

Essays in Applied Labor Economics, Including Analysis of Economic History and Laws & Economics

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Abstract

In this paper, James Edward Curtis, Jr. (2018) compiles essays on applied labor economics, economic history, and laws & economics to address economic issues. James Edward Curtis, Jr. (2018) considers economic theory, summary empirical analyses, and government & social construct to challenge our comfort levels with the current status of unequal economic indicators and public policy.

Keywords: applied labor economics, review of economic history

1. Introduction

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2. Economic Factors

2.1 Economic History, Ethnicity, "Melting Pots and Social Slavery", October 1, 2003

The world has watched America grow, with a snicker behind our backs, even though they accept the leadership of America in the economic world arena. The snicker is not because of a lack of international competence or capacity for international efficiency gains but for something centrifugal: culture. America is a melting pot of different cultures: Anglo-English, Franco-American, Anglo-Irish, West European-Americans, Americans of Russian decent, Mexican-Americans, Caribbean-Americans, Americans of African descent, Native Americans, Indian Americans from Asia, Chinese-Americans, Japanese-Americans, etc.

The basis for consumption in all these different sub-groups is preferences and if America is comprised of all these different cultures, then what is the probability of full agreement on consumption decisions, at an aggregate level? Low. Therefore, aggregate consumption decisions are likely to reflect one culture more than the rest when the final decisions are informally made. This will leave many sub-cultures discomforted seeking alternative ways to express their cultural preferences. Therefore, there is either an incentive to homogenize cultural preferences at birth and segregate sub-cultures and allow them to operate in the international open market freely.

But what happens when these cultural consumption products are intangible indirect products, like degree of individual freedom/order, ... desire for slave-like production/the role of religion, and the role of the oceans and the earth ... in the happiness and productivity of individuals.

Therefore, how can a melting pot without homogeneity survive if these products are real, i.e., have a price and are measurable in terms of utility. This is the test of America may be facing now, with *social* enslavement political enfranchisement and economic products, and now the world watches the melting pot deal with another cultural war that is quiet, that abuses true meaning in the words and language, that hides motives and that hides "team-membership" in a warfare like any other. But this series of events is no Vietnam and twice as worse as the US Civil War because we have the lessons of Vietnam and Civil War to guide us, but many culturally-selfish individuals unfortunately choose to ignore them. And the world watches the great America deal with fundamentally locating its cultural heart; essentially, finding out what matters most to America, and across a plurality of sub-cultures.

2.2 Labor Economics I, Wages, "Inefficiency Versus Popularity", October 9, 2003

A fundamental flaw to all of this seems to be that liberal research on slavery production suggests that slave "owners" tend to overextend labor which leads to premature death and injuries, and, ultimately, no or less productivity, leading to lower revenue and profits. Yet they endorse enslaving ... for medical, political, and economic consumption goods. Members of their team are defying their own rationality and behaving irrational in enslaving ... For, their research implies that there should be a way to employ the potential slave for a wage, that is above the reservation wage of the potential slave, which is zero if all other employers collude in such a manner, and that the potential slave directly receives, to incentivize the potential slave to work that will provide more output than the output produced by slavery—ignoring the spillover effect of aggregate distaste for slavery that leads to no productivity in such form in the long-run and, eventually, a set of insufficient skills by the slave owners, represented economically by inferior, or change elasticity of labor and capital, once production with slavery has been forced to end, leading to higher long-run costs and lack of competitiveness with non-slave production states and, ultimately, government programs and state leadership that are likely to localized labor market participation.

2.3 Labor Economics I, Wages, "Four-Door Trap", December 20, 2003, Revised January 14, 2004

An interpretation of research shows that young slaves experience catch-up growth relative to young non-slaves if underfed while young and/or are developing relative to non-slaves and fed at levels equivalent to non-slaves when developed, although this does not address selection bias—a reduction of the analysis to slaves who made it to development stages, since slaves tended to pass away earlier, on average, than non-slaves.

2.4 Labor Economics II, Utility Functions & Time, "Four-Door Trap", December 20, 2003, Revised January 14, 2004

Research ... shows that utility can be time-separable, or not having consumption in any one period—through rigorous investment in education on minimal or no income, or, ... participation in ... wealth-creation ..., by those who chose not to invest in education—can produce more happiness in, usually, the remaining periods where the income, wealth and consumption may occur.

2.5 Labor Economics III, Education/Human Capital Theory, "Four-Door Trap", December 20, 2003, Revised January 14, 2004

Applied theoretical research ... analyzes human capital, or the impact of innate, unobserved ability and training, on wages, hours worked, investment choices, and even "choices" to commit crime, and empirical research that analyzes data, without measures of unobserved ability, on the capacity to "precisely" predict the contributions or "non-contributions" to observe socio-economic outcomes, and to observe the capacity to make group comparisons in predictions via possible methods like two-stage, first-difference, and/or cohort analyses in order to attempt to eliminate the potential bias due to unobserved ability.

