis, and commentary. Interested authors should send a proposed title and topic (one paragraph maximum) to Matt Vidal ([matt.vidal@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:matt.vidal@kcl.ac.uk)). The WIP Editorial Team will decide whether to invite a full submission.

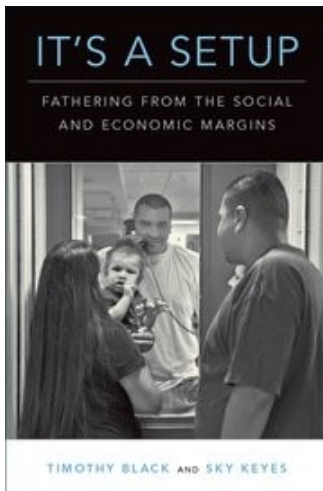
### **Latest from Work in Progress**

- [Professionalizing Contingency: How Journalism Schools Adapt to Deprofessionalization](#) (Max Besbris and Caitlin Petre)
- [What Explains Racial/Ethnic Inequality in Job Quality for Low-Wage Frontline Workers in the Service Sector?](#) (Adam Storer)
- [In Elite Professional Firms, Skill Development Practices Help and Hurt Racial and Ethnic Minorities](#) (Elizabeth Gorman)
- [Uneven Access to Union Jobs Increases Inequality within Marginalized Groups](#) (David Pettinicchio and Michelle Maroto)
- [A Second Chance in the Military](#) (Eiko Strader)
- [Labor's Legacy](#) (David J. Galvin)
- [No Escape: When Workplaces use Social Media](#) (Xiaoli Tian)
- [Who is the Boss? The Social Class Disadvantage for Becoming a Manager is Big and it's Costly](#) (Paul Ingram)
- [Why Global Solidarity is Important for Global Labor Strategy](#) (Matthew Williams)
- [Teaching Thrift to the Poor](#) (Gretchen Purser and Brian Hennigan)
- [Is a Global Framework for Regulating Transnational Corporations Possible?](#) (Alwyn Lim)
- ["The Just won't Sell to You": When Businesses are Gatekeepers of Customers](#) (Erica Cosier, Brett Crawford, and Andrew Leyshon)
- [The Algorithmic University and the Struggle over Academic Labor](#) (Robert Ovetz)
- [Elaborating on the Abstract: Group Meaning-Making in a Columbian Microsavings Program](#) (Kristen McNeill)

- [How Credit Matters for Racial and Economic Justice](#) (John Robinson)
  - [Old Wine in New Bottles: Gender and the Gig Economy](#) (Ruth Milkman)
  - [How do Right to Work Laws affect Economic Inequality?](#) (Tom VanHeuvelen)
  - [Does CFO Gender affect Irregularities in Corporate Financial Statements?](#) (Vishal K. Gupta, Bidisha Chakrabarty, Sandra Mortal, Daniel B. Turban, and Xiaohu Guo)
  - [Racial Pay Parity: How African Americans Made Government Jobs Good](#) (Isabel Perera and Desmond King)
  - [Capitalist Restructuring and the Power of Women Textile Workers in Egypt](#) (Nada Matta)
  - [Taken Women's Voices in Male-Dominated Teams](#) (Crystal Farh and Kyoungjo (Jo) Oh)
  - [The Coin Project and Rising Between Workplace and Inequalities](#) (Donald Tomaskovid-Devey and Anthony Rainey)
  - [The Eurozone Poses Challenges for Labour at Large- and Not just for the 'South'](#) (Philip Rathgeb and Arianna Tassinari)
  - [Mismatched Meaning-Making at a Bottle and Can Redemption Center](#) (Sarah Iverson)
  - [How Wearing the Hijab may Influence Labor Market Outcomes](#) (Eman Abdelhadi)
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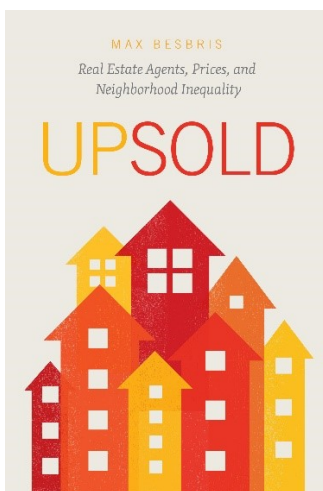
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## Recent Books from Members



**Black, Timothy, and Sky Keyes. 2020. *It's a Setup: Fathering from the Social and Economic Margins*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-1900-6222-4 (cloth); ISBN: 978-0-1900-6221-7 (electronic).**

The expectation for fathers to be more involved with parenting their children and pitching in at home are higher than ever, yet broad social, political, and economic changes have made it more difficult for low-income men to be fathers. In *It's a Setup*, Timothy Black and Sky Keyes ground a moving and intimate narrative in the political and economic circumstances that shape the lives of low-income fathers. Based on 138 life history interviews, they expose the contradiction that while the norms and expectations of father involvement have changed rapidly within a generation, labor force and state support for fathering on the margins has deteriorated. Tracking these life histories, they move us through the lived experiences of job precarity, welfare cuts, punitive child support courts, public housing neglect, and the criminalization of poverty to demonstrate that without transformative systemic change, individual determination is not enough. Fathers on the social and economic margins are setup to fail. Oxford University Press.



