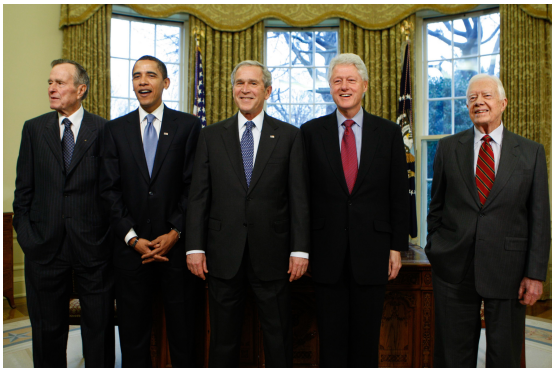


## Econ 449 - American Economic Mobility Over Two Centuries



The basics:

- Office: 254 Tyler Hall
- Email: jmparman@wm.edu (expect response in under 24 hours)
- Phone: 757-221-2852 (email is probably easier)
- Office hours: Mon 3pm-5pm, Thu 10am-noon

- We will have a course website on [blackboard.wm.edu](https://blackboard.wm.edu)
- Right now you can find the syllabus, these lecture slides, and two folders for readings on the website (all under 'Course Files')
- Lecture slides will typically be posted half an hour before lecture
- Any future handouts will also be posted under 'Course Files'

# Course Prerequisites

Students should have completed Econ 303 and Econ 308. We will draw on both the theoretical modeling of individual and household behavior covered in Econ 303 and the econometric tools and empirical methodology covered in Econ 308. We will have workshops and handouts to help with statistical analysis in Stata for the final project.

- There is no required textbook for the course
- Readings, both required and non-required, will be posted on Blackboard
- I will maintain a reading list on Blackboard noting which readings are required
- I will update you at the start of each lecture on where we are in the course outline and which readings you should do for the next classes

- In general, the readings are academic articles from economics journals
- This means they are written for an audience of professional economists which can make them fairly dense
- Don't get overwhelmed by the details, focus on the big picture
- Try to focus on the following questions when doing a reading:

- What question is the author attempting to answer?
- Why is this an important question?
- What does previous research have to say about the question?
- What sort of evidence does the author rely on?
- Are there any drawbacks or limitations to this evidence?
- What conclusions does the author reach?
- What are the implications of these conclusions for larger economic questions?

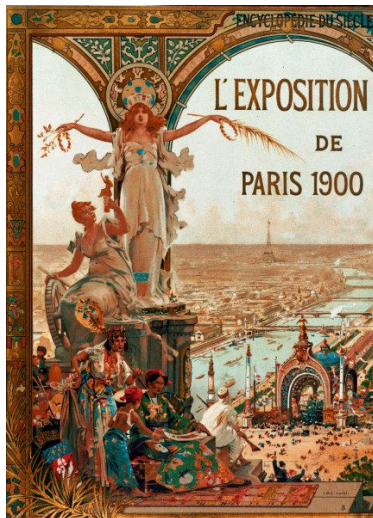
- Final grades will be based on class participation (10%), two referee reports (15% each), two data projects (15% each), and a final project (30%)
- The overall course grades will be curved to be consistent with the typical William & Mary grade distribution
- Students will have one week after graded material is first returned to raise any issues about grading, after that the recorded grades are final
- Late assignments will be accepted but will incur a penalty that increases with each additional day the assignment is late



# Referee Reports

- You will complete two referee reports, due February 22 and March 15 at 5pm
- The referee reports are a chance to engage critically with the assigned journal articles
- You will summarize the main points of the article and then discuss its strengths and weaknesses
- We'll go over all of the details in the second full week of lecture

# Du Bois Data Project



# Du Bois Data Project



# Du Bois Data Project

- The Du Bois project is a chance to get started looking for and working with historical and modern data on socioeconomic outcomes
- You will each reproduce two Du Bois figures
- One will be based on historical data, reproducing one of the Georgia figures with Virginia data
- The other will be based on modern data, reproducing one of the national figures with current data
- Both will be due February 8th by 5pm
- We'll go over details next week in lecture

