

How Economic Forces and Racial Inequity Shape Opportunity and Mobility

Speaker Biographies

Heather Boushey is the president, chief executive officer, and cofounder of the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, which was launched in 2013. She is one of the nation's most influential voices on economic policy and a leading economist focusing on the intersection between economic inequality, growth, and public policy. Her latest book, *Unbound: How Economic Inequality Constricts Our Economy and What We Can Do about It*, was on the *Financial Times* list of best economics books of 2019. Boushey also wrote *Finding Time: The Economics of Work-Life Conflict* and coedited a volume of 22 essays about how to integrate inequality into economic thinking, called *After Piketty: The Agenda for Economics and Inequality*. Boushey writes regularly for popular media, including the *New York Times*, the *Atlantic*, and *Democracy Journal*, and makes frequent television appearances on Bloomberg, MSNBC, CNBC, and PBS. Previously, she served as chief economist for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential transition team and was an economist for the Center for American Progress, the Joint Economic Committee of the US Congress, the Center for Economic and Policy Research, and the Economic Policy Institute. She sits on the board of the Opportunity Institute, and she is an associate editor of *Feminist Economics* and senior fellow at the Schwartz Center for Economic and Policy Analysis at the New School for Social Research.

Amanda Cage has been the president and chief executive officer of the National Fund for Workforce Solutions since March 2020, bringing more than 20 years of federal workforce system, grantmaking, and organized labor experience to the organization. Throughout her career, Cage has focused on ensuring economic inclusion and stability for workers and their families. Most recently, she served as the chief program officer at the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, where she managed \$70 million in public and private funding and a network of more than 50 agencies for the country's second largest workforce system. Before that, she served as director of human capital strategy for the Chicago Workforce Investment Council, where she led a citywide effort to increase Chicago's competitiveness in a knowledge-based global economy. Previously, she led the McCormick Foundation's workforce development portfolio for five years and was the 2004 J. Ira and Nicki Harris Foundation fellow at the Chicago Community Trust. Cage started her career as a labor organizer, working for Jobs with Justice and the Service Employees International Union, and was a Trade Union Program fellow at Harvard Law School. She is an Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program 2017–18 job quality fellow and a 2019 Leadership Greater Chicago fellow. Cage earned a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College and a master's degree in public policy from the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago.

Michael Froman serves as chairman of the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth and president of strategic growth for Mastercard. In that role, he grows strategic partnerships, scales new business opportunities, and advances the company's efforts to partner with governments and other institutions to address major societal and economic issues. He and his team drive financial inclusion and inclusive growth efforts and develop new businesses key to the company's strategic growth. Froman oversees the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth and is a member of the company's management committee. Before joining Mastercard, Froman was affiliated with the Council on Foreign Relations, where he serves as a distinguished fellow. From 2013 to 2017, Froman served as the US trade representative, President Barack Obama's principal adviser and negotiator on international trade and investment issues. From 2009 to 2013, he served as assistant to President Obama and

deputy national security adviser for international economic affairs. Before that, he held several executive positions at Citigroup, including chief executive officer of its international insurance business, chief operating officer of its \$50 billion alternative investments business, and head of its infrastructure investment business. Earlier in his career, he worked at the White House and the Treasury during the Clinton administration. Froman received a bachelor's degree in public and international affairs from Princeton University, a doctoral degree in international relations from Oxford University, and a law degree from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*.

Jason Furman is professor of the practice of economic policy jointly at Harvard Kennedy School and the Department of Economics at Harvard University. He is also a nonresident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. These positions follow eight years as a top economic adviser to President Obama, including serving as the 28th chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers from August 2013 to January 2017, acting as both President Obama's chief economist and a member of the cabinet. During this time, Furman played a major role in most of the Obama administration's major economic policies. Previously, Furman worked at both the Council of Economic Advisers and National Economic Council during the Clinton administration and at the World Bank. Furman was a director of the Hamilton Project and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and has served in visiting positions at various universities, including New York University's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. He has conducted research in areas such as fiscal policy, tax policy, health economics, Social Security, technology policy, and domestic and international macroeconomics. Furman holds a doctoral degree in economics from Harvard University.

