



**HUMAN
CAPITAL &
ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY**
global working group



HIGHLIGHTS

ISSUE 5: Fall-Winter 2019-2020




IN THIS ISSUE

In the fifth issue of “Highlights,” we spotlight new member research on topics ranging from evictions to the developmental origins of disease. We also feature some of our recent work done to support emerging scholars.

Since our last issue, HCEO has held four international summer schools, as well as conferences organized by our Health Inequality and Measurement, Interpretation, and Policy networks. We hosted our two 2019 dissertation prize award winners, Yujung Hwang and Yeonju Lee, at the Center for the Economics of Human Development in Chicago. We also co-sponsored a new debate series, the University of Chicago Policy Forum, led by Professor James Heckman and Professor Lars Peter Hansen.

Looking ahead to 2020, we are excited to host two Summer Schools on Socioeconomic Inequality, in Bonn and Chengdu, in addition to a summer school for undergraduates in Guangzhou.

As always, we appreciate your support and interest in HCEO's mission to connect cross-disciplinary experts in the study of inequality. Stay up to date with our work the rest of the year by following our social media channels. 

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RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Does Eviction Cause Poverty?
Quasi-Experimental Evidence from
Cook County, IL

In the past several years, increasing attention has been paid to the lack of affordable housing across the U.S. According to a Pew Trusts report, more than one third of renting households were “rent burdened” or “severely rent burdened” in 2015, meaning they spent 30 percent or more of their income on rent. This growing interest in the rental market stems in large part from the ground-breaking work of HCEO network member Matthew Desmond, whose 2016 book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, highlighted the difficulties that poor households face in trying to secure safe and affordable housing.

“According to a Pew Trusts report, more than one third of renting households were “rent burdened” or “severely rent burdened” in 2015, meaning they spent 30 percent or more of their income on rent.”

A new study by MIP network member John Eric Humphries and his co-authors Nicholas Mader, Daniel Tannenbaum, and Winnie van Dijk sheds new light on the causes and consequences of evictions. “We were interested in the potential for large-scale collection of data on eviction court cases to complement the research that had so far been based on surveys and ethnographic work,” van Dijk says. “There’s been a lot of attention paid to evictions in the popular press, but both policy makers and researchers are still in the process of learning about what’s driving evictions and the impact of evictions on tenants in eviction court.”

In their recent HCEO working paper, the authors gathered 17 years of data from eviction court cases in Cook County, Illinois (which includes Chicago) linked to other administrative data sets in order to examine the causal effect of evictions on the financial circumstances of low-income families. “Local governments are thinking about introducing eviction prevention policies in

response to the high eviction rates in poor neighborhoods,” van Dijk says. “The extent to which an eviction is causing adverse outcomes for renters determines whether or not it is sufficient to focus policy attention on averting the eviction once a tenant is facing a case in court. Many tenants end up in eviction court after a deterioration in their financial circumstances, and averting the eviction may do little to improve those circumstances.”

"Though when compared to the financial strain that both evicted and non-evicted tenants experience before their case goes to court, the authors find that the eviction plays a small role in the broader financial distress of defendants."

tenants experience before their case goes to court, the authors find that the eviction plays a small role in the broader financial distress of defendants. For example, they write, “[the estimate] for total debt in collections 13 to 36 months after the case is \$209 and statistically insignificant, yet both groups have, on average, approximately \$3,000 dollars in collection four years prior to the case.”

To explore the effects of eviction, the research design of the paper relies on the randomization of court cases to judges. When a landlord files paperwork to evict a tenant with the court, a computer algorithm determines what courtroom it’s assigned to. Each courtroom and time corresponds to

The authors link the Cook County court cases to data from credit bureaus and payday loans both before and after the eviction case filing. This allows them to get a clear picture of the financial situation of each tenant. The paper notes that eviction “negatively impacts credit access, credit scores, and durable consumption for several years, and increases debt in collections.” Though when compared to the financial strain that both evicted and non-evicted

a particular judge, who is more or less lenient. The authors try to measure the leniency of each judge, and compare cases that were randomly assigned to a less lenient judge versus cases that were randomly assigned to a more lenient judge. The authors use the outcomes of other cases seen by the judge to measure the leniency of each judge, and compare cases that were randomly assigned to a less lenient judge versus cases that were randomly assigned to a more lenient judge. They then use this variation to estimate the effects of an eviction for those for whom the eviction matters.

