



Studies in the News

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Why Are Some Immigrant Groups More Successful than Others?* By Edward Lazear. National Bureau of Economic Research. June 2017. 39 p.**

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w23548> (Available to .gov accounts or from the California State Library)

"Success, measured by earnings or education, of immigrants in the US varies dramatically by country of origin.... Perhaps surprisingly, immigrants from Algeria have higher educational attainment than those

from Israel or Japan. Also true is that there is a strong inverse relation of attainment to number of immigrants from that country. These patterns result because in the US, immigrant slots are rationed.... The main implications are that average immigrant attainment is inversely related to the number admitted from a source country and positively related to the population of that source country.”

ECONOMY

***Regulation and Economic Growth: Applying Economic Theory to Public Policy.* By James Broughel. Mercatus Center. Apr. 30, 2017. 140 p.**

<https://www.mercatus.org/publications/regulation-and-economic-growth>

“The economy faces some natural headwinds that are going to make faster growth harder to achieve today than in the past (most notably from an aging population). However, we also face some man-made headwinds.... A relentless rise in the level of regulation is a problem for several reasons. First, it means that the complexity of the code is rising over time. Complexity makes compliance more difficult and discourages entrepreneurial activity. Second, as the code grows, this increases the likelihood of rules interacting with one another in unexpected ways.... regulations impacting new technologies, investment of various sorts, trade, competition within and across industries, worker skill levels, and the ability of people to move to where they can be most productive, should all face close scrutiny.” (*SmartRegs [author’s summary]*, May 31, 2017).

EDUCATION

***Inequality of Educational Opportunity? Schools as Mediators of the Intergenerational Transmission of Income.* By Jesse Rothstein. Washington Center for Equitable Growth. Aug. 2017. 65 p.**

http://cdn.equitablegrowth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/14161122/rothstein_mobility_april2017-wp.pdf

This paper suggests that variation in intergenerational mobility is not driven by differences in the quality of K-12 schooling, but rather by local factors such as access to college and differences in: marriage patterns, labor market returns to education, children’s earnings residuals, and return to skill in commuting zones that foster stronger intergenerational income transmission. Consequently, the analysis identifies “job networks or the structure of the local labor and marriage markets, rather than the education system, as likely factors influencing intergenerational economic mobility.”

EMPLOYMENT

***California Teacher Compensation and National Teacher Salary Online Tools.* California Legislative Analyst Office. Aug. 2017. n.p.**

California Teacher Compensation Online Tool: <http://lao.ca.gov/Education/Teachers/State>

National Teacher Salary Online Tool: <http://lao.ca.gov/Education/Teachers/National>

The Legislative Analyst Office introduces a new online tool to compare California’s teacher compensation, including benefits, by county and over time. Another online tool allows users to compare teacher compensation and student/teacher ratios in California public schools to the other 49 states over time.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Technical Feasibility Study on Community Choice Aggregation for the Central Coast Region: Final Report. Central Coast Power. Aug. 2017. 220 p.

http://www.centralcoastpower.org/uploadedFiles/centralcoastpower/Content/Documents/resources/Central%20Coast%20Power%20Feasibility%20Study_Report_FINAL.pdf

A Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is a program that allows cities and counties to buy and/or generate electricity for residents and businesses within their areas. “This technical feasibility study for CCA for the Central Coast Region ... was formed by eleven governments in the Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura County (Tri-County) Region.... The study’s purpose is to advise and guide the Tri-County Region in understanding the feasibility of forming a new CCA program. This study considers required startup and operational processes and evaluates multiple procurement scenarios to determine whether a CCA program in the Tri-County Region is: a) financially feasible; and b) will meet its stated policy objectives.” The study finds that a CCA would be infeasible in both the short- and long-term, because its rates could not compete with large-scale utilities.

Internet of Water: Sharing and Integrating Water Data for Sustainability. The Aspen Institute. May 10, 2017. 46 p.