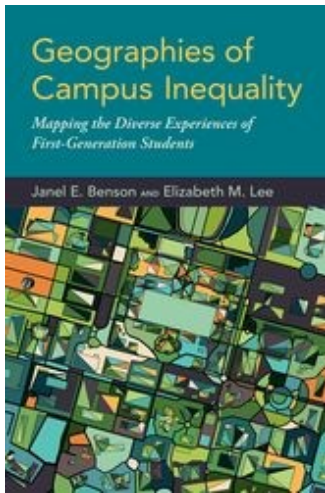
**Besbris, Max. 2020. *Upsold: Real Estate Agents, Prices, and Neighborhood Inequality*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 978-0-2267-2137-8 (paper); ISBN: 978-0-2267-2123-1 (cloth); ISBN: 978-0-2267-2140-8 (electronic).**

What do you want for yourself in the next five, ten years? Do your plans involve marriage, kids, a new job? These are the questions a real estate agent might ask in an attempt to unearth information they can employ to complete a sale, which as *Upsold* shows, often results in upselling. In this book, sociologist Max Besbris shows how agents successfully upsell, inducing buyers to spend more than their initially stated price ceilings. His research reveals how face-to-face interactions influence buyers' ideas about which neighborhoods are desirable and which are less-worthy investments and how these preferences ultimately contribute to neighborhood inequality.

Stratification defines cities in the contemporary United States. In an era marked by increasing income segregation, one of the main sources of this inequality is housing prices. A crucial part of wealth inequality, housing prices are also directly linked to the uneven distribution of resources across neighborhoods and to racial and ethnic segregation. *Upsold* shows how the interactions between real estate agents and buyers make or break neighborhood reputations and construct neighborhoods by price.

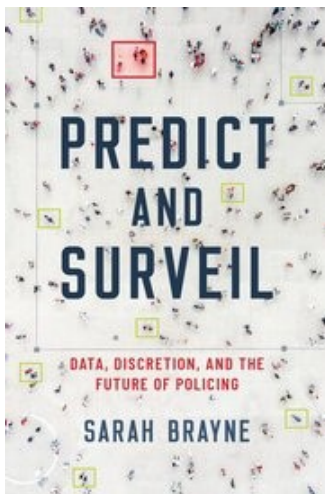
Employing revealing ethnographic and quantitative housing data, Besbris outlines precisely how social influences come together during the sales process. In *Upsold*, we get a deep dive into the role that the interactions with sales agents play in buyers' decision-making and how neighborhoods are differentiated, valorized, and deemed to be worthy of a certain price. University of Chicago Press.





**Benson, Janel E., and Elizabeth M. Lee. 2020. Geographies of Campus Inequality: Mapping the Diverse Experiences of First-Generation Students. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-1908-4815-6 (cloth); ISBN: 978-0-1908-4816-3 (electronic).**

In efforts to improve equity, selective college campuses are increasingly focused on recruiting and retaining first-generation students—those whose parents have not graduated from college. In *Geographies of Campus Inequality*, sociologists Benson and Lee argue that these approaches may fall short if they fail to consider the complex ways first-generation status intersects with race, ethnicity, and gender. Drawing on interview and survey data from selective campuses, the authors show that first generation students do not share a universal experience. Rather, first generation students occupy one of four disparate geographies on campus within which they negotiate academic responsibilities, build relationships, engage in campus life, and develop post-college aspirations. Importantly, the authors demonstrate how geographies are shaped by organizational practices and campus constructions of class, race, and gender. *Geographies of Campus Inequality* expands the understanding of first-generation students' campus lives and opportunities for mobility by showing there is more than one way to be first generation. Oxford University Press.

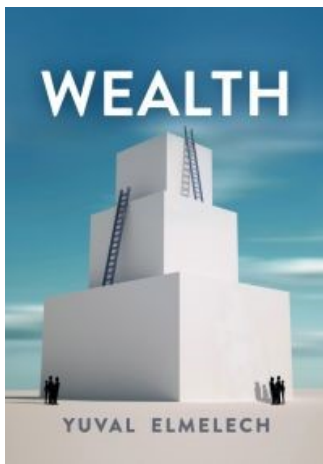


**Brayne, Sarah. 2020. Predict and Surveil: Data, Discretion, and the Future of Policing. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-1906-8409-9 (cloth); ISBN: 978-0-1906-8411-2 (electronic).**

The scope of criminal justice surveillance has expanded rapidly in recent decades. At the same time, the use of big data has spread across a range of fields, including finance, politics, healthcare, and marketing. While law enforcement's use of big data is hotly contested, very little is known about how the police actually use it in daily operations and with what consequences.

In *Predict and Surveil*, Sarah Brayne offers an unprecedented, inside look at how police use big data and new surveillance technologies, leveraging on-the-ground fieldwork with one of the most technologically advanced law enforcement agencies in the world—the Los Angeles Police Department. Drawing on original interviews and ethnographic observations, Brayne examines the causes and consequences of algorithmic control. She reveals how the police use predictive analytics to deploy resources, identify suspects, and conduct investigations; how the adoption of big data analytics transforms police organizational practices; and how the police themselves respond to these new data-intensive practices. Although big data analytics holds potential to reduce bias and increase efficiency, Brayne argues that it also reproduces and deepens existing patterns of social inequality, threatens privacy, and challenges civil liberties.