Allan C. Golston, president of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's US program, leads the foundation's efforts to advance educational opportunity and student achievement in the United States to ensure all students, those with low incomes and students of color, receive a high-quality education that leads to success in college and their careers. He oversees the US program's major areas of investment: education, economic mobility and opportunity, special initiatives, and family homelessness and community grants in Washington State. Golston joined the foundation in 2000 as chief financial officer but was drawn to the US program's education work, spanning early learning, K–12 schooling, and postsecondary education, and began serving as president of the program in 2006. Committed to ensuring all young people have the education and opportunity they deserve, Golston focuses his work on equity in education and using data to get better outcomes for all students. Golston's professional background is in finance, health care, and education, and he serves on the boards of several regional and national organizations, including Charter Schools Growth Fund, Harley-Davidson, and Stryker Corporation. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Colorado and a master of business administration from Seattle University.

Darrick Hamilton is a pioneer and internationally recognized scholar in the field of stratification economics, which fuses social science methods to examine the causes, consequences, and remedies of inequality based on race, gender, ethnicity, tribe, nativity, and more in education, economic, and health outcomes. His scholarship and practice align closely with the work and objectives of the John Glenn College of Public Affairs and Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at the Ohio State University. In addition to serving as Kirwan's executive director, Hamilton holds a primary faculty appointment in the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, with courtesy appointments in the departments of economics and sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences. Hamilton is a graduate of Oberlin College, earned a doctoral degree in economics from the University of North Carolina, and has completed postdoctoral appointments at the University of Michigan and Yale University.

Lisa Hamilton is the president and chief executive officer of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Previously, Hamilton was the foundation's executive vice president and chief program officer, overseeing investments to promote community change, economic opportunity for families, and public system reform. She also guided efforts to strengthen the social sector and encourage take-up of effective strategies through policy and data advocacy, leadership development, and research. Before that, Hamilton served as the foundation's vice president of external affairs. In this position, she guided efforts to provide data, analysis, research, and policy solutions to help all children realize their potential. She also led development of the foundation's seminal *Race for Results* report in 2014, which measured how children from different racial backgrounds were faring on key milestones from birth to adulthood, highlighting the need to ensure equitable access to opportunity for children of color. Hamilton serves on the boards of the Baltimore Community Foundation, Baltimore's Promise, East Baltimore Development Inc., Living Cities, and StriveTogether. She served as a trustee of the Casey Foundation from 2008 to 2011. Hamilton earned a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Virginia and a law degree from the University of Michigan.

