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Nathan Wilmers

- ACADEMIC POSITIONS** MIT Sloan School of Management
Sarofim Family Career Development Professor, 2019-present
Assistant Professor, Work and Organization Studies, 2018-present
- EDUCATION** Harvard University
Ph.D., Sociology, 2018
• Dissertation: “The New Economic Segmentation: Work, Inequality, and Market Power”
M.A., Sociology, 2016
University of Chicago
B.A., Philosophy, 2010
- RESEARCH INTERESTS** Wage and Earnings Inequality, Economic Sociology, Labor Unions, the Sociology of Work
- PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS** Wilmers, Nathan. Forthcoming. “Turf or Variety: Task Structure as a Source of Organizational Inequality,” *Administrative Science Quarterly*.
- Wilmers, Nathan. 2019. “Solidarity Within and Across Workplaces: How Cross-Workplace Coordination Affects Earnings Inequality,” *Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, 5: 190-215.
- Desmond, Matthew and Nathan Wilmers. 2019. “Do the Poor Pay More for Housing? Exploitation, Profit, and Risk in Rental Markets,” *American Journal of Sociology*, 124: 1090-1124.
• Reported in *Chicago Reader*, *CityLab*, *WGBH*.
- Wilmers, Nathan. 2018. “Wage Stagnation and Buyer Power: How Buyer-Supplier Relations Affect U.S. Workers’ Wages, 1978-2014,” *American Sociological Review*, 83: 213-242.
• Reported in *The Boston Globe*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *CNN*, *The Hill*, *PYMNTS.com*, and *Fox Business*.
- Wilmers, Nathan. 2017. “Does Consumer Demand Reproduce Inequality? High-income Consumers, Vertical Differentiation and the Wage Structure,” *American Journal of Sociology*, 123: 178-231.
• Winner, Granovetter Award for Best Paper in Economic Sociology (ASA), 2018
• Co-winner, Consumers and Consumption Graduate Student Award (ASA), 2017
• Honorable Mention, Consumers and Consumption Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award (ASA), 2017
• Reported in *The Washington Post*, *Nature Human Behavior*, *NBC* and *CNBC*
- Wilmers, Nathan. 2017. “Labor Unions as Activist Organizations: A Union Power Approach to Estimating Union Wage Effects,” *Social Forces*, 95: 1451-1478.
• Featured in *National Affairs*, *Work in Progress*, and *Scholars Strategy Network*

- OTHER PUBLICATIONS
- Wilmers, Nathan. Forthcoming. Review of Fine, Janice; Linda Burnham; Kati Griffith; Minsun Ji; Victor Narro; and Steven Pitts, *No One Size Fits All: Worker Organization, Policy, and Movement in a New Economic Age* (LERA 2018). *Work and Occupations*.
- Wilmers, Nathan. 2017. "Sociological Perspectives on Economic Inequality," *Cambridge Handbook of Sociology*, ed. Korgen, Kathleen. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- IN PREPARATION
- Wilmers, Nathan and William Kimball. "Between Opportunity and Exclusion: Effects of Within-Organization Mobility on Inequality," Under Review.
- Wilmers, Nathan and Per Lundborg. "Patronage and Pay: Does Social Hierarchy in the Workplace Create Inequality?"
- Wilmers, Nathan. "Sources of Workplace Fragmentation: Multi-National Evidence from Linked Employer-Employee Data."
- Wilmers, Nathan and Clemens Aeppli. "Inequality Between Occupations or Workplaces? Decomposing US Inequality Trends."
- Wilmers, Nathan and Barry Eidlin. "Does Democracy Pay? Determinants of Organizational Effectiveness in Labour Unions."
- GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS
- Russell Sage Foundation Research Grant: "Wage Stagnation and the Transformation of Pay Practices," 2019
- Washington Center for Equitable Growth Research Grant: "Between Exclusion and Cumulative Advantage: Effects of Within-Organization Mobility on Inequality," 2019
- Institute for Work and Employment Research Faculty Grant: "Between Exclusion and Cumulative Advantage: Effects of Within-Organization Mobility on Inequality," 2018
- Washington Center for Equitable Growth Doctoral Research Grant: "Unions, Managers and Monopolies: How Concentration and Managerial Power Contribute to Rising Wage Inequality," 2017
- Harvard GSAS Completion Fellowship, 2017
- Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada: "Does Democracy Pay? Determinants of Organizational Effectiveness in Labour Unions" (Co-PI with Barry Eidlin), 2017
- Fonds de recherche du Québec, Research Grant: "Organizational Democracy and Effectiveness: Is There a Tradeoff? The Case of Labour Unions" (Co-PI with Barry Eidlin), 2017
- Institute for Quantitative Social Science Graduate Research Grant, 2017
- National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant: "Market Concentration, Skill Segregation, and Rising Wage Inequality" (Co-PI with Bruce Western), 2017
- Weatherhead Initiative on Gender Inequality Small Research Grant, 2016
- Center for American Political Studies Seed Grant (2), 2016
- Swedish Research Council, Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide, 2015

National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide, 2015

Center for American Political Studies Seed Grant (1), 2014

National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship, 2013

Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy, Harvard University, Doctoral Research Grant, 2013