Thirty to forty thousand evictions cases are filed every year in Cook County, with most concentrated in low-income neighborhoods. The authors find that over “44 percent of evictions occur in census tracts with more than 20 percent of residents living below the poverty line.” Most tenants in eviction court do not have legal representation, while about 75 percent of landlords do. About two-thirds of these cases result in an eviction. The authors note that “Cook County’s institutional environment is similar to most American cities, though potentially less representative of some large cities with more heavily regulated rental markets.”

"Thirty to forty thousand evictions cases are filed every year in Cook County, with most concentrated in low-income neighborhoods. The authors find that over “44 percent of evictions occur in census tracts with more than 20 percent of residents living below the poverty line.”"

One significant finding in this research is that eviction is associated with disruptive events in people’s lives. “We see an increase in debt in collection, an increase in people taking out payday loans, a drop in credit scores, a drop in the likelihood of having a credit card and a drop in the likelihood

of having an auto loan,” van Dijk says. Importantly “signs of increasing financial strain appear two to three years prior to having a case filed against them – with credit scores falling, collections rising, and increased inquiries into payday loans.” The research further points out that accounting for the broader disruption is important for correctly estimating the effect of an eviction on financial distress. While this paper provides some of the

"signs of increasing financial strain appear two to three years prior to having a case filed against them – with credit scores falling, collections rising, and increased inquiries into payday loans."

first economics research on evictions, the authors are clear that many questions remain for future work. “This analysis does not address how policies aimed at reducing the number of evictions, such as making court proceedings more tenant-friendly or providing short-term financial aid to struggling tenants, may affect the equilibrium in the rental market,” the authors

write. “For example, landlords may be less willing to rent to low income tenants if the cost of eviction of a non-paying tenant is increased.”

“This paper provides some of the first estimates of the impacts of an eviction on tenants,” Humphries says. “From here, there’s still a lot of difficult and important work to be done thinking about how eviction policy fits into the broader equilibrium of the rental market.”



For more Research Spotlights, visit:
hceconomics.uchicago.edu/research

WORKING PAPERS

TOP 5: May to December 2019

HCEO's working paper series publishes research on the most pressing issues within human capital development and inequality, featuring contributions from members of all six networks. In order to further our agenda of disseminating research and fostering discussion, our papers are available for free download via the HCEO website and RePEc. To date, we have published over 436 papers, which have been downloaded over 23,557 times.

2019-025: Experiment-as-Market: Incorporating Welfare into Randomized Controlled Trials

Yusuke Narita

Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) enroll hundreds of millions of subjects and involve many human lives. To improve subjects' welfare, I propose a design of RCTs that I call Experiment-as-Market (EXAM). EXAM produces a Pareto efficient allocation of treatment assignment probabilities, is asymptotically incentive compatible for preference elicitation, and unbiasedly estimates any causal effect estimable with standard RCTs. I quantify these properties by applying EXAM to a water cleaning experiment in Kenya (Kremer et al., 2011). In this empirical setting, compared to standard RCTs, EXAM substantially improves subjects' predicted well-being while reaching similar treatment effect estimates with similar precision.

2019-043: The Consequences of Friendships: Evidence on the Effect of Social Relationships in School on Academic Achievement

Jason Fletcher, Stephen Ross, and Yuxiu Zhang

This paper examines the impact of youth friendship links on student's own academic performance (grade point average) using the Add Health. We estimate a reduced form, high dimensional fixed effects model of within cohort or grade friendship links and use this model to predict each student's number of friends whose mothers have a four-year college degree. The effects of friendship links are identified using across-cohort, within school variation in demographic composition of the student's cohort or grade. We find that increases in number of friendship links with students whose mothers are college educated raises grade point average among girls, but not among boys. Additional analyses suggest a positive view of the school environment and a perception of one's self as functioning well in that environment as possible mechanisms. The effects are relatively broad based across students over maternal education, racial and ethnic composition and across schools that vary in demographic composition over the same variables.