Sarah S. Keh is a vice president of inclusive solutions at Prudential Financial. In her role, she leads strategic philanthropy and partnerships to help advance the company's commitment to inclusive economic growth. She oversees program strategies to expand work and wealth opportunities, strengthen communities, and support disaster response and recovery efforts through philanthropic grants, shared-value partnerships, and skills-based volunteering programs. Keh currently serves on the partners council of the National Fund for Workforce Solutions and the board of JerseyCAN and is cochair of the education subcommittee of the Newark Funders Group. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Wellesley College and a master's degree in education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Donald Marron is an Institute fellow and director of economic policy initiatives at the Urban Institute. He conducts research on tax and budget policy and identifies opportunities for Urban to develop policy-relevant research on economic and financial issues. Marron has broad experience in economic policy issues, including America's fiscal challenges, tax reform, energy and the environment, and the financial crisis. From 2010 to 2013, he led the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. Before joining Urban, Marron served in senior government positions, including as a member of the Council of Economic Advisers and acting director of the Congressional Budget Office. He has also taught at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy, the Georgetown Public Policy Institute, and the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, consulted on major antitrust cases, and served as chief financial officer of a health care software start-up. Marron currently serves on the boards of FairVote, Pomona College, and the Concord Coalition, advises Fair Observer and Yieldstreet, and is a senior research fellow at the Climate Leadership Council. He studied mathematics at Harvard College and received his doctoral degree in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Heidi Shierholz is a senior economist and director of policy at the Economic Policy Institute. She leads the policy team, which monitors wage and employment policies coming out of Congress and the administration and advances a worker-first policy agenda. Throughout her career, Shierholz has educated policymakers, journalists, and the public about the effects of economic policies on families with low and moderate incomes. Her research and insights on labor and employment policy, the effects of automation on the labor market, wage stagnation, inequality, and other topics routinely shape policy proposals and inform economic news coverage. From 2014 to 2017, Shierholz served the Obama administration as chief economist at the US Department of Labor, working with former Secretary Thomas Perez and other department leaders to develop and execute initiatives that boost workers' rights, wages, and benefits, protect workers' savings, and increase workplace safety. Before joining the Economic Policy Institute in 2007, she was assistant professor of economics at the University of Toronto.

Shierholz earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Grinnell College, a master's degree in statistics from Iowa State University, and a doctoral degree in economics from the University of Michigan.

Michael R. Strain is the director of economic policy studies and the Arthur F. Burns scholar in political economy at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), where he oversees the institute's work in economic policy, financial markets, international trade and finance, tax and budget policy, welfare economics, health care policy, and related areas. He is the author of the recently published book, *The American Dream Is Not Dead: (But Populism Could Kill It)*, which examines longer-term economic outcomes for workers and households. Before joining AEI, Strain worked in the Center for Economic Studies at the US Census Bureau and in the macroeconomics research group at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. His research focuses on labor economics, public finance, and social policy, and his papers have been published in peer-reviewed academic journals and policy journals such as *Tax Notes* and *National Affairs*. He was a member of the AEI-Brookings Working Group on Poverty and Opportunity. Strain is a graduate of Marquette University and holds a master's degree from New York University and a doctoral degree in economics from Cornell University.

Tanya Wallace-Gobern became the executive director of the National Black Worker Center Project (NBWC) in June 2016, bringing more than 20 years of experience in labor and community organizing. Wallace-Gobern began her career at the Organizing Institute of the AFL-CIO immediately after college graduation. Soon after that, her desire to organize Black workers led her to work for the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, a predecessor union of UNITE HERE, and move to the Southeast to help with their unionization campaign in that region. Later, she created the AFL-CIO's Historical Black College Recruitment program to increase the number of Black people among union leadership and staff. Before leading the NBWC, Wallace-Gobern worked for the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions in various roles, including running their field operation.

Sarah Rosen Wartell is the third president of the Urban Institute since it was founded in 1968. During her tenure, Urban has "elevated the debate" by bringing more of its insights from research to federal, state, and local government and practice; becoming a leader in research communications and data visualization; and undertaking an ambitious program of business systems and technology modernization. Previously, Wartell was deputy assistant to the president for economic policy and deputy director of the National Economic Council. At the US Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1993 to 1998, she advised the federal housing commissioner on housing finance, mortgage markets, and consumer protection. Later, she was a consultant to the bipartisan Millennial Housing Commission. After government service, Wartell was the founding chief operating officer and then executive vice president of the Center for American Progress. Before her tenure in government, she practiced law with the Washington, DC, firm Arnold & Porter. Wartell serves on the board of the Center for Law and Social Policy and on Bank of America's National Community Advisory Council. She previously served on the boards of the Low Income Investment Fund, the Center for Urban Science and Progress at New York University, and the Corporation for Enterprise Development. Her areas of expertise include community development, consumer finance, asset building, and housing finance. Wartell has a bachelor's degree with honors in urban affairs from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and a doctoral degree from Yale Law School.