

Economics of Discrimination

Summer Academy for Pluralist Economics 2022

Better Economics for a Better Future

Workshop facilitator: Tanita JL

Workshop description

In order to address discrimination, we must understand and address its fundamental basis of systemic oppression. Stratification economics goes beyond myopic mainstream conceptualisations of discrimination and recognises the historical, institutional, and structural factors that create and maintain socioeconomic disparities and hierarchies. To critically approach the economics of discrimination, this workshop will focus on stratification economics, a systematic and empirically grounded approach to addressing intergroup inequality (Darity, 2005). Focusing on racial discrimination, we will discuss the core elements of stratification economics, critically evaluate its relevance, and apply these understandings to construct case studies and solutions for change. In our discussions, we will consider an array of topics, including intersecting oppressions, reparative justice, and the role of knowledge production in overcoming injustice and creating a better world.

Learning objectives

- Critically evaluate the economics of discrimination through an anti-oppressive, racial justice-centred lens
- Understand the core elements, methodologies, and ideological underpinnings of stratification economics
- Apply these understandings to case studies of oppression and discrimination against people of the global majority

| | Sat Jul 30 | Sun Jul 31 | Mon Aug 1 | Tue Aug 2 | Wed Aug 3 | Thu Aug 4 |
|------------------|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| Aims | Introduce workshop, facilitator and participants; Critically evaluate the economics of discrimination through an anti-oppressive, racial justice-centred lens | Understand the core elements, methodologies, and ideological underpinnings of stratification economics | Develop understanding of stratification economics through the concepts of intersecting oppressions and the matrix of domination | Apply understandings to case study examples of oppression and discrimination against people of the global majority | Critically evaluate the solutions to discrimination provided by stratification economics; Apply all understandings to solutions for a better future | Conclude and summarise workshop |
| Session 1 | Interactive lecture: Introduction, shared principles and definitions Reading task: Summarise mainstream economics' problem with racial discrimination Reflection: Learning needs; expectations; positionality | Reading task: Summarise the core elements of stratifications economics Reflection: Learning needs; shared principles | Interactive lecture: Using intersecting oppressions and decolonisation to develop stratification economics Discussion: Discuss the value of these concepts for a stratification approach to the economics of discrimination | Research task: Select a recent crisis event and examine how it exemplified/exacerbated discrimination and stratification. Reflection: Learning needs; personal interest in topics | Interactive lecture: Visioning exercise to build our collective imagination around a better economy and a better future Reflection: Imagining a better future | Interactive lecture: Workshop summary, feedback, and final reflections |
| Session 2 | Interactive lecture: Unpacking the economics of racial discrimination Discussion: Discuss the economics of discrimination, anti-oppression and racial justice | Interactive lecture: Stratification economics: core elements, methodologies and ideologies Discussion: Critically evaluate stratification economics' relevance for addressing discrimination | Reading task: Complete readings, consolidate notes and select an example of crisis and discrimination | Interactive lecture: Racially asymmetric 21 st century crises: covid-19 and Black communities in the US and the UK Discussion: Discuss the economics of discrimination in the chosen examples | Interactive lecture: Racial justice, reparations and decolonisation Discussion: Critically evaluate and discuss mainstream, stratification and decolonial solutions to discrimination | - |
| Session 3 | Interactive lecture: Purpose of knowledge production and intro to the group output Group: work on output | Group: work on output | Group: work on output | Group: work on output | Group: work on output | - |

Reading list and references

Day 1: Economics' Discrimination Problem

Kvangraven, H. I. and S. Kesar. 2020. [Why Do Economists Have Trouble Understanding Racialized Inequalities?](#) *Institute for New Economic Thinking* blog. *Lewis, T., Asare, N., and Fields, B. 2021. *Stratification Economics*. Exploring Economics. <https://www.exploring-economics.org/en/discover/stratifications-economics/>. Section 2.

Kvangraven, H. I. and S. Kesar. 2021. Standing in the way of rigour? Economics meeting with the decolonizing agenda. http://www.economicpolicyresearch.org/econ/2021/NSSR_WP_102021.pdf

Anti-Oppression Guide. Simmons University Library. <https://simmons.libguides.com/anti-oppression>

Global Social Theory. <https://globalsocialtheory.org/>.

