

Sociodemography

Syllabus (Spring semester 2024)

Last update: January 11, 2024

*****Changes in the syllabus might take place*****

Instructor

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Office hours: By appointment only (meetings can be arranged for an in-person session before class Fridays at 9 am, or online at a mutually convenient time)

Class time and location

Fridays from 9:30 to 12:30

Room 18.1.A01

The course will last from 2 February to 26 April, 2024, unless rescheduling is needed.

Course Description

This course examines the influence of demographic factors, such as race, gender, and ethnicity, on issues including health, education, employment, and family dynamics. It aims to understand how social and demographic variables interact and shape individual and group behaviors, as well as broader societal trends. Special attention will be paid to the causes and effects of discrimination.

This interactive course combines lectures by the instructor with student-run sessions. It is structured as a 3-hour seminar, divided into two parts (the length of each part will vary according to the specific requirements of each session). In the first part, the instructor will introduce the topic. This will be followed by a student presentation or presentations of a paper, and a student-led debate on a topic or topics chosen for discussion, which may include theoretical and methodological aspects. In each session, one or two students will be responsible for critically presenting the required texts for debate and leading the discussion based on prepared questions.

At the course's conclusion, students responsible for the debate must submit a critical synthesis of the papers and a briefing of the discussions that took place in class.

Grading

The course will run from 2 February to 26 April 2024, unless rescheduling is necessary. Students' grades will be primarily based on their active participation in class, including presentations and discussions, which will account for 80% of their final grade.

At the conclusion of the course, students are required to submit a short paper (maximum of 3 pages) that critically engages with one of the articles they presented and the main points raised during the in-class debate. This paper is an opportunity for students to reflect on the insights gained throughout the course. This assignment accounts for the 20% of the final grade.

Course Outline

(In **bold** mandatory readings for the debates.)

Session 1: Introducing discrimination.

What is discrimination? This session explores theories of discrimination and examines whether all gaps are attributable to taste-based discrimination. Basic concepts as taste-based discrimination, statistical discrimination, implicit and explicit prejudice and institutional discrimination will be introduced. We'll delve into studying discrimination, addressing the issues with confounding bias, and introducing field experiments as analytical tools. Two field experiments researching discrimination in very different contexts will be presented. Additionally, there will be a debate on the relationship between prejudice and discrimination, including potential moderators of their effects.

- **Bertrand, M., & Mullainathan, S. (2004). Are Emily and Greg more employable than Lakisha and Jamal? A field experiment on labor market discrimination. *American economic review*, 94(4), 991-1013.**
- Birkelund, G. E., Johannessen, L. E., Rasmussen, E. B., & Rogstad, J. (2020). Experience, stereotypes and discrimination. Employers' reflections on their hiring behavior. *European Societies*, 22(4), 503-524.
- Pager, D., & Quillian, L. (2005). Walking the talk? What employers say versus what they do. *American sociological review*, 70(3), 355-380.
- Baldassarri, D., & Abascal, M. (2017). Field experiments across the social sciences. *Annual review of sociology*, 43, 41-73.
- Quillian, L., & Midtbøen, A. H. (2021). Comparative perspectives on racial discrimination in hiring: The rise of field experiments. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 47, 391-415.
- Tilcsik, A. (2021). Statistical discrimination and the rationalization of stereotypes. *American Sociological Review*, 86(1), 93-122.

- Zhang, N., Gereke, J., & Baldassarri, D. (2022). **Everyday discrimination in public spaces: a field experiment in the Milan metro.** *European Sociological Review*, 38(5), 679-693.

Session 2: Prejudice and anti-immigrant sentiment

In this session, we will explore the origins of prejudice, including the concepts of in-group love versus out-group hate (in-group favoritism) and the social norms that govern prejudice. We will also delve into stereotypes and their effects. A key question we'll address is: Can we reduce prejudice? To answer this, we'll examine the contact hypothesis and discuss interventions aimed at reducing prejudice, focusing on one contact-based intervention and another based on social norms.

- Álvarez-Benjumea, A. (2023). Uncovering hidden opinions: social norms and the expression of xenophobic attitudes. *European Sociological Review*, 39(3), 449-463.
- Devine, P. G. (1989). Stereotypes and prejudice: Their automatic and controlled components. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 56(1), 5.
- Elwert et al. 2023 Rearranging the Desk Chairs: A Large Randomized Field Experiment on the Effects of Close Contact on Inter-ethnic Relations. *American Journal of Sociology* 128(6): 1809-1840.
- Fiske, S.T. (1998). "Stereotyping, Prejudice and Discrimination" In D. T. Gilbert, S. T. Fiske, and G. Lindzey.
- Finseraas, H., & Kotsadam, A. (2017). **Does personal contact with ethnic minorities affect anti-immigrant sentiments? Evidence from a field experiment.** *European Journal of Political Research*, 56(3), 703-722.
- Laurence (2013). Reconciling the contact and threat hypotheses: Does ethnic diversity strengthen or weaken community inter-ethnic relations? *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 37(8): 1328-1349.