# Williamsburg Data Project

7		12 16	Jenkins, Phoebe,	B. W. 46		1		Farm laborer	
8		13 17	Abbott, James,	B. W. 49		1		Farm laborer	4
9			—, Wives,	B. F. 40	Wife	1		Keeping house	
10			—, Bachelors,	B. W. 16	Son	1			
11		14 18	Bonner, Sarah,	B. W. 60		1		Baker	
12			—, Fannie,	B. F. 38	Wife	1		Keeping house	
13			— Mary J.	B. F. 27	Daughter	1		Domestic servant	
14			— Ella,	B. F. 13	Daughter	1			
15			— Mary C.	W. F. 11	Grand daughter	1			
16			Roberson, Martha	B. F. 6	Grand daughter	1			
17		15 19	Lacy, Theodore S.	W. W. 36		1		Salesman	
18			— Kate H.	W. F. 30	Wife	1		Keeping house	
19			Southall, Virginia A.	W. F. 27	Sister-in-law	1			
20			— Virginia C.	W. F. 22		1			
21		16 20	Brown, James F.	W. W. 47		1		Carpenter	
22		17 21	Townsend, Thomas,	B. W. 25		1		Laborer	8
23			— Rachel,	B. F. 30	Wife	1		Servant	
24			Shepherd, Emma,	B. F. 15	Sister	1		Servant	3
25			Boyl, George,	W. W. 12	Son	1			
26			— Jeremiah,	W. W. 10	Son	1			

DIVISION NO. 2

TO THE CITY OF SEATTLE

## BUILDING RESTRICTIONS

**BUILDING RESTRICTIONS**  
Building Restrictions in this plat shall run for a period of fifteen years from and after March 10, 1927 and shall apply only to lots zoned by the City of Seattle as 'First Residence District' at time building is erected.

During said period no building shall be erected on 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. South nearer than twenty-five feet from street margin, and no building shall be erected on 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. South, south of Columbia Way, nearer than twenty feet from street margin.

No building shall be erected on lots in Blocks 12, 13 and 14 together with garage, costing less than \$4,000.00.

No building shall be erected on lots in Block 3 Tand 9, and on Lots 17 & 22 inclusive in Block N, on Lots 16 to 30 inclusive in Block 14, and on Lots 14 to 20 inclusive in Block 15, together with garage, costing less than

No building shall be erected on Lots 17 to 18 inclusive in Block 11, or on Lots 14 to 15 inclusive in Block 12, or on Lots 16 to 17 inclusive in Block 13, together with garage, costing less than \$1,000.00.

Any garage or other necessary appurtenance of a residence shall be constructed as a part thereof, or if isolated, shall be architecturally designed in harmony with residence.

No person other than one of the Caucasian race shall be permitted to occupy any portion of any lot in said

plot or any building thereon except a domestic servant actually employed by a Caucasian occupant of said lot or building.

## DESCRIPTION

This plan of JEFFERSON PARK Addition, Division No. 2, is the City of Seattle embraces blocks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and that strip marked "Reserved" adjoining south blocks 4 and 5 on the north. Lots 3 and 4 Addition, to South Seattle; King County, Washington, is recorded in the records of King County, also the "unimproved portion of Government Lots 9 and 10 Section 17, Township 24 North, Range 4 East, W.M., also Lot 3 Block 3 of Jefferson Park Addition, City of Seattle, also the alley, streets, crosswalks, sidewalks and other improvements shown on the plan. The same have been created by the City of Seattle.

# Williamsburg Data Project

ick 15, together with garage costing less than \$2,500.00.

Any garage or other necessary appurtenance of a residence shall be constructed as a part thereof, or if isolated, shall be of architectural design in harmony with residence.

No person other than one of the Caucasian race shall be permitted to occupy any portion of any lot in said plat or any building thereon except a domestic servant actually employed by a Caucasian occupant of said lot or building.

