

Table of Contents

<u>Racism</u>	3
<u>Sexism and the Patriarchy</u>	10
<u>Capitalism and Socialism</u>	16
<u>Trans Rights</u>	18
<u>The Environment and Climate Change</u>	22
<u>Immigration</u>	24
<u>Drug War</u>	26
<u>The Police and Crime</u>	28
<u>Electoral Reform</u>	31
<u>A Few Logical Fallacies (as a treat)</u>	35

Racism

Types of Racism¹²³

Individual/Internalized Racism

Something personal, the known or unknown belief that your race or culture is superior. Often turns into Interpersonal Racism, racism between two people (calling a person a slur, for example)

Institutionalized Racism

When the state or culture perpetuates racism, through practices like Jim Crow and redlining

Systemic Racism/Racism as Defined by Outcome

When the systems, intentionally or not, have racist outcomes, like higher incarceration based on race, or a general refusal to loan to black applicants

Institutionalized Racism is *technically* illegal, Systemic Racism is impossible to make illegal because it lacks intent, it's often a product of culture and bias.⁴

“We view structural racism as a facially neutral (or colorblind) policy that produces racially influenced outcomes across institutions and society. When it is possible to point to where in the system's ostensibly colorblind structure the race-based results are being produced, that structure has been racialized. When the policy produces racially disparate outcomes, but the cause is not formally built into the policy or decision-making structure, the problem is systemic.”

This will focus largely on Systemic Racism, as that is what I think causes the most damage today.

Racism in Hiring

National Bureau on Economic Research study on white vs. black name callbacks⁵

- For every 10 resumes, white names get called back. For black names it's every 15
- Black people are twice as likely to be unemployed, and earn 25% less
- Having a high quality resume as a black person does; white people with high quality resumes are 30% more likely to get a call back than a white person with a shit resume
- Discrimination is consistent across most industries, including Federal Contractors (who are subject to affirmative action)

Discrimination in a Low-Wage Labor Market: A Field Experiment⁶

- “One line of research points to the persistence of prejudice and discrimination as a critical factor shaping contemporary racial disparities”
 - Systemic issues are a product of internalized racism
- “Pager found that a black applicant with no criminal background experiences job prospects similar to those of a white felon”
- “In applications to 171 employers, the white tester received a callback or job offer 31.0 percent of the time, compared with a positive response rate of 25.2 percent for Latinos and 15.2 percent for blacks. These results show a clear racial hierarchy, with whites in the lead, followed by Latinos, and blacks trailing behind.”

¹ Fielder, T. (2020, January 10). Types of Racism. Retrieved October 22, 2020, from <https://www.shorelineschools.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3>

² Forms of Racism. (n.d.). Retrieved October 22, 2020, from <http://www.aclrc.com/forms-of-racism>

³ Four Levels of Racism. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.cacgrants.org/assets/ce/Documents/2019/FourLevelsOfRacism.pdf>

⁴ M. (2017, February 17). The Flint Water Crisis: Systemic Racism Through the Lens of Flint. Retrieved from https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcr/VFlintCrisisRep-F-Edited3-13-17_554317_7.pdf

⁵ Bertrand, M., & Mullainathan, S. (2003, September). Employers' Replies to Racial Names. Retrieved October 22, 2020, from <https://www.nber.org/digest/sep03/employers-replies-racial-names>

⁶ Western, B., & Pager, D. (n.d.). Discrimination in a Low-Wage Labor Market: A Field Experiment. Retrieved from <https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/bonikowski/files/pager-western-bonikowski-discrimination-in-a-low-wage-labor-market.pdf>

- “All ratios remain consistently greater than one, indicating that employers treat blacks less positively, regardless of which testers are applying for jobs. Overall, these results indicate that, relative to equally qualified blacks, employers significantly prefer white and Latino job applicants.”

Meta-analysis of field experiments shows no change in racial discrimination in hiring over time⁷

- “On average, white applicants receive 36% more callbacks than equally qualified African Americans (95% confidence interval of 25–47% more), based on random-effects meta-analysis of data since 1989, representing a substantial degree of direct discrimination. White applicants receive on average 24% more callbacks than Latinos (95% confidence interval of 15–33% more).”
- “... we see no clear change over time in the level of hiring discrimination against African Americans.”
- “The point estimate suggests a decline from whites receiving 30% more callbacks than Latinos in 1990 to 15% more callbacks in 2010 (1.30 vs. 1.15).”
- “In one modification, we use “job offer” in place of callback as the outcome for studies for which the job offer outcome is available ($n = 3$), retaining callbacks as the outcome for studies in which the measure of job offer is not available. This makes the outcome variable less uniform across studies, although closer to the outcome of greatest substantive interest, getting a job. With this modification, the trend line for African Americans slants more downward, but is still close to zero (-0.008) and statistically nonsignificant.”

Racism in Justice

Mass incarceration and children’s outcomes: Criminal justice policy is education policy⁸

- “As many as one in ten African American students has an incarcerated parent. One in four has a parent who is or has been incarcerated.”

Black Lives Matter: Eliminating Racial Inequity in the Criminal Justice System⁹

- “Despite substantial progress in achieving racial justice in American society over the past half century, racial disparities in the criminal justice system have persisted and worsened in many respects. Among African American men born just after World War II, 15% of those without a high school degree were imprisoned by their mid-30s.¹³⁰ For those born in the 1970s, 68% were imprisoned by their mid-30s.”
- “A recent investigation of all arrests – not just those resulting from traffic stops – in over 3,500 police departments across the country found that 95% of departments arrested black people at a higher rate than other racial groups.”
- “The authors found that rates of traffic- safety stops did not differ by the driver’s race, but rates of investigatory stops did, and did so significantly.”
- “58% of people of color said police brutality took place in their area, in contrast to only 35% of whites.”
- Blacks and Latinos constituted half of the jail population in 2013.⁴⁸ In 2002, 44% of people in jail **lacked a high school degree**. In the month prior to their arrest, 29% were **unemployed**, and 59% reported **earning less than \$1000/month**.
- Higher rates of geographically concentrated socioeconomic disadvantage contribute to higher rates of certain violent and property crimes among African Americans.⁵⁰ In 2012, African Americans represented 13% of the U.S. population. But African Americans comprised 39% of arrests for **violent crimes** (49% for murder and nonnegligent manslaughter) and 29% of arrests for **property crimes**.

Investigation of the Ferguson Police Department¹⁰

- “Ferguson’s law enforcement practices are shaped by the City’s focus on revenue rather than by public safety needs. This emphasis on revenue has compromised the institutional character of Ferguson’s police department, contributing to a pattern of unconstitutional policing, and has also shaped its municipal court,

⁷ Quillian, L., Pager, D., Hexel, O., & Midtbøen, A. (2017, September 12). Meta-analysis of field experiments shows no change in racial discrimination in hiring over time. Retrieved October 24, 2020, from <https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2017/09/11/1706255114>

⁸ Report • By Leila Morsy and Richard Rothstein • December 15. (2016, December 15). Mass incarceration and children's outcomes: Criminal justice policy is education policy. Retrieved from <https://www.epi.org/publication/mass-incarceration-and-childrens-outcomes/>

⁹ <https://www.sentencingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Black-Lives-Matter.pdf>

¹⁰ [Investigation of the Ferguson Police Department](#)

leading to procedures that raise due process concerns and inflict unnecessary harm on members of the Ferguson community.”

- Our investigation indicates that Ferguson as a City has the capacity to reform its approach to law enforcement... These reform efforts will be well worth the considerable time and dedication they will require, as they have the potential to make Ferguson safer and more united.

RACIAL DISPARITIES IN STOPS BY THE D.C. METROPOLITAN POLICE

DEPARTMENT: REVIEW OF FIVE MONTHS OF DATA¹¹

- “Black people, who make up 46.5% of the D.C. population, composed 72% of the people stopped. We also found that 88.6% of the youth under 18 who were stopped were Black.”
- “despite claims by MPD that stops are crucial to removing guns from the streets, only 0.8% of stops led to the seizure of a weapon of any kind.”
- “Scholars have long argued that implicit racial biases can lead officers to interpret ambiguous behavior as criminal when performed by Black people but innocuous when performed by white people, causing disproportionate stops of Black people who have not violated the law.”
- “Not only are Black people stopped more frequently than white people, they also endure more intrusive stops.”

Demographic Differences in Sentencing: An Update to the 2012 *Booker* Report¹²

- “Black male offenders continued to receive longer sentences than similarly situated White male offenders.”
- “... the narrowing gap between Black and White male offender sentence lengths is due, in large part, to sizeable reductions in penalties for crack cocaine offenses, in which Black offenders constitute the large majority of the offenders.”
- “The Commission found that sentences of Black male offenders were longer than those of White male offenders for all periods studied. Black male offenders’ sentences were 19.1 percent longer than those of White male offenders during the Post-Report period [2011-2016].”

Report on Jury Selection Study¹³

- “Across all strike-eligible venire members in the study, prosecutors struck 52.6% (636/1,208) of eligible black venire members, compared to only 25.7% (1,592/6,185) of all other eligible venire members.”
- “In cases with non-black defendants, the average strike rate was 51.4% against black venire members and 26.8% against all In cases with black defendants, the average strike rate was 60.0% against black venire members and 23.1% against other venire members.”
- “In every analysis that we performed, race was a significant factor in prosecutorial decisions to exercise peremptory challenges in jury selection in these capital proceedings. Regardless of how one looks at the data, a robust and substantial disparity in the exercise of prosecutorial strikes against black venire members compared to others persists.”

Mandatory Sentencing and Racial Disparity: Assessing the Role of Prosecutors and the Effects of *Booker*¹⁴

- Response to article 10

¹¹ A. (2016, June 16). RACIAL DISPARITIES IN STOPS BY THE D.C. METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT: REVIEW OF FIVE MONTHS OF DATA. Retrieved from https://www.acludc.org/sites/default/files/2020_06_15_aclu_stops_report_final.pdf

¹² U. (2017, November). Demographic Differences in Sentencing: An Update to the 2012 *Booker* Report. Retrieved from https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/research-publications/2017/20171114_Demographics.pdf

¹³ O'Brien, B., & Grosso, C. M. (2011, December 15). Report on Jury Selection Study. Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.law.msu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1330&=&context=facpubs&=&sei-redir=1&referer=https%253A%252F%252Fwww.google.com%252Furl%253Fq%253Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fdigitalcommons.law.msu.edu%252Fcgi%252Fviewcontent.cgi%253Farticle%25253D1330%252526context%25253Dfacpubs%2526sa%253DD%2526ust%253D1603571710664000%2526usg%253DOvVaw3WfFrA6x7zIiPRxBRpgAMO#search=%22https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcommons.law.msu.edu%2Fcgi%2Fviewcontent.cgi%3Farticle%3D1330%26context%3Dfacpubs%22>

¹⁴ Starr, S. B., & Rehavi, M. M. (2013, October). Mandatory Sentencing and Racial Disparity: Assessing the Role of Prosecutors and the Effects of *Booker*. Retrieved from <https://www.yalelawjournal.org/article/mandatory-sentencing-and-racial-disparity-assessing-the-role-of-prosecutors-and-the-effects-of-booker>

- “... while a black-white gap appears to be introduced during the criminal justice process, it appears to stem largely from prosecutors’ charging choices, especially decisions to charge defendants with “mandatory minimum” offenses.”
- “On Question (1), we did find [sic.] significant racial disparities in charge severity across all four charging measures. The racial gaps were fairly moderate (less than 10%), but significant. But the disparities in mandatory minimums were much more dramatic. After controlling for the variables above, we found black men were still nearly twice as likely to be charged with an offense carrying a mandatory minimum sentence”
- “Among those convicted there were significant unexplained sentencing disparities favoring white defendants.”
- “... these gaps do not appear to be solely (or even principally) driven by the final sentencing decision. Rather, initial charging—especially the decision to bring mandatory minimum charges—is an important driver of these sentencing disparities.”

13/50, 13/52, 13/90¹⁵

The myth that African Americans, 13% of the population, commit 50% (sometimes 52%) of homicides, and 90% of interracial violence.

- Men make up 49% of the population of Earth, but 90% of rapes are by men towards women

Racism in Education and Housing

Important note before going further: Education and housing are placed together because the two are intrinsically linked. Schools are funded largely by property taxes, and in low income areas, property taxes are lower because land value is lower. And, as established in previous and subsequent parts (See: Racism in Hiring and Generational Poverty), there is an intrinsic link between race and class. The myth that school choice would fix this is just that; a myth. Deserting a neighborhood instead of revitalizing it when revitalizing is an option (when done properly, as I will cover in later parts) is an awful waste, and that condenses thousands of students into fewer schools, which would overcrowd them more than they’re already overcrowded.