- Lee, T. L., & Fiske, S. T. (2006). Not an outgroup, not yet an ingroup: Immigrants in the stereotype content model. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 30(6), 751-768.
- Paluck, E. L. (2009). Reducing intergroup prejudice and conflict using the media: a field experiment in Rwanda. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 96(3), 574.
- Paluck, E. L., & Green, D. P. (2009). Prejudice reduction: What works? A review and assessment of research and practice. *Annual review of psychology*, 60, 339-367.
- Paluck, E. L., Green, S. A., & Green, D. P. (2019). The contact hypothesis re-evaluated. *Behavioural Public Policy*, 3(2), 129-158.
- Paluck, E. L., Shepherd, H., & Aronow, P. M. (2016). Changing climates of conflict: A social network experiment in 56 schools. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 113(3), 566-571.

Session 3: Race and colorism

This session will introduce the key concepts of race, racism and colorism.

- Bonilla-Silva, E. (1997). Rethinking racism: Toward a structural interpretation. *American sociological review*, 465-480.
- Loveman, M. (1999). Is” race” essential?. *American Sociological Review*, 64(6), 891-898.
- Wimmer, A. (2015). Race-centrism: a critique and a research agenda. *Ethnic and racial Studies*, 38(13), 2186-2205.
- Winant, H. (2015). Race, ethnicity and social science. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 38(13), 2176-2185.
- Majority of Latinos Say Skin Color Impacts Opportunity in America and Shapes Daily Life.

- Goldsmith, Arthur, H., Darrick Hamilton, and William Darity Jr. 2006. Shades of Discrimination: Skin Tone and Wages. *American Economic Review*, 96 (2): 242-245.
- Monk Jr, E. P. (2014). Skin tone stratification among Black Americans, 2001–2003. *Social Forces*, 92(4), 1313-1337.
- Garcia, D., & Abascal, M. (2016). Colored perceptions: Racially distinctive names and assessments of skin color. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 60(4), 420-441.
- Abascal, M., & Garcia, D. (2022). Pathways to Skin Color Stratification: The Role of Inherited (Dis) Advantage and Skin Color Discrimination in Labor Markets. *Sociological Science*, 9, 346-373.

Session 4: Ethno-racial discrimination in Europe. Boundary making processes within Europe. Islamophobia

In Session 4, we will delve into the critical issue of ethno-racial discrimination in Europe, with a special focus on Islamophobia. The session will also touch upon boundary making processes within Europe (south versus north). This session is designed to explore the historical and contemporary dimensions of racial and ethnic discrimination in various European contexts.

- Quillian, L., Heath, A., Pager, D., Midtbøen, A. H., Fleischmann, F., & Hexel, O. (2019). Do some countries discriminate more than others? Evidence from 97 field experiments of racial discrimination in hiring. *Sociological Science*, 6, 467-496.
- Kende, A., Hadarics, M., & Lášticová, B. (2017). Anti-Roma attitudes as expressions of dominant social norms in Eastern Europe. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 60, 12-27.
- Weichselbaumer, D. (2017). Discrimination against migrant job applicants in Austria: An experimental study. *German Economic Review*, 18(2), 237-265.
- Bursell, M. (2014). The multiple burdens of foreign-named men—evidence from a field experiment on gendered ethnic hiring discrimination in Sweden. *European Sociological Review*, 30(3), 399-409.

- Polavieja, J. G., & Fischer-Souan, M. (2023). The boundary within: Are applicants of Southern European descent discriminated against in Northern European job markets?. *Socio-Economic Review*, 21(2), 795-825.
- Leszczensky, L., & Pink, S. (2017). Intra-and inter-group friendship choices of Christian, Muslim, and non-religious youth in Germany. *European Sociological Review*, 33(1), 72-83.
- Di Stasio, V., Lancee B., Veit S. & Yemane R. (2019). “Muslim by Default or Religious Discrimination? Results from a Set of Harmonized Field Experiments”. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.
- Helbling and Traunmüller (2020). “What is Islamophobia? Disentangling Citizens’ Feelings Toward Ethnicity, Religion and Religiosity Using a Survey Experiment.” *British Journal of Political Science* 50(3): 811 - 828.
- Meer, N. and Moddod, T. (2012). “For “Jewish” Read “Muslim”? Islamophobia as a Form of Racialisation of Ethno-Religious Groups in Britain Today”. *Islamophobia Studies Journal*, 1(1):34-53.
- Strabac, Z., and Listhaug, O. (2007). Anti-Muslim Prejudice in Europe: A Multilevel Analysis of Survey Data from 30 Countries. *Social Science Research*, 37: 268-286.

Session 5: Signal mixing / differentiating immigrants

In Session 5, we will delve into the concepts of signal mixing and the differentiation of immigrants. We will focus on how various signals, such as societal status or perceived beauty, intersect with sociodemographic characteristics like ethnic origin and gender. This session also aims to unpack the intricate ways in which immigrants are perceived and categorized, often based on a blend of cultural, socio-economic, and political signals. The session will feature two student-led debates. The first debate will examine the differential effects of the beauty premium across different genders and migrant background. The second debate will be on how status and other factors influence societal attitudes and the integration process of immigrants.

