

25th Annual Social Security Administration Retirement and Disability Research Consortium Meeting

August 3 & 4, 2023

Noon to 4:00 pm EDT

Presenters' names are in bold and marked by an asterisk.

Day 1: Thursday, August 3, 2023

Noon – 12:15 p.m. — Introduction: John Laitner, Director, MRDRC

Welcome: Kilolo Kijakazi, Ph.D., M.S.W.,
Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration

12:15 – 1:15 p.m. — Panel 1: Disparities by Race and Ethnicity

Moderator: Malcolm Williams (RAND)

“Social Security Policy Design and Racial Wealth Disparities – Baseline Results”
(WI23-09)

William A. Darity, Jr. (Duke); Illenin O. Kondo (Federal Reserve Bank of
Minneapolis); **Samuel L. Myers, Jr.*** (Minnesota); Teega H. Zeida (Brock)

*“Who Benefits from Retirement Saving Incentives in the U.S.? Evidence on Racial
Gaps in Retirement Wealth Accumulation”* (UM23-01)

Taha Choukhmane (MIT); Jorge Colmenares (Harvard); **Cormac O’Dea*** (Yale);
Jonathan Rothbaum (US Census Bureau); Lawrence Schmidt (MIT)

“Disparities by Race and Gender in SS(D)I Applications and Awards”

Yang Wang* (UW-Madison); Muzhe Yang (Lehigh) (WI23-02)

1:15 – 1:30 p.m. — Break

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. — Panel 2: Decline in SSDI and SSI Applications

Moderator: Jeffrey Hemmeter (Social Security Administration)

*“What Factors Explain the Drop in Disability Insurance Rolls from 2015 to 2019?”
(BC23-14)*

Siyan Liu and Laura D. Quinby* (Boston College)

“Mixed-methods Study on Work-disabled Adults Who Do Not Apply for Social Security Disability Benefits” (UM23-08)

Lila Rabinovich*, Doerte Junghaenel, and Tabasa Ozawa (University of Southern California)

*“Racial and Ethnic Differences in Job Characteristics and Disability Retirement”
(UM23-06)*

Amanda Sonnega (University of Michigan); Dawn Carr* (Florida State)

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. — Break

2:45 – 3:45 p.m. — Panel 3: Improving Communication and Outreach

Moderator: Denise Hoffman (Mathematica)

“Analyzing SSA Communication, Outreach and Service Delivery in a Laboratory of State Pension Fund Members: Comparisons of Best Practices for ASRS and SSA, Pre- and Post-Pandemic” (WI23-15)

Dennis Hoffman* and Anthony Evans (Arizona State)

“Utilizing Online Services to Proactively Support Beneficiaries in Underserved Communities” (NB23-12)

Davo Oveleye* (Bowie State)

“Understanding the Social Security Communication Needs of Hispanics with Limited English Language Proficiency” (UM23-09)

Lila Rabinovich and Francisco Perez-Arce* (University of Southern California)

Day 2: Friday August 4, 2023

Noon – 12:35 p.m. — **Keynote Address:** *Understanding American Economic Inequality*

William A. Darity, Jr.

Samuel DuBois Cook Distinguished Professor of Public Policy, Economics, African and African American Studies, Duke University

12:35 – 1:35 p.m. — **Panel 4: Economic Security of SSA Beneficiaries**

Moderator: Olivia S. Mitchell (University of Pennsylvania)

“Measuring Economic Security Using Linked Consumer Expenditure and Administrative Data” (NB23-05)

Aaron Hong, **Bruce D. Meyer***, and Connor Murphy (University of Chicago); James X. Sullivan (University of Notre Dame); Derek Wu (University of Virginia)

“Medical Spending Risk among Retirees by Race” (UM23-02)

Karolos Arapakis (Boston College); **Eric French*** (University of Cambridge); John Bailey Jones (Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond); Jeremy McCauley (University of Bristol)

“Improving Financial Security for People with Disabilities through ABLE Accounts” (WI23-10)

Guglielmo Briscese* (University of Chicago); Michael Levere (Colgate); Harold Pollack (University of Chicago)

1:35 – 1:50 p.m. — **Break**

1:50 – 2:50 p.m. — **Panel 5: Improving Service Delivery**

Moderator: Robert Weathers (Social Security Administration)

“Effects of Suspending In-person Services at SSA Field Offices on Disability Applications and Allowances” (BC23-05)

Monica Farid,* Michael Anderson, and Gina Freeman (Mathematica); Chris Earles (Social Security Administration)

“Using Online Tools to Improve SSA Service Delivery” (BC23-03)

Jean-Pierre Aubry* (Boston College)

“Understanding the Characteristics and Needs of Tribal Community Members for Social Security Delivery” (BC23-04)

Barbara Butrica (Urban Institute); Stipica Mudrazija (University of Washington);

Jonathan Schwabish* (Urban Institute)

2:50 – 3:50 p.m. — Panel 6: Informing Trust Fund Projections

Moderator: John Sabelhaus (The Brookings Institution)

“The Effect of US COVID-19 Excess Mortality on Social Security Outlays” (NB23-02)

Bryan Tysinger, **Hanke Heun-Johnson**,* and Darius Lakdawalla (University of Southern California); Julian Reif (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

“How Eliminating Structural Disadvantages for Black Workers Could Affect Retirement Security and Trust Fund Balances” (BC22-06)

Karen E. Smith* and Richard W. Johnson (Urban Institute)

“Understanding the Closing of Racial Mortality Gaps” (NB23-10)

Raj Chetty (Harvard); John Friedman (Brown); Nathan Hendren (Harvard); Michael Stepner (University of Toronto); **Ines Guix Sauquet*** (University of Southern California-San Francisco)

3:50 – 4 p.m. — Closing Remarks: John Laitner