

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES JANUARY 2015

IN MEMORIAM



JANUARY 15

W. Norton Grubb

W. Norton Grubb, the David Pierpont Gardner Professor in Higher Education, Emeritus at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Education and a member of the Haas Institute's [Race, Diversity & Educational Policy Faculty Cluster](#), died January 15, 2015 in Taipei, while on vacation. He was 67. Prof. Grubb, who taught at Berkeley for 25 years, studied an array of issues, including school funding, approaches to teaching, public policies toward youth, and the pathways for students to advance to the world of work. Much of his work centered around problems of equity, specifically inequality in America's schools, universities, and labor markets. Prior to his time at the School of Education, Prof. Grubb served as a professor at the LBJ School of Public Policy at the University of Texas and a research economist at the Childhood and Government Project at UC Berkeley. Na'ilah Nasir, Chair of the Race, Diversity & Educational Policy cluster, wrote:

"We are incredibly saddened by the loss of Cluster founding member Norton Grubb. He was truly a force for issues of educational equity on our campus, an innovative thinker, a provocateur extraordinaire, and a passionate and caring colleague. He will be greatly missed."

JANUARY 3

Impacts of the Great Recession on Low-Income Households

BOSTON, MASS.

On Jan. 3, Public Policy and Economics Professor [Hilary Hoynes](#) presented a paper she recently co-authored with Marianne Bitler of University of California, Irvine. The paper was titled "[Heterogeneity in the Impact of Economic Cycles and the Great Recession: Effects Within and Across the Income Distribution](#)" and examined how economic cycles specifically affect low and middle income families and other demographic factors, like race/ethnicity, age, and family background. The event

at which Prof. Hoynes, who is the cluster chair of the Haas Institute's [Economic Disparities Faculty Cluster](#), spoke was hosted by the [American Economic Association](#) and was called "Impacts of the Great Recession on Low-Income Households."

JANUARY 4

"Being Poor Is Getting Scarier in the U.S."

BLOOMBERGVIEW

In an article entitled "[Being Poor Is Getting Scarier in the U.S.](#)" published by [BloombergView](#), Professor of Public Policy and Economics Hilary Hoynes'

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newly published paper "[Heterogeneity in the Impact of Economic Cycles and the Great Recession: Effects Within and Across the Income Distribution](#)" was highlighted to show how the poorest households in America are affected by recessions. The article offers suggestions on how to ameliorate these issues using Prof. Hoynes' research and data.

JANUARY 5

Amicus Brief

HAAS INSTITUTE

The Haas Institute co-authored and filed an [amicus brief](#) in a critical Supreme Court housing case that will determine the scope of the landmark Fair Housing Act. The case presents the question to the nation's highest court whether the "disparate impact" standard can be used to enforce the Fair Housing Act, which remains the most vital mechanism for prohibiting housing discrimination and promoting equal housing opportunity. [Read more on the brief and the case.](#)

JANUARY 5

"1/1000 of the U.S. Now Controls More Than 1/5 of the Wealth"

BUSINESS INSIDER

According to research published by Economics Professor Emmanuel Saez, member of the Haas Institute [Economic Disparities Faculty Cluster](#), and Gabriel Zucman of the London School of Economics, the top 0.1 percent of American households control more than one-fifth of wealth in the United States. A surge in top incomes along with increased inequality in savings has combined to even further concentrate wealth among an increasingly smaller percentage at the top. Read more about it in the article "[1/1000 of the U.S. Now Controls More Than 1/5 of the Wealth](#)" in [Business Insider](#).