A groundbreaking examination of the growing role of the private sector in public policing, this book challenges the way we think about the data-heavy supervision law enforcement increasingly imposes upon civilians in the name of objectivity, efficiency, and public safety. Oxford University Press.



**Elmelech, Yuval. 2021. Wealth. New York, NY: Polity Press. ISBN: 978-0-7456-9787-1 (paper); ISBN: 978-0-7456-9786-4 (cloth); ISBN: 978-0-7456-9790-1 (electronic).**

The pursuit of wealth has captivated people's attention for centuries. Yet, as a topic of social research, the way in which wealth is accumulated and unequally distributed has largely been neglected, remaining hidden beneath data on income inequality. Wealth aims to address this blind spot in the academic discourse.

In accessible prose, Yuval Elmelech explains how personal wealth differs fundamentally from other conventional measures of socioeconomic status and why it has become increasingly important to our understanding of social mobility and stratification. Crucially, Elmelech presents a dynamic sociological framework of wealth attainment that illuminates the effects of cumulative advantages and disadvantages over the course of an individual's life, and across generations. He describes how these advantages and disadvantages are in turn shaped by a complex interplay of multiple markets, changing demographic landscapes, and persistent inter-group wealth disparities.

Blending theoretical approaches with empirical evidence and macro-level contexts with micro-level processes, this book is an astute guide for thinking about wealth as a key determinant of social and economic wellbeing and for interrogating the role of wealth accumulation in social inequality. Polity Press.

PROMOCODE: VBS41(20 Percent Discount; Expires 29/1/2022)



**Foster, B. Brian. 2020. I Don't Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black Life. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press. ISBN: 978-1-4696-6042-4 (paper); ISBN: 978-1-4696-6041-7 (cloth); ISBN: 978-1-4696-6043-1 (electronic).**

How do you love and not like the same thing at the same time? This was the riddle that met Mississippi writer B. Brian Foster when he returned to his home state to learn about Black culture and found himself hearing about the blues. One moment, Black Mississippians would say they knew and appreciated the blues. The next, they would say they didn't like it. For five years, Foster listened and asked: "How?" "Why not?" "Will it ever change?" This is the story of the answers to his questions.

In this illuminating work, Foster takes us where not many blues writers and scholars have gone: into the homes, memories, speculative visions, and lifeworlds of Black folks in contemporary Mississippi to hear what they have to say about the blues and all that has come about since their forebears first sang them. In so doing, Foster urges us to think differently about race, place, and community development and models a different way of hearing the sounds of Black life, a method that he calls listening for the backbeat. UNC Press.

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## Recent Publications from Members

**Blume Oeur, Freeden. 2020. "Fever Dreams: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Racial Trauma of COVID-19 and Lynching." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. Special Issue: "Race and Ethnicity in Pandemic Times." Online First.**

In 1899, diphtheria claimed the life of W. E. B. Du Bois's son, Burghardt. How can Burghardt's death help us to understand the racialized consequences of the present coronavirus pandemic? This article considers what Du Bois described as the "phantasmagoria" that ensnares racial structures. I examine COVID as the latest iteration of a distinctly racialized American trauma narrated in the grammar of Du Bois's reflections on disease, extrajudicial killings, and kinship. This fever dream of conflagration and asphyxiation has haunted Black lives since slavery. Du Bois gave meaning to this racial spectre in religious terms as a story of perpetual death but eventual emancipation. By situating Du Bois in relation to the work of Christina Sharpe (2016. *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press), this essay ruminates on the orthography of slavery's inheritances with regard to disease and its symbiotic relationship with lynching. I conclude by considering Du Bois's invocation to darkwater as a demand for Black healing. <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.uiowa.edu/10.1080/01419870.2020.1849756>

**Brändle, Tobias, and Jessica Ordemann. 2020. "Same Same or Different? Non-Traditional Students and Alumni in Germany." *Studia Paedagogica*, 25(4):35-50.**

This article gives an overview about current research on non-traditional students and alumni in Germany. Its aim is to highlight similarities and differences with their traditional counterparts. The paper concentrates on the motivation to study, study performance, and labor market success (status and income) of those who do not hold a traditional higher education entrance certificate but entered university via occupational qualification. We show a widespread divergence in findings from no statistical difference at all to clear differences between non-traditional and traditional students and alumni. This holds true with regard to student motivation, study performance, and labor market success after graduation. We conclude that biggest challenge is the non-completion rates of non-traditional students, which poses a development task for institutions of higher education. <https://doi.org/10.5817/SP2020-4-2>

