



FRIDAY, JAN. 19

EMIR KAMENICA

University of Chicago Booth School of Business

“Coming apart? Lives of the rich and the poor over time” (with Marianne Bertrand)

We analyze temporal trends in the cultural distance between the rich and the poor in the United States. We measure cultural distance between the rich and the poor as the ability to infer whether an individual is in the top or bottom quartile of household income based on his or her (i) media consumption, (ii) consumer behavior, (iii) time use, and (iv) social attitudes. We find that, based on each of these four measures, cultural distance has been constant over the last few decades. We obtain qualitatively similar answers about the trends in cultural distance between the top and bottom half of the household income distribution or between individuals with high and low education.

BIO

Emir Kamenica is the Richard D. Ryan Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He studies an eclectic set of topics in microeconomics with a focus on theoretical work on the design of informational environments. His work has been published widely, including articles in the Quarterly Journal of Economics, American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, Review of Economic Studies, and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Professor Kamenica is a recipient of the 2013 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship. He holds an honorary doctorate from Shepherd University. He is an Editor of the Journal of Political Economy.

Professor Kamenica was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He earned a PhD in Economics in 2006 and a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics in 2001, both from Harvard University. He joined the faculty at Chicago Booth in 2006.

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