JANUARY 5

"Poverty leads to death for more black Americans than whites"

GUARDIAN

Poverty is bad for our health. For black Americans, however, poverty leads to death at higher rates than it does for white Americans, according to a

recent study published by Associate Professor of Public Health [Amani Nuru-Jeter](#), a member of the Haas Institute's [Diversity and Health Disparities Faculty Cluster](#). The study was most recently covered by [The Guardian](#) in "[Poverty leads to death for more black Americans than whites.](#)"

JANUARY 9

"Snap decisions and race"

THE BERKELEY BLOG

In a recent blog post titled "[Snap decisions and race](#)," Sociology Professor Claude Fischer discusses the impact of implicit bias, or unconscious racial discrimination, on employment opportunities. He notes "audits" demonstrating that employers and landlords discriminate against black applicants in favor of white applicants, despite the same economic or employment credentials in this [Berkeley Blog article](#). Prof. Fischer is a member of Haas Institute's [Religious Diversity Faculty Cluster](#). [Read Prof. Fischer's blog.](#)

JANUARY 10

Food is a human right, not a commodity

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL, BERKELEY, CALIF.

At a forum organized by the [United Nations Association of the East Bay](#) on Jan. 10, Haas Institute Global Justice Program Director [Elsadig Elsheikh](#) spoke on restructuring the global food system to eliminate hunger. Elsadig joined Anuradha Mittal, Executive Director of the Oakland Institute, and Julianne Cartwright Traylor, Associate Professor of International Programs at University of San Francisco School of Law. [Read more about this event on food justice.](#)

JANUARY 12

"Appetite for money undermines the poor's access to legal profession"

HAAS INSTITUTE

Haas Institute research assistant Syreeta Tyrell recently wrote a blog post titled "[Appetite for money undermines the poor's access to legal profession.](#)" Syreeta discusses how going to law school not only requires its students to have ac-

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cess to a substantial amount of money, but it also influences students to work where the money is. Ultimately, the current status quo of the legal profession “bolsters inequality.” [Read Syreeta’s blog.](#)

JANUARY 17

Berkeley City Council Meeting

BERKELEY, CALIF.

One month after Berkeley police used tear gas during a protest, Berkeley City Council held a town hall meeting on police-community relations on Jan. 17, where over 200 people attended. In addition to councilmembers, panelists included elected officials and Haas Institute Director [john a. powell](#). Read more about the event in [Berkeley-side’s](#) article “[Berkeley town hall examines race, police relations.](#)”

JANUARY 17

“King’s evolving Dream”

HAAS INSTITUTE BLOG

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Haas Institute Director [john a. powell](#) published a blog post called “[King’s evolving Dream.](#)” john’s article details King’s life, from when he was launched into the public eye with his activism to his assassination in 1968. We are reminded of why it’s important not to only remember King’s Dream, but to also remember how it changed and evolved over time. john argues that King was “growing and changing” and that his “growth was always toward justice and inclusion.” [Read john’s blog.](#)

NOVEMBER 17

“‘Latino? Hispanic?’ The historic struggle to name Latin Americans in the U.S.A.”

KALW PUBLIC RADIO

G. Christina Mora, a UC Berkeley sociology professor and member of the Haas Institute’s [Diversity and Democracy Cluster](#), discussed the intersection of identity and rhetoric with Hana Baba of KALW Public Radio. Prof. Mora specifically focused on Spanish speakers in the United States in the interview titled “[‘Latino?’ ‘Hispanic?’ The historic](#)

[struggle to name Latin Americans in the U.S.A.](#)”

JANUARY 20

“The Effects of School Spending on Educational and Economic Outcomes: Evidence from School Finance Reforms”

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH

When schools have more funding, students receive a better education. A recent study named “[The Effects of School Spending on Educational and Economic Outcomes: Evidence from School Finance Reforms](#)” co-authored by [Rucker Johnson](#), associate professor of public policy, examined school finance reforms and found increased funding improved school completion rates, led to higher wages and reduces poverty. “Those increases in instructional expenditures proved to have large dividends, significant economic returns, in the lives of these children,” Johnson told the Washington Post. The effects were more pronounced for low-income and low-opportunity children and families, including school quality improvement, reduced student-to-teacher ratios, and higher teacher salaries. Prof. Johnson is a member of the Haas Institute’s [Economic Disparities](#) and [Race, Diversity, and Educational Policy](#) Faculty Clusters. Read more about the study in the Washington Post article “[When public schools get more money, students do better.](#)”

JANUARY 20

“How Power Makes People Selfish”

HAAS INSTITUTE

In a new video, Psychology Professor [Dacher Keltner](#) explains “How power makes people selfish.” Prof. Keltner, a member of the Haas Institute’s [Religious Diversity Faculty Cluster](#), discusses findings that show when people received power in research experiments, they act impulsive, inappropriately, and even become messier eaters. [Read more.](#) Prof. Keltner’s research was also featured in the New York Magazine “[Science of Us](#)” article “[Powerful People Are Messier Eaters, Maybe.](#)”

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JANUARY 22-25

44th Annual Theological Conference

NEW YORK, N.Y.

