

MEET THE HOUSING DISCRIMINATION STUDY CONFERENCE PANELISTS



Dr. Mackenzie Alston

Dr. Mackenzie Alston is an assistant professor in the Department of Finance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). While an assistant economics professor at Florida State University, Dr. Alston was awarded the inaugural Post-Doctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity in the Economics Profession by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and spent the past year in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Dr. Alston uses experiments and surveys to understand the role of race- and gender-based discrimination and stereotypes in settings like the labor market and the education system. For instance, she has a project on how perceptions of discrimination can affect job candidates' willingness to apply for stereotypically male jobs. From Fall 2020 to Spring 2021, Dr. Alston co-organized a virtual economics seminar series on discrimination and disparities. She earned her Ph.D. in Economics from Texas A&M University in 2019. More information about Dr. Alston and her work is available [here](#).



Dr. Peter Hull

Dr. Peter Hull is the Groos Family Assistant Professor of Economics at Brown University.

Previously, he was an assistant professor of economics at the University of Chicago, a research fellow at the Becker Friedman Institute for Economics, a post-doctoral researcher at Microsoft Research New England, and an assistant economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Dr. Hull studies a wide range of topics in discrimination, healthcare, education, and applied econometrics. Most recently he has worked on developing and applying new, quasi-experimental tools to measure and potentially reduce disparate impact and systemic discrimination in high-stakes decisions, such as pretrial release and online lending. His research has appeared in the American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics and Statistics, and New England Journal of Medicine. Dr. Hull received a Ph.D. in Economics from MIT in 2017 and a B.A. in Mathematics-Economics from Wesleyan University in 2010. More information on Dr. Hull and his research is available [here](#).



Dr. Peter Bergman

Dr. Peter Bergman is an associate professor of economics at the University of Texas at Austin, co-editor for the Journal of Public Economics, co-chair of the Education Technology Initiative at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at MIT, and founder and director of the [Learning Collider](#) social impact lab. Learning Collider partners with large-scale technology companies and organizations collecting high-dimensional data to open their data to researchers and to innovate, test, and scale interventions that promote social mobility. Dr. Bergman is a collaborator on the [Creating Moves to Opportunity Project](#), which helped voucher recipients move to high-opportunity neighborhoods. He has also conducted an audit study measuring discrimination in schools across the U.S., and he has tested and scaled information interventions that help voucher recipients move to neighborhoods that promote better outcomes for families with children. His research lab is partnering with large-scale housing platforms to develop new technologies that identify and ameliorate housing discrimination. More information on Dr. Bergman and his research is available [here](#).



Dr. Stephen Ross

Dr. Stephen L Ross is an economics professor at the University of Connecticut and a research associate in the Education Program of the National Bureau of Economic Research. His research focuses on understanding experiences of disadvantaged groups, especially African-Americans, in U.S. cities and metropolitan areas. He primarily studies peer effects and social interactions, neighborhood effects, residential and school segregation, housing and mortgage lending discrimination, urban labor markets, and racial profiling and local government. Dr. Ross is the co-editor for *Regional Science and Urban Economics* and *Education Finance and Policy*, and serves on the editorial board of the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* and five key journals within urban economics. He has consulted for K&L Gates, National Consumer Law Center, New York State Attorney General, Fannie Mae, Abt Associates, National Resource Council (National Academy of Science) and the Urban Institute, primarily on matters related to mortgage discrimination, predatory lending and discrimination in housing markets. Dr. Ross completed his Ph.D. in Economics from Syracuse University in 1994. More information on Dr. Ross and his research is available [here](#).



Mr. Fred Freiberg

Mr. Fred Freiberg is one of the nation's leading experts on the use of testing as an investigative tool to enforce civil rights laws. Mr. Freiberg currently serves as a part-time national field consultant for the Fair Housing Justice Center (FHJC), a nonprofit fair housing organization he co-founded in New York City. Mr. Freiberg previously served as executive director of the FHJC. He also worked for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice, directing a national testing program he helped establish in the Division's Housing and Civil Enforcement Section in 1992. From 1999 to 2002, Mr. Freiberg was retained by the Urban Institute to manage the testing in a national research study of mortgage lending practices, and also direct the field implementation for the third and largest national study of housing discrimination conducted in the United States. Mr. Freiberg was the first executive director of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council from 1977-1981. He has also supervised and/or participated in thousands of testing investigations involving rental housing, real estate sales, new construction, nursing homes, mobile homes, places of public accommodation, and mortgage lending institutions. Mr. Freiberg's professional activities for fair housing span more than four decades, during which time he has testified in dozens of fair housing cases, published articles on fair housing, and received numerous awards for his accomplishments in the fair housing field.