

What Economics Misses About American Racial Inequality: An Interdisciplinary Perspective

Moderated by Sandy Darity, Duke University

Panelists:

Daina Ramey Berry, University of Texas at Austin, History
Arjumand Siddiqi, University of Toronto, Public Health
Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Duke University, Sociology
Mario Small, Harvard University, Sociology

Chat Transcript

00:52:50 *Priyanka Thatipamala:*

Thank you for bringing up the racial differences in hypertension! The current JNC guidelines still make race based recommendations for medical treatment of hypertension. When I learned these in medical school, the paper you brought up about genetic selection for salt retention was cited as a reason (unfortunately, I will bring this up with my school). Do you support the JNC 8 race based guidelines or is this an example of misuse of race in medical decision making?

00:53:11 *Robert Otto Valdez:*

I have faced similar issues with my work on American Indian suicide which also shows suicide increases with increased models of political regimes.

00:53:34 *Suresh Naidu:*

Just going to encourage everyone to use the chat!

00:55:49 *Peter Blair:*

Agreed there are trade-offs between causality and the bigness of the question that we need to acknowledge. Thank-you Arjumand!

01:01:36 *Ioana Marinescu:*

I remember the paper about hypertension and slavery being presented at Harvard and I couldn't find it either. But thanks to Wikipedia I could locate it. Here's the Wikipedia article: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_hypertension_hypothesis

01:02:35 *Ioana Marinescu:*

And the paper was by Cutler Fryer and Glazer and is linked in Wikipedia but does not exist live: <http://docplayer.net/26134374-Racial-differences-in-life-expectancy-the-impact-of-salt-slavery-and-selection.html>

01:03:28 *Peter Blair:*

I like this extended metaphor of the invisible hand. V evocative

01:06:03 *Robert Otto Valdez:*

My recent paper looks at health outcomes for underrepresented minority Faculty at research intensive universities that accounts for perceived discrimination in work loads, mentoring and other aspects of our academic lives but also our home life stresses that still reflect our family's economic and social situations. We find that more physical symptoms and mental health symptoms that reflect discriminatory institutional practices.

01:08:31 *Peter Blair:*

100% agree understanding race must hinge on a historically accurate account in generating modelling assumptions.

01:09:32 *Michelle Fait:*

Will slides be available to attendees?

01:10:08 *Emily McGlynn:*

lol

01:11:28 *Patrick L. Mason:*

Patrick L. Mason. (2017). "Not Black-Alone: The 2008 Presidential Election and Racial Self-Identification among African Americans," Review of Black Political Economy, Vol 44, Issue 1-2, 2017.

01:12:52 *Elias Quinonez:*

Awesome

01:13:04 *Ana Kent:*

Boricua! Great

01:13:14 *Patrick L. Mason:*

Sorry, I meant to type the Mason paper contains an idea analogous to Siddiqui group status threat. Use change in fraction of voters for Democratic presidential candidate between 2004 and 2008 to predict racial identity selection among African Americans.

01:15:42 *William A Darity:*

I would like to propose that stratification economics' analysis of discrimination offers a sharp alternative to both the taste and statistical approaches to discrimination that affords a treatment of discrimination as a collective phenomenon. Stratification economics draws upon social psychology, sociology, history and economics as foundational influences.

01:16:08 *Robert Otto Valdez:*

This happens in all disciplines...I work in multiple social science disciplines and in public policy circles.

01:17:50 *Robert Otto Valdez:*

They are still White...there are very few of us

01:17:55 *William A Darity:*

I am especially struck by Eduardo's comment about blacks enforcing white supremacy. There is a small cadre of highly rewarded/regarded black economists who enforce white supremacy within our profession.

01:18:44 *Robert Otto Valdez:*

I agree with you about some of our own maintaining white supremacy in the academy

01:19:16 *Aaron Coleman:*

What do scholars of racial capitalism have to contribute to the field of economics? Does Cedric Robinson's theory of racial capitalism influence the work of stratification economics? (I don't know how to raise my hand in zoom, but this is the question I want to ask)

01:19:20 *Emma Rackstraw:*

^ I want to highlight Sandy's point. Economists need to pay attention to the work already done/being done by BIPOC economists to create better/more accurate models

01:19:36 *Robert Otto Valdez:*

Unfortunately, we lose people from the academy earlier than other groups ...we just get tired or sick or both

01:21:05 *Hassan Sayed:*

@Aaron Coleman you can get to the raise hand view if you click on "participants" at the bottom of the screen — a little window will pop up, and there should be an option to "raise hand" at the bottom. Just so you don't get buried

01:21:31 *Felix Owusu:*

Thank you for the thoughtful responses all!