**Bryan, Brielle. 2020. "Homeownership Experiences Following Criminal Justice Contact." *Cityscape*, 22(1):103-4.**

Recent work has highlighted the significance of incarceration for wealth accrual and African-American- White gaps in homeownership, but the monetary sanctions and disruptions to employment that often accompany even low-level criminal justice contact may also have important consequences for individual homeownership and racial disparities in homeownership. Using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97), this article considers the potential of a broad variety of criminal justice system interactions to shape homeownership experiences among young adults. Using a variety of models to address concerns of unobserved confounding, I investigate how arrest, criminal charges, conviction, and incarceration relate to (1) probability of homeownership, (2) age of entry into first homeownership, and (3) homeownership duration. Results indicate that, like incarceration, these lower level forms of criminal justice contact are independently associated with lower levels of homeownership, delayed entry into homeownership, and shorter duration of homeownership among respondents who succeed in becoming homeowners. Given the importance of homeownership for individual wealth accumulation and racial wealth gaps, as well as sizable racial disparities in criminal justice contact in the United States, these findings illuminate a potentially important pathway through which racial disparities in socioeconomic well-being are reinforced. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/periodicals/cityscpe/vol22num1/article4.html>

**Diaz, Estela B. and Jennifer Lee. 2020. "Cultural Heterogeneity and the Diverse Success Frames of Second-Generation Mexicans." *Social Sciences* 9(12):216.**

Mexican Americans are the largest immigrant and second-generation group in the country. Their sheer size coupled with their low educational attainment have generated concerns that, unlike Asian groups like Chinese Americans, Mexican Americans do not value education—a claim wielded by opponents of affirmative action. Drawing on analyses of the Immigration and Intergenerational Mobility in Metropolitan Los Angeles study, we challenge two underlying presumptions of this claim: the children of Mexican immigrants are less successful than the children of Chinese immigrants; and they are less committed to success. Centering our analyses on the hypo-selectivity of U.S. Mexican immigration, we maintain that how we measure success determines which group is more successful. Moreover, we show that second-generation Mexicans adopt diverse success frames that stem from cultural heterogeneity. Consequently, they pursue variegated strategies of action that include class-specific ethnic resources in their quest for success. Despite their remarkable intergenerational gains, the racialization of low achievement and the mark of a criminal record can be a death knell for mobility for the children of Mexican immigrants. Our research provides fruitful context to inform the current debate about affirmative action. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci9120216>

**Dorp, Johan René van, and Guillermina Jasso. 2020. "Norman Johnson." In *Sage Encyclopedia of Research Methods*, P. Atkinson, S. Delamont, A. Cernat, J. W. Sakshaug, and R. A. Williams, eds. London, UK: Sage Publications.**

Norman L. Johnson (1917–2004) is one of the leaders of the 20th-century statistics (specializing in statistical distribution theory and applications). He studied at the University College London (UCL) at the tail end of Karl Pearson's life in the 1930s (the father of the beta distribution among other important distributions). Johnson was born on January 9, 1917, in Ilford, Essex. He obtained his PhD in 1948 from UCL. He held positions in the Department of Statistics at UCL from 1938 until 1962, ranging from assistant lecturer, lecturer, to reader. During World War II, he served as experimental officer under Egon Pearson (Read, 2004). In 1962, Johnson joined the Department of Statistics at the University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill, where he stayed until his retirement in 1982, serving as professor and chair of the department, but remained active in research and scholarship. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781526421036840281>

**Havewala, Ferzana. 2020. "The dynamics between the food environment and residential segregation: An analysis of metropolitan areas." *Food Policy*, (2020): 102015.**

The benefits of a "healthy diet" are firmly established, but the ability to follow established dietary-guidelines varies significantly across the American population. While personal choices do matter, the local food environment plays a role in the ability to access the right foods.

This study examines the underlying pathways by which residential segregation affects the food environment in all large metropolitan areas in the United States by specifically relating the different dimensions of residential segregation with the food environment in terms of both access and quality, variety of food available. Using variance function regression, we simultaneously model the means and variances, and therefore the net effects of residential segregation on the food environment.

Results show that residential segregation impacts the relative availability of healthy food options compared to unhealthy food options. More segregated metros have relatively fewer healthy food outlets and also have larger travel distances to healthy food outlets. Increased residential segregation is also associated with less variation in the food environment, especially for segregation by income.

By shedding light on the particular aspects of residential segregation that impact the food environment, this study fits into both the debate over the consequences of segregation, and the debate over effective food retail zoning and accessibility. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2020.102015>



**Hennigan, Brian and Gretchen Purser. 2020. "Both Sides of the Paycheck: Recommending Thrift to the Poor in Job-Readiness Programs." *Critical Sociology*.**

This article documents how job readiness programs—as anchors of the devolved organizational landscape of neoliberal poverty governance in the United States—endeavor to instill within the poor not simply the virtue of work, but the virtue of thrift, and thus orient them to “both sides of the paycheck.” Using a comparative ethnographic study of two community-based, government-funded nonprofit job readiness programs, we show that this pedagogic focus on budgeting is central to the overall goal of conditioning clients to embrace and endure a degraded labor market. Recognizing that most participants will remain poor with or without low-wage employment, these programs suggest that it is as crafty consumers that participants may retake control of their lives. Despite the programs’ differing target populations and racialized and gendered logics, both attempt to accommodate participants to the dictates of the neoliberal economic order: jobs are hard to find and, even if you get one, wages will not be enough. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0896920520964537>

**Hepburn, Peter, Renee Louis, and Matthew Desmond. 2020. "Racial and Gender Disparities among Evicted Americans." *Sociological Science*, 7(27): 649–662.**