- Bozoyan, C., & Wolbring, T. (2018). The weight wage penalty: a mechanism approach to discrimination. *European Sociological Review*, 34(3), 254-267.
- Choi, D. D., Poertner, M., & Sambanis, N. (2019). Parochialism, social norms, and discrimination against immigrants. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 116(33), 16274-16279.
- Hainmueller and Hangartner (2013). “Who Gets a Swiss Passport? A Natural Experiment in Immigrant Discrimination.” *American Political Science Review* 107(1): 159 - 187.
- Zhang, N., Aidenberger, A., Rauhut, H., & Winter, F. (2019). Prosocial behaviour in interethnic encounters: evidence from a field experiment with high-and low-status immigrants. *European Sociological Review*, 35(4), 582-597.
- Zhang, N., Gereke, J., & Baldassarri, D. (2022). Everyday discrimination in public spaces: a field experiment in the Milan metro. *European Sociological Review*, 38(5), 679-693.
- Hellyer, J., Hellriegel, E., Gereke, J., & Schunck, R. (2023). Pretty unequal? Immigrant-native differences in returns to physical attractiveness in Germany. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 215, 107-119.
- Monk Jr, E. P., Esposito, M. H., & Lee, H. (2021). Beholding inequality: Race, gender, and returns to physical attractiveness in the United States. *American Journal of Sociology*, 127(1), 194-241.

Session 6: Diversity and social cohesion

In this session we will delve into the effects of diversity on social cohesion or indicators of social cohesion, such as trust or the provision of public goods or pro-social behavior. The session will be guided by the central question: Does diversity undermine or enhance social cooperation and cohesion? Students will present research findings that offer insights into both sides of the debate. Following the presentations, the session will transition into a debate, providing an opportunity for an engaging and critical discussion.

- Abascal, M., & Baldassarri, D. (2015). Love thy neighbor? Ethnoracial diversity and trust reexamined. *American Journal of Sociology*, 121(3), 722-782.
- Alesina et al. (1999). Public Goods and Ethnic Divisions. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 114(4): 1243-1284.
- Algan et al. (2016). The Social Effects of Ethnic Diversity at the Local Level: A Natural Experiment with Exogenous Residential Allocation. *Journal of Political Economy* 124(3): 696-733.
- Baldassarri, D., & Abascal, M. (2020). Diversity and prosocial behavior. *Science*, 369(6508), 1183-1187.
- Kustov & Pardelli (2018). Ethnoracial Homogeneity and Public Outcomes: The (Non)effects of Diversity. *American Political Science Review* 112(4): 1096 - 1103.

Session 7: Ethnic threat. Minority-majority. Political backlash

This session is divided into two parts. The first part is dedicated to analyzing research on the political backlash of diversity and migration. The second part will focus specifically on the dynamics in places with a majority-minority population. The session will feature two student-led debates in each topic.

- Abascal, M. (2015). Us and them: Black-White relations in the wake of Hispanic population growth. *American Sociological Review*, 80(4), 789-813.
- Abascal, M. (2020). **Contraction as a response to group threat: Demographic decline and Whites' classification of people who are ambiguously White.** *American Sociological Review*, 85(2), 298-322.
- Abou-Chadi et al. (2022). **“The centre-right versus the radical right: the role of migration issues and economic grievances.”** *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 48(2): 366-384.

- Alvarez-Benjumea, A., Winter, F., and Zhang, N. (2024). Norms of prejudice: political identity and polarization. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*.
- Hangartner, D., Dinas, E., Marbach, M., Matakos, K., & Xefteris, D. (2019). Does exposure to the refugee crisis make natives more hostile?. *American political science review*, 113(2), 442-455.
- Nandi, A., & Platt, L. (2015). Patterns of minority and majority identification in a multicultural society. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 38(15), 2615-2634.
- Schaub, M., Gereke, J., & Baldassarri, D. (2021). Strangers in hostile lands: exposure to refugees and right-wing support in Germany's eastern regions. *Comparative Political Studies*, 54(3-4), 686-717.

Session 8: Gender discrimination and the labor market I

Under construction

- Goldin, C. (2021). *Career and family: Women's century-long journey toward equity*. Princeton University Press.
- Birkelund, G. E., Lancee, B., Larsen, E. N., Polavieja, J. G., Radl, J., & Yemane, R. (2022). Gender discrimination in hiring: evidence from a cross-national harmonized field experiment. *European Sociological Review*, 38(3), 337-354.

Session 9: Gender discrimination and the labor market II

Under construction

Session 10: Health and mortality

Under construction

- Monk Jr, E. P. (2015). The cost of color: Skin color, discrimination, and health among African-Americans. *American Journal of Sociology*, 121(2), 396-444.

Session 11: Open session

We will determine the content of this final session based on the students' interests. This session offers an opportunity to either introduce a new topic or delve deeper into one we have already discussed.

Session 12: Open session

We will determine the content of this final session based on the students' interests. This session offers an opportunity to either introduce a new topic or delve deeper into one we have already discussed.