2019-051: Parental Beliefs, Investments, and Child Development: Evidence from a Large-Scale Experiment

Pedro Carniero, Emanuela Galasso, Italo Lopez Garcia, Paula Bedregal and Miguel Cordero

This paper experimentally estimates medium term impacts of a large-scale and low-cost parenting program targeting poor families in Chile. Households in 162 public health centers were randomly assigned to three groups: a control group, a second group that was offered eight weekly group parenting sessions, and a third group that was offered the same eight group sessions plus two sessions of guided interactions between parents and children focused on responsive play and dialogic reading. In spite of its short

duration and intensity, three years after the end of the intervention, the receptive vocabulary and the socio-emotional development of children of families participating in either of the treatment arms improved (by 0.43 and 0.54 standard deviation, respectively) relative to children of nonparticipating families. The treatments also led to improvements in home environments and parenting behaviors of comparable magnitudes, which far outlasted the short duration of the intervention.

2019-042: Does Stimulating Physical Activity Affect School Performance?

Bart Golsteyn, Maria W. J. Jansen, Dave H. H. Van Kann, and Annelore M. C. Verhagen

This paper investigates whether encouraging children to become more physically active in their everyday life affects their primary school performance. We use data from a field quasi-experiment called the Active Living Program, which aimed to increase active modes of transportation to school and active play among 8- to 12-year-olds living in low socioeconomic status (SES) areas in the Netherlands. Difference-in-differences estimations reveal that while the interventions increase time spent on physical activity during school hours, they negatively affect school performance, especially among the worst-performing students. Further analyses reveal that increased restlessness during instruction time is a potential mechanism for this negative effect. Our results suggest that the commonly found positive effects of exercising or participating in sports on educational outcomes may not be generalizable to physical activity in everyday life. Policymakers and educators who seek to increase physical activity in everyday life need to weigh the health and well-being benefits against the probability of increasing inequality in school performance.

2019-029: The Causal Effects of Education on Adult Health, Mortality and Income: Evidence from Mendelian Randomization and the Raising of the School Leaving Age

Neil M. Davies, Matt Dickson, George Davey Smith, Frank Windmeijer and Gerard J. van den Berg

We compare estimates of the effects of education on health and health behaviour using two different instrumental variables in the UK Biobank data. One is based on a conventional natural experiment while the other, known as Mendelian randomization (MR), is based on genetic variants. The natural experiment exploits a compulsory schooling reform in the UK in 1972 which involved raising the minimum school leaving age (RoSLA). MR exploits perturbations of germline genetic variation associated with educational attainment, which occur at conception. It has been widely used in epidemiology and clinical sciences. Under monotonicity, each IV identifies a LATE, with potentially different sets of compliers. The RoSLA affected the amount of education for those at the lower end of the ability distribution whereas MR affects individuals across the entire distribution. We find that estimates using each approach are remarkably congruent for a wide range of health outcomes. Effect sizes of additional years of education thus seem to be similar across the education distribution. Our study corroborates the usefulness of MR as a source of instrumental variation in education.

New Working Papers

No.	Paper Title	Authors	Link
2019 084	Neighborhood Effects and Housing Vouchers	Morris A. Davis, Jesse Gregory, Daniel A. Hartley, Kegen T. K. Tan	bit.ly/360OpLD
2019 083	The Role of Prison in Recidivism	Kegen Teng Kok Tan, Mariyana Zapryanova	bit.ly/2s9Ds8d
2019 082	The Effects of Foreign-Born Peers in US High Schools and Middle Schools	Jason Fletcher, Jinho Kim, Jenna Nobles, Stephen Ross, Irina Shaorshadze	bit.ly/2NcESpF
2019 081	Divergent: The Time Path of Legacy and Athlete Admissions at Harvard	Peter Arcidiacono, Josh Kinsler, Tyler Ransom	bit.ly/2FwgivR
2019 080	Legacy and Athlete Preferences at Harvard	Peter Arcidiacono, Josh Kinsler, Tyler Ransom	bit.ly/2QUAxZa
2019 079	Moved to Vote: The Long-Run Effects of Neighborhoods on Political Participation	Eric Chyn, Kareem Haggag	bit.ly/2FyK1nZ
2019 078	Matching Mechanisms for Refugee Resettlement	David Delacrétaz, Scott Duke Kominers, Alexander Teytelboym	bit.ly/2T7zoSv
2018 077	Short-term Impact of an Early Childhood Curriculum Intervention in Rural Thailand	Wisuwat Chujan, Weerachart T. Kilenthong	bit.ly/2T9RFx8