Applied theoretical research ... uses fixed-effect analyses to control for potential biases due to unobserved ability, given the possibly overly crude, inaccurate or the lack of complete availability of ability measures like SAT, ACT, GRE, LSAT, MCAT, and IQ scores, by assuming ability is genetically explained, (or by) using family and group panel datasets of (hopefully) theoretically-motivated/justified explanatory variables, including potentially more-questionable biological/genetic/DNA data in economic and social analyses over time, and in order to "precisely" predict the contributions (or "non-contributions") to observed economic and social outcomes and make group comparisons in predictions.

Note that this poses interesting, but possibly suspiciously-motivated questions, for individuals who have significantly progressed beyond historical family outcomes in terms of education and/or wealth.

Applied theoretical research ... presents the theoretical-simulations, and empirical research on one-time and multi-period bets, for instance, on probabilities that falsifying the social enhancement of some members of a group, or providing asymmetric "information" to this group, secretly to an individual or sub-group, will lead to artificial categorization and potential exploitation of the members of the group that was not falsely enhanced. This categorization may be consistent with historical types of exploitation that occurs among groups that have been historically socially isolated based on labels of culture and race, possibly seeking individually internalize justifications from members of groups subjected to historical slavery and concentration camps, and possibly seeking a diminished desire to obtain financial restitution and formal apologies based on these internal revelations.

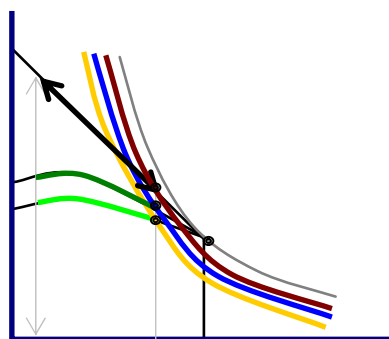


Figure 1.1. Hours of work, leisure & time; Figure 1.2. Social intellectual advances, leisure & higher education schooling; Figure 1.3. Wealth acquisitions, leisure & real space

Source: graph created by James Curtis, Jr.

2.6 Laws & Economics I, Religion & Science, "Four-Door Trap", December 20, 2003, Revised January 14, 2004

Theocracy-like activities, or leadership clinging to religious doctrines as a source of social order, are possibly

engaged in identifying and shaping my personal preferences at expense of short-term potential professional productivity.

2.7 Laws and Economics II, Hierarchal Labor Structure, "A New Economy", December 24, 2003

It is possible that these social methods and secret society wealth creation methods ... are products of a contemporary tri-level retro-technical international economy.

Consider an economy involving large land owners, managers and serfdom-slaves, the latter two, at least, which are a combination of labor and physical capital in the form of "humans" ... whether the individual is a potential manager or serfdom-slave.

In this hypothetical economy, allow for the possibility of arbitrary pre-destination, for instance, via abuse of satellite and information monitoring technologies being used to predestine ... managers or serfdom-slaves ... In this economy, talented and less talented managers and serfdom-slaves are welcome because each manager and serfdom-slave is used in a unique way to filter resources to large land owners. Therefore, economic efficiency, where total worker and larger land-owner surplus is maximized, may not be the primary objective of society, instead it is likely that economic effectiveness in transmitting resources to the large land owners is an appreciated social value, possibly at the expense of social efficiency.

Given the possibility of social inefficiency, the crucial social question becomes, assuming all large land owners are crude short-run profit maximizers, then: What is the desire of managers to manage serfdom-slaves? More specifically, what is the capacity of managers to adjust their desire and participation? For instance, is the utility of the serfdom-slaves in the utility function of the manager? Why or why not? Do issues like conflicts of interest in social governance statutes or the historical outcomes of historically similar social structures impact manager choices? Why or why not?

2.8 Laws and Economics III, Wealth Inequality, "Justice During Staged Imperialism: ... Wealth Transfers by Exploiting Arrogance and Ignorance", January 4, 2004

It is possible that potentially abusive laws ... are being employed in the United States ... in a surfacely-chaotic manner, to target groups of individuals, who have made choices that are, arbitrarily, peculiar to those in concurrent leadership positions, or, in the eyes of some, individuals engaged in activities due to less visible constraints. It is further possible that these individuals are being targeted in purposeful stages, possibly in order to minimize the short-run and/or long-run possibilities of obtaining full accountability of possibly dated-organization and/or dated-actions by potential source motivators and/or source enablers of these individuals. Simultaneously, while possibly minimizing accountability, this source group may be discretely attempting to transfer questionably-obtained and/or legitimately-obtained resources from the targeted individuals to these source individuals.

