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Expanding Beyond Statistical and Taste-Based Discrimination

Economics has a long and rich tradition of studying discrimination in economic markets. Theoretically, economists have focused on two types of discrimination: statistical and taste-based. In this paper, we borrow on evidence from psychology to discuss alternative reasons why people might discriminate (or fail to do so) including biased beliefs and ethical considerations. We discuss why these extensions of standard economic theory matter for welfare and policy. We also provide experimental evidence that distinguishes between these competing theories.

BIO

Devin Pope studies a variety of topics at the intersection of economics and psychology. He has published work in top economics outlets such as American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Political Economy, and Review of Economic Studies and has also published in psychology and multidisciplinary outlets such as Management Science and Psychological Science.

Using primarily observational data, Pope studies how psychological biases play out in field settings and economic markets. Examples include left-digit bias and projection bias in car markets and time inconsistency in housing markets.

Prior to joining the Chicago Booth faculty in 2010, Pope was on the faculty at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He earned a PhD in economics from UC Berkeley in 2007 and a BA in economics from Brigham Young University in 2002.