Historic Redlining and Urban Health Today in U.S. Cities¹⁶

- “Our study suggests that there might be intergenerational traumas from historic policies such as redlining that may be contributing to both the presence of physical exposures (i.e., concentrations of hazards) but also the psychosocial stress that accompanies low socioeconomic status.”
- “Racial residential segregation remains a fundamental cause of health inequities and redlining should be understood as a practice that left a physical and social imprint on urban health for generations.”

REDLINED YESTERDAY AND REDLINED TODAY: THE HOME OWNERS LOAN CORPORATION’S LONG SHADOW¹⁷

- Decades after HOLC redlining, housing finance outcomes remain dramatically different between A neighborhoods and those with lower grades.
- Approximately one in 10 white applicants were seeking loans in the highest rated areas, compared to one in 20 blacks and Asians and one in 50 Latinos. Whites were also much more common in B areas.
- The places that were predominantly white in the 1930s (and were rewarded for being so with desirable HOLC ratings) are still so today. Conversely, neighborhoods with large black populations in the early Twentieth Century (and were punished for being so with C and D ratings) are still predominantly non-white today.

¹⁵ 13/52 & 13/90. (n.d.). Retrieved October 28, 2020, from <https://www.adl.org/education/references/hate-symbols/1352-1390>

¹⁶ Nardone, A., Chiang, J., & Corburn, J. (2020). Historic Redlining and Urban Health Today in U.S. Cities. Retrieved from http://iurd.berkeley.edu/uploads/Nardone_Chiang_Corburn_2020_Redlining_Urban_Health.pdf

¹⁷ Faber, J. W. (2017, September 21). REDLINED YESTERDAY AND REDLINED TODAY: THE HOME OWNERS LOAN CORPORATION’S LONG SHADOW.

- Potential borrowers were approximately 69% more likely to be rejected by lenders in D neighborhoods than A neighborhoods.
- The relationships between applicant characteristics and denial were in the expected directions. Denial was more likely for blacks and Latinos, less likely for females, and declined with income.
- On average, subprime origination was 257% more likely among borrowers in D areas when compared to A areas.
- Borrowers in the early Twenty First Century were at a severe disadvantage when pursuing mortgages in neighborhoods deemed “undesirable” by the HOLC in the first half of the Twentieth Century. Specifically, mortgage applicants at the height of the housing boom (i.e. 2006) were approximately 69% more likely to be denied a loan and 257% more likely to receive a subprime loan if approved for units in D neighborhoods compared, on average, to those in A areas. In 2015, well into the housing market’s recovery, applicants in D areas still faced a substantial, 37%, disadvantage in the likelihood of approval on average.

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES 2012¹⁸

- “White renters experience more favorable treatment than equally well-qualified blacks in 28.4 percent of inquiries, compared to 19.6 percent in which blacks are favored. Consequently, black renters learn about 11.4 percent fewer available units than equally qualified whites.”
- “White renters experience more favorable treatment than Hispanics in 28.9 percent of inquiries, compared to 18.9 percent in which Hispanics are favored. So Hispanic renters learn about 12.5 percent fewer available units than equally qualified whites.”
- “Finally, white renters experience more favorable treatment than Asians in 32.0 percent of inquiries, compared to 22.6 percent in which Asians are favored. So Asian renters learn about 9.8 percent fewer available units than equally qualified whites”
- “... almost half the time, one tester is told about at least one more unit than his or her partner, with whites 9.0 percentage points more likely than comparable blacks to be told about more available units. Over all tests, blacks learn about 0.2 fewer available units per visit than whites.”
- “When both white and black members of a tester pair are told about available units, whites are more likely than blacks to be offered a lower rent than their partners (Exhibit IV-4). Among tests in which the white tester is quoted a lower rent, the difference averages \$122 a month, while among tests in which the black tester is quoted a lower rent, the difference averages \$129 a month.”
- “Blacks are more likely than comparable white homeseekers to receive comments or questions about their credit standing, while whites are more likely than blacks to receive remarks about race or ethnicity. Specifically, blacks are 3.0 percentage points more likely than whites to receive comments or questions about their credit standing. And whites are 1.1 percentage points more likely than blacks to receive remarks about issues of race or ethnicity.”
- The same pattern is continued, with slightly different specific numbers, for hispanic and asian renters, I just don’t have time to go over it all, there’s a lot of data and it’s already 10:45pm

The Flint Water Crisis: Systemic Racism Through the Lens of Flint¹⁹

- “The Commission finds that racism played a significant role in creating the conditions that allowed the lead contamination to happen, and in the failure to recognize and address it in a timely fashion.”
- “We view structural racism as a facially neutral (or colorblind) policy that produces racially influenced outcomes across institutions and society. When it is possible to point to where in the system’s ostensibly colorblind structure the race-based results are being produced, that structure has been racialized. When the policy produces racially disparate outcomes, but the cause is not formally built into the policy or decision-making structure, the problem is systemic.”

¹⁸ Turner, M. A., Santos, R., Levy, D. K., Wissoker, D., Aranda, C., & Pitingolo, R. (2013, June). HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES 2012. Retrieved from https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/pdf/hud-514_hds2012.pdf

¹⁹ M. (2017, February 17). The Flint Water Crisis: Systemic Racism Through the Lens of Flint. Retrieved from https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcr/VFlintCrisisRep-F-Edited3-13-17_554317_7.pdf

- “Similarly, without a conscious effort, the subdivision is likely to remain all white. Persons of color are unlikely to feel welcome in a neighborhood simply because the law permits them to be there, especially one whose existing residents had previously banned them. African Americans would also feel unwelcome if the police stop and question people of color because they ‘look out of place,’ especially if this continues after the first black families have moved into the subdivision.”
- “It is abundantly clear that race played a major role in developing the policies and causing the events that turned Flint into a decaying and largely abandoned urban center, a place where a crisis like this one was all but inevitable.”

The Racial Achievement Gap, Segregated Schools, and Segregated Neighborhoods – A Constitutional Insult²⁰

- “In urban areas, low-income white students are more likely to be integrated into middle-class neighborhoods and less likely to attend school predominantly with other disadvantaged students.”
- “7 percent of poor whites lived in high poverty neighborhoods, where more than 40 percent of the residents are poor, up from 4 percent in 2000; 15 percent of poor Hispanics lived in such high poverty neighborhoods in 2011, up from 14 percent in 2000; and a breathtaking 23 percent of poor blacks lived in high poverty neighborhoods in 2011, up from 19 percent in 2000.”
- “Sharkey finds that young African Americans (from 13 to 28 years old) are now ten times as likely to live in poor neighborhoods, defined in this way, as young whites—66 percent of African Americans, compared to 6 percent of whites (Sharkey, 2013, p. 27, Fig. 2.1). . . Sharkey shows that 67 percent of African American families hailing from the poorest quarter of neighborhoods a generation ago continue to live in such neighborhoods today.”
- “... government played an important and direct role in depressing the income levels of African American workers below the income levels of comparable white workers. This, too, contributed to the inability of black workers to accumulate the wealth needed to move to equity-appreciating white suburbs.”
- “Segregation in many other suburbs is now locked in place by exclusionary zoning laws – requiring large setbacks, prohibiting multi-family construction, or specifying minimum square footage – in suburbs where black families once could have afforded to move in the absence of official segregation, but can afford to do so no longer with property values appreciated.”

School Context, Pre College Educational Opportunities, and College Degree Attainment Among High-Achieving Black Males²¹

- “Bachelor’s degree attainment varied among high-achieving Black males by school context and educational opportunity factors. Although 42 % of the overall sample attained a bachelor’s degree, suburban high-achieving Black males were more likely to attain a bachelor’s degree or higher ($M = 0.76$, $SE = 0.10$) than urban high-achieving Black males”
- “Attending an urban school, on the other hand, was found to decrease their likelihood of attaining a bachelor’s degree. Previous research has documented that urban schools have fewer resources, lower overall academic achievement, fewer advanced courses, and fewer in-field, certified teachers than suburban schools (Aud et al. 2012; Lippman et al. 1996; Schott Foundation, 2009), each of which can negatively impact educational outcomes.”

Interactions Into Opportunities: Career Management for Low-Income, First-Generation African American College Students²²

²⁰ Rothstein, R. (2014, November 12). The Racial Achievement Gap, Segregated Schools, and Segregated Neighborhoods – A Constitutional Insult. Retrieved from

<https://www.epi.org/publication/the-racial-achievement-gap-segregated-schools-and-segregated-neighborhoods-a-constitutional-insult/>

²¹ Rose, V. C. (2013, July 17). School Context, Precollege Educational Opportunities, and College Degree Attainment Among High-Achieving Black Males.

²² Parks-Yancy, R. (2012, July/August). Interactions Into Opportunities: Career Management for Low-Income, First-Generation African American College Students. Retrieved from <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/482082/pdf>

- “... substantive interactions with university personnel are important to students’ obtaining career advice, information about internships, graduate school, and postgraduation employment opportunities, as well as receiving recommendations for those opportunities.”
- “These students are also hampered by their families’ lack of knowledge regarding the many career opportunities that college offers and the importance of collegiate social networks to access some of these careers. Families either do not give any career advice or encourage students to pursue pathways that are limited in scope and follow the mostly lower level career trajectories of their family members.”
- “Like Shatae and most of the interviewees, Harold had little knowledge of the internship and postgraduation career opportunities offered through the university or about the career information possessed by his professors and other college contacts.”
- “For 62% of the respondents, simply to complete college was a feat in and of itself because it was far from the academic achievements of their adult family members, some of whom never completed high school.”
- “The findings from this study suggest that African American students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds either do not have the “hookup” at all from their families or the “hookup” that they do have is insufficient for being aware of various career options”

Generational Poverty

Before addressing the existence and impact of Generational Poverty in America, it must first be understood that white Americans had a 350 year head start on black Americans. First with the existence of slavery, then sharecropping and Jim Crowe. And, as proven above, the income gap has yet to be solved, as BIPOC have a harder time finding jobs, getting education which leads to higher paying jobs, and, as proven below, have less wealth from ancestors.

Systematic Inequality: How America's Structural Racism Helped Create the Black-White Wealth Gap²³

- “When considering policy recommendations to close the racial wealth gap, one thing must be acknowledged: Poor blacks and poor whites are not similarly situated because whites have been and continue to be treated more favorably than blacks by government institutions.”
- “Wealth is a critical tool for families to finance and achieve economic mobility. It allows individuals to change jobs, pursue an education, and start their own business. It also helps people pay their bills during an economic emergency such as a layoff or unforeseen health emergency.”
- “For example, in 2016, the richest 20 percent of blacks owned 64.9 percent of all black wealth but only received 52.6 percent of all black income. Moreover, since 1995, wealth has become increasingly concentrated for both blacks and whites. In the 1990s, the richest 20 percent of blacks owned 51.5 percent of all black wealth compared with 64.9 percent in 2016.”
- “Even with this concentration, vulnerable subgroups of whites with little wealth still tend to fare much better than economically more secure subgroups of African Americans. That is, the concentration of wealth matters both within groups and across groups, as most blacks increasingly lose out in both directions. As a result, most blacks have few protections in the case of a financial emergency and have limited means for upward mobility.”
- “... the median wealth for black nonretirees over the age of 25 has never amounted to more than 19 percent of the median wealth of similarly situated whites since 1989. Additionally, the ratio of average black wealth to average white wealth never exceeded 21.6 percent in 1992. Roughly speaking, the best-case scenario for the past 30 years occurred when blacks had about one-sixth the median wealth of whites in 1998.”
- “In 2016, median black wealth stood at \$13,460—about half of the median black wealth recorded just before the Great Recession. At the same time, median white wealth was only one-quarter less than it was prior to the Great Recession”

²³ Solomon, D., & Hanks, A. (2018, February 21). Systematic Inequality. Retrieved from <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/reports/2018/02/21/447051/systematic-inequality/>

Sexism and the Patriarchy

STEM

Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics²⁴

- “When women are not involved in the design of these products, needs and desires unique to women may be overlooked. For example, ‘some early voice-recognition systems were calibrated to typical male voices. As a result, women’s voices were literally unheard. ... Similar cases are found in many other industries. For instance, a predominantly male group of engineers tailored the first generation of automotive airbags to adult male bodies, resulting in avoidable deaths for women and children.’”