For more Working Papers, visit:
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3 QUESTIONS

With Meghan Azad



Health Inequality network member Meghan Azad is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Child Health at the University of Manitoba. With dual expertise in basic science (biochemistry and genetics) and clinical research (epidemiology and pediatrics), Dr. Azad conducts translational research on the developmental origins of chronic disease. Her current research focuses on maternal nutrition, breastfeeding, and breast milk composition in the development and prevention of childhood obesity, asthma, and allergic disease.

Dr. Azad is also a Research Scientist at Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba, and co-leads the Manitoba site of the Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study, a national pregnancy cohort following 3500 children to understand how early life experiences and gene-environment interactions shape lifelong health. In addition, she co-leads the Population Health Pillar for the Manitoba Developmental Origins of Chronic Disease Network (DEVOTION), and the Maternal, Fetal and Child Health Working Group for the new Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium (CANUE).

Please describe your area of study and how it relates to current policy discussions surrounding inequality.

I study the developmental origins of chronic disease. Lately, much of my research has focused on breastfeeding and breast milk composition, and their impact on infant and child health. This relates to current policy discussions surrounding inequality, specifically the new bill “Fairness for Breastfeeding Mothers Act of 2019.”¹

Breastfeeding is a practice that can help reduce inequality, beginning at birth. For example, we found in the CHILD Cohort Study that exclusive breastfeeding in hospital is associated with longer breastfeeding duration, particularly among women of lower socioeconomic status.² This implies that initiatives to support exclusive breastfeeding of newborns in hospital could improve long-term breastfeeding rates and help reduce health inequities arising in early life.

There are many examples of how breastfeeding can help “level the playing field” by providing relatively more benefits to those who are more disadvantaged. For example, breastfeeding has a larger effect on reducing the risk of type 2 diabetes for those who are predisposed by having a family history of diabetes, compared to those at lower risk. Breastfeeding can also help restore the microbiome of infants born by caesarean section, and we are learning that this may have a long-term health impact. Breastfeeding also greatly reduces the risk of diarrhea and infections, which is especially important in low and middle income countries where these are major causes of infant mortality. So, while breastfeeding is beneficial for all infants, it is especially beneficial for those who are disadvantaged by their family history, birth experience, or sociodemographic position – in this way, breastfeeding can help to level out the gap between the advantaged and disadvantaged.

¹Public Law 116-30. 40 USC 101 §3318 (2019).

²Vehling, Lorena, Deborah Chan, Jon McGavock, Allan B. Becker, Padmaja Subbarao, Theo J. Moraes, Piushkumar J. Mandhane, Stuart E. Turvey, Diana L. Lefebvre, Malcolm R. Sears, and Meghan B. Azad. (2018). “Exclusive breastfeeding in hospital predicts longer breastfeeding duration in Canada: Implications for health equity.” *Birth*, 45(4):440-449.

What areas in the study of inequality are most in need of new research?

More research is needed on barriers to breastfeeding and ways to overcome social inequities. We know a lot about the benefits of breastfeeding, but despite this, many women do not achieve their own breastfeeding goals. We need to understand the barriers, how they differ in disadvantaged women, families and populations, and how supports can be targeted to these marginalized groups.

What advice do you have for emerging scholars in your field?

Work in multidisciplinary teams and include parents and families in the research process. This is important because breastfeeding has so many dimensions – from biology and physiology to psychology and sociology. We cannot work in isolation focusing on one aspect and hope to understand the full benefits and complexities of breastfeeding. This topic needs to be explored holistically, from multiple standpoints and methodologies, and this requires multidisciplinary research teams. It is also important to involve mothers and families in the research process; including those who represent marginalized populations who can help assess research outcomes that are contextually meaningful.