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# Williamsburg Data Project

- The Williamsburg project will be due April 10 by 5pm
- The Williamsburg project has two different components
- First, you will track a sample of Williamsburg residents from 1920 onward through the 1930 and 1940 federal censuses, creating an intergenerational dataset to study Williamsburg mobility
- Second, you will track the property ownership for two properties in Williamsburg, identifying ownership changes, restrictive covenants and zoning changes
- Your data will be combined with your classmates' data to create one, large class dataset
- We'll go over (extensive) details in lecture



# Final Project

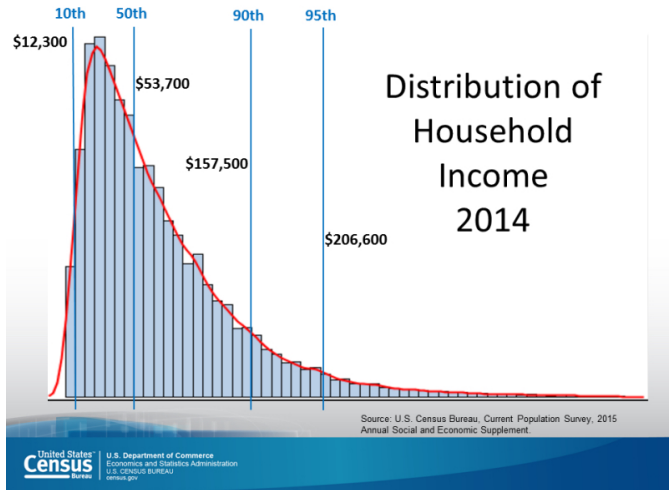
- The class dataset will be your starting point for you final project
- Using those data and/or any other relevant historical sources, you will study changes in mobility or inequality in the Williamsburg area or Virginia more broadly over time
- Your goal is to identify an interesting stylized fact about Williamsburg mobility or inequality and attempt to explain it
- You will write a technical paper and a policy memo describing your findings
- We'll talk much more about the details in lecture and devote lecture time to helping each other solve problems

Key dates for the semester:

- February 8 (5pm) - Du Bois project due
- February 22 (5pm) - Referee report 1 due
- March 15 (5pm) - Referee report 2 due
- April 10 (5pm) - Williamsburg project due
- April 29 (5pm) - Final project due

Note that there will not be a final exam.

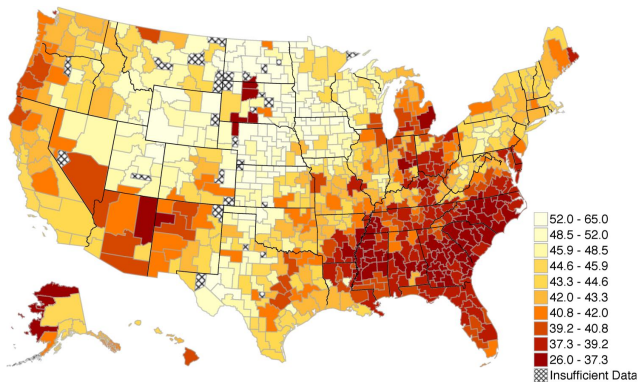
# American Mobility and Inequality



# American Mobility and Inequality

## The Geography of Upward Mobility in the United States

Mean Child Percentile Rank for Parents at 25<sup>th</sup> Percentile ( $Y_{25}$ )

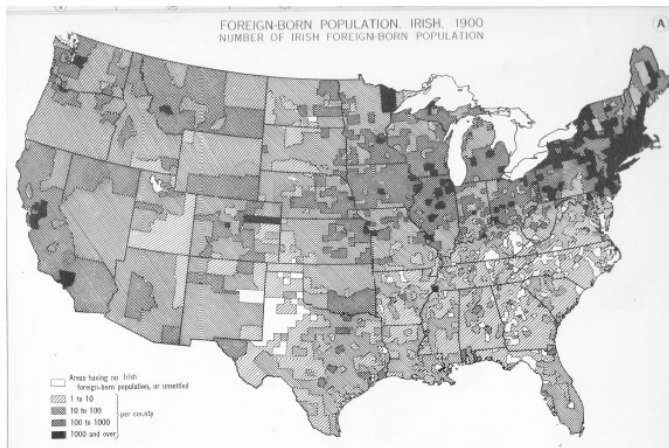


*Note: Lighter Color = More Absolute Upward Mobility*

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# Structural Change and Economic Mobility



# Structural Change and Economic Mobility



# Structural Change and Economic Mobility





# Structural Change and Economic Mobility



# Racial Gaps in Opportunities and Outcomes



# Gender Gaps in Opportunities and Outcomes



# Projects