Sexual Harassment in Work Organizations: A View From the Twenty-First Century²⁵

- “Yet, we believe that any time a woman is sexually harassed, it is because she is a woman, whatever else she may be. When men are harassed, it is generally because they are perceived to be feminized, non-traditional, weak, gay, effeminate, or in some other way “not man enough””
- “Another recently identified aspect of gender harassment is work/family policing, which regulates boundaries between work (as a space where women are unfit and unwelcome) and home (where women belong, especially when parenting). Hostility towards women who combine work and family is a widespread reality, examples including comments about women’s “proper” place in the home and mothers not being dependable workers”
- “It is by now largely accepted in the scientific community that it is organizational conditions rather than individual characteristics that are the most powerful predictors of sexual harassment”
- “Based on a large, nationally representative random sample and state-of-the-art diagnostic techniques, Danksy and Kilpatrick (1997) reported that women who had experienced sexual harassment were significantly more likely to suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Major Depressive Disorder than other women.”
- “Women faced with “just” gender harassment show significant decrements in professional and psychological health – including performance declines. One study even found that frequent and pervasive gender harassment is as offensive, disturbing, and corrosive to women’s work and wellbeing as infrequent sexual coercion.”

Do gender–science stereotypes predict science identification and science career aspirations among undergraduate science majors?²⁶

- “A statistically significant total effect of stereotyping on intent to persist in science only emerged for implicit stereotyping among women.”
- “among women, stronger gender–science stereotypes were associated with *weaker* science identification and, in turn, *weaker* science career aspirations. By contrast, among men, stronger gender–science stereotypes were associated with *stronger* science identification and, in turn, *stronger* science career aspirations. These two sets of findings, though small in magnitude, can together contribute to gender disparities in STEM engagement when accumulated across large populations and across critical time points within a leaky pipeline.”

“It’s Just Everywhere”: A Study on Sexism in Schools - And How We Tackle It²⁷

²⁴ Hill, C., Corbett, C., & St. Rose, A. (2009, November 30). Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Retrieved from <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED509653>

²⁵ Fitzgerald, L. F. (2018). Sexual Harassment in Work Organizations: A View From the Twenty-First Century. Retrieved from <https://www.icos.umich.edu/sites/default/files/lecturereadinglists/Fitzgerald%20%26%20Cortina%20%28in%20press%2C%20APA%20Handook%29.pdf>

²⁶ Robnett, R., & John, J. (2018, November 09). "It's Wrong to Exclude Girls From Something They Love." Adolescents' Attitudes About Sexism in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. <https://sred.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/cdev.13185>

²⁷ Courtney, K., & Boustead, M. (2017). “It’s Just Everywhere”: A Study on Sexism in Schools - And How We Tackle It. Retrieved from https://www.worldsofeducation.org/en/woe_homepage/woe_detail/15798/sexism-is-a-problem-in-every-school-now-we-must-take-action-by-sally-thomas

- “37% of girls report experiencing sexual harassment, compared to 6% of boys. Female students are also significantly more likely to describe multiple incidents and more severe cases of sexual assault. They are also less likely to dismiss their experience as ‘a joke’.”
- “Both students and teachers report that as a result of sexual harassment, girls learn to ‘take up less space’; to position themselves at the edges (of corridors, playgrounds and classrooms). Girls also adopt strategies to avoid being noticed and singled out for unwanted attention, even if this means they miss out on more positive attention and recognition of their achievements.”
- “Both male and female students report the common use of language which associates negative characteristics with being female... The accepted and often casual use of language that denigrates girls/women/femaleness fuels harmful and narrow ideas about what it means to be a man or a woman in society today.”
- “gender stereotypes can have a deeply harmful impact on girls and boys, placing arbitrary restrictions on children’s behaviour and aspirations while fuelling prejudice and discrimination.”
- “sexism is an everyday occurrence in the classroom, and that small, seemingly insignificant events together create an environment in which pupils of both sexes come to see each other as different.”
- “The most common example students in this study gave concerned the activities that they are (or are not) allowed to participate in. Most frequently, this entails male and female students having to participate in different sports, either as a result of school policy or as a result of being excluded by other students - such as girls not being allowed to play football and rugby.”
- “As students progress through the school and have more opportunities to choose the subjects they study, so the influence of gender stereotypes in shaping those subject choices can be observed. This includes the stereotype that maths and science are ‘boys’ subjects’ while art and English are ‘girls’ subjects’.”
- “Underreporting contributes to a view among school leaders that sexism is not a problem requiring action - so the issue is not raised with students. This institutional silence on the matter fuels the perception (or recognition) among students that sexism and sexual harassment is considered to be ‘normal’ and unimportant, which in turn fuels a reluctance among students to report it.”

Diagnosing and Medicine

Sex Bias in the Diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder²⁸

- “The finding that clinicians rated female clients higher for applicability of the BPD diagnosis than they rated male clients suggests that sex bias may be influencing the application of this diagnosis.”
- “That female cases were seen as more “borderline” than male cases lends credence to the notion that sex bias is responsible for the much greater frequency with which this diagnosis is assigned to women than to men. Even if clinicians are influenced by previously established base rates, if they overdiagnose a disorder in women and underdiagnose it in men because that disorder is thought to be more prevalent in women than in men, the result is a further biasing of the base rates.”
- “Sex bias with respect to the PTSD diagnosis was also found. In the case of PTSD, however, the bias was not elicited by the sex of the client; rather, it was related to the sex of the practitioner. The higher ratings for PTSD given by the female clinicians may reflect the attainment, on their part, of a greater diagnostic skill than their male counterparts possess; however, it is more likely that the higher prevalence of sexual abuse in the histories of women accounted for the heightened sensitivity of the female clinicians to information about victimization.”

Gender Bias in Medicine²⁹

- “In a recent study of treatment in psoriasis, the number of patients and the severity of the disease did not differ between men and women, yet there was far more expenditures for clinic-based treatment for male

²⁸ Becker, D., & Lamb, S. (1994). Sex Bias in the Diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. Retrieved from sci-hub.se/10.1037/0735-7028.25.1.55

²⁹ Hamberg, K. (2008, May 1). Gender Bias in Medicine - Katarina Hamberg, 2008. Retrieved January, from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.2217/17455057.4.3.237>

patients, than female patients who received emollients for self-care to a greater extent. In a retrospective study of intensive care use, large disparities were found between men and women. Specifically, older women (aged 50 years or older) were less likely than older men (with similar severity of illness) to be admitted to intensive care units or receive life-saving interventions.”

- “Between the 1950s and the 1980s researchers studied hospitalized patients whose symptoms were counted and used to define a category of depression. The patients studied were mostly women because there were more women than men with assumed depression in the hospital wards. In addition, patients who abused drugs and alcohol, the majority of them being men, were regularly excluded from the studies. This means that the connection between women and depression has become a closed circle: researchers studied mainly women to establish the grounds for the diagnosis, thus more women fitted into the descriptions and received the diagnosis, which in turn supported conclusions that more women than men are depressed. Inasmuch as the construction of the depression diagnosis inherited gender-biased assumptions, these biased beliefs affect research and clinical practice even today.”

Race Bias, Social Class Bias, and Gender Bias in Clinical Judgment³⁰

- “Females are more likely than males to be diagnosed as having a histrionic personality disorder, and males are more likely than females to be diagnosed as having an antisocial personality disorder, even when female and male clients do not differ in symptomatology.”
- “Gender bias has also occurred when *research investigators* have made diagnoses of histrionic personality disorder. In studies on the prevalence rates of personality disorders, diagnoses have been made by research investigators using (a) unstructured clinical interviews or self-report measures and (b) semistructured interviews. The percentage of females with diagnoses of histrionic personality was higher when diagnoses were made on the basis of unstructured clinical interviews or self-report measures (81%) compared to when diagnoses were made by using semistructured interviews (69%).”

Wage Gap

The Gender Wage Gap: Extent, Trends, and Explanations³¹

- “... ratio rising from 62 to 64 percent in 1980 to 72 to 74 percent in 1989, with a further increase to 79 to 82 percent by 2010.”
- “Yet by 2010, in both datasets, women’s relative pay at the top was considerably less than that at the middle and bottom of the distribution: 8–9 percentage points less than that at the middle or bottom in the PSID, and 6–11 percentage points less in the CPS.”
- “In the case of labor-market experience, the story is one of a substantial narrowing of the gender experience gap.”
- “However, many women in professional jobs remain employed in traditionally female occupations such as nursing or K–12 teaching that are generally less lucrative than traditionally male professions.”
- “Our overview of the US gender wage gap shows a substantially decreased but persistent wage gap between men and women.”
- “Traditional gender roles and women’s greater responsibility for nonmarket work may negatively affect women’s labor-market outcomes beyond their impact of labor-force attachment per se.”

³⁰ Garb, H. (2006, January 25). Race Bias, Social Class Bias, and Gender Bias in Clinical Judgment. Retrieved from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1468-2850.1997.tb00104.x>

³¹ Blau, F. D., & Kahn, L. M. (2017). The Gender Wage Gap: Extent, Trends, and Explanations. Retrieved from <https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jel.20160995>

- “Mothers were perceived by evaluators as less competent and less committed to paid work, and lower starting salaries were recommended for them. In contrast, the evaluators did not penalize men for being fathers; indeed, they perceived fathers to be more committed and recommended higher starting salaries for them.”
- “in academia, the female share decreases as we move up the ranks—from assistant professors (61 percent) to associate professors (50 percent) to full professors (28 percent).”
- “there are indicators that at least some of the gender difference reflects discrimination. For example, a number of studies, find that women are less likely to be promoted, all else equal, although some do not.”

The Gender Wage Gap: 2017 Earnings Differences by Gender, Race, and Ethnicity³²

- “The ratio of women’s and men’s median annual earnings was 80.5 percent for full-time/year-round workers in 2017, unchanged since 2016.”
- “If the pace of change in the annual earnings ratio continues at the same rate as it has since 1960, it will take another 41 years, until 2059, for men and women to reach parity.”
- “Women of all major racial and ethnic groups earn less than men of the same group, and saw greater declines in real earnings than men of the same race or ethnicity.”

Why Do Women Earn Less Than Men? Evidence from Bus and Train Operators³³

- “Mechanically, the earnings gap can be explained in our setting by the fact that men take 48% fewer unpaid hours off and work 83% more overtime hours per year than women. The reason for these differences is not that men and women face different choice sets in this job. Rather, it is that women have greater demand for workplace flexibility and lower demand for overtime work hours than men. These gender differences are consistent with women taking on more of the household and childcare duties than men, limiting their work availability in the process.”
- “The difference is especially stark for those with dependents. Women with dependents – single women in particular – are considerably less likely than men with dependents to accept an overtime opportunity. This is especially the case during weekends and after regular work hours, times when there are fewer childcare options available.”
- “We show that a gender earnings gap can exist even in a controlled environment where work tasks are similar, wages are identical, and tenure dictates promotions. The gap of \$0.89 in our setting, which is 60% of the earnings gap across the United States, can be explained entirely by the fact that, while having the same choice sets in the workplace, women and men make different choices.”
- “Using W-4 filings to ascertain marital status and the presence of dependents, we show that women with dependents – especially single women – value time away from work more than men with dependents.”
 - The findings here attribute a large amount of the wage gap to choices made by men and women. Women spend more time at home, especially if they have dependents. But why is that? Why don’t men take care of children more? Are they just lazy? And this raises a separate issue about welfare and a lack of support for families, making it harder for lower income parents to work. By tying women to childcare, made harder by a system that refuses to properly support them, they lack the ability to make the same career choices men make.

Reproductive Rights

A Defense of Abortion³⁴

Honduras: Abortion Ban’s Dire Consequences: Arrests, Criminal Charges, Health Issues, Bearing Rapist’s Child³⁵

³² Hegewisch, A. (2020, August 25). The Gender Wage Gap: 2017; Earnings Differences by Gender, Race, and Ethnicity. Retrieved from <https://iwpr.org/iwpr-issues/employment-and-earnings/the-gender-wage-gap-2017-earnings-differences-by-gender-race-and-ethnicity/>

³³ Bolotnyy, V., & Emanuel, N. (2018, November 28). Why Do Women Earn Less Than Men? Evidence from Bus and Train Operators. Retrieved from https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/bolotnyy/files/be_gendergap.pdf

³⁴ Thomson, J. J. (n.d.). A Defense of Abortion. Retrieved from <https://spot.colorado.edu/~heathwoo/Phil160.Fall02/thomson.htm>

³⁵ Honduras: Abortion Ban’s Dire Consequences. (2020, October 28). Retrieved from <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/06/06/honduras-abortion-bans-dire-consequences>

- ““Banning abortion does not stop it, but it forces women and girls to put their health and lives at risk to end pregnancies behind closed doors, in fear and desperation and without medical care,” said Margaret Wurth, senior women’s rights researcher at Human Rights Watch.”
- “Unsafe abortion is the cause of an estimated 8 to 11 percent of maternal deaths globally.”

New Report Highlights Worldwide Variations in Abortion Incidence and Safety³⁶

- “Improved contraceptive use, and in turn, declines in unintended pregnancy rates are the likely driver behind the worldwide decline in abortion rates,” says Susheela Singh, Vice President for International Research at the Guttmacher Institute. “Most women who have an abortion do so because they did not intend to become pregnant in the first place. Meeting the need for contraception is critical to bringing down rates even further.”
- “Legal restrictions do not eliminate abortion. Rather, they increase the likelihood that abortions will be done unsafely, as they compel women to seek clandestine procedures. Indeed, abortion tends to be safer in countries where it is broadly legal and in countries with a high gross national income.”