Fraser, N. (2019). Is Capitalism Necessarily Racist? Political Letters. <http://quarterly.politicsslashletters.org/is-capitalism-necessarily-racist/>

Rodney, Walter. 1982. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. Washington DC: Howard University Press.

Tuck and Yang. *Decolonization is not a metaphor*. Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society Vol. 1, No. 1, 2012, pp. 1-40. <https://clas.osu.edu/sites/clas.osu.edu/files/Tuck%20and%20Yang%202012%20DecolonizatDec%20is%20not%20a%20metaphor.pdf>

Obeng-Odoom, Franklin. 2020. *Property, Institutions, and Social Stratification in Africa* (Cambridge Studies in Stratification Economics: Economics and Social Identity). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781108590372

Day 2: Stratification Economics

*Darity Jr., W., Hamilton, D., Mason, P.L., Price, G.N., Dávila, A., Mora, M.T. and Stockley, S.K. 2017. *Stratification Economics: A General Theory of Intergroup Inequality. The Hidden Rules of Race: Barriers to an Inclusive Economy*. New York: Cambridge University Press. pp47-51.

Darity Jr., W., Hamilton, D. and Stewart, J. 2015. A Tour de Force in Understanding Intergroup Inequality: An Introduction to Stratification Economics. *The Review of Black Political Economy*. 42(1-2), pp.1-6.

Darity Jr., W. 2005. Stratification economics: The role of intergroup inequality. *Journal of Economics and Finance*. 29(2), pp.144-153.

Davis, J.B. 2019. Stratification Economics as an Economics of Exclusion. *Journal of Economics, Race and Policy*. 2, pp.163-172.

Lewis, T., Asare, N., and Fields, B. 2021. *Stratification Economics*. Exploring Economics. <https://www.exploring-economics.org/en/discover/stratifications-economics/>. Section 1-3.

Darity Jr., W. 2005. Stratification economics: The role of intergroup inequality. *Journal of Economics and Finance*. 29(2), pp.144-153.

Darity Jr., W. and Nembhard, J. 2000. Racial and ethnic economic inequality: the international record. *American economic review*. 90(2), pp.308-311.

Stewart, J. and Coleman, M. 2005. The black political economy paradigm and the dynamics of racial economic inequality. In: Conrad, C.A., et al. eds. *African Americans in the US Economy*. [Online]. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. [Accessed 11 February 2020]. Available from: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/>

[‘Stratification’ Theory Tackles the Racial Blindspots of Orthodox Economics](#)

Day 3: Intersecting oppressions

Collins, Patricia Hill. *Intersecting Oppressions*.
https://www.sagepub.com/sites/default/files/upm-binaries/13299_Chapter_16_Web_Byte_Patricia_Hill_Collins.pdf

Collins, P. H. (2000). *Black feminist thought: Knowledge, consciousness, and the politics of empowerment* (2nd ed.). NY: Routledge.

[Kimberlé Crenshaw: What is Intersectionality?](#)

Day 4: Case studies

Curry, Frank, Gary Dymski, Tanita J. Lewis, and Hanna K. Szymborska. 2022. “Seeing Covid-19 Through a Subprime Crisis Lens: How Structural and Institutional Racism Have Shaped 21st-Century Crises in the U.K. and the U.S.” *The Review of Black Political Economy* 49(1): pp.77–92. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00346446211065174>.

For further stratification economic studies see:
Review of Black Political Economy Volume 42, issue 1-2, June 2015 Special Issue on Stratification Economics. <https://link.springer.com/journal/12114/volumes-and-issues/42-1>

Day 5: Visions and solutions

[A Message from the Future II: The Years of Repair](#)

[How "baby bonds" could help close the wealth gap | Darrick Hamilton](#)

Darity, William Jr., and Hamilton, Darrick. 2010. *Can ‘Baby Bonds’ Eliminate the Racial Wealth Gap in Putative Post-Racial America?* <https://socialequity.duke.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Can-Baby-Bonds-Eliminate-the-Racial-Wealth-Gap.pdf>

Darity, William Jr. and Hamilton, Darrick. 2018. *The Federal Job Guarantee*. <https://www.intereconomics.eu/contents/year/2018/number/3/article/the-federal-job-guarantee.html>

Lukka, Priya. 2020. *Can reparations help us re-envision international development?* <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/transformation/can-reparations-help-us-re-envision-international-development/>