Abstract for Zachary Bleemer's paper, 'Affirmative Action and Racial Integration.'

Coauthored with Gerald Jaynes.

Is long-run social integration and cohesion between racial groups more likely following exposure to racially diverse and/or more academically-matched universities? We study California's Proposition 209, a 1998 affirmative action ban that decreased Black, Hispanic, and Native American (URM) undergraduate enrollment by 40 percent at UC Berkeley; decreased URM enrollment at University of California law, business, and medical schools by about 50 percent; and improved cross-race academic match at other undergraduate UC campuses. Our analysis combines novel administrative data linking most 1988-2008 UC students to their 2003-2023 local residential ethnic composition, spousal race, and workplace characteristics with between- and within-institution difference-in-difference designs. We find that neither racial diversity nor cross-race academic match meaningfully affects non-URM students' longitudinal racial integration. Affirmative action does not affect the share of medical graduates practicing in minority communities. We investigate mechanisms by exploiting the UC Berkeley dormitory lottery following Abdulkadiroglu et al (2014), rejecting meaningful relationships between URM roommate assignment and non-URM students' long-run racial integration.