Abstinence-Only Education and Teen Pregnancy Rates: Why We Need Comprehensive Sex Education in the U.S.³⁷

“Among the 48 states in this analysis (all U.S. states except North Dakota and Wyoming), 21 states stressed abstinence-only education in their 2005 state laws and/or policies (level 3), 7 states emphasized abstinence education (level 2), 11 states covered abstinence in the context of comprehensive sex education (level 1), and 9 states did not mention abstinence (level 0) in their state laws or policies. In 2005, level 0 states had an average (\pm standard error) teen pregnancy rate of 58.78 (± 4.96), level 1 states averaged 56.36 (± 3.94), level 2 states averaged 61.86 (± 3.93), and level 3 states averaged 73.24 (± 2.58) teen pregnancies per 1000 girls aged 14–19. The level of abstinence education (no provision, covered, promoted, stressed) was positively correlated with both teen pregnancy (Spearman's $\rho = 0.510$, $p = 0.001$) and teen birth ($\rho = 0.605$, $p < 0.001$) rates, indicating that abstinence education in the U.S. does not cause abstinence behavior. To the contrary, teens in states that prescribe more abstinence education are actually more likely to become pregnant.”

MRA (not as based as M4A but still important)

Pisa In Focus³⁸

- “Teachers tend to give girls and socio-economically advantaged students better school marks, even if they don’t have better performance and attitudes than boys and socio-economically disadvantaged students.”
- “It seems that marks not only measure students’ progress in school, they also indicate the skills, behaviours, habits and attitudes that are valued in school.”

Noncognitive Skills and the Gender Disparities in Test Scores and Teacher Assessments: Evidence from Primary School³⁹

- “Boys in all racial categories (white, black, and Hispanic) across all subject areas (reading, math, and science) are not represented in their grade distributions where their test scores would predict.”
- “Boys who perform equally well on subject-area tests are graded less favorably by their teachers, but this less favorable treatment essentially vanishes when non cognitive skills are taken into account.”
 - Basically, teacher’s score the tangible work of girls higher, but mark boys up for more unmeasurable ‘noncognitive’ skills

Parsing Disciplinary Disproportionality: Contributions of Infraction, Student, and School

³⁶ New Report Highlights Worldwide Variations in Abortion Incidence and Safety. (2018, March 28). Retrieved from <https://www.guttmacher.org/news-release/2018/new-report-highlights-worldwide-variations-abortion-incidence-and-safety>

³⁷ Stanger-Hall, K., & Hall, D. (2011, October 14). Abstinence-Only Education and Teen Pregnancy Rates: Why We Need Comprehensive Sex Education in the U.S. Retrieved from <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0024658>

³⁸ O. (2013). PISA In Focus. Retrieved from [https://www.oecd.org/pisa/pisaproducts/pisainfocus/pisa%20in%20focus%20n26%20\(eng\)--FINAL.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/pisa/pisaproducts/pisainfocus/pisa%20in%20focus%20n26%20(eng)--FINAL.pdf)

³⁹ Cornwell, C., Van Parys, J., & Mustard, D. B. (2013, Winter). Noncognitive Skills and the Gender Disparities in Test Scores and Teacher Assessments: Evidence from Primary School. Retrieved from https://www.jstor.org/stable/23799113?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

Characteristics to Out-of-School Suspension and Expulsion ⁴⁰

- With this source, I ask ‘is there a gender essentialist explanation,’ to which I say no, gender is a social construct. So either those who are identified male for this study are bigger trouble makers, schools and teachers punish those who are identified male harder, or some combination. If male identifying people cause more issues, and we reject a gender essentialist explanation, then what conditions cause this? Is it our definitions and expectations of masculinity? Either way, the way we treat gender is an issue that hurts young boys, too.
- “Males represent 68.8% of the population of students subjected to in- or out-of-school suspension or expulsion in this state sample, as opposed to the state population (51.3% male).”
- “Gender was also a significant predictor in the present study of increased likelihood of out-of-school suspension but not expulsion. Previous research suggests that males receive disciplinary action at disproportionate rates compared to females.”

Boys lag behind: How teachers’ gender biases affect student achievement⁴¹

- “The key finding is that teachers’ gender biases have a high and significant effect on girls’ progress relative to boys’ in both math and French. Over middle school, teachers’ gender bias against boys explains 6% of boys falling behind girls in math.”
- “... having a teacher who is one SD more biased in math increases girls’ probability of selecting a scientific track in high school by 3.6 percentage points compared to boys’. Teachers’ average bias in math reduces the gender gap in choosing scientific courses by 12.5%.”

⁴⁰ Skiba, R. J., Chung, C., Trachok, M., Baker, T. L., Sheya, A., & Hughes, R. L. (2014). Parsing Disciplinary Disproportionality: Contributions of Infraction, Student, and School Characteristics to Out-of-School Suspension and Expulsion. Retrieved from <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.923.5562&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

⁴¹ Terrier, C. (2020, June 18). Boys lag behind: How teachers' gender biases affect student achievement. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0272775718307714#sec0020>

Capitalism and Socialism

Okay here's the deal. In my infinite free time, with my incredibly wrinkly brain, I read ALL THEORY. All of it. I've read all of the theory there is.

This is a lie. I haven't read much theory. I would rather have eternal papercuts on all of the webbing of my fingers and toes than read theory for the rest of my life. I'm a policy nut, I prefer to look at tangible, pragmatic policy solutions to some of the issues I see with capitalism.

A Few Failures of Capitalism

Wealth Inequality

_____ In 2016, the top 10% of earners made 50% of the income in the United States, up from 42% in 1989. The poorest 50% of earners made only 13% of the income in 2016. It's worse with wealth. The top 10% owned 77% of the wealth in the United States. The bottom 50% of the country owns less than 1% of the wealth.⁴² This difference grows starker when comparing whites to BIPOC, see previous segments.

On a global scale, capitalist economic globalization has not trickled down to the proletariat. The Elephant Graph is a chart of income growth worldwide between 1988 and 2008, when globalist free trade really became popular. The result are large increases for the poorest people (60%-80%), little to no growth for the middle class (and in some cases losses), and unprecedented income increases for the wealthiest. In summation, global capitalism sees no growth for the middle class, considerable growth (and exploitation) for those in impoverished developing countries, and incredible gains for those at the top.⁴³ The middle class has not completely stagnated, but it is vanishing in comparison to the wealthiest (especially in the US). Capitalist globalization is also not the sole cause, but generally agreed to be a considerable contributing factor.

Exploitation

_____ In the case of rent, the landlord adds no value to the land they own. They simply increase demand for a product you need to live by withholding supply. "(1) landed property is not itself a source of value creation; (2) rent is a redistribution of value from labour's wages and capital's profits to the landlord's pockets; and (3) it is for these reasons that the landlord class is denounced as unproductive "parasites" and "usurers in land" who, by owning and controlling property, latch onto the circuits of capital and consumption"⁴⁴

Food and water being commodified is another critique. Generally, the concern anti-capitalists have is an ethical one. "Is it exploitative to give someone a work or die ultimatum?" In capitalism, if you don't work, you starve, or go cold, and end up dying. Capitalists claim removing this incentive would reduce economic output, but the closest thing we have to data on this suggests that UBI wouldn't negatively impact jobs.⁴⁵

Monopolies⁴⁶

Disney owns upwards of a third of the entertainment industry. They didn't do this by producing the best product, they did it by buying all the competition. Meanwhile, companies like Amazon are uncontested in certain fields because the investment required to compete is so high that nobody really CAN compete.

⁴² Kent, A., Ricketts, L., & Boshara, R. (2020, August 07). Wealth Inequality in America: Key Facts & Figures: St. Louis Fed. Retrieved from <https://www.stlouisfed.org/open-vault/2019/august/wealth-inequality-in-america-facts-figures>

⁴³ LAKNER, C., & MILANOVIC, B. (2016, September). Response to Adam Corlett's "Examining an elephant: Globalisation and the lower middle class of the rich world". Retrieved from https://www.gc.cuny.edu/CUNY_GC/media/CUNY-Graduate-Center/LIS%20Center/elephant_debate-4.-reformatted.pdf

⁴⁴ Sadowski, J. (2020, February 03). The Internet of Landlords: Digital Platforms and New Mechanisms of Rentier Capitalism. Retrieved from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/anti.12595>

⁴⁵ Preliminary results of the basic income experiment / Les résultats préliminaires de l'expérience du revenu de base/Предварительные результаты экспериментальной концепции безусловного/Vorläufige Ergebnisse des Experiments zum Grundeinkommen - ePressi. (2019, August 2). Retrieved from <https://www.epressi.com/tiedotteet/hallitus-ja-valtio/preliminary-results-of-the-basic-income-experiment-les-resultats-preliminaires-de-l-experien-e-du-revenu-de-basepredvaritelnye-rezultaty-eksperimentalnoy-koncepcii-bezuslovnogovorlaufige-ergebnisse-des-experiments-zum-grundeinkommen.html>

⁴⁶ Greenlaw, S., & Shapiro, D. (2017, January 12). How Monopolies Form: Barriers to Entry. Retrieved from <https://opentextbc.ca/principlesofeconomics2eopenstax/chapter/how-monopolies-form-barriers-to-entry/>

Maybe Try a Socialism Now?

Worker Co-Ops

Here are just some good sources on what worker co-ops are and how they work.^{47 48}

Emilia Romagna

Emilia Romagna is a region of Italy that was fucked by WWII, and now worker co ops make up a considerable amount of the region's economy.

“Emilia Romagna is now among the most prosperous regions in the world. Its per capita GDP is 25% higher than the average for Italy, and 36% higher than the average for the European Union (EU). It has an enviable recent annual growth rate of 2.2%. The unemployment rate, in 2006, was 3% compared to 8.4% for all of Italy, and an average of 9.1% for the EU. In addition, it has one of the lowest rates of inequality in Europe, with a Gini coefficient of .25, or about half the European average.”⁴⁹

Mondragon

So, Mondragon is a bit more complicated. From what I've read, it is one larger conglomerate where democratic power is delegated to smaller co-ops that are semi-autonomous.

I won't go that much into Mondragon because it seems a bit different from other co-ops, but I'll be looking into them, and other co-ops, more in time.⁵⁰

Healthcare

The Costs of a National Single-Payer Healthcare System⁵¹

- “US personal healthcare spending is currently projected to be \$3.859 trillion in 2022. Enacting M4A would increase healthcare utilization by covering the previously uninsured, by eliminating cost-sharing for those already insured, and by increasing the range of health services covered. These effects are estimated to add \$435 billion to national healthcare spending. The plan would sharply cut payments to providers, subtracting \$384 billion, and has also been credited with \$61 billion in lowered prescription drug costs. Combining these effects results in projected personal health spending in 2022 of \$3.849 trillion, a slight net decrease of \$10 billion.”
- ***NOTE*** I can't tell if this paper accounts for the increased negotiating power of the government, and the upcharging hospitals do to patients and insurance companies.

Medicaid for All: State-Level Single-Payer Health Care *Symposium: Re-Thinking State Relevance*⁵²

- “Beyond increasing access to health care for all residents, one of the primary benefits of a single payer system is negotiating power to lower costs while maintaining participation by providers.”

Why are Americans Paying More For Healthcare⁵³

⁴⁷ Zamagni, V. N. (2012, December 21). Interpreting the roles and economic importance of cooperative enterprises in a historical perspective. Retrieved from <https://www.euricse.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/jeodzamagniinterpretingtherolesandeconomicimportanceofcooperativeenterprisesinahistoricalperspective.pdf>

⁴⁸ What is a Cooperative? (n.d.). Retrieved from http://sfp.ucdavis.edu/cooperatives/what_is/

⁴⁹ Corcoran, H., & Wilson, D. (2010, May 31). The Worker Co-operative Movements in Italy, Mondragon and France: Context, Success Factors and Lessons. Retrieved from <https://community-wealth.org/sites/clone.community-wealth.org/files/downloads/paper-corcoran-wilson.pdf>

⁵⁰ Morris, D. (1992, May). The Mondragon System: Cooperation at Work. Retrieved from <https://www.ilr.org/wp-content/uploads/files/images/mondragon.pdf>

⁵¹ Blahous, C. (2018, July). The Costs of a National Single-Payer Healthcare System. Retrieved from <https://poseidon01.ssrn.com/delivery.php?ID=57802412602511500709806701600710710503000803204804901707702307006508909301809410810000504511811104601909606609500600002807100200106105803204612409306511507208111105020078048002025101094122113000031121085084093087108120093101028029074002006001084121029&EXT=pdf>

⁵² Wiley, L. F. (2018). Medicaid for All: State-Level Single-Payer Health Care Symposium: Re-Thinking State Relevance. Retrieved from https://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?collection=journals&handle=hein.journals/ohslj79&id=916&men_tab=srchresults

⁵³ Why Are Americans Paying More for Healthcare? (2020, April 20). Retrieved from <https://www.pppf.org/blog/2020/04/why-are-americans-paying-more-for-healthcare>

- “The United States has one of the highest costs of healthcare in the world. In 2018, the United States spent about \$3.6 trillion on healthcare, which averages to about \$11,000 per person. Relative to the size of the economy, healthcare costs have increased over the past few decades, from 5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1960 to 18 percent in 2018. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) project that by 2028, such costs will climb to \$6.2 trillion, or about \$18,000 per person, and will represent about 20 percent of GDP.”