Drawing on millions of court records of eviction cases filed between 2012 and 2016 in 39 states, this study documents the racial and gender demographics of America’s evicted population. Black renters received a disproportionate share of eviction filings and experienced the highest rates of eviction filing and eviction judgment. Black and Latinx female renters faced higher eviction rates than their male counterparts. Black and Latinx renters were also more likely to be serially filed against for eviction at the same address. These findings represent the most comprehensive investigation to date of racial and gender disparities among evicted renters in the United States. <https://sociologicalscience.com/articles-v7-27-649/>

**Franco, Konrad, Caitlin Patler, and Keramet Reiter. 2020. "Punishing Status and the Punishment Status Quo: Solitary Confinement in U.S. Immigration Detention Facilities, 2013–2017." *Punishment Society*. Online first.**

This study provides the first systematic, nationally representative analysis of administrative records of solitary confinement placements in any carceral setting. We examine patterns in who experiences solitary confinement in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody, as well as the stated reason for, and length of, their confinement. We reveal several findings. First, cases involving individuals with mental illnesses are overrepresented, more likely to occur without infraction, and to last longer, compared to cases involving individuals without mental illnesses. Second, solitary confinement cases involving immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean are vastly overrepresented in comparison to the share of these groups in the overall detained population, and African immigrants are more likely to be confined for disciplinary reasons, compared to the average. Finally, placement patterns vary significantly by facility and institution type, with private facilities more likely to solitarily confine people without infraction, compared to public facilities. This study offers a lens through which to more precisely theorize the legal boundary-blurring of criminal migration and the relationship between prison and immigration detention policies, to better understand the practice of solitary confinement across carceral contexts, and to analyze the relationship between national-level policy and on-the-ground implementation. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1462474520967804>

**Gaddis, S. Michael, and Raj Ghoshal. 2020. "Searching for a Roommate: A Correspondence Audit Examining Racial/Ethnic and Immigrant Discrimination among Millennials." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*, 6:1-16.**

Survey research finds that millennials have less prejudiced views of racial/ethnic minorities than other generations, leading some to label millennials as postracial. However, attitudinal survey research may be subject to social desirability bias because it documents statements or beliefs instead of actions. Moreover, most audit studies focus on people who make hiring decisions or own rental property and are therefore often older than millennials. This study uses a correspondence audit to investigate discrimination among millennials via “roommate wanted” advertisements. We sent over 4,000 emails and found a tiered pattern of discrimination against Asian (Indian and Chinese), Hispanic, and Black room-seekers. However, whether Asian and Hispanic room-seekers face significant discrimination varies based on whether they use predominantly White first names or traditional first names. Our findings shed light on the future of our racial system, expand our knowledge of discrimination beyond the traditional Black/White binary, and illustrate the persistence of anti-Blackness. <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.uiowa.edu/10.1177/2378023120972287>



**Galaviz, Karla I., Jessica Y. Breland, Mechelle Sanders, Khadijah Breathett, Alison Cerezo, Oscar Gil, John M. Hollier, Cassandra Marshall, J. Deanna Wilson, and Utibe R. Essien. 2020. "Implementation Science to Reduce Health Disparities During COVID-19." *Health Equity*, 4(1): 463–467.**

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is disproportionately affecting racial and ethnic minorities. In the United States, data show African American, Hispanic, and Native American populations are overrepresented among COVID-19 cases and deaths. As we speed through the discovery and translation of approaches to fight COVID-19, these disparities are likely to increase. Implementation science can help address disparities by guiding the equitable development and deployment of preventive interventions, testing, and, eventually, treatment and vaccines. In this study, we discuss three ways in which implementation science can inform these efforts: (1) quantify and understand disparities; (2) design equitable interventions; and (3) test, refine, and retest interventions. <https://doi.org/10.1089/heap.2020.0044>

**Jasso, Guillermina, and Johan René van Dorp. 2020. "Samuel Kotz." In *Sage Encyclopedia of Research Methods*, P. Atkinson, S. Delamont, A. Cernat, J. W. Sakshaug, and R. A. Williams, eds. London, UK: Sage Publications.**

Samuel Kotz (1930-2010) was a statistician who made important contributions to statistical knowledge on a variety of topics, most notably statistical distributions and their properties and characterizations, but also information theory, quality control, and process capability indices. Via two game-changing works initiated with Norman L. Johnson—the multi-volume *Distributions in Statistics* and the *Encyclopedia of Statistical Sciences*—Kotz immeasurably increased the methodological resources for theoretical and empirical analysis across all the sciences. This entry begins with a brief biography of Kotz, next discusses two game-changing contributions with Johnson, and then reviews Kotz's own contributions to probability distributions. Finally, the entry considers an additional legacy—the interdisciplinary and global scholarly lineage traceable to Kotz. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781526421036797288>

**Jasso, Guillermina, and Bernd Wegener. 2021. "An Empirically Based Just Linear Income Tax System." *Journal of Mathematical Sociology*. Online First.**

