Economics of Indigenous Peoples and Institutions: A Short Overview

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”Indigenous communities, peoples and nations are those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing on those territories, or parts of them.”

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Other Indigenous people may reside in U.S. e.g. Nahuatl, Maya, Zapotec, Australian Aboriginal, First Nations, Maori.

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Labor Force Participation Rate	54%	58%	64%
Unemployment Rate	18%	8%	7%

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Poverty Rates		
Rural	45%	25%
Urban	24%	14%

Open Research Questions
(Or, all the great stuff yet to be done)

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and have the worst health outcomes?

Potential Explanations

1. Legitimacy of Political Institutions
2. Property Rights
3. Historical experience and aversion to education
4. Wealth and Inheritance rights
5. Forced relocation
6. Preferences

Spillover Benefits of this Research Area

1. Significant variation across 300+ tribal governments in U.S.
2. Program Evaluation - Universal Basic Income, Health Interventions and coverage, Educational programs
3. Unique application of economic concepts/measures: mobile wealth (bison); human capital (non-formal education)
4. Evolution of property rights and other economic institutions over time and space
5. Distinct political status offers unique research environments and exemption from certain U.S. laws (e.g. exemption from Due Process clause (5th Amendment) in hiring preferences).
6. Interesting overlap of market-based and non-market based economies

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3. Perceived as history or anthropology, not economics

Economics of Indigenous Peoples and Institutions

1. Purpose of today's event is to encourage further research and foster collaboration
2. Identify ways of sharing research, information, data and funding opportunities
3. Encourage a robust research area for junior professors and graduate students to invest in the skills, knowledge, experience and perhaps data required for this research area.

For Those Interested in Additional Resources

Overview Texts:

1. Henson, et al. The State of the Native Nations: Conditions under U.S. Policies of Self-Determination. Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development . 2007.
2. Wilkins, David E. and Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik Stark (2010). American Indian Politics and the American Political System. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

Online Resources:

1. Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development https://hpaied.org/
2. Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona https://nni.arizona.edu/

For Those Interested in Additional Resources

Online Resources:

1. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Center for Indian Country Development https://www.minneapolisfed.org/indiancountry

Future Events

1. Brookings Institution Symposia — Future of American Indian Gaming, Data in Indigenous Communities, Data Disaggregation and Health Outcomes

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