For more 3 Questions, visit:
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FEATURED EVENT

2019 Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality, Chengdu

On July 15th -19th, 51 students from 40 different institutions and 10 countries met at Southwestern University of Finance and Economics in Chengdu, China for the inaugural Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality in Chengdu. The conference opened with remarks by SWUFE Vice President of Research and International Affairs Qingshuang Yin. HCEO Co-Director Steven Durlauf noted that China's emergence as the leading global economy in the next half century will provide an unmatched opportunity for the production of new economic research. Just as the British and American economic thought dominated the discipline for several hundred years, the Chinese experience will play an increasingly important role in informing economic research. Good economists will need to be versed in the Chinese experience. These remarks set the tone for the week's presentations which addressed work specific to China.



Durlauf began the conference with a presentation on why social interactions matter in the study of socioeconomic inequality. His first lecture focused on what he calls the memberships theory of inequality. This is the idea that there is a social component to preferences, constraints, and beliefs which lead individuals to choose behaviors that their peers are also choosing, which Durlauf calls “complementarity.” This can cause persistent intergenerational inequality as members of segregated groups gravitate towards the average

behavior of their peers. Durlauf next presented theoretical and empirical considerations necessary to conduct social interactions inequality research. In addition to the standard components of an economic decision model, the social interactions model considers characteristics of an individual's group and beliefs about what others in the group will do. Key theoretical properties of the social interactions model include multiple equilibria, social multipliers, and phase transitions. These properties allow for sudden, discontinuous transitions between social states, such as the “white flight” phenomenon observed in the sociology literature. Durlauf also presented some empirical evidence for the importance of social interactions including ethnography studies, social psychology experiments, and natural experiments. He concluded by highlighting key identification problems in econometric studies, as well as some possible solutions.



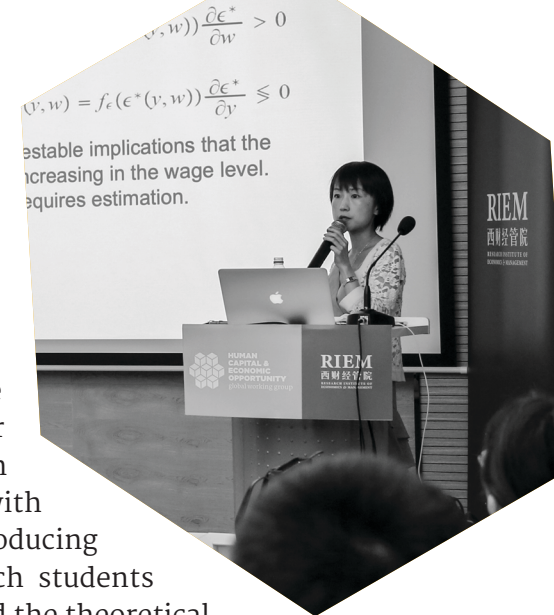
Texas A & M and SWUFE Professor Li Gan presented promising results from a recently-implemented earned income tax credit program in China. The program, called the Wutongqiao Experiment, began in 2014 as an attempt to stimulate expenditures among disadvantaged families in the Wutongqiao region. Historically, China has had an incredibly high savings rate and incredibly low social expenditures. Noting that marginal propensity to consume is much higher for the poor than for the rich, the Wutongqiao attempts to stimulate consumption by providing cash rewards for working to disadvantaged families. The pilot group, enrolled in 2014, saw huge treatment effects such as an increase of 105.1 hours worked per month and 0.336 employed persons per household. They also found significant increases in food and education expenditures. The program is currently being scaled

up throughout Sichuan province, with more than 72,000 households now enrolled.

On the second day of summer school, Cornell University Professor Larry Blume presented via video conference. His lectures focused on the economic theory behind social networks and interactions. Blume began by working through several game-theoretic models of social norm formation. The models imply that the strength of social interactions within a



population will affect the variance, but not the average behavior of the population. Intuitively, stronger social interactions will reduce variance as more of the population conforms to the average. Blume also discussed several gaps in the current literature, which was useful for students hoping to conduct their own research in this field. He concluded with a general survey of graph theory, introducing various definitions and theorems which students will need to know in order to understand the theoretical social networks literature.