AWARDS

ASA Granovetter Award for Best Paper in Economic Sociology, 2018

Co-winner, ASA Consumers and Consumption Graduate Student Award, 2017

Honorable Mention, ASA Consumers and Consumption Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award, 2017

Certificate of Distinction, Harvard Bok Center for Teaching and Learning (2), 2015

Certificate of Distinction, Harvard Bok Center for Teaching and Learning (1), 2014

Presidential Scholar in Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2012

AFFILIATIONS

Faculty, Institute for Work and Employment Research, MIT, 2018-present

Faculty, Economic Sociology Program, MIT, 2018-present

Visiting Researcher, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2017-present

Graduate Research Fellow, Weatherhead Initiative in Gender Inequality, 2017

Affiliate, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, 2016-2018

Special Sworn Status, US Census Bureau, 2016-present

Visiting Researcher, Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI), 2015

Fellow, Harvard Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy, 2013-2018

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Aligning Inequalities: Organizational Sources of Wage Inequality, 1999-2017”

- Berkeley Haas School of Business, Management of Organizations, 2020.
- Wharton School, Management Department, 2020.
- Cornell Department of Sociology, 2020.
- MIT Institute for Work and Employment Relations, 2020.

“Between-firm Relations and Economic Inequality.”

- MaxPo-MPIfG Seminar: States, Sectors, Firms, Growth. 2019.

“Organizations and Inequality: Sorting and Wage Premiums.”

- Harvard Business School, NerdLab. 2019.

“Product Market Competition and Wage Inequality: Evidence from the Occupational Employment

Survey and the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.”

- Bureau of Labor Statistics, Brownbag Seminar. 2018.

“Wage Stagnation and Buyer Power: How Buyer-Supplier Relations Affect U.S. Workers’ Wages, 1978-2014”

- MIT/Harvard Economic Sociology Seminar. 2017.
- Social Demography Seminar, Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies. 2017.

“Labor Unions as Activist Organizations: A Union Power Approach to Estimating Union Wage Effects”

- Swedish Institute for Social Research, Labor Economics Brownbag Seminar. 2015.

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

“Seeing Like a Corporation: Changing Conceptions of the Employee, 1935-2005”

- Social Science History Association. 2019.

“Wage Stagnation and Pay Practices”

- Junior Faculty Organizational Theory Conference. 2019.
- People & Organizations Conference. 2019.

“Complex Jobs and Unique Jobs: Organizational Sources of Employee Bargaining Power”

- BRIQ Workshop on Firms, Jobs and Inequality. 2018.
- Junior Faculty Organizational Theory Conference. 2018.
- American Sociological Association. 2018.

“Labor Union Structure: Centralization, Density and Democracy”

- Labor and Employment Relations Association. 2018.

“Power Inside and Outside the Firm: How Institutions Restrained Pay Inequality in the 1970s”

- Changing Job Quality: Causes, Consequences, and Challenges (Russell Sage Foundation and W.K. Kellogg Foundation). 2018.

“Wage Stagnation and Buyer Power: How Buyer-Supplier Relations Affect U.S. Workers’ Wages, 1978-2014”

- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. 2017.
- Economic Sociology/Organizations, Occupations and Work Mini-conference. 2017.
- Academy of Management Annual Meeting. 2017.

“The New Industrial Segmentation: Inequality, Economic Dynamism and Market Position”

- RC28 Social Stratification and Mobility Summer Meeting. 2017.

“Do the Poor Pay More for Housing? Exploitation and Profit-Seeking in Rental Markets” (with Matthew Desmond)

- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. 2017.

“Task Reallocation and Earnings Inequality: Using Nepotistic Hiring to Study Earnings Effects of Task Reallocation” (with Per Lundborg)

- Aage Sørensen Memorial Conference. 2016.

“Between-firm Earnings Inequality: New Evidence from Large Firms, 1950-2014”

- Social Science History Association. 2015.

“Labor Unions as Activist Organizations: A Union Power Approach to Estimating Union Wage

Effects”

- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. 2015.

“Can High Income Consumers Increase Within-Industry Wage Inequality?”

- Aage Sørensen Memorial Conference. 2015.
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. 2014.

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

15.311: Organizational Processes, Fall 2019
Instructor

15.311: Organizational Processes, Fall 2018
Instructor

SOC 97: Sociological Theory, Fall 2014 and Spring 2015.
Teaching Fellow

- Certificate of Distinction, Harvard Bok Center for Teaching and Learning

SERVICE AND
PROFESSIONAL
AFFILIATIONS

Coordinator, MIT Economic Sociology Seminar, 2020-present.

Council Member, ASA Economic Sociology Section, 2019-2022.

Faculty Steering Committee, Good Companies, Good Jobs Initiative at MIT Sloan, 2018-present.

Chair, Committee for Granovetter Award for Best Paper in Economic Sociology, 2019.

Coordinator, Workshop on History, Culture and Society, 2014-2015.

Reviewer, *Administrative Science Quarterly*, *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Work and Occupations*, *Social Forces*, *Socius*, *Theory & Society*, *Comparative European Politics*, *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, *Industrial Relations*, *International Review of Applied Economics*, *Management Science*, *Sociological Forum*, *Socio-Economic Review*.

Member, American Sociological Association, Academy of Management, and Labor and Employment Relations Association