SPECIAL REPORTS

Prospects for Upward Mobility in America

"Woven into the American fabric is the idea that anyone in this country can get ahead if he or she works hard enough. But research shows social mobility is much more fixed in the U.S. than in many other wealthy nations. Put simply, if you're born poor in America, you're likely to stay poor. There's little disagreement among economists that social mobility has remained flat for decades."

Diane Rehm Show interview:

Richard Reeves
Brookings Institution fellow in Economic Studies and policy director for the Center on Children and Families research whose focuses on economic mobility.

David Leonhardt

Scott Winship
Walter B. Wriston fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research; formerly research manager of the Economic Mobility Project of The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Listen to Interview

The Brookings Essay:
"Saving Horatio Alger: Equality, Opportunity, And the American Dream"
SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

From genomes to societies: a holistic view of determinants of human health. 
Shi Y, Zhong S.

**Abstract**
Both biological and social sciences have identified contributing factors to human health. However, health outcomes are unlikely to equal a simple sum of these identified factors. This article makes an attempt to put together the information, methods, and technologies that relate to health outcomes from biological, behavioral, and social disciplines. Much of this information was obtained by controlling for the variations of the factors in 'other' disciplines. For example, genetic factors were controlled for in identifying the behavioral determinants of health. Looking forward, better understandings of health outcomes may require exploiting the interactions of health determinants that were identified from different disciplines. We propose the concept of 'systems health' studies, which take health outcomes as the outputs of a system, where the inputs and their interactions from multiple disciplines are considered.

Conceptualizing Social Determinants of Maternal and Infant Health Disparities
*Affilia May 2014* 29:2131-141

Is the Gene-Environment Interaction Paradigm Relevant to Genome-Wide Studies? The Case of Education and Body Mass Index
*Demography February 2014*; *Volume 51, Issue 1*, pp 119-139
Abstract
This study uses data from the Framingham Heart Study to examine the relevance of the gene-environment interaction paradigm for genome-wide association studies (GWAS). We use completed college education as our environmental measure and estimate the interactive effect of genotype and education on body mass index (BMI) using 260,402 single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). Our results highlight the sensitivity of parameter estimates obtained from GWAS models and the difficulty of framing genome-wide results using the existing gene-environment interaction typology. We argue that SNP-environment interactions across the human genome are not likely to provide consistent evidence regarding genetic influences on health that differ by environment. Nevertheless, genome-wide data contain rich information about individual respondents, and we demonstrate the utility of this type of data. We highlight the fact that GWAS is just one use of genome-wide data, and we encourage demographers to develop methods that incorporate this vast amount of information from respondents into their analyses.

MID-SOUTH TCC SHAREPOINT SITE

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