Singapore Management University Professor Fali Huang's presentation, "Dynamic Interactions between Income Inequality and Political Development" focused on the interaction between income inequality and the historical evolution of political regimes. She began by noting that in western history, the dominant production factor has evolved from land to physical capital, and most recently to human capital. Correspondingly, the political regime has evolved from monarchy to oligarchy to full democracy. Huang proposed a two-period, overlapping generations model to further study these patterns. She found that whether a political transition occurs peacefully depends on the fighting cost and the strength of the challenging group. Huang next considered the relationship between access to education and political regime. She concluded that as the total knowledge within a society increases over time, education will go through several phases beginning with general education for only the elites and concluding with general education for the masses. This is consistent with the history of western Europe. Huang concluded with a review of the empirical literature focusing on a recent finding that the benefit of democracy to the economic growth of a country depends on the country's economic health at the time

of revolution. Weak economies don't benefit from democracy. Day two of summer school concluded with two poster sessions and office hours.

The third day began with two lectures by University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor Chao Fu, who outlined differences between structural and non-structural approaches and the assumptions required for each. She explained that modeling choices should be made to minimize assumptions conditional on achieving the goal of estimation. Structural parametric approaches, while requiring more assumptions, also allow researchers to draw a wider range of informative conclusions. For example, a structural model may allow a researcher to predict the impact of policies outside the range of historical experience. To make these ideas more concrete, Fu explored a series of models of female labor force participation. Fu concluded by illustrating another modeling consideration, individual decision vs. equilibrium, and gave examples of questions in education and crime policy for which each approach should be used.

Rice University Professor Flavio Cunha's lecture, "Human Capital Formation in Childhood and Adolescence" opened with a presentation of several statistics detailing socioeconomic inequality in the U.S. He proposed that inequality in skills predicts inequality in adult socio-economic outcomes.

Cunha presented an abundance of evidence suggesting that inequality in skills appears early in childhood and is likely the result of inequality in investment. This is the rationale behind early childhood intervention programs which aim to correct this inequality. One of the most famous of these, the Perry Preschool Program (PPP), resulted in huge benefits to participants, including a reduction in participation in crime and an increase in earnings. Cunha suggested that the success of PPP may be due to its emphasis on promoting skills such as self-control, cognitive flexibility, and working memory



of participants. Next, Cunha outlined a model of human capital formation focusing on two attributes—dynamic complementarity and self-productivity of skills. Cunha concluded by describing some of the largest problems in the estimation of human capital production models.

On the fourth day, Yale University Professor Mark Rosenzweig gave two lectures, each focused on an empirical study of inequality. His first lecture looked at differences in the distribution of farm size within countries as a way to explain inequality across countries. He began with a review of the literature which suggests an inverse relationship between farm size and productivity. However, using data that oversampled large farms in India, Rosenzweig shows that the productivity of farms increases with farm size after ten acres. This is likely due to the ability for large farms to efficiently use bigger machines. Rosenzweig's second lecture focused on establishing a causal relationship between educational attainment and obesity. Using a difference-in-differences approach estimated on twins data, he found that a one year increase in schooling significantly decreases BMI. Rosenzweig proposes that highly educated individuals, who have higher incomes, have an increased incentive to be healthy as it allows them to enjoy greater utility from consumption. This suggests that to encourage low income individuals to make healthy choices, it may be helpful to subsidize consumption for which utility increases with health.

Tsinghua University Professor Yi Lu concluded Day 4 by reviewing several areas of research that attempt to understand and explain the gender pay gap. Evidence suggests that the gender pay gap is decreasing but has not disappeared. Possible explanations include gender differences in psychological attributes, work–family balance considerations, and social norms. Lu reviewed the results of a lab experiment published in 2003 which show that men and women respond differently to competitive environments. Men react strongly to tournament incentives while women do not. This could cause men to perform better in competitive work environments, explaining part of the wage gap. On the final day of summer school, Lu concluded his lecture by reviewing two more studies—one on the penalty women pay for having a child, and the other on the effects of corporate board quota reforms on gender disparities.