3. Non-Economic Factors

3.1 Economic History II, Religion & Science, "Economic and Social Linkages to the African Slave Trade and Modern 'Faith' Motivations", January 14, 2004

It is possible that the United States of America's northeastern founding fathers, in particular, envisioned God's plan or purposeful organization of America as the source of potential manifested prophecy of faith in the centuries to come ... especially given the adopted motto of the United States, "In God We Trust". It is also possible that the melting pot of European immigrants that eventually constructed the landscape and population of America were conscious of the manner in which prophecy was going to be ushered in: via the coerced existence and actions of potential involuntary subjects. Therefore, after unsuccessfully creating a critical mass/effective class of voluntary servants from poor European whites and after unsuccessfully attempting to create a class of involuntary servants among Native Americans, due to possible inability to withstand culturally-unique diseases from the European community, it is possible that Europeans engaged in the African slave trade, where members of African tribes/nations guided European slave traders through Africa to capture potentially the strongest and best slaves ...

Moreover, it is possible that white southern slave-owners as well as white northeastern slave-owners freed some African slaves gradually prior to the mass Southern emancipation of slaves to develop a permanent underclass of black citizens that would become the semi-voluntary and involuntary subjects in (the name) of faith ... Early economic and social analyses ... show large disparities in wealth and legal standing among pre-Civil War free blacks and whites ... (Furthermore), large disparities among post-Civil War southern ex-slaves and whites were consistent with modern economic disparities among blacks and whites ...

Therefore, potentially persistent lower average economic outcomes in the lives of blacks relative to whites has possibly coincided with a perpetual high probability of semi-voluntary participation in possible intra-cultural exploitation of members of their community for local, regional, national, and/or cross-cultural/international (arbitrage).

3.2 Labor Economics III, Education/Human Capital Theory, “Expected Returns”, November 26-28, 2010

Expected Returns, Figure 2.1, versus Seemingly Actual Returns, Figure 2.2, to gains in new knowledge, due to hypothetical lagged ... nullification, Figure 2.3. The hypothesis of lagged ... nullifications suggests designed interruptions from the happiness gains of new knowledge in the path of an individual’s life.

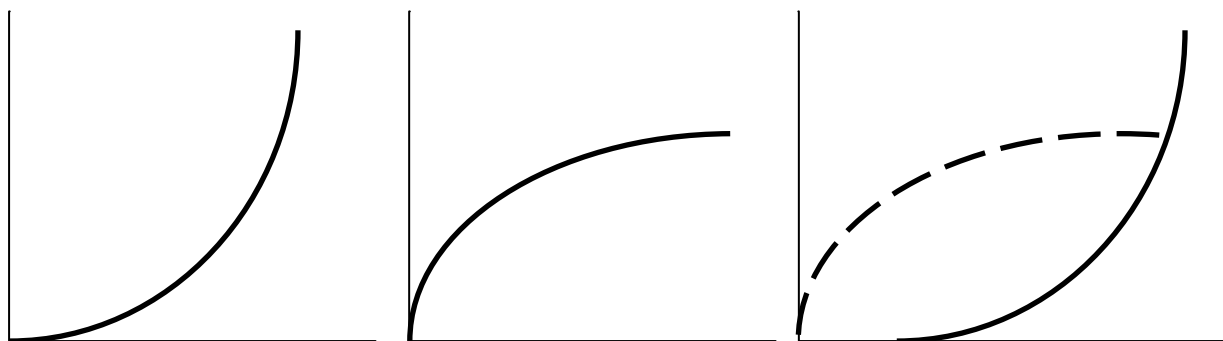


Figure 2.1. Expected return to “new” knowledge; Figure 2.2. Seemingly actual; Figure 2.3. Hypothesized lagged nullification

Source: graphs created by James Curtis, Jr.

3.3 Economic History II, Religion & Science, “Economic Opportunity & Cultural Clashes”, February 20, 2012

After reading an article on yahoo.com, the middle income group—skilled workers, many with property—seems under duress in the United States of America and worldwide. There are several studies showing the condition of wealthy individuals outperforming the condition of the middle income sector and the condition of the poor at the start of the 21st century, in the United States of America (USA), the country which once, most, endorsed the pursuit of happiness.

Similarly, churches with black congregations, churches with white congregations, and churches with *beige* congregations are popping up everywhere, powerfully preaching the words of God. Note that some of the church leadership at these churches, new & old, have taken a hard line of many issues that individuals struggle with on a daily basis by presenting culturally conservative aims based on their interpretation of parables in Biblical passages ...