Prescription Drug Prices are Too High and Big Pharma Knows it⁵⁴

- “‘Big Pharma’, the largest drug companies in the United States and their powerful political apparatuses, have delayed any solution through arguments that high prices are needed in order to fund innovation for new drugs. However, research shows that this argument is specious, as government-granted monopolies give drug companies free rein over their pricing and, like any profit-driven firm, drug companies seek to overcharge for their goods.”
- “A 2015 study on the 15 companies selling the top 20 drugs in the United States found that the premium earned by US net prices exceeds the list prices in other developed nations by \$116 billion. Companies may justify this massive difference by stating that it is used to aid their research and fund the time- and research-intensive FDA approval process, however these companies only used \$76 billion in total for their global research and development.”

Unions

New Evidence that Unions Raise Wages for Less-Skilled Workers⁵⁵

- “Their study finds that the salary premium for union members compared to workers with comparable skills and demographic characteristics has remained relatively steady over the last 80 years despite large swings both in the overall number of union members and in their education levels. The less skilled the workers were, the greater the wage premium associated with their union membership. The researchers find a negative correlation between unionization rates and measures of inequality such as the Gini coefficient.”
- “The clear implication of the researchers' analysis is that, because unions offer a larger wage premium to less-skilled workers, unions have an important equalizing effect on the income distribution to the extent that they are successful in organizing the less-skilled.”

Unions help reduce disparities and strengthen our democracy⁵⁶

- “Deunionization depressed the wages of middle-wage earners but had little impact on high-wage earners and therefore greatly increased wage inequality between these two groups. For instance, deunionization explains a third of the growth of the wage gap between high- and middle-wage earners over the 1979–2017 period.”
- “On average, a worker covered by a union contract earns 10.2% more in hourly wages than someone with similar education, occupation, and experience in a nonunionized workplace in the same sector.”
- “When the share of workers who are union members in an industry or occupation is relatively high, as it was in 1979, wages of nonunion workers are higher than they would otherwise be. For example, had union density remained at its 1979 level, weekly wages of nonunion men in the private sector would be 5% higher (that’s an additional \$2,704 in earnings for year-round workers), while weekly wages for nonunion men in the private sector without a college education would be 8%, or \$3,016 per year, higher.”

⁵⁴ Pushkin, M., O'Neill, T., Lichtblau, M., & Saxena, A. (2020, January 27). Prescription Drug Prices are Too High and Big Pharma Knows it. Retrieved from <https://brownpoliticalreview.org/2020/01/prescription-drug-prices-are-too-high-and-big-pharma-knows-it/>

⁵⁵ “New Evidence That Unions Raise Wages for Less-Skilled Workers.” *NBER*, Sept. 2018, <https://www.nber.org/digest/digestsep18/new-evidence-unions-raise-wages-less-skilled-workers>.

⁵⁶ “Unions Help Reduce Disparities and Strengthen Our Democracy.” *Economic Policy Institute*, 23 Apr. 2021, <https://www.epi.org/publication/unions-help-reduce-disparities-and-strengthen-our-democracy/>.

Trans Rights

The general scientific consensus is that trans people are valid, and that HRT and surgeries are a valid way to treat gender dysphoria. The ramifications of not transitioning are considered to be greater than the ramifications of transitioning, and using someone's preferred pronouns and name, something that takes little to no effort to do, prevents serious psychological distress.

(Incomplete) List of Credible Organizations that Recognize Trans People as Valid
American Psychological Association^{57 58}

“APA Resolution Supporting Full Equality for Transgender and Gender-variant People

The Resolution on Transgender, Gender Identity and Gender Expression Nondiscrimination calls on APA to:

- Support legal and social recognition of transgender individuals consistent with their gender identity and expression
- Support the provision of adequate and medically necessary treatment for transgender and gender-variant people
- Recognize the benefit and necessity of gender transition treatments for appropriately evaluated individuals
- Call on public and private insurers to cover these treatments”

“Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for boys and men or girls and women. These influence the ways that people act, interact, and feel about themselves. While aspects of biological sex are similar across different cultures, aspects of gender may differ.”

“A psychological state is considered a mental disorder only if it causes significant distress or disability. Many transgender people do not experience their gender as distressing or disabling, which implies that identifying as transgender does not constitute a mental disorder.”

American College of Osteopathic Pediatrics, American Academy of Pediatrics⁵⁹

“Whether talking about children or adults, it is helpful to think of gender in three parts:

1. **Sex**, the combinations of physical characteristics (including but not limited to genitals, chromosomes, and sex hormone levels) typical of males or females.
2. **Gender identity**, a person's internal sense of being male, female, or, for some people, a blend of both or neither.
3. **Gender expression**, the many ways people show their gender to others, such as the clothing and haircuts they wear or the roles and activities they choose.”

“Whether gender-expansive or transgender, signs that a child's gender is “different” can emerge at any age. In one survey, parents and caregivers of transgender youth first noticed these signs at an average age of 41/2, while the children themselves first described their gender as “different” around age 6.1 However, many transgender people don't express (or even understand) their gender identity until they are teens or adults.”

⁵⁷ Transgender Identity Issues in Psychology. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/programs/transgender>

⁵⁸ Answers to your questions about transgender people, gender identity, and gender expression. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.apa.org/topics/lgbt/transgender>

⁵⁹ Murchison, G. (2016, September). SUPPORTING & CARING FOR TRANSGENDER CHILDREN. Retrieved from <https://assets2.hrc.org/files/documents/SupportingCaringforTransChildren.pdf>

“In two studies of children brought to clinics because of their gender-expansive traits, 50 to 90 percent of those assigned female at birth, and about 80 percent of those assigned male at birth, grew up to be non-transgender adults.”

“Depending on the child’s age and signs of distress, “gender-affirmative” counseling or therapy can help manage gender dysphoria. However, in many cases, the remedy for dysphoria is **gender transition**: taking steps to affirm the gender that feels comfortable and authentic to the child. It is important to understand that, for children who have not reached puberty, gender transition involves no medical interventions at all: it consists of social changes like name, pronoun and gender expression.”

“Today, many experts recommend being open about the child’s transition when the school and community climate make it possible.”

NHS⁶⁰

“Gender identity refers to our sense of who we are and how we see and describe ourselves. Most people identify as "male" or "female". These are sometimes called "binary" identities. But some people feel their gender identity is different from their biological sex. For example, some people may have male genitals and facial hair but do not identify as a male or feel masculine. Some may have female genitals and breasts but do not identify as a female or feel feminine. Some people do not define themselves as having a "binary" identity. For them the concept of gender is not relevant to their identity. They may use different terms, such as agender, gender diverse, gender non-conforming, to describe their identity. However, as a group, they are often called "non-binary".”

“Many people with gender dysphoria have a strong, lasting desire to live a life that "matches" or expresses their gender identity. They do this by changing the way they look and behave. Some people with gender dysphoria, but not all, may want to use hormones and sometimes surgery to express their gender identity. Gender dysphoria is not a mental illness, but some people may develop mental health problems because of gender dysphoria.”

American Psychoanalytic Association⁶¹

“The American Psychoanalytic Association affirms the right of all people to their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression without interference or coercive interventions attempting to change sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.”

“Psychoanalytic technique does not encompass purposeful attempts to “convert,” “repair,” change or shift an individual’s sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Such directed efforts are against fundamental principles of psychoanalytic treatment and often result in substantial psychological pain by reinforcing damaging internalized attitudes.”

World Health Organization⁶²

“The World Health Assembly, the WHO governing body that represents 194 member states, voted for new diagnostic guidelines that no longer describe gender nonconformity as a “mental disorder.””

United Nations⁶³

⁶⁰ Gender Dysphoria. (2020, May 28). Retrieved from <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/gender-dysphoria/>

⁶¹ 2012 - Position Statement on Attempts to Change Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Gender Expression. (2012, June). Retrieved from <https://apsa.org/content/2012-position-statement-attempts-change-sexual-orientation-gender-identity-or-gender>

⁶² New Health Guidelines Propel Transgender Rights. (2020, October 28). Retrieved from <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/05/27/new-health-guidelines-propel-transgender-rights>

⁶³ THE UNITED NATIONS’ GLOBAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA. (2020, July 07). Retrieved from <https://www.unfe.org/about-2/>

“THE UNITED NATIONS’ GLOBAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA”

Why Medically Transitioning Needs to be Accessible

What does the scholarly research say about the effect of gender transition on transgender well-being?⁶⁴

- “This search found a robust international consensus in the peer-reviewed literature that gender transition, including medical treatments such as hormone therapy and surgeries, improves the overall well-being of transgender individuals. The literature also indicates that greater availability of medical and social support for gender transition contributes to better quality of life for those who identify as transgender.”

Hormonal therapy and sex reassignment: a systematic review and meta-analysis of quality of life and psychosocial outcomes⁶⁵

- “Pooling across studies shows that after sex reassignment, 80% of individuals with GID reported significant improvement in gender dysphoria (95% CI = 68-89%; 8 studies; I(2) = 82%); 78% reported significant improvement in psychological symptoms (95% CI = 56-94%; 7 studies; I(2) = 86%); 80% reported significant improvement in quality of life (95% CI = 72-88%; 16 studies; I(2) = 78%); and 72% reported significant improvement in sexual function (95% CI = 60-81%; 15 studies; I(2) = 78%).”

Young Adult Psychological Outcome After Puberty Suppression and Gender Reassignment⁶⁶

- “After gender reassignment, in young adulthood, the GD was alleviated and psychological functioning had steadily improved. Well-being was similar to or better than same-age young adults from the general population. Improvements in psychological functioning were positively correlated with postsurgical subjective well-being.”
- “A clinical protocol of a multidisciplinary team with mental health professionals, physicians, and surgeons, including puberty suppression, followed by cross-sex hormones and gender reassignment surgery, provides gender dysphoric youth who seek gender reassignment from early puberty on, the opportunity to develop into well-functioning young adults.”

Mental Health and Self-Worth in Socially Transitioned Transgender Youth⁶⁷

- “These findings are in striking contrast to previous work with gender-nonconforming children who had not socially transitioned, which found very high rates of depression and anxiety.”

San Diego Clinic Finds High Need for Treatment of Transgender Youth⁶⁸

- “Treatment consisted of gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonists (GnRHa), which Marinkovic described as “puberty blockers,” in seven patients and cross-gender hormones in 32 patients, with only two patients taking both types of hormones. The average age of starting puberty suppression was 12.5 years, and treatment with cross-gender hormones began at an average age of 16.5 years. Two female-to-male patients had breasts surgically removed at ages 16 and 18 years, she reported. Several other patients wished to get

⁶⁴ What does the scholarly research say about the effect of gender transition on transgender well-being? (2020, January 24). Retrieved from <https://whatwewknow.inequality.cornell.edu/topics/lgbt-equality/what-does-the-scholarly-research-say-about-the-well-being-of-transgender-people/>

⁶⁵ Murad, M. H., Elamin, M. B., Garcia, M. Z., Mullan, R. J., Murad, A., Erwin, P. J., & Montori, V. M. (2009, May 16). Hormonal therapy and sex reassignment: A systematic review and meta-analysis of quality of life and psychosocial outcomes. Retrieved from <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19473181/>

⁶⁶ Vries, A., McGuire, J., Steensma, T., Wagenaar, E., Doreleijers, T., & Cohen-Kettenis, P. (2014, October 01). Young Adult Psychological Outcome After Puberty Suppression and Gender Reassignment. Retrieved from <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/134/4/696>

⁶⁷ Durwood, L., McLaughlin, K., & Olson, K. (2017, February). Mental Health and Self-Worth in Socially Transitioned Transgender Youth. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5302003/>

⁶⁸ San Diego Clinic Finds High Need for Treatment of Transgender Youth. (2015, March 7). Retrieved from <https://www.endocrine.org/news-and-advocacy/news-room/2015/san-diego-clinic-finds-high-need-for-treatment-of-transgender-youth>

this type of surgery, but their insurance plans did not cover it or they could not find an experienced surgeon locally. “To date, none of the patients expressed regret or stopped therapy,” Marinkovic stated. Mental health follow-up data were available for 22 out of 26 patients. With treatment, depression, anxiety and/or self-cutting improved in all but two of these patients.”