For the final sessions of SSSI, Chinese University of Hong Kong Professor Junsen Zhang presented a series of statistics on historical income inequality trends in China. Since the economic reforms of 1978, GDP and inequality have both increased dramatically. Zhang explored several possible explanations for this including the adoption of the one-child policy, the implementation of the household registration system (*hukou*), and the central exam system (*gaokao*). Much of the total inequality can be explained by inequality between urban and rural areas as well as inequality between provinces. Zhang concluded by suggesting areas for potential future research such as examining the effect of genes and human capital investment on driving intergenerational inequality in China. He also highlighted the importance of a more progressive and direct income tax policy. SWUFE Professor and SSSI alum Naibao Zhao and Professor Durlauf provided closing remarks to conclude the week.

We thank our funder, the Institute for New Economic Thinking, for their ongoing support of the Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality series. We also thank our local partners at the Southwestern University of Finance and Economics and the Research Institute for Economics and Management, including Professor Li Gan, Professor Naibao Zhao, and Professor Junsen Zhang.


This is the first of three SSSI Chengdu programs that will be held at the Research Institute for Economics and Management at the Southwestern University of Finance and Economics.



Learn more about this event and others at:
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RECENT EVENTS

Online Resources

Event Title	Dates	Link	Resources
Dissertation Prize Lecture: Democracy Without Redistribution: The Sense of Injustice, Perceived Inequality, and Preferences for Redistribution	Nov 13, 2019	bit.ly/2NceSux	
The University of Chicago Policy Forum: The Pension Crisis	Nov 8, 2019	bit.ly/2FBqByI	
Neighborhoods, Segregation, and Social Inequality	Nov 1-2, 2019	bit.ly/35DOLmT	
Dissertation Prize Lecture: General Equilibrium Theory and Empirical Analysis of Immigrants' Neighborhood Sorting and Social Integration	Oct 9, 2019	bit.ly/2toLSyY	
Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality, Chengdu	Jul 15-19, 2019	bit.ly/39W11EU	
HCEO Summer School for Undergraduate Students, Guangzhou	Jul 1-5, 2019	bit.ly/304wIVC	
Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality, Bergen	Jun 24-28, 2019	bit.ly/2T9JC3k	
Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality, Moscow	Jun 10-14, 2019	bit.ly/2QUIkpS	

Breastfeeding and the Origins of Health: Interdisciplinary Perspectives and Priorities	Feb 4-5, 2019	bit.ly/2QEqgS1	
Genes, Schools, and Interventions That Address Educational Inequality	Dec. 13-14, 2018	bit.ly/2DCvjgA	
Measuring and Improving Health Equity	Dec 7-8, 2018	bit.ly/2KoDBPP	
Polygenic Prediction and its Application in the Social Sciences	Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2018	bit.ly/2B2SXAg	

107 Events in **13** Countries



UPCOMING EVENTS



**Summer School
on Socioeconomic
Inequality, Bonn**
June 29–July 3, 2020
Bonn, Germany

The 2020 Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group and HCEO Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality in Bonn, Germany will provide a state-of-the-art overview on the study of inequality and human flourishing. Participants will learn about the integration between psychological and sociological insights into the foundations of human behavior and conventional economic models. Through rigorous lectures students will be trained on various tools needed to study the issue of inequality.



**Summer School
for Undergraduate
Students, Guangzhou**
July 6–10, 2020
Guangzhou, China

HCEO and Jinan University will host the Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality and Best Paper Competition at Jinan University, our second program for undergraduate students in China. During the summer school, six economics professors from leading universities around the world will give introductory lectures on various economic topics.



**Summer School
on Socioeconomic
Inequality, Chengdu**
July 13–17, 2020
Chengdu, China

The 2020 Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality in Chengdu, China will provide a state-of-the-art overview on the study of inequality and human flourishing. Participants will learn about the integration between psychological and sociological insights into the foundations of human behavior and conventional economic models. Through rigorous lectures students will be trained on various tools needed to study the issue of inequality.