Haas Institute Director John A. Powell spoke at the 44th Annual Theological Conference held Jan. 22 to 25 at Trinity Wall Street Church in New York City. This year's theme "Creating Common Good" focused on economic inequality. John spoke on a panel about the roots of inequality and the role of faith-based institutions in addressing the enormous gaps in our society and explained how the fear of the "Other" is driving anxiety at every level. [Watch this inspiring panel discussion online.](#)

JANUARY 26

"Facebook Got You Down?"

DIABLO MAGAZINE

Diablo Magazine interviewed UC Berkeley Psychology Professor Dacher Keltner to discuss his work to help Facebook become a happier place. Prof. Keltner, a member of the Haas Institute's [Religious Diversity Faculty Cluster](#), discusses how he uses linguistics and social psychology to transform the social media platform from a place of isolation to a place of happiness and inclusion. [Read Diablo Magazine's interview with Prof. Keltner.](#)

JANUARY 27

"Real-Life Effects of Court Rulings Should Matter as Well as the Law"

THE NEW YORK TIMES

[The New York Times](#) published Berkeley Law Professor [Melissa Murray](#)'s article titled "[Real-Life Effects of Court Rulings Should Matter as Well as the Law](#)," which discusses how Supreme Court Justices must see their decisions as applying to real life rather than just as a guideline of how the law should be structured. Prof. Murray, a member of the Haas Institute's [LGBTQ Citizenship Faculty Cluster](#), cites historic Supreme Court cases, such as *Brown v. Board of Education*, in to show how much of an impact their decisions have on not only our country, but abroad as well. At the end of her article, Prof. Murray asserts that the Court must consider the consequences of their rulings on the upcoming cases challenging the Affordable Care Act and bans on same-sex marriage. [Read the article.](#)

JANUARY 27

"Why is terror Islamist?"

THE WASHINGTON POST

Political Science Professor [M. Steven Fish](#), who is also a member of the Haas Institute's [Religious Diversity Faculty Cluster](#), wrote an article published by [The Washington Post](#) entitled "[Why is terror Islamist?](#)" In his article, Prof. Fish argues that Muslims are not a violent people, according to statistics on per capita murders in Islamic countries, and that it cannot be explained by their religious doctrine either. Prof. Fish explains that perhaps one of the reasons many terrorists are Muslim is because of their frustration with a lack of power on a global scale, since Christian countries are the ones who hold the most power in the world. [Read the article.](#)

JANUARY 27

"'I Can't Breathe': Racial Injustice, Segregation, and Health Disparities"

HAAS INSTITUTE

In a new blog post titled "['I Can't Breathe': Racial Injustice, Segregation, and Health Disparities](#)," Public Health Professor [Amani M. Nuru-Jeter](#) explains how the "wear" of racial discrimination is linked to poor health. Eric Garner's last words and statement, 'I Can't Breathe,' illustrates how the chronic nature of racial discrimination causes long-term stress and negative impacts on health outcomes on African Americans. Prof. Nuru-Jeter is also a member of the Haas Institute's [Diversity and Health Disparities Faculty Cluster](#). [Read Prof. Nuru-Jeter's article.](#)

JANUARY 27

"Why Is The Supreme Court Undoing Hard-Fought Civil Rights Laws?"

UPRISING WITH SONALI

Haas Institute Director [John A. Powell](#) was interviewed on Jan. 27 on [Uprising with Sonali](#)'s radio show. In this segment, John discusses the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decisions that have led to more discrimination in housing and voter disenfranchisement. Listen to "[Why Is The Supreme Court Undoing Hard-Fought Civil Rights Laws?](#)"

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