Mechanism Designs for Institutionalizing Horizontal Inequality in Closed and Open Social Orders

OBJECTIVES

Three distinguished economists and public intellectuals with an interdisciplinary bent and contrasting political predisposition address, inter alia, the following questions: How does racial “stigma” limit the efficacy of state anti-discrimination measures in the U.S.? How does the principle of cumulative causation explain the self-perpetuating traps into which black republics such as Nigeria and Haiti have fallen? What does the cross-country evidence show regarding the efficacy of affirmative interventions to rectify inter-group inequality? The Reading Group will grapple, using a diasporic and comparative prism, with these intellectually vexing questions. Our focus will be on how multiracial and multiethnic societies tried to manage deepseated inter-group economic and political inequality while limiting the use of open violence.

PARTICIPANTS

Joanne Braxton, English
Gayle Murchison, Music
Ted Maris-Wolf, OIEAHC
T.J. Cheng, Government

Neil Norman, Anthropology
Hermine Pinson, English
Bill Fisher, Anthropology
Berhanu Abegaz, Economics (convener)

BOOKS

Paul Collier, Wars, Guns, and Votes: Democracy in Dangerous Places (Harper, 2010).

THE AUTHORS

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