“In God we trust” may have taken America further, politically & economically, than many other nations historically. But the conservative cultural squeeze on the quality of life of middle-income America could lead to diminishing outcomes, parallel to other economies, historically, which faltered by placing their weight on the backs of those (who made it great).

3.4 Economic History III, Ethnicity, Religion & Science, and Theory of the Firm, “Market/Government Rationing”, February 21, 2012

An intriguing dialogue occurred between a talk show host & an author, about the future of western civilization, based on the theoretical melting pot of culture in the United States of America & religious practices in the United States of America. The author questioned the sustainability of America when people immigrate to America and retain their culture.

This seems to be a coincidental continuation of expression thematic of this statement. A missing part of the author’s argument is protectionism in America and the protection of big business in America, possibly coinciding with indirect “too big to fall” tags, leading to government bailouts of long term big businesses.

Note that many political scientists, economists, and politicians question the government-based rationing methods of more centralized governments around the world. But a deeper introspection into the possible bubble of big business funding of USA government candidates and indirect “too big to fall” tags of these businesses through government bailouts could lead one to believe that the country marketing the beauty of free markets to the world

is actually the Alaskan neighbor of their criticism.

3.5 Labor Economics III, Education/Human Capital Theory, Employment Inquiries and Wealth Outcomes, December 8, 2017

Consider the following serious employment inquiries/opportunities from 1987 to 2017, what is the expected wealth mean and variance of the entity with the employment inquires in Table 1?

Table 1. Serious employment inquires 1987-2017

Employment title, Inquiry	Institution/Organization	Salary, Expected	5 Year
FIFA, certified official	Prince William County Parks & Recreation	\$20.00/hour	1987
Employment, social science work study	Boston University	\$7.50/hour/20 hours/week	1991
Analyst	USA, Central Intelligence Agency	\$30,000.00/year	1996
Analyst	financial consulting	\$30,000.00/year, advance	1996
Graduate Resident Assistant	college/university	\$2,000.00/year, \$10.00/hour	1996
Graduate Teaching Assistant	University of Delaware	\$2,000.00/year, \$10.00/hour	1996
Stockholder Relations Coordinator	COMSAT	\$30,000.00/year	1996
Economist, technology specialist	USA, Federal Reserve Board of Governors	\$40,000.00/year	1996
Graduate Teaching Assistant	Michigan State University	\$2,000.00/year, \$10.00/hour	1997
Page, people network & future salary substitutes	USA Congress, Senate	\$0-\$10.00/hour, reimbursement	1997
Assistant Professor of Political Science	college/university	\$45,000.00/year	2001
Contractor, small business grant	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$2,000.00 expenses	2001
Lecturer	small college	\$10.00/hour	2001
Assistant Professor of Economics	Texas A&M University	\$70,000.00/year	2002
Contractor, property ownership grant	small bank, co-applicant	\$250,000.00 real estate contract	2002
Economist	USA, Federal Reserve Board of Governors	\$70,000.00/year	2002
Economist	Rand	\$70,000.00/year	2002
Analyst	USA, DOJ, Federal Bureau of Investigations	\$49,500.00/year	2003
Contractor, property ownership grant	small bank	\$125,000.00 real estate contract	2003
Contractor, small business grant	Willie Gary Foundation	\$2,000.00 expenses	2003
Instructor	Trinity University	\$10,000.00/semester	2004
Economist	USA, Department of Labor, BLS	\$49,500.00/year	2004
Econometrician	USA, Department of Energy	\$49,500.00/year	2005
Economist	USA, HUD	\$49,500.00/year	2005

Table 1 (continued). Serious employment inquires 1987-2017

Employment title, Inquiry	Institution/Organization	Salary, Expected	5 Year
Economist	USA, DOT IRS	\$49,500.00/year	2005
Microsoft Office Tech, 100% score, Excel Word	Connecticut Avenue, NW DC, temp agency	\$25.00/hour	2005
Accounting Manager, apply bookkeeping skills	Shade Grove Maryland agency	\$40,000.00/year	2009
Receptionist, maintain religious mission focus	mission	\$22,000.00/year	2010
Economist, post-econ eJournal publications	USA Food and Drug Administration	\$70,000.00/year	2012
Senior Economist/Operations Researcher	USA, Postal Service	\$70,000.00/year	2012
Building Manager, Treasurer, religion work study	church	\$300.00/month	2012
Author, religion & science /social science royalty?	journals	7+%/book issue sale	2012
CEO, admin/exe, admin/religion, admin/university	small? business self employment	\$125,000.00+/year	2012
Author, general publishing royalties?	journals, publishing organizations	7+% a book/issue sale	2017

Source: Table created by James Curtis, Jr.

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