Sport and Transgender People: A Systematic Review of the Literature Relating to Sport Participation and Competitive Sport Policies⁶⁹

- “In relation to sport-related physical activity, this review found the lack of inclusive and comfortable environments to be the primary barrier to participation for transgender people. This review also found transgender people had a mostly negative experience in competitive sports because of the restrictions the sport’s policy placed on them. The majority of transgender competitive sport policies that were reviewed were not evidence based.”
- “Currently, there is no direct or consistent research suggesting transgender female individuals (or male individuals) have an athletic advantage at any stage of their transition (e.g. cross-sex hormones, gender-confirming surgery) and, therefore, competitive sport policies that place restrictions on transgender people need to be considered and potentially revised.”

Sex Trafficking

Sex Trafficking and LGBTQ Youth⁷⁰

- “Traffickers frequently target individuals who lack strong support networks, are facing financial strains, have experienced violence in the past, or who are marginalized by society. Without adequate community support, youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning (LGBTQ) may be at particular risk for sex trafficking.”
- “Up to 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. Of these:
 - 46%** ran away because of family rejection²
 - 7.4x** more likely to experience acts of sexual violence than their heterosexual peers
 - 3-7x** more likely to engage in survival sex to meet basic needs,⁴ such as shelter, food, drugs, and toiletries”
- “LGBTQ youth face higher rates of discrimination, violence, and economic instability than their non-LGBTQ peers. When faced with fewer resources, employment opportunities, or social supports, LGBTQ youth who are away from home must find ways to meet their basic needs and may therefore enter the street economy, engaging in commercial sex to meet these needs.”

⁶⁹ Jones, B., Arcelus, J., Bouman, W., & Haycraft, E. (2017, April). Sport and Transgender People: A Systematic Review of the Literature Relating to Sport Participation and Competitive Sport Policies. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5357259/>

⁷⁰ Sex Trafficking and LGBTQ Youth. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/LGBTQ-Sex-Trafficking.pdf>

The Environment and Climate Change

It's the end of the world as we know it and why you shouldn't feel fine

Humans are causing Climate Change

The Causes of Climate Change⁷¹

- “Over the last century the burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil has increased the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂). This happens because the coal or oil burning process combines carbon with oxygen in the air to make CO₂. To a lesser extent, the clearing of land for agriculture, industry, and other human activities has increased concentrations of greenhouse gases.”
- “In its Fifth Assessment Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a group of 1,300 independent scientific experts from countries all over the world under the auspices of the United Nations, concluded there's a more than 95 percent probability that human activities over the past 50 years have warmed our planet.”

Impacts

The climate crisis, migration, and refugees⁷²

- “In 2018, the World Bank estimated that three regions (Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, and Southeast Asia) will generate 143 million more climate migrants by 2050. In 2017, 68.5 million people were forcibly displaced, more than at any point in human history. While it is difficult to estimate, approximately one-third of these (22.5 million to 24 million people) were forced to move by “sudden onset” weather events—flooding, forest fires after droughts, and intensified storms.”

Climate Impacts on Agriculture and Food Supply⁷³

- “Changes in the frequency and severity of droughts and floods could pose challenges for farmers and ranchers and threaten food safety. Meanwhile, warmer water temperatures are likely to cause the habitat ranges of many fish and shellfish species to shift, which could disrupt ecosystems. Overall, climate change could make it more difficult to grow crops, raise animals, and catch fish in the same ways and same places as we have done in the past.”
- “... if temperature exceeds a crop's optimal level, if sufficient water and nutrients are not available, yield increases may be reduced or reversed. Elevated CO₂ has been associated with reduced protein and nitrogen content in alfalfa and soybean plants, resulting in a loss of quality. Reduced grain and forage quality can reduce the ability of pasture and rangeland to support grazing livestock.”

Extreme weather gets a boost from climate change⁷⁴

- “With temperature records being smashed month after month, year after year, it's likely that human-caused global warming is making extreme heat events more frequent. Higher temperatures also boost evaporation, which dries out the soil in summer — intensifying drought over many areas.”
- “As more evaporation leads to more moisture in the atmosphere, rainfall intensifies. For example, we now know that the rainfall from Hurricane Harvey was 15 percent more intense and three times as likely to

⁷¹ The Causes of Climate Change. (2020, November 10). Retrieved from <https://climate.nasa.gov/causes/>

⁷² Podesta, J. (2019, September 04). The climate crisis, migration, and refugees. Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-climate-crisis-migration-and-refugees/>

⁷³ Climate Impacts on Agriculture and Food Supply. (2016, October 06). Retrieved from https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/climate-impacts/climate-impacts-agriculture-and-food-supply_.html

⁷⁴ (haha nice) Extreme weather gets a boost from climate change. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.edf.org/climate/climate-change-and-extreme-weather>

occur due to human-induced climate change. We expect to see a higher frequency of Category 4 and 5 storms, also, as temperatures continue to rise.”

Cost to Manage

Fact Sheet - Jobs in Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Resilience (2019)⁷⁵

- “According to USEER, jobs in electrical power generation, which includes both renewable and nonrenewable energy sources, declined nearly one percent in 2018. In this sector, USEER reports solar power supporting 242,343 jobs, coal supporting 86,202 jobs, and natural gas supporting 43,526 jobs. Renewable energy firms surveyed for the USEER report highlight that a substantial barrier to increasing employment is finding skilled labor to fill positions.”

THE COST OF DELAYING ACTION TO STEM CLIMATE CHANGE⁷⁶

- “First, although delaying action can reduce costs in the short run, on net, delaying action to limit the effects of climate change is costly. Because CO2 accumulates in the atmosphere, delaying action increases CO2 concentrations.”
- “Second, climate policy can be thought of as “climate insurance” taken out against the most severe and irreversible potential consequences of climate change. Events such as the rapid melting of ice sheets and the consequent increase of global sea levels, or temperature increases on the higher end of the range of scientific uncertainty, could pose such severe economic consequences as reasonably to be thought of as climate catastrophes.”

⁷⁵ Fact Sheet - Jobs in Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Resilience (2019). (2019, July 23). Retrieved from <https://www.google.com/search?client=safari%2CFact+Sheet+-+Jobs+in+Renewable+Energy%2C+Energy+Efficiency%2C+and+Resilience+%282019%29>

⁷⁶ THE COST OF DELAYING ACTION TO STEM CLIMATE CHANGE. (2014, July). Retrieved from https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/stock/files/cost_of_delaying_action.pdf

Immigration

Wages

Immigration and the American Worker A Review of the Academic Literature⁷⁷

- “Although immigration makes the aggregate economy larger, the actual net benefit accruing to natives is small, equal to an estimated two-tenths of 1 percent of GDP. There is little evidence indicating that immigration (legal and/or illegal) creates large net gains for native-born Americans.”
- “Some groups of workers face a great deal of competition from immigrants. These workers are primarily, but by no means exclusively, at the bottom end of the skill distribution, doing low wage jobs that require modest levels of education. Such workers make up a significant share of the nation’s working poor. The biggest winners from immigration are owners of businesses that employ a lot of immigrant labor and other users of immigrant labor.”

RETHINKING THE EFFECTS OF IMMIGRATION ON WAGES⁷⁸

- “... negative result obtaining a 4.2% loss in real wages for high school dropouts when we impose perfect substitutability between U.S.- and foreign-born workers. Our preferred estimates, however, shown in column 2 of Table 7, report only a small negative effect (-1.1%) on wages of native dropouts. Overall our results show in the long run a significant positive effect of immigration on average U.S. wages, and on each group of workers with at least a high school degree, and only a small negative effect on wages of workers without a high school degree.”
- “... the group whose wages are hurt most by immigration are foreignborn workers, i.e., previous immigrants. On average they lost 19% of their real wages while some groups (i.e., college graduates) lost up to 24% of their wage.”

Does Immigration Reduce Wages?⁷⁹

- “Immigration has a very small effect on the average wages of native workers. There is little evidence of immigration lowering the wages of less educated native workers. In the long term, immigration, especially of high-skilled workers, increases innovation and the skill mix, with potentially positive productivity effects. In many countries, the share of graduate workers is higher for immigrants than for native workers. Firms have absorbed immigrants by adopting appropriate technologies, expanding production, and moving native workers into more communication-intensive jobs.”
- “There is some evidence of a negative effect of newly settled immigrants on the wages of earlier immigrants. The positive wage effects of immigration are weaker in countries with rigid labor markets, which may even experience some negative employment effects. In some southern European countries, immigrants have been more concentrated among less educated workers.”

Crime

Immigration and Crime: Assessing a Contentious Issues⁸⁰

⁷⁷ Borjas, G. (2013, April). Immigration and the American Worker: A Review of the Academic Literature. Retrieved from <https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/gborjas/files/cis2013.pdf>

⁷⁸ Ottaviano, G. I., & Peri, G. (2006, August). RETHINKING THE EFFECTS OF IMMIGRATION ON WAGES. Retrieved from https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w12497/w12497.pdf

⁷⁹ De Brauw, A. (2017, September 18). Does Immigration Reduce Wages? Retrieved from <https://www.cato.org/cato-journal/fall-2017/does-immigration-reduce-wages>

⁸⁰ Ousey, G. C., & Kubrin, C. E. (2018, January). Immigration and Crime: Assessing a Contentious Issue. Retrieved from <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/full/10.1146/annurev-criminol-032317-092026>

- “Overall, our narrative review reveals that the most common outcome reported in prior studies is a null or nonsignificant association between immigration and crime. Indeed, sixty-two percent of effect-size estimates reported in our sample are not statistically significant at the 0.05 level.”
- “... it is noteworthy that the majority of the statistically significant results are negative, suggesting that greater immigration is associated with lower crime rates. In fact, our review indicates that significant negative effects are 2.5 times as common as significant positive effects.”

New Research on Illegal Immigration and Crime⁸¹

- “In 2018, the illegal immigrant criminal conviction rate was 782 per 100,000 illegal immigrants, 535 per 100,000 legal immigrants, and 1,422 per 100,000 native-born Americans. The illegal immigrant criminal conviction rate was 45 percent below that of native-born Americans in Texas.”
- “Since Texas is the only state that records and keeps the immigration statuses of those arrested, we can’t make a direct apples-to-apples comparison between Texas and other states (every state should record and keep this information so we can answer this important question). It could be that illegal immigrants in Texas are the most law-abiding illegal immigrant population in the country – or the *least* law-abiding.”

Extending Immigration and Crime Studies: National Implications and Local Settings⁸²

- “Contrary to stereotypes, however, immigration is negatively associated with total homicides and drug homicides. For example, the number of homicides and drug-related homicides were lower in Miami neighborhoods with increased levels of immigration.”
- “A similar pattern is apparent in the examination of race/ethnic-specific homicides in panel B. The effect of the immigration concentration index was negative, meaning that higher levels of immigration predicted lower levels of Latino homicides in general and non-Latino white homicide victims to a lesser extent. Again, levels of Latino homicides (and white homicides) were significantly lower in communities with more immigrants—including those in which the Mariel Cubans resided.”

⁸¹ Nowrasteh, A. (2020, November 11). New Research on Illegal Immigration and Crime. Retrieved from <https://www.cato.org/blog/new-research-illegal-immigration-crime-0>

⁸² Stowell, J. I., & Martinez, R. (2012, March 30). Extending Immigration and Crime Studies: National Implications and Local Settings - Ramiro Martinez, Jacob I. Stowell, 2012. Retrieved from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0002716212437363>

Drug War

The drug war is one of the single greatest policy failures in United States history. It has failed to decrease drug usage, increased violent crime, failed to recognize addiction as a disease, and disproportionately impact communities of color (which it was designed to do, funnily enough). The cost to criminalize drugs is insane, and any reasonable person would agree that some drugs, like LSD, should not be criminalized to the extent they are.

Addiction is a Disease? Really?

Neurobiologic Advances from the Brain Disease Model of Addiction⁸³

- “In the past two decades, research has increasingly supported the view that addiction is a disease of the brain. Although the brain disease model of addiction has yielded effective preventive measures, treatment interventions, and public health policies to address substance-use disorders, the underlying concept of substance abuse as a brain disease continues to be questioned, perhaps because the aberrant, impulsive, and compulsive behaviors that are characteristic of addiction have not been clearly tied to neurobiology.”
- “Many genetic, environmental, and social factors contribute to the determination of a person’s unique susceptibility to using drugs initially, sustaining drug use, and undergoing the progressive changes in the brain that characterize addiction. Factors that increase vulnerability to addiction include family history (presumably through heritability and child-rearing practices), early exposure to drug use (adolescence is among the periods of greatest vulnerability to addiction), exposure to high-risk environments (typically, socially stressful environments with poor familial and social supports and restricted behavioral alternatives and environments in which there is easy access to drugs and permissive normative attitudes toward drug taking), and certain mental illnesses (e.g., mood disorders, attention deficit–hyperactivity disorder, psychoses, and anxiety disorders).”