This paper develops and illustrates a method for empirically designing an income tax system that people will regard as fair. The paper begins with the classical Principles of Tax Justice, viz., as pretax income increases, three quantities should also increase—posttax income, tax amount, and tax rate. GSOEP data on residents' pretax income and the posttax income they regard as fair are used to estimate a just linear income tax system. Analytic results include a signature standard form of the tax system showing the intertwined fates of poor and rich and the conditions which threaten fairness. Empirical results show that the estimated tax system lowers taxes for a majority of respondents, especially the relatively poorer, and substantially reduces inequality. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0022250X.2020.1859501>

**Levy, Brian L., Nolan E. Phillips, and Robert J. Sampson. 2020. "Triple Disadvantage: The Consequences of Differential Exposure through Neighborhood Ties for Urban Wellbeing." *American Sociological Review*, 85(6): 925-956.**

This article develops and assesses the concept of triple neighborhood disadvantage. We argue that a neighborhood's well-being depends not only on its own socioeconomic conditions but also on the conditions of neighborhoods its residents visit and are visited by, connections that form through networks of everyday urban mobility. We construct measures of mobility-based disadvantage using geocoded patterns of movement estimated from hundreds of millions of tweets sent by nearly 400,000 Twitter users over 18 months. Analyzing nearly 32,000 neighborhoods and 9,700 homicides in 37 of the largest U.S. cities, we show that neighborhood triple disadvantage independently predicts homicides, adjusting for traditional neighborhood correlates of violence, spatial proximity to disadvantage, prior homicides, and city fixed effects. Not only is triple disadvantage a stronger predictor than traditional measures, it accounts for a sizable portion of the association between residential neighborhood disadvantage and homicides. In turn, potential mechanisms such as neighborhood drug activity, interpersonal friction, and gun crime prevalence account for much of the association between triple disadvantage and homicides. These findings implicate structural mobility patterns as an important source of triple (dis)advantage for neighborhoods and have implications for a broad range of phenomena beyond crime, including community capacity, gentrification, transmission in a pandemic, and racial inequality. <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.uiowa.edu/10.1177/0003122420972323>

**Mijs, Jonathan J.B. and Christopher Hoy. 2021. "How Information about Inequality Impacts Belief in Meritocracy: Evidence from a Randomized Survey Experiment in Australia, Indonesia and Mexico." *Social Problems***

Most people misperceive economic inequality. Learning about actual levels of inequality and social mobility, research suggests, heightens concerns but may push people's policy preferences in any number of directions. This mixed empirical record, we argue, reflects the omission of a more fundamental question: under what conditions do people change their understanding of the meritocratic or non-meritocratic causes of inequality? To explore mechanisms of belief change we field a unique randomized survey experiment with representative populations in Australia, Indonesia, and Mexico—societies with varying levels of popular beliefs about economic inequality. Our results highlight the importance of information, perceived social position, and self-interest. In Indonesia, information describing (high) income inequality and (low) social mobility rocked our participants' belief in meritocracy. The same information made less of a splash in Mexico, where unequal outcomes are commonly understood as the result of corruption and other non-meritocratic processes. In Australia, the impact of our informational treatment was strongest when it provided justification for people's income position or when it corrected their perception of relative affluence. Our findings reveal asymmetric beliefs about poverty and wealth and heterogeneous responses to information. They are a call to rethink effective informational and policy interventions. <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spaa059>

**Martin, Karin D., and Matthew Z. Fowle. 2020. "Restitution without Restoration? Exploring the Gap between the Perception and Implementation of Restitution." *Sociological Perspectives*, 63(6):1015-1037.**

Restitution as a social practice can simultaneously have a punitive effect and add to a person's criminal justice debt load, while maintaining a reparative and therefore restorative component. We use principles of restorative justice to assess restitution as a concept and a practice, drawing on data from a survey experiment administered to a nationally representative sample (n = 433). We find that the common and strongly preferred conception of restitution is "direct," entailing a convicted person compensating a victim for quantifiable loss. Evidence from Victim Compensation Funds (VCFs) in all 50 states demonstrate the widespread use of "indirect" restitution, through which funds from various sources are distributed to qualifying victims. Broader trends in criminal justice policy related to the centering of the victim and a managerial approach to punishment help explain our findings. We conclude that the divergence between common conception and widespread practice indicates a need for a revised notion of restitution. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0731121420970599>

**Patler, Caitlin, Erin Hamilton, and Robin Savinar. 2020. "The Limits of Gaining Rights while Remaining Marginalized: The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program and the Psychological Wellbeing of Latina/o Undocumented Youth." *Social Forces*, soaa099. Online First.**

Policies that expand the rights of marginalized groups provide an additional level of structural integration, but these changes do not always come with broad social acceptance or recognition. What happens when a legally marginalized group attains increased rights but not full political or social inclusion? In particular, what are the mental health implications of these transitions for impacted groups? We bring together theories of liminal legality and stress process to offer a framework for understanding how expansions in the legal rights of a highly politicized and vulnerable social group can be initially beneficial, but can attenuate due to renewed or new stress events, chronic stressors, and anticipatory stressors. We use the case of Latina/o immigrant youth who transitioned from undocumented legal status to temporarily protected status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Analyses of representative California statewide survey data from 2007 to 2018, combined with surveys and in-depth interviews with DACA recipients, suggest that without full social and structural inclusion, legal transitions that expand rights will produce short-term psychological benefits that do not hold up over time. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soaa099>

