

EC 1370, Lecture Note, March 9, 2010

I'd like to spend 1/3 of today's class discussing "Racial Justice" [chapter (4) in my book,] and the remainder on the broad theme of economic discrimination. Here are some notes:

1. Racial Justice
 - a. The Anonymity Axiom and Liberal Individualism
 - i. Color-blindness as an implication of "anonymity"
 - ii. Randall Kennedy's "Racial Narcissism" charge
 - iii. Procedural vs. Substantive Theories of Justice (Nozick)
 - iv. Color-blindness is not "closed to moral deviation" (ARI, chp.4)
 - b. Discrimination in *Contract* versus discrimination in *Contact*. (ARI, chp. 3)
 - i. Social vs. human capital (see Loury's Budapest speech)
 - ii. *Reward* versus *development* bias (see Loury's JEP essay)
 - iii. Persistent inequality linked to persistent unequal development
 - c. What Remedies?
 - i. Historical arguments (Katznelson, e.g.) have their problems
 - ii. The "epistemic fog" and fallacies of counter-factual reasoning
 - iii. Compensatory vs. Interpretative Approaches (Truth and Reconc.)
 - iv. Sacred vs. profane civic obligations and problems with reparations
2. Conceptual Issues in the Study of Discrimination
 - a. Varieties of "discrimination"
 - i. taste-based (Gary Becker) – racial enmity, e.g.; beauty/comfort
 - ii. information-based (Arrow, Coate-Loury) – racial profiling, e.g.
 - iii. cognition-based (Loury, ARI, chp.2) – biased social cognition, e.g.
 - iv. associational (*contact*) discrimination (James Fishkin's 'trilemma')
 - v. cumulative effects (intra- and inter-generational; across markets)
 - vi. disparate impact (via unjustifiable factors correlated with race)
 - vii. overt vs. tacit; personal vs. institutional discrimination
 - b. Venues where discrimination operates
 - i. Housing, employment, credit and consumer markets
 - ii. Policing and courts
 - iii. Politics and the Press
 - iv. Business dealings
 - v. Social networks
 - vi. Public recognition
 - c. Bases of discrimination
 - i. Identity: race, sex, sexual orientation, age, handicap, ethnicity
 - ii. Appearance: height, weight, beauty
 - iii. Conscience: politics, religion
 - iv. Other: intelligence; health status; marital status; residency status.
 - d. Forms that discrimination may take
 - i. disadvantageous prices/wages; refusals to deal
 - ii. dishonor, contempt, suspicion; withholding benefit of the doubt
 - iii. exploitation; expropriation; violent suppression
 - iv. patronization (hold to lower standard out of misplaced sympathy)