Addictive Disorders⁸⁴

- “Addictive disorders, such as substance abuse and dependence, are common disorders that involve the overuse of alcohol and/or drugs. Addiction develops over time and is a chronic and relapsing illness.”
- “From a neurological standpoint, addictive disorders arise when a substance changes the way the user’s brain feels pleasure. Addictive substances alter the brain’s ability to send and receive chemicals called neurotransmitters, which cause pleasure. The addictive substances can prevent nerves in the brain (called neurons) from receiving these neurotransmitters, meaning the drug user relies on the drug, rather than his or her natural brain chemicals, for feelings of pleasure.”

Is addiction a “brain disease”?⁸⁵

- “The stigma and shame of addiction has much to do with the perception that people with substance use disorders are weak, immoral, or simply out for a good time at society’s expense. Understanding that addiction impairs the brain in many important ways may reduce such stigma. What’s more, the specific type of brain dysfunction may help identify a range of effective interventions and preventions.”
- “An addicted person’s impaired ability to stop using drugs or alcohol has to do with deficits in the function of the prefrontal cortex — the part of the brain involved in executive function. The prefrontal cortex has several important jobs: self-monitoring, delaying reward, and integrating whatever the intellect tells you is important with what the libido is telling you. The difficulty also has to do with how the brain, when deprived of the drugs to which it is accustomed, reacts to stress.”

⁸³ Volkow, N. D., Koob, G. F., & McLellan, A. (2020, November 24). Neurobiologic Advances from the Brain Disease Model of Addiction: NEJM. Retrieved from <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmra1511480>

⁸⁴ Addictive disorders. (2020, August 14). Retrieved from <https://www.northwell.edu/behavioral-health/conditions/addictive-disorders>

⁸⁵ Bierer, M. (2020, June 23). Is addiction a “brain disease”? Retrieved from <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/is-addiction-a-brain-disease-201603119260>

- “At the same time, to say that substance use disorders are “all biology” is an oversimplification. Clearly, there are people on the mild end of the spectrum who have the ability to choose to stop or cut back. For these people, when the rewards of not using outweigh those of using, they stop. Some people with a pattern of unhealthy drug or alcohol use that meets criteria for a diagnosis of substance use disorder may also “mature” out of it without formal treatment. However, the more severe the diagnosis (in other words, the more diagnostic criteria that are met), the less likely this is to happen.”

Decriminalization vs. Criminalization

What Can We Learn From The Portuguese Decriminalization of Illicit Drugs?⁸⁶

- “It demonstrates that—contrary to some predictions—decriminalization does not inevitably lead to rises in drug use. It can reduce the burden upon the criminal justice system. It can further contribute to social and health benefits. Moreover, such effects can be observed when decriminalizing all illicit drugs. This is important, as decriminalization is commonly restricted to cannabis alone.”
- “The effects of the Portuguese reforms appeared much less positive during the early years, when implementation was more problematic. Some difficulties were an inevitable side effect of adopting a new reform. Others were less controllable. These difficulties make it harder to compare impacts at a given time against the potential future impacts of decriminalization.”
- “In the Portuguese case, the statistical indicators and key informant interviews that we have reviewed suggest that since decriminalization in July 2001, the following changes have occurred: small increases in reported illicit drug use amongst adults; reduced illicit drug use among problematic drug users and adolescents, at least since 2003; reduced burden of drug offenders on the criminal justice system; increased uptake of drug treatment; reduction in opiate-related deaths and infectious diseases; increases in the amounts of drugs seized by the authorities;”

Drug Prohibition and Violence⁸⁷

- “These data are consistent with the hypothesis that drug prohibition generates violence. Most notably, homicide rates are high especially in Caribbean and Latin American countries, many of which are key producers of, or transit points for, illegal drugs. In many of those nations, powerful gangs and cartels are directly responsible for high rates of violence, but prohibited drug trafficking is more often than not the underlying force that motivates their killing.”
- “Goldstein and colleagues, using police reports and police evaluations, examined the causes of all homicides in a sample of New York City precincts during part of the year 1988.³⁰ They determined that more than half of the homicides were due to drug-related factors, but of these, almost three quarters were due to “systemic” factors, meaning disputes over drug territory, drug debts, and other drug-trade related issues.”
- “The implication of these findings is that societies can both save criminal justice resources and reduce violence by devoting less effort to enforcing prohibition. In many countries, the amount of resources involved is substantial. The U.S., for example, expends roughly \$50 billion per year on drug-prohibition enforcement.”
- “Governments should legalize the currently illegal drugs. This applies especially at the federal level, since the combination of state legalization with federal prohibition generates several conflicts and ambiguities. Nonetheless, state-level legalizations, and/or those for only some drugs, are also likely to diminish violence. Where full legalization of all drugs is not yet politically feasible, governments should scale back enforcement and liberalize their drug laws, via partial measures like decriminalization or medicalization of marijuana.”

⁸⁶ Hughes, C. E., & Stevens, A. (n.d.). What Can We Learn From The Portuguese Decriminalization of Illicit Drugs? Retrieved July 21, 2020, from <https://academic.oup.com/bjc/article/50/6/999/404023>

⁸⁷ Miron, J. A. (n.d.). Drug Prohibition and Violence. Retrieved from https://law.asu.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/academy_for_justice/6_Reforming-Criminal-Justice_Vol_1_Drug-Prohibition-and-Violence.pdf

The Police and Crime

There are a few fundamental arguments I have about the police. First is that, while they may decrease immediate crime, they are extremely inefficient in doing so, and are only a band aid over a larger systemic problem. Social investment is a better way to prevent the factors that lead to crime, preventing it altogether, instead of police, who only react to crime. I would rather address the root cause of crime than deal with crime itself.

Second is that the police exist to maintain a status quo, and that means attacking protestors. They have done this throughout US history, it's just what they do.

Finally, springboarding from the previous point, the police are inherently violent as an institution. I won't cover racial bias, that has another section in this document, but I will cover statistics about police violence.

The Police Waste, Like, A Lot of Money

Annual Claims Report⁸⁸

- “NYPD tort claim settlement and judgment payouts declined from \$237.4 million in FY 2018 to \$220.1 million in FY 2019, a seven percent decrease. NYPD tort claims accounted for 36 percent of the total overall cost of resolved tort claims in FY 2019.”

PDI (Police Data Initiative) Police Calls for Service (CAD)⁸⁹

This covers police calls for service in Cincinnati, considerable amount of calls are for situations like mental health and car accidents or times where someone like a social worker is better equipped to handle a call (addiction, domestic abuse).

The N.Y.P.D. Spends \$6 Billion a Year. Proposals to Defund It Want to Cut \$1 Billion.⁹⁰

- “In its 2019 fiscal year, the Police Department spent nearly \$6 billion, which amounted to about 6 percent of the city’s \$95 billion total spending.”
- “Nearly 90 percent of the department’s spending went toward **paying personnel**, including salaries, overtime and other benefits like shift differentials for more than 36,000 uniformed and 15,000 civilian positions.”
- The argument made is that this is too many officers, and the ROI for funding this many officers isn’t worth it

Social Investment is Better

Do More Police Lead to More Crime Deterrence?⁹¹

- “At this point, however, the evidence indicates that police manpower levels do not affect crime rates by affecting perceptions of the risk of arrest and punishment.”
- “Although prospective offenders’ decisions whether to commit crime may well be influenced by their perceptions of the risk of arrest, these perceptions are not affected by the number of police officers operating in their area, nor are they affected by the actual arrest rates that these officers produce.”

⁸⁸ Annual Claims Report. (2020, June 12). Retrieved from <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/annual-claims-report/>

⁸⁹ PDI (Police Data Initiative) Police Calls for Service (CAD). (2020, December 8). Retrieved from <https://data.cincinnati-oh.gov/Safety/PDI-Police-Data-Initiative-Police-Calls-for-Service/gexm-h6bt>

⁹⁰ Koeze, E., & Lu, D. (2020, June 20). The N.Y.P.D. Spends \$6 Billion a Year. Proposals to Defund It Want to Cut \$1 Billion. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/06/20/nyregion/defund-police-nypd-budget.html>

⁹¹ Kleck, G., & Barnes, J. (2014). Do More Police Lead to More Crime Deterrence? Retrieved from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0011128710382263>

Substance Abuse Treatment Centers and Local Crime⁹²

- “In conjunction with social-cost-of-crime estimates from McCollister, French, and Fang (2010), our estimates indicate that an additional SAT facility in a county reduces municipal crime costs by 0.14 percent annually, which corresponds to approximately \$700,000 per municipality.”
- “In total, these cost calculations suggest that the county-level benefits of an additional facility—in terms of drug-related mortality and criminal activity—are between 8.4 and 9 million dollars.”

Chapter 9 - Education and crime⁹³

- “First, school-based policies can yield sizable social benefits from crime reduction. Lochner and Moretti (2004) calculate that the social savings of a one percentage point increase in male US high school graduation rates (from reduced crime alone) in 1990 would have amounted to more than \$2 billion.”
- “Second, policies that encourage high school completion seem to be most promising in terms of their impacts on crime. Crime rates are already quite low among high school graduates, so policies that encourage post-secondary attendance or completion are likely to yield much smaller social benefits from crime reduction.”
- “Third, policies designed to encourage schooling among more crime-prone groups are likely to produce the greatest benefits from crime reduction.”
- “Fourth, education policies can reduce both property and violent crime. In both the US and Sweden, the estimated effects of educational attainment or school enrollment on property and violent offenses are similar in percentage terms”
- “Fifth, the effects of education on crime for men can be largely explained by improvements in wages and labor market opportunities; however, this is not the case for women.”

Police are like... Really Violent? And Not Accountable?

Using Tear Gas is Illegal Under the Geneva Convention, but Police do it Anyway⁹⁴

- Tear gas is a chemical weapon, and using it in war constitutes a war crime. Which is why when the US ratified the Geneva Convention in 1974, under the Ford Administration, the United States reserved the right to use tear gas on its own citizens.

Militarization fails to enhance police safety or reduce crime but may harm police reputation⁹⁵

- “Aggressive policing strategies have historically been disproportionately applied to citizens of color in ways that serve to preserve race- and class-based social hierarchies. The normalization of militarized policing in the United States has raised concerns that a new, heavy-handed policing strategy is being used in similar ways and is eroding public opinion toward law enforcement, but law enforcement administrators defend the tactics claiming they can deter violent crime and protect police.”
- “... militarized police units are more often deployed in areas with high concentrations of African Americans, even after adjusting for local crime rates and other community traits. But I find no firm evidence that SWAT teams lower an agency’s violent crime rate or the rates at which officers are killed or assaulted.”

⁹² Bondurant, S. R., Lindo, J. M., & Swensen, I. D. (2016, September). Substance Abuse Treatment Centers and Local Crime. Retrieved from https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w22610/w22610.pdf

⁹³ Lochner, L. (2020, January 17). Education and crime. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B9780128153918000094>

⁹⁴ Geneva Protocol. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://2009-2017.state.gov/t/isn/4784.htm>

⁹⁵ Mummolo, J. (2018, September 11). Militarization fails to enhance police safety or reduce crime but may harm police reputation. Retrieved from <https://www.pnas.org/content/115/37/9181>

USA: THE WORLD IS WATCHING MASS VIOLATIONS BY U.S. POLICE OF BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTESTERS' RIGHTS⁹⁶

- This is just a massive report by Amnesty International on different human rights abuses the police have committed, largely in response to BLM. You'll just have to look through it, there's a lot here.

Code of Silence⁹⁷

- "The Christopher Commission, writing on the LAPD, found that "perhaps the greatest single barrier to the effective investigation and adjudication of complaints is the officers' unwritten 'code of silence'....[the principle that] an officer does not provide adverse information against a fellow officer." The commission concluded: [P]olice officers are given special powers, unique in our society, to use force, even deadly force, in the furtherance of their duties. Along with that power, however, must come the responsibility of loyalty first to the public the officers serve. That requires that the code of silence not be used as a shield to hide misconduct."
- "The New York police force is also notorious for its officers' silence when misconduct occurs. As the Mollen Commission noted: "The pervasiveness of the code of silence is itself alarming."¹²³ The commission found that the code of silence is strongest in the most crime-ridden and dangerous neighborhoods and is considered essential to prove loyalty to other officers in those areas of the city."
- "Repercussions for breaking the code of silence include ostracism, threats, and the fear that officers will not "back up" or protect an officer who breaks the code. In Officer Livoti's trial, for example, one officer's account differed in important ways from those of fellow officers who supported Livoti's claim that Baez had resisted arrest. After her testimony at Livoti's trial, she asked for an administrative assignment because she reportedly feared she would not get back-up in dangerous situations from fellow officers."

