NBER I3 Technical Working Group Presentation Proposal
Race, Ethnicity, and Patenting: USPTO's New Data Collection Effort
September 30, 2019
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Race, particularly that of underrepresented minorities in the U.S., is rarely mentioned in papers on inventors or outcomes related to patents. Identifying race and ethnicity of inventors is important for various reasons, including measuring participation in the innovation economy.

The SUCCESS Act of 2018 (passed in 2018) and the IDEA Act of 2019 (under consideration) were based on my research on gender and racial gaps in patenting and innovation, according to the staffers preparing these bills. In addition to testifying before the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet of the House Committee on the Judiciary. I am working with the USTPO and the Subcommittee to revise the draft of the IDEA Act and to draft the appropriate instrument to collect these demographic data with the hope of increasing the match rate between USPTO patent data and inventor demographic data.

This presentation would give an overview of the data collection effort that is currently being proposed and the data that may become available, along with its potential uses to researchers, once it passes.