



**VISITING
SCHOLAR
PROGRAM**

Trevon Logan



Hazel C. Youngberg Trustees Distinguished
Professor of Economics
The Ohio State University

Public Lecture Offerings

The Sins of Economic History

Recent work has highlighted the deep relationship between modern capitalism and racial inequality in American history. Yet we know little about how the process has worked in detail. Economic history stresses large-scale changes, but the truths of racial capitalism are in the details. How and why does economic history miss the mark when discussing the history of racial economic inequality? And what do we miss when failing to account for the historical process of racialization, capitalism, and racial oppression? Discussing key turning points in the economic history of American enslavement, Reconstruction, and legal segregation, the hits and misses to the traditional economic approach to American racial inequality will be exposed.

“All We Have Is The Truth”: Burdened Individuality, Abstract Equality, and Economic Inference

Any discussion of race in the United States will include a long list of the economic and social disparities between Black and White people. This lecture asks the following question: are we interpreting these disparities appropriately? This lecture wrestles with the pitfalls of economics as an empirical science when the data on race is itself created in a racial hierarchy. Building on ideas of anti-Blackness in the humanities, this talk uses several examples showing that our received wisdom about the economics of enslavement, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and other aspects of Black economic history change dramatically once we consider how the data we use to support economic claims was created. This is not only an issue of what

questions were asked, but more importantly what questions were not asked. Turning again to the narrative, I show that established stories of Black geographic mobility and economic advancement can hide an insidious side and cost of Black economic progress.

Classroom Discussion Topics

1. **The Racial Political Economy of Reconstruction.** How and why is the end of Reconstruction similar to America's current political system?
2. **The Case for Reparations for American Enslavement.** Who should qualify? How large should the payment be? Who should make the payment?
3. **What is "Redlining" and Why Does It Matter?**
4. **How America's Definitions of Racial Groups Have Changed Over Time.**