Rate of civilians killed by the police annually in selected countries, as of 2019⁹⁸

- "The rate of civilians killed by police in the United States is far higher than in comparable developed democratic countries, with 33.5 people killed by police per 10 million residents in 2019. This compares 9.8 deaths per 10 million residents in Canada, and 8.5 in Australia - perhaps the two most comparable countries to the United States in many respects."

⁹⁶ USA: THE WORLD IS WATCHING MASS VIOLATIONS BY U.S. POLICE OF BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTESTERS' RIGHTS. (2020, August 4). Retrieved from <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/2807/2020/en/>

⁹⁷ Code of Silence. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/reports98/police/uspo27.htm>

⁹⁸ S. (2020, November 26). Police killings: Rate in selected countries 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1124039/police-killings-rate-selected-countries/>

Electoral Reform

Okay, so America has what's called Single Member Plurality Districts. This means every district has 1 congressional representative, and in order to win the district, a candidate only needs to win more votes than the others.

Single Member Plurality/First Past the Post

Single Member Plurality⁹⁹

- This is just a super basic rundown of how single member plurality elections run, and an example of how, in this system, representation isn't always proportional to how many votes were cast.

The Spoiler Effect¹⁰⁰

- Let's say you have 3 candidates. Candidate A and 2 disagree on everything, but candidate B agrees mostly with candidate 2. If candidate 2 and B both run, they'll take votes from each other, lessening the chances of either candidate to win the race. If 49% vote A, 48% vote 2, and 3% vote B, that gives the election to A
- Think Jorgenson in 2020

Duverger's Law^{101 102}

- In single member districts (SMD) with plurality voting (just getting more votes than everyone else), two main political parties tend to form. In systems with proportional representation, other parties have a better chance of forming.
- Countries like the UK have FPP elections for Parliament, but they also have regional parties like the SNP, Plaid Cymru, and Sinn Féin. These parties tend to only have support in specific regions of the UK. They also have a Parliamentary system, which means coalitions are formed under 1 of 2 major parties.
- Basically, you consolidate all left leaning parties into the Democrats and all right leaning parties under Conservative because a third socialist party, for example, would take votes from Democrats and have no chance of winning when facing Dems and Reps for votes.
- There's disagreement about whether the law is deterministic or probabilistic, and there are variations of it that exist with caveats and additions. I can't tell you the best version, fuck you, do your own research.

Ranked Choice Voting

RCV^{103 104}

- Basically, you rank the candidates, if nobody wins a majority, the lowest ranked candidate is dropped and every voter that listed that losing candidate as first has their vote moved to their second choice. Repeat until someone gets a majority.

An Assessment of Ranked-Choice Voting in the San Francisco 2004 Election¹⁰⁵

- Most people (%) understood RCV, % ranked 3 candidates, and about that many said the preferred RCV to the runoff system.
- Some at risk communities don't use or understand RCV, and we need to keep an eye out to make sure everyone is represented. African Americans, immigrants and people who didn't learn English first, and people with lower education, among other groups. Proper outreach and education could resolve this issue.

⁹⁹ Plurality Systems: Single Member Plurality. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.sfu.ca/~aheard/101/SMP.html>

¹⁰⁰ The Spoiler Effect. (2020, May 12). Retrieved from <https://electionscience.org/library/the-spoiler-effect/>

¹⁰¹ Benoit, K. (2006). Duverger's Law and the Study of Electoral Systems. Retrieved from http://kenbenoit.net/pdfs/Benoit_FrenchPolitics_2006.pdf

¹⁰² Riker, W. H. (1982, December). The Two-Party System and Duverger's Law: An Essay on the History of Political Science. Retrieved from https://www.jstor.org/stable/1962968?seq=8#metadata_info_tab_contents

¹⁰³ Ranked-choice voting (RCV). (n.d.). Retrieved from [https://ballotpedia.org/Ranked-choice_voting_\(RCV\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Ranked-choice_voting_(RCV))

¹⁰⁴ Ranked Choice Voting / Instant Runoff. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.fairvote.org/rcv>

¹⁰⁵ An Assessment of Ranked-Choice Voting in the San Francisco 2004 Election. (2005, May). Retrieved from http://archive.fairvote.org/sfrcv/SFSU-PRI_RCV_final_report_June_30.pdf

Proportional Representation

Proportional Representation in Local Elections: A Review¹⁰⁶

- “Proportional representation awards seats in legislative bodies to parties in proportion to their strength in the electorate. If party A gets 35 percent of the vote, it gets 35 percent of the legislative seats; if party B gets 15 percent of the vote, it gets 15 percent of the seats, and so forth.”
- “STV plans allow voters to rank candidates in order of preference: first choice, second choice, and so forth. Limited voting grants voters fewer votes than seats at stake in a contest. Cumulative voting allows the voter as many votes as seats being contested, while granting the voter the right to concentrate several or all votes on a single candidate.”
- “Recent experience with cumulative voting arrangements in a small number of U.S. cities indicates that minorities do gain representation under these plans. Studies indicate that voters do understand these more complex election arrangements. No direct evidence, however, demonstrates that proportional representation increases voter turnout.”
- NOTE: One of the benefits of PR that this review doesn’t explore very much (instead focusing on minority representation and turnout) is the dissolution of the two party system, which is why I’m drawn to alternate voting systems

Voting Equilibria Under Proportional Representation¹⁰⁷

- “PR encourages representation of minority groups even when voters are strategic.”
- “while PR promotes representation of (possibly extreme) minority groups, the influence of such groups on policies will be limited by the majoritarian characteristic of policy making rules in the parliament. In my model, a party that is close to the center of the voter ideology distribution plays the decisive role in policy making.”

Israel's Flawed Electoral System: Obstacle to Peace and Democracy¹⁰⁸

- “The opportunity for many parties to participate in the Knesset offers wide representation to many segments of Israel’s politically and religiously diverse society. Yet, because the coalition-forming party is forced to align with many smaller parties that are ideologically or religiously extreme, political power is skewed towards these minority factions who skillfully use their position to make or break coalitions and impose their agendas.”
- “Another major problem with the Israeli system is that it discourages accountability. As historian Bernard Lewis notes, “a significant disadvantage of the present system is that there is no direct relationship between the elected members and the electors ... the member is only responsible to the party leadership or, worse still, to the party bureaucracy.””
- “The most important implication of Israel’s dysfunctional electoral system, though, is the instability of governing coalitions. Fragile coalitions of disparate parties lack the unity and durability needed to conduct coherent policy planning and sound governance. Only a single Knesset has lasted its entire four-year term; in just over 60 years, 32 governments have been in power.”

Mixed Member Proportional Representation

¹⁰⁶ Donovan, T., & Smith, H. (1994, December). PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN LOCAL ELECTIONS: A REVIEW. Retrieved from https://www.wsipp.wa.gov/ReportFile/1181/Wsipp_Proportional-Representation-in-Local-Elections-A-Review_Full-Report.pdf

¹⁰⁷ Cho, S. (2014, April 28). Voting Equilibria Under Proportional Representation: American Political Science Review. Retrieved from <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-political-science-review/article/voting-equilibria-under-proportional-representation/3032901815DCBD0E9D8176D1ECF2244D>

¹⁰⁸ Vaisi, R., Grinstead, N., Authors, V., & Rogenhofer, J. (2021, January 06). Israel's Flawed Electoral System: Obstacle to Peace and Democracy. Retrieved from <https://www.mei.edu/publications/israels-flawed-electoral-system-obstacle-peace-and-democracy>

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN PRACTICE An International Comparison of Ballots and Voting Rules¹⁰⁹

- “The advantages of MMP include: reducing wasted votes, providing more choices when voting, reducing the dominance of larger parties, helping smaller parties grow, and preserving the link between the MP and the electorate.”
- “MMP also allows the public to vote for both an individual candidate and the party of their choice. As a result, this system often reduces the dominance of one or two larger parties in the legislature. Unlike the closed party list system, MMP retains the link between the electorate and the MP. However, in cases where smaller parties have a better chance of electoral victory, some of those parties can be extremist—either on the left or on the right.”

Political knowledge about electoral rules: Comparing mixed member proportional systems in Germany and New Zealand¹¹⁰

- “In East Germany, understanding of the system was low prior to the 1990 federal elections. Yet in 1994, understanding increased among those in the former “German Democratic Republic” to levels comparable to the west. Nevertheless, a substantial portion of the electorate does not appear to fully understand the system. Results from focus groups reveal that the rules governing MMP systems can be complex and difficult to understand.”
- “Although some may not fully understand the system, there is no evidence to suggest that misunderstanding of the primacy of the party list vote affects voting behavior. Most voters cast their party list vote in ways that are consistent with their preferences. Those who appear not to be consistent are likely responding in a rational way to the strategic environment. Moreover, those casting split votes are unlikely to be confused.”

¹⁰⁹ Miljan, L., & Alchin, G. (2018). PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN PRACTICE An International Comparison of Ballots and Voting Rules. Retrieved from <https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/proportional-representation-in-practice.pdf>

¹¹⁰ Karp, J. (2006, January 10). Political knowledge about electoral rules: Comparing mixed member proportional systems in Germany and New Zealand. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0261379405001022#sec6>

Logical Fallacies

1. Slippery Slope

The issue with a slippery slope is claiming one thing will lead to another with no evidence.

Example

“If we legalize gay marriage, we’ll end up with pedophilia being legalized!”

2. Hasty Generalization/Overgeneralization

This is when you make a generalized claim from insufficient evidence.

Example

“Did you see that Mr. Robinson slept with a 15 year old male student? I guess all gay men are pedophiles.”

3. Post hoc ergo propter hoc

Claiming that, because A happened before B, A caused B

Example

“Since many heroin addicts used marijuana first, marijuana is a gateway drug.”

4. Genetic Fallacy

Attacking something based on its origin rather than current context.

Example

“Communism was used by the Soviet Union, and they were evil, so Communism must be evil.”

5. Begging the Claim/Circular Argument

When the premises assume the truth of the conclusion instead of the arguments.

Example

“Because it says in the Bible that all scripture is divinely inspired, the Bible must be divinely inspired.”

6. Either/or, False Dilemma

When you are given an either/or situation that doesn’t exist.

Example

“You’re either in favor of going to war or against our troops/anti-American, etc.”

7. Ad hominem

Attacking a person instead of the ideas they hold

Example

“I don’t think Hillary Clinton could be president, what if she has her period during a national emergency?”

8. Ad populum/Bandwagon Appeal

Claiming that, because the public generally believes something, it must be true,

Example

“A majority of Americans support increasing funding to the police, so that must be the best policy.”

9. Red Herring

Diverting attention away from the topic to a tangentially related topic.

Example

“You think you’ve got it bad, kids in Africa are starving.”

10. Straw Man

Arguing against a weakened caricature of a belief that your opponent holds instead of their actual belief.

Example

“All Communists really just want an anti-Democratic state to control everything.”

11. Moral Equivalence

Equating two unequal moral issues.

Example

“Factory farming today is no different than slavery was before the Civil War.”

12. Appeal to Authority

When someone uses the credentials of someone where they have no expertise.

Example

“Dr. Hoolooovoo, an astrophysicist, says that Coronavirus isn’t that big of an issue.”

13. Slothful Induction

When, despite the evidence leading to an inductive conclusion, that conclusion is denied.

Example

“All of the polls have Biden winning by a lot, but Trump claims he’s performing better than the polls say.”

14. Anecdotal Evidence

Anecdotal evidence is when you use an anecdote in lieu of real evidence.

Example

“I’ve never seen a cop hurt someone, so cops can’t be as bad as you say.”

15. Texas Sharpshooter

This is when differences in data are ignored, but similarities are over emphasized,

Example

“Because the wealthiest countries are capitalist, it must be the best way to maximize human wealth.”

16. Middle Ground

Arguing that the truth is always in the middle.

Example

“Some scientists say climate change is real, others don’t. It’s probably somewhere in between.”

17. Personal Incredulity

Arguing that one doesn’t understand how a claim could be true, so it must be false.

Example

“I don’t see how the Jewish Question is false, so it must be true.”

18. "No True Scotsman"

An argument in some form of purity.

Example

“If you have a problem figuring out whether you’re for me or Trump, then you ain’t black”

19. Appeal to Tradition

Claiming that, because X has always been done, it must continue to be done.

Example

“Gay marriage has always been illegal in America, why should that change now?”

20. Appeal to Nature

Making a value statement based on if it’s ‘natural.’

Example

“Humans fall in love to reproduce, so anything but heterosexual love is unnatural.”