**Patler, Caitlin, Shannon Gleeson, and Matthias Schonlau. 2020. "The Impact of Immigrant Legal Status and Human Capital on Legal Knowledge and Claims-Making in Low Wage and Unregulated Labor Markets." *Social Problems*, spaa029.**

Low-wage Latina/o workers are subject to an array of workplace abuses. This study focuses on whether educational attainment may moderate inequality in knowledge or claims-making across individuals with different legal statuses. This question is motivated by research which, while highlighting the role of education in promoting civic and political engagement, has not examined the interaction between education and legal status for worker claims-making. We draw from the 2008 Unregulated Work Survey, which is representative of the 1.64 million low-wage workers in Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York, three of the largest immigrant destinations in the United States. Using the

Latina/o subsample, we test whether education impacts workers' procedural knowledge of the claims process, as well as their actual claims-making behavior, across four categories of workers: U.S.-born citizens, naturalized citizens, documented noncitizens, and undocumented noncitizens. Our findings reveal that all noncitizens have lower levels of procedural knowledge about how to file a complaint with the government, compared to citizens, across educational levels. However, when it comes to claims-making, we find that education has significant positive impacts for noncitizen workers, especially the undocumented. Our results suggest that education may improve the workplace agency of even the most marginalized workers. <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spaa029>

**Schmalzbauer, Leah. 2020. "Belonging, Place and Homeland Nostalgia." In *Latin American Transnational Children and Youth: Experiences of Nature and Place, Culture and Care Across the Americas*, V. Derr and Y. Corona, eds. New York, NY: Routledge.**

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003028512>

**Shifrer, Dara. 2020. "Contextualizing Educational Disparities and the Evaluation of Teacher Quality." *Social Problems*, spaa044.**

Value added scores, statistical estimates of teacher quality, are representative of neoliberal logic. The higher average scores of teachers of socially advantaged students raise concerns that scores are inaccurate and unfair, and propagate decontextualized neoliberal understandings of the nature of learning and teachers' work. This study uses longitudinal data from roughly 4,500 teachers in a large urban district between 2007–08 through 2012–13 to follow individual teachers as they switch into schools of different "performance levels" over time. Fixed-intercept models tracking individual teachers between 2007–08 and 2012–13 showed scores increased for teachers who switched into high-performing schools and decreased for teachers who switched into low-performing schools. Particularly indicative of scores biased by contextual factors outside teachers' control, score changes for mobile teachers are partially attributable to shifts in the economic status and race of students in teachers' classrooms and schools. Understanding how neoliberalism operates within education provides sociological insight into how neoliberalism is legitimated and perpetuated in other central social institutions, such as the criminal justice system, the environment, gender, sexuality, and health. <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spaa044>

**Sommers, Margaret R. 2020. "The Moral Economy of the Capitalist Crowd: Utopianism, the Reality of Society, and the Market as a Morally Instituted Process in Karl Polanyi's *The Great Transformation*." *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development*, 11(2):227-234.**

Few conceptual innovations have been more consequential than E. P. Thompson's "moral economy." While the opposition between markets and morals predates his famous essay by several centuries, it was Thompson who engraved the term in historical consciousness to represent the eighteenth-century "crowd's" normative and institutional resistance to the rise of the "cash nexus." Formulated to capture the idea of livelihood organized by moral norms of reciprocity and redistributive justice, the term echoed Karl Polanyi's earlier rejection of the influential but nonsensical dichotomy between "ideal" and "material" interests. With wide-spread currency, the moral economy came to serve as a proxy for the idea that distributional struggles could not be understood solely by material needs but by ethical practices of solidarity, justice, and rights.

Precisely because of the moral valence that both Polanyi and Thompson ascribed to the principles of popular resistance, however, critics of capitalism too often made a cliché of a conflict between morals and markets, and claimed the former as exclusively theirs. Yet however comforting it may be to believe that "we" alone have morality on our side, one of the great contributions of Polanyi's work is that it disabuses us of the sentimental delusion that when it comes to the economy, morality has a progressive heart. Commonly misread as a story of confrontation between morality and markets, *The Great Transformation* makes clear that all economic matters traffic in morality, that classical (and modern) political economy is drenched in moral sentiments, and that those who fail to reckon with its moral claims will fail to understand the power of capitalism. Morality has a promiscuous heart. <https://doi.org/10.1353/hum.2020.0017>

**Somers, Margaret R. and Fred Block. 2020. “Polanyi’s Democratic Socialist Vision: Piketty through the Lens of Polanyi.” Pp. 211–30 in Karl Polanyi and twenty-first century capitalism. Edited by R. D. and K. P. Levitt. Manchester, UK: University of Manchester Press.**

This chapter brings Karl Polanyi into dialogue with Thomas Piketty, author of *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. The dialogue is intended to make visible key aspects of Polanyi’s theoretical framework while also suggesting limitations in Piketty’s approach to political economy. Specifically, the authors use the concept of ‘predistribution’—implicit in Polanyi—to critique Piketty’s emphasis on redistribution as the solution to growing wealth and income inequality. Predistribution conveys the idea that the initial market distribution of income is not natural but is shaped by the systematic exercise of political and economic power. <https://doi.org/10.7765/9781526127891.00019>