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DISSERTATION PRIZE

In 2017 we launched a competition for the best doctoral dissertation on a topic related to one of HCEO's six networks. In 2019, our third annual dissertation prize was awarded to two recipients. Yeon Ju Lee won for her paper, "Democracy Without Redistribution: The Sense of Injustice, Perceived Inequality, and Preferences for Redistribution," and Yujung Hwang for her paper "General Equilibrium Theory and Empirical Analysis of Immigrants' Neighborhood Sorting and Social Integration." Lee and Hwang each received a \$1,000 prize and presented their research to the Center for the Economics of Human Development, HCEO directors, and University of Chicago faculty.




PERSPECTIVES ON INEQUALITY

MIP network member Ariel Kalil recently met with HCEO to discuss her work studying economic conditions, parenting, and child development. "I study parent child interactions, primarily in low-income contexts," she says. "I'm very interested in differences between children in economically-disadvantaged circumstances and their higher-income peers, and why is it that parents in those two broad groups seem to interact differently with their kids, in a way that may be responsible for differences in outcomes in cognition and emotional adjustment and long-run human capital."

Kalil is the Co-Director of the Behavioral Insights and Parenting Lab at the Harris School of Public Policy. She says that her lab differs from other developmental psychology labs as it looks at parent-child interactions through the lens of decision-making.

"Instead of thinking of the way parents act as a style, or a particular kind of person that developmental psychology usually characterizes parenting as, we're thinking of parent-child interaction as quite simply: how do parents make decisions on a day-by-day or week-by-week or year-by-year basis, in the service of their kids development," she says. This lens allows her lab to better understand what influences decision-making, whether it's cognitive bias, expected returns, or other variables. She notes that this lens opens up new avenues for interventions that can hopefully help parents align their aspirations with the behavior. Kalil also notes that working at the University of Chicago, where she has spent the majority of career, is full of opportunities for reinvention as a scientist. "There are so many interesting questions being asked by the faculty on this campus," she says.

Kalil is a Professor at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. 



Watch Ariel Kalil's interview:

Link: bit.ly/35zAXcN

Watch recent interviews:

Christopher Flinn

Link: bit.ly/307AwoY

John Eric Humphries

Link: bit.ly/2Taj69N

Dali Yang

Link: bit.ly/37QPWRI

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ABOUT HCEO

Founded in 2010, the Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group (HCEO) is a collaboration of over 500 researchers, educators, and policy makers focused on human capital development and its impact on opportunity inequality. HCEO's unique approach enables collaboration among scholars with varying disciplines, approaches, perspectives, and fields, and integrates biological, sociological, and psychological perspectives into traditionally economic questions. The result is innovative thinking and approaches to inequality and human capital development research.

HCEO is led by Nobel laureate James J. Heckman, the Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago; Steven N. Durlauf, the Steans Professor in Educational Policy at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy; and Robert H. Dugger, the co-founder of ReadyNation and Hanover Provident Capital.

HCEO focuses its efforts through six research networks that study the most pressing issues within human capital development and inequality: Early Childhood Interventions; Family Inequality; Health Inequality; Identity and Personality; Inequality: Measurement, Interpretation and Policy; and Markets. These networks produce one-of-a-kind conferences, research programs, and publications that highlight findings from the best science and the application of best practices. Through its networks and their resulting research, HCEO plays a vital role in understanding and addressing opportunity inequality around the world.



Impact

- ❖ Multidisciplinary networks result in new approaches to research and its application
- ❖ Relationships with governments and policy makers put best practices into action
- ❖ We have influenced numerous research studies and governmental policies
- ❖ Findings are being applied in one of the largest populations in the world—China



We Play a Vital Role

- ❖ Income and opportunity inequality is a global and growing problem
- ❖ Governments, private think tanks, and others each look at only a portion of the total problem in hopes of finding a lasting solution
- ❖ Only HCEO integrates biological, sociological, and psychological perspectives into traditionally economic questions addressed by multidisciplinary teams of experts

❖ Our research approach treats social science research as an empirical endeavor, resulting in rigorously tested public policy directions and solutions

- ❖ Our research provides insights and directions on how to best foster human flourishing and improve economic productivity



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