



Studies in the News

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

“Ethnic Variation in Gender-STEM Stereotypes and STEM Participation: An Intersectional Approach.” By Laurie T. O’Brien, et al. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology* (Sep. 22, 2014) pp. 1-12.

<http://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/releases/cdp-a0037944.pdf>

“Stereotypes associating men and masculine traits with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields are ubiquitous, but the relative strength of these stereotypes varies considerably across cultures. The present research applies an intersectional approach to understanding ethnic variation in gender-STEM stereotypes and STEM participation within an American university context. African American college women participated in STEM majors at higher rates than European American college women.... Furthermore, African American women had weaker implicit gender-STEM

stereotypes than European American women ... and ethnic differences in implicit gender-STEM stereotypes partially mediated ethnic differences in STEM participation.”

ECONOMY

***State of the App Economy 2014.* By Jonathan Godfrey, et al. ACT: The App Association. Oct. 29, 2014. 25 p.**

<http://actonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/State-of-App-Economy-web.pdf>

The U.S. House of Representatives' Energy and Commerce Committee originally requested a report on the mobile economy. The third annual report explores the evolution of the mobile phone application industry by reviewing the top 650 apps across key categories in Google Play and the Apple App Store. The app industry is valued at \$87 billion, and its projected growth rate is anticipated to remain strong, driven by innovators advancing technology to change how we work, learn, shop, and communicate. Findings from the research on the top grossing apps include: 77% are small companies and startups; all regions of the U.S. benefit; and 78% of U.S. companies are located outside the Silicon Valley. U.S. companies continue to dominate the rankings across all categories.

EDUCATION

***Unlocking Young Children's Potential: Governors' Role in Strengthening Early Mathematics Learning.* National Governors Association. Oct. 2014. 13 p.**

<http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/2014/1410UnlockingYoungChildrensPotential.pdf>

“Studies find that the mathematics knowledge acquired in early childhood and early elementary grades is a critical foundation for long-term student success.... Unfortunately, many students fail to master math skills and concepts during elementary school and develop negative attitudes about their ability to learn mathematics.... Those findings point to the need for greater attention to state policy strategies that can improve early mathematics education and yield long-term improvements in the skills of the U.S. workforce.” This brief identifies a number of actions that “require no or minimal new state funding and can help lay the groundwork for a state’s focus on high-quality early mathematics teaching and learning.”

EMPLOYMENT

***Foreign Nurse Importation to the United States and the Supply of Native Registered Nurses.* By Patricia Cortés, et al. Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. July 2014. 52 p.**

<http://www.bostonfed.org/economic/wp/wp2014/wp1407.pdf>

“Importing foreign nurses has been used as a strategy to ease nursing shortages in the United States. The effectiveness of this policy critically depends on the long-run response of native born nurses. We examine how the immigration of foreign-born registered nurses (RNs) affects the occupational choice and long-run employment decisions of native RNs.... [A]t the state level using data on individuals taking the nursing board exam—an increase in the flow of foreign nurses significantly reduces the number of natives sitting for licensure exams in the states that are more dependent on foreign born nurses.... Using data on self-reported workplace satisfaction among a sample of California nurses, we find evidence suggesting that some of the displacement effects could be driven by a decline in the perceived quality of the workplace environment.”

ENERGY

***Revisiting California's Energy Future.* Little Hoover Commission. Oct. 2014. 38 p.**
<http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/223/Report223.pdf>

In 2012, the Commission issued its report on the transformation of California's electricity system, *Rewiring California: Integrating Agendas for Energy Reform*. That report asked the Administration to examine how much the recent major policy changes relating to energy affect electricity reliability and rates. In this report, the Commission remains concerned that too little attention has been paid to the cost of achieving California's ambitious goals for reducing greenhouse gases. California still lacks the measuring tools to evaluate the full costs of implementing the renewable portfolio standard simultaneously with other major energy policy goals.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Do Public Pensions Help Recruit and Retain High-Quality Workers?* By Alicia H. Munnell, et al. Center for Retirement Research. Oct. 2014. 10 p.**
http://crr.bc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/slp_41.pdf

"As states grapple with challenges facing their pensions, many have taken steps that reduce benefit generosity for their new employees. The analysis suggests that states and localities with relatively generous pensions should be cautious, because reductions in benefits may result in a reduction in their ability to maintain a high-quality workforce. To the extent the quality gap already exists for many of these employers, reducing pension generosity may widen the gap."

HEALTH

***Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.* The Federation of State Medical Boards. Sep. 2014. 25 p.**
<http://www.fsmb.org/Media/Default/PDF/Advocacy/Interstate%20Medical%20Licensure%20Compact%20%28FINAL%29%20September%202014.pdf>

"States have a long history of making agreements with one another as a way to act without the federal government. The latest such compact circulating in state legislatures for 2015 would make it easier for doctors to get licenses in multiple states so they can practice medicine in person or remotely.... The interstate compact would set threshold requirements that participating states agree to, and a doctor's home state would verify that they've met those requirements, which include clean disciplinary records, holding a specialty certification, passing licensure exams within three attempts and completing a residency." (*Governing*, Nov. 4, 2014).

HUMAN SERVICES

***Culture Counts: Engaging Black and Latino Parents of Young Children in Family Support Programs.* By Shannon Moodie, et al. Child Trends. Oct. 2014. 16 p.**
<http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2014-44BCultureCountsFullReport.pdf>

"Family support programs are broadly defined as programs that provide resources to enable parents to successfully support themselves so they can provide a stable, enriching environment for their children.... Engaging ethnic minority parents in family support programs and services is often a challenge.... [P]arenting programs are less likely to provide benefits to families from ethnically-diverse backgrounds [E]thnic minority parents are less likely to be engaged than white parents in their child's schooling." This

report makes policy recommendations for designing, adapting, and evaluating culturally-relevant family support programs and services.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

California Health and Human Services Open Data Portal. California Health and Human Services.
<https://chhs.data.ca.gov/>

“The California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS) has launched its Open Data Portal initiative in order to increase public access to one of the State’s most valuable assets—non-confidential health and human services data. Its goals are to spark innovation, promote research and economic opportunities, engage public participation in government, increase transparency, and inform decision-making.... The portal offers access to standardized data that can be easily retrieved, combined, downloaded, sorted, searched, analyzed, redistributed and re-used by individuals, business, researchers, journalists, developers, and government to process, trend, and innovate.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Removing Roadblocks to Intelligent Vehicles and Driverless Cars. By Adam Thierer, et al.
Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Sep. 2014. 55 p.
<http://mercatus.org/publication/removing-roadblocks-intelligent-vehicles-and-driverless-cars>

“Policymakers should focus on clearing existing roadblocks to the development of intelligent vehicles, and exercise restraint regarding hypothetical concerns about their use. ‘Permissionless innovation’ is the idea that experimentation with new technologies and business models should generally be permitted by default. Permissionless innovation brought the Internet, an open and lightly regulated platform that allows entrepreneurs to adopt new business models and offer new services without first seeking approval from regulators.... Increased use of intelligent vehicle technology will bring social and economic challenges, but governments should maintain a flexible system that deals with real problems rather than hypothetical ones.”

About *Studies in the News*

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