**Wang, Yapeng. 2021. “Who Benefits More from the College Expansion Policy? Evidence from China.” *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 71: 100566.**

This study extends the current literature on the relationship between educational expansion and social inequality by examining how the higher education expansion policy in China changed patterns of inequality across the country and within specific geographic regions. Results based on the Comparative Interrupted Time Series analyses indicate that although all individuals benefit from expansion in both overall and academic college enrollment, individuals from advantaged family backgrounds experience greater benefits. This is the case especially for middle and western regions of China. In the eastern region, inequality in overall college enrollment persists after expansion but that in academic college enrollment increases. These findings have implications for understanding the effects of expansion policies and whether they can reduce social inequality. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rssm.2020.100566>

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## Media, News, and Notes

**S. Michael Gaddis** (University of California-Los Angeles) was interviewed for NBC LX and SiriusXM's Affirmative Reaction about his article (with Raj Ghoshal), "Searching for a Roommate: A Correspondence Audit Examining Racial/Ethnic and Immigrant Discrimination among Millennials" in *Socius*. The article was also featured in press from CBS Los Angeles, The LA Times, and Psychology Today. Dr. Gaddis also wrote an op-ed at The Hill based on this research.

**Óscar Gil-García** (Binghamton University) was named a 2020 Fellow at The Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at Binghamton University. Dr. Gil-García is also the recipient of the 2021 Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Leave Program from the New York State/United University Professions Joint-Labor Management Diversity and Inclusion Committees.

**Peter Hepburn** (Rutgers University-Newark) and Yuliya Panfil (New America) published an op-ed in the New York Times arguing for the need to establish a federal eviction database.

**Peter Hepburn** (Rutgers University-Newark) published an op-ed in the Washington Post arguing that emergency rental aid is being inefficiently and inequitably distributed to the states.

**Peter Hepburn** (University of California-Los Angeles) was interviewed for NBC LX and SiriusXM's Affirmative Reaction about his article (with Raj Ghoshal), "Searching for a Roommate: A Correspondence Audit Examining Racial/Ethnic and Immigrant Discrimination among Millennials" in *Socius*. The article was also featured in press from CBS Los Angeles, The LA Times, and Psychology Today. Dr. Gaddis also wrote an op-ed at The Hill based on this research.

**S. Michael Gaddis** (Rutgers University-Newark), **Renee Louis** (Princeton University), and **Matthew Desmond** (Princeton University) published the first nation-wide study of racial and gender disparities in eviction rates in *Sociological Science*. They also published a short, public-facing summary of the article and released all data and code necessary to replicate findings or conduct further analyses.

Working with data from the Eviction Tracking System—led by **Peter Hepburn** (Rutgers University-Newark) and **Renee Louis** (Princeton University)—the Eviction Lab published three research briefs in December analyzing overall reductions in eviction filings during the COVID-19 pandemic; the significant rise in amounts claimed in eviction cases that were filed in 2020; and the demographic characteristics of those facing eviction during the pandemic.

**Leah Schmalzbauer** (Amherst College) received a Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Authority Grant for "Disrupted Mobility? Covid-19's Experiential Impact on Upwardly Mobile Latinx Youth and their Families."

**Margaret Sommer** (University of Michigan) wrote a piece titled, "Even the Republican 'skinny' relief bill failed. How is such unnecessary suffering justified?" which appeared in *The Guardian* on September 14, 2020.

This View of Life is a magazine that covers "anything and everything from an evolutionary perspective." The Sociology section, edited by **Rengin B. Firat** (University of California-Riverside) and **Russell Schutt** (University of Massachusetts-Boston), recently published a special issue entitled, "Debate: Nothing in Sociology Makes Sense Except in the Light of Evolution." These essays are now published in the Sociology section.



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## Conferences, Papers, and Proposals

The Inequality Process is a mathematical model that mimics the dynamics of people's money incomes and wealth at both the individual (micro) and aggregate (macro) levels, in particular the size distributions. The Inequality Process is a stochastic interacting particle system (Angle, 1990), similar to the stochastic particle system model of the kinetic theory of gases (that implies the approximate laws of gas thermodynamics: Boyle's and Charles' laws, the beginning of statistical physics). The Institute's program is 1) to advance the frontiers of the Inequality Process, 2) to find applications of the Inequality Process to the operations of government and business, and 3) via applications to fund the operations of the Institute and to establish the use-validity of the Inequality Process. The Inequality Process has been adopted by the new inter-disciplinary field of econophysics. The Inequality Process (IP) was identified as pioneering in a history of the first four decades of econophysics published by Cambridge University Press in April this year, Prof. Byrro Ribeiro's *The Income Distribution Dynamics of Economic Systems: An Econophysical Approach*. John Angle was declared a pioneer of econophysics by Ribeiro.

For more information about The Inequality Process, see the project website. <https://sites.google.com/site/inequalityprocess/>

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## Next Issue

Thanks for reading through the newsletter! As we are working on further developing the IPM newsletter, we welcome suggestions and contributions. We're especially interested in incorporating comments and stories. Please submit contributions for our next newsletter to: [ipmsection.news@gmail.com](mailto:ipmsection.news@gmail.com).

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