

An assemblage of discrimination and social preferences

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Propositions

accompanying the doctoral dissertation

An Assemblage of Discrimination and Social Preferences

by Nickolas Gagnon

1. The topics at hand are social preferences and discrimination, two unavoidable societal concerns.
2. From outside of economics, it is easier to see discrimination engendering non-monetary costs for those discriminated.
3. Aversion to unequal outcomes and to unfair chances as well as reciprocity are social preferences potentially underlying a diversity of behaviors.
4. Experiments provide wonderful designs, causal inference; the crux of debates surrounding them is often external validity.
5. Unfair chances do not alter labor supply, but unequal wages and gender discrimination do. (Chapter 2)
6. Interacting with the poor increases generosity, ethnic differences don't count; but the rich escape the poor, the whites avoid minorities, complexifying the picture. (Chapter 3)
7. The passing of time diminishes workers' reciprocal behavior, relative to a few hours after learning their wage. (Chapter 4)
8. The unfairness of unequal chances depends on their source. (Chapter 5)