**Climate Change, Human Capital, and the American Dream**

**Project Description:**

Research from laboratory and field studies suggest that environmental stressors such as poor air quality or extreme temperature can adversely affect students’ concentration and learning ability. Climate change will likely lead to more extreme weather events, with potentially disruptive consequences for human capital accumulation. This is especially likely for students in disadvantaged neighborhoods, where environmental quality is already low (e.g. high air pollution, which can interact with high temperature in adverse ways), and adaptive investments (e.g. air conditioning) few and far between.

This study addresses the potential for additional disruption in student achievement that may be imposed by future climatic change, with an emphasis on the differential impacts across racial and socioeconomic lines. Using a unique database of student information and test scores for over 18 million students from a major public school district in the United States, coupled with daily temperature and air quality data, this project seeks to estimate the causal impacts of extreme temperature events on student achievement.

**Desired Qualifications:**

Familiarity with STATA and/or similar statistical packages is a must. Experience managing large datasets is preferred. Economics/Statistics concentrators preferred. Open to Undergraduates as well as Masters students.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

- Review of related literature (human capital, economics of education, inequality of opportunity, climate change economics, social mobility)
- Data cleaning, merging, and preliminary regression analyses.
- Interviews with public school personnel
- Data visualization

**Pay rate:**

(Competitive. Minimum $15/hr)

**Hours per week:**

Preferably 10-20 hrs per week, with some flexibility.

**Dates:**
Minimum 4 weeks between June and August 2015

Misc:

Work study preferred. Research experience in labor, public, or social economics a plus.

Contact:

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