

Department of Economics

Dept-Wide Hightower Seminar

Friday, October 4 @ 4:00 - 5:15 pm

Location: GFC W131 (Goizueta Foundation Bldg)

Trevon Logan, The Ohio State University



Title: Workplace Stratification and Racial Health Disparities

Abstract:

To what extent is a worker's relative rank within their workplace a determinant of health status, conditional on income? We provide the first US-based evidence on the relationship between relative workplace rank and health disparities for the near population of workers in one US state. Using a new linkage of commercial all-payer health insurance data to administrative earnings records for workers in Utah from 2013-2015, we quantify the impact of relative workplace rank on racial health disparities, and the incidence of specific health conditions that drive these disparities. We show that about 70% of the conditional income-health gradient is explained by relative rank, and only 30% is explained by income levels. For an average worker, moving from the 90th to the 10th percentile of within-firm rank holding fixed income, age, location, and health insurance policy characteristics is associated with a 16.5% increase in the average number of diagnosed chronic conditions. The racial segregation of jobs in the US leads minority workers to be overrepresented in lower-ranked jobs within firms, which in turn exacerbates racial health disparities.

Authors: Kurt Lavetti (Ohio State and NBER), Long Hong (Arizona State), Jonathan Holmes (Ottawa), and Trevon Logan (Ohio State and NBER)

Host: David McMillon, Asst. Prof Economics Dept.

This is a Hightower Seminar sponsored by the Economics Dept., the QTM Department and the GBS DEI Council

Please visit our website for a list of future seminars:

<https://economics.emory.edu/news/seminar-dept-wide.html>