01:22:20 *Ioana Marinescu:*

It seems like macro and political economy (a la Acemoglu, Persson Tabellini, etc.) could offer insights on structural racism that are familiar to economists. But I have not seen much work in this vein. Have you all?

01:23:45 *Daina Ramey Berry:*

See Walter Johnson on Robinson and Racial Capitalism <http://bostonreview.net/forum/remake-world-slavery-racial-capitalism-and-justice/walter-johnson-racial-capitalism-and-human>

01:23:52 *Aaron Coleman:*

Thanks!!

01:23:54 *William A Darity:*

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/226437749_Stratification_economics_The_role_of_intergroup_inequality#fullTextFileContent

01:23:57 *@pqblair:*

How does race operate in other economic systems?

01:26:05 *Robert Otto Valdez:*

Even tenure does not end the racism that is experienced and perceived

01:26:21 *William A Darity:*

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/272011879_A_Tour_de_Force_in_Understanding_Intergroup_Inequality_An_Introduction_to_Stratification_Economics#fullTextFileContent

01:26:34 *Robert Otto Valdez:*

It wears us all down even after tenure and after years and years of productive scholarship

01:27:23 *Atin Basu:*

I agree with Suresh

01:27:26 *Lucia Diaz-Martin:*
Agreed — Intro Econ would benefit from introducing more heterodox theory!

01:27:51 *Robert Otto Valdez:*
Yep. Hopefully they finish their BAs no matter what field

01:28:30 *Robert Otto Valdez:*
That is easier said than done, even at the senior level

01:28:59 *Robert Otto Valdez:*
Yes, it can be done there are some old guys like me still hanging in there.

01:29:05 *Helen Ho:*
To Prof Bonilla-Silva: what kind of collective actions would you suggest?

01:30:19 *Shaila W:*
as a person in the discipline of philosophy, I think conversation between the disciples of philosophy and economics may be very rich.

01:30:25 *Rohit Naimpally:*
Introducing basic history into the curriculum (even before getting to a revision of the theory taught wholesale) would go a long way. Introductory economics' ahistoricity is appalling.

01:30:51 *Ilyana Kuziemko:*
Agree on the history point!!!!

01:31:14 *Atin Basu:*
We economists are amazingly ahistorical. that is a fundamental gap.

01:31:15 *Daina Ramey Berry:*
Me too! :)

01:31:53 *@pqblair:*
Yes to another one!

01:31:55 *Dan Ma:*
A fundamental question I haven't heard in my economics classes and in economics papers is What is race? we often use race and data on race but we don't really talk about why and how we created these groupings. So then, how can we begin to acknowledge the vast diversity within racial groups when we conduct research and talk about race when what we call African, Asian, Latina/o/x, etc. groups so many different people together who have different cultures, histories, and experiences.

01:31:57 *Atin Basu:*
Thank you for doing this. Nice to know others are fighting the good fight.

01:32:02 *Maximilian Kasy:*
Thank you!

01:32:02 *@pqblair:*
Thank-you to all the speakers and organizers. This was terrific!!!

01:32:03 *Atin Basu:*
good fight.

01:32:03 *Sandile Hlatshwayo:*
thank you!

01:32:05 *Gregory Bruich:*
Thank you for organizing this event!

01:32:06 *Ilyana Kuziemko:*
Thanks!

01:32:06 *Lesley Turner:*
Thank you!

01:32:06 *Cindy Clement:*
I recommend the intro economics textbook by Karlan and Murdoch.

01:32:06 *Ellora Derenoncourt:*
thanks!

01:32:07 *Jon Schwabish:*
Thank you!

01:32:08 *Samuel Asher:*
Thank you! Fantastic event

01:32:08 *Martha Olney:*
with what hashtag

01:32:09 *Matthew Harvey:*
Thanks!