<https://assets.aspeninstitute.org/content/uploads/2017/05/Internet-of-Water-Report-May-2017.pdf>

“[This report] notes that much of the United States lacks the data needed to sustainably manage our water supplies and pursue innovative solutions to meet our water challenges.... [It] makes key recommendations for improving the accessibility of water data and engaging the public on issues important to them, like safe drinking water and water availability.... [This report] outlines a doable framework upon which all water data can flow, and invites public participation and understanding of our investments and requirements.... [R]eliable data, structured in a way that makes sense to the average user, results in greater public confidence on key water decisions.” ([Water Deeply](#), Sep. 22, 2017).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Stress-Testing States. By Dan White, et al. Moody’s Analytics. Oct. 18, 2017. 15 p.

<https://www.economy.com/getlocal?q=91a42834-85af-4773-b408-5da811028c00&app=eccafile>

“Fewer than half of states have the funds they need to weather the economic downturn, and nearly one-third would likely face significant fiscal stress.... Having the proper cushion allows lawmakers to keep making policy when times are tough, rather than simply just reacting, says Moody’s senior economist Dan White.... [P]laces like California, Kentucky and Wisconsin, which have about half of the savings Moody’s estimates they need, potentially have time to improve their position.... While many state budgets were seemingly blindsided in 2008 by free-falling revenues, White says there was at least one person in every state who should have known the recession was coming: the state Medicaid director. That’s because enrollment jumped significantly beginning in the first half of 2008, nearly a year before revenues began taking a nose dive.” ([Governing](#), Oct. 18, 2017).

HEALTH

A Nation in Overdose Peril: Pinpointing the most Impacted Communities and the Local Gaps in Care. By Elizabeth Kneebone, et al. Brookings Institute. Sep. 2017.

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/pinpointing-opioid-in-most-impacted-communities/>

“Areas hit hardest by increases in drug overdose deaths, but without registered substance abuse nonprofits, are disproportionately likely to be located in rural areas. Almost 90% of rural counties experiencing high to severe increases in drug poisoning deaths have no registered substance abuse

nonprofits; more than 60% of suburban and small metro counties experiencing the most significant increases do not contain a registered substance abuse nonprofit.... We find, much like anecdotes from recent media narratives, many areas hit hardest by the rise of drug overdose deaths appear to have the least capacity to provide treatment or services.” (County-level map available within the report)

HUMAN SERVICES

ProPelled: The Effects of Grants on Graduation, Earnings, and Welfare. By Jeffrey T. Denning, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. Sep. 2017. 56 p.
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w23860> (Available to .gov accounts or from the California State Library)

The paper by the National Bureau of Economic Research “focuses on students at four-year public universities in Texas who were just barely eligible to receive the maximum amount of money the federal government provides to low-income students through the Pell grant and those who just missed the cut off. The researchers found that students who received the maximum grant were more likely to graduate, graduated faster and earned more. Those extra earnings mean they’ll likely pay more in taxes, generating enough extra money for the government to ultimately recoup its investment.” ([MarketWatch](#), Sep. 26, 2017).

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Exploring ADINT: Using Ad Targeting for Surveillance on a Budget—or—How Alice Can Buy Ads to Track Bob. By Paul Vines, et al. University of Washington. Oct. 12, 2017. 12 p.
<https://adint.cs.washington.edu/>

“A team of security-focused researchers from the University of Washington has demonstrated just how deeply even someone with modest resources can exploit mobile advertising networks. An advertising-savvy spy, they’ve shown, can spend just a grand to track a target’s location with disturbing precision, learn details about them like their demographics and what apps they have installed on their phone, or correlate that information to make even more sensitive discoveries....” The authors believe the findings provide an important perspective to the conversation around the privacy concerns of targeted advertising. ([Wired](#), Oct. 18, 2017).

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Disruptive Transportation: The Adoption, Utilization, and Impacts of Ride-Hailing in the United States. By Regina R. Clewlow, et al. UC Davis. Oct. 2017. 38 p.
https://itspubs.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/themes/ucdavis/pubs/download_pdf.php?id=2752

“Ride-hailing services have exploded in popularity around the world in a relatively short period of time, and initial evidence suggests that they capture a relatively significant share of how people travel in major cities. Looking forward towards a future with automated vehicle technology – which is estimated to accelerate adoption of these services, it is critical that transportation planners and policymakers begin to understand how “mobility as a service” models shape travel patterns.” The key takeaways from the study include finding a higher use of the services among the wealthy and a higher use in urban areas. A significant finding was that the majority of trips would have been made via walking, biking, public transit, or simply avoided.

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