

**Workshop on Strengthening the Evidence Base to Improve  
Economic and Social Mobility in the United States  
February 14-15, 2022**

Inequalities in income, wealth, health, and life expectancies have been increasing over the last several decades in the United States. Since around 1980, fewer Americans than before are doing better than their parents had – that is, more are experiencing downward socioeconomic mobility in terms of occupational status and income. A number of efforts are currently underway to develop evidence-based strategies for increasing inter- and intra-generational mobility and improving economic and social well-being in the United States. These efforts require an improved understanding of the factors that influence social and economic mobility, the mechanisms through which these factors operate, and how these relationships and mechanisms vary across and within different population subgroups. The purpose of this workshop is to identify key research and data needs and priorities for future work on social and economic mobility. After the workshop, the National Academies Press will publish a rapporteur-prepared proceedings volume that summarizes the workshop presentations and discussions.

Support for this workshop is provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

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**DAY 1: Monday, February 14, 2022**

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**11:00 – 11:20 am ET**

**Welcome and Goals for Workshop**

- *Malay Majumdar*, Director, Committee on Population
- *Kosar Jahani*, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- *Courtney Coile*, Wellesley College  
(Chair, Workshop Steering Committee)

**11:20 am – 12:50 pm ET**

**Social and Economic Mobility: State of the Field**

11:20 – 11:35 am

Setting the stage; introduction to social and economic mobility

- *Deirdre Bloome*, Harvard University

11:35 – 11:50 am

Key findings from sociology and future directions in mobility research

- *David Grusky*, Stanford University

11:50 am – 12:05 pm

Key findings from economics and future directions in mobility research

- *Joseph Ferrie*, Northwestern University

12:05 – 12:15 pm

Moderator/discussant questions and reflections

- *Courtney Coile*, Wellesley College

12:15 – 12:50 pm

General Discussion

**12:50 – 1:10 pm ET**

**BREAK**

**1:10 – 3:00 pm ET**

**Conceptual Approaches and Frameworks for Studying Mobility**

1:10 – 1:25 pm

Causal inference and mobility

- *Jennie Brand*, University of California, Los Angeles

1:25 – 1:40 pm

Exploring the relationship/reducing the disconnect between studying inter-generational and intra-generational mobility

- *Xi Song*, University of Pennsylvania

1:40 – 1:55 pm

Interventions to increase mobility: conceptual issues

- *Greg Duncan*, University of California Irvine

1:55 – 2:10 pm

The potential of qualitative and ethnographic research

- *Mario Luis Small*, Columbia University

2:10 – 2:20 pm

Moderator/discussant questions and reflections

- *Fabian Pfeffer*, University of Michigan  
(Member, Workshop Steering Committee)

2:20 – 3:00 pm

General Discussion

**3:00 – 3:20 pm ET**

**BREAK**

**3:20 – 5:00 pm ET**

**Research Priorities and Data Needs for Studying the Spatial Dimensions of Mobility**

3:20 – 3:35 pm

Research priorities for place-based investments

- *Matthew Staiger*, Harvard University,  
Opportunity Insights

3:35 – 3:50 pm

Challenges and opportunities for studying mobility in urban areas

- *Patrick Sharkey*, Princeton University

3:50 – 4:05 pm

Challenges and opportunities for studying mobility in rural areas

- *Daniel Lichter*, Cornell University

4:05 – 4:10 pm

Moderator/discussant questions and reflections

- *Mario Luis Small*, Columbia University  
(Member, Workshop Steering Committee)

4:10 – 5:00 pm

General Discussion

**5:00 pm ET**

**Adjournment**

## DAY 2: Tuesday, February 15, 2022

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### 11:00 am – 1:00 pm ET

#### Research Priorities and Data Needs for Studying Mobility by Race/Ethnicity and Immigration Status

11:00 – 11:15 am

Challenges and opportunities for studying mobility by race/ethnicity

- *William (“Sandy”) Darity*, Duke University

11:15 – 11:30 pm

New multilevel data and measures of structural racism/institutional discrimination

- *Tyson Brown*, Duke University

11:30 am – 11:40 pm

Moderator/discussant questions and reflections

- *Trevon Logan*, Ohio State University  
(Member, Workshop Steering Committee)

11:40 – 11:55 am

Challenges and opportunities for understanding mobility and the immigrant experience

- *Tomás Jimenez*, Stanford University

11:55 am – 12:10 pm

Challenges and opportunities for understanding mobility among Asian Americans

- *Jennifer Lee*, Columbia University

12:10 – 12:20 pm

Moderator/discussant questions and reflections

- *Kathleen Mullan Harris*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
(Member, Workshop Steering Committee)

12:20 – 1:00 pm

General Discussion

### 1:00 – 1:20 pm ET

#### BREAK

### 1:20 – 2:00 pm ET

#### Policy, Poverty, and Upward Mobility

1:20 – 1:35 pm

“Fireside Chat” between

- ❖ *Robert Greenstein*, Brookings Institution
- ❖ *Wendy Edelberg*, Brookings Institution (Member, Workshop Steering Committee)

1:35 – 2:00

General Discussion

**2:00 – 3:50 pm ET****Data Infrastructure for Studying Mobility**

2:00 – 2:15 pm

The use of administrative data to study mobility

- *Katie Genadek*, U.S. Census Bureau

2:15 – 2:30 pm

Challenges and opportunities regarding data governance

- *Katharine Abraham*, University of Maryland, College Park

2:30 – 2:45 pm

The use of non-traditional data sources (school district data/student data) to study mobility

- *Daniel Botting*, Impact Tulsa

2:45 – 3:00 pm

The use of non-traditional data sources (household financial data) to study mobility

- *Fiona Greig*, JPMorgan Chase Institute

3:00 – 3:10 pm

Moderator/discussant questions and reflections

- *C. Matthew Snipp*, Stanford University  
(Member, Workshop Steering Committee)

3:10 – 3:50 pm

General Discussion

**3:50 – 4:10 pm ET****BREAK****4:10 – 5:00 pm ET****Key themes and next steps to move the field forward****5:00 pm ET****Adjournment**