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## Essays in Applied Labor Economics

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# Essays in Applied Labor Economics

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James Edward Curtis, Jr.

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**Abstract.** In this paper, James Edward Curtis, Jr. (2017) compiles essays on economic history, labor economics and laws & economics

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to address economic issues. James Edward Curtis, Jr. (2017) considers economic theory, summary empirical analyses, and

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government & social construct to challenge our comfort levels with the current status of unequal economic indicators and public policy



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39

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

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

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

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

64

65 A fundamental flaw to all of this seems to be that liberal research on slavery production suggests that  
66 slave 'owners' tend to overextend labor which leads to premature death and injuries, and, ultimately, no or less  
67 productivity, leading to lower revenue and profits. Yet they endorse enslaving...for medical, political, and economic  
68 consumption goods. Members of their team are defying their own rationality and behaving irrational in enslaving...  
69 For, their research implies that there should be a way to employ the potential slave for a wage, that is above the  
70 reservation wage of the potential slave (which is zero if all other employers collude in such a manner) and that the  
71 potential slave directly receives, to incentivize the potential slave to work that will provide more output than the  
72 output produced by slavery—ignoring the spillover effect of aggregate distaste for slavery that leads to no  
73 productivity in such form in the long-run and, eventually, a set of insufficient skills by the slave owners,  
74 represented economically by inferior (or lower) elasticities of labor and capital, once production with slavery has  
75 been forced to end (leading to higher long-run costs and lack of competitiveness with non-slave production states  
76 and, ultimately, a welfare state, subject to the handouts and coerced direction by states that more genuinely  
77 support labor markets).

78 CHAPTER 4 Curtis Jr., James, "Four-Door Trap" *Labor Economics I, Wages*, December 20, 2003,

79 revised January 14, 2004.

80

81 Research that shows that young slaves experience catch-up growth relative to young non-slaves if  
82 underfed while young and/or developing relative to non-slaves and fed at levels equivalent to non-slaves when  
83 developed (even though this does not address selection bias—a reduction of the analysis to slaves who made it to  
84 development stages since slaves tended to die earlier, on average, than non-slaves).

85



86 CHAPTER 5 Curtis Jr., James, "Four-Door Trap" **Labor Economics II, Utility Functions & Time**, December 20, 2003,

87 revised January 14, 2004.

88

89 Research ...shows that utility can be time-separable (or not having consumption in any one period—through  
90 rigorous investment in education on minimal or no income, or, more crudely, participation in crude, almost-criminal,  
91 survivor-like wealth-creation games by those who chose not invest in education—can produce more happiness in,  
92 usually, the remaining periods where the income, wealth and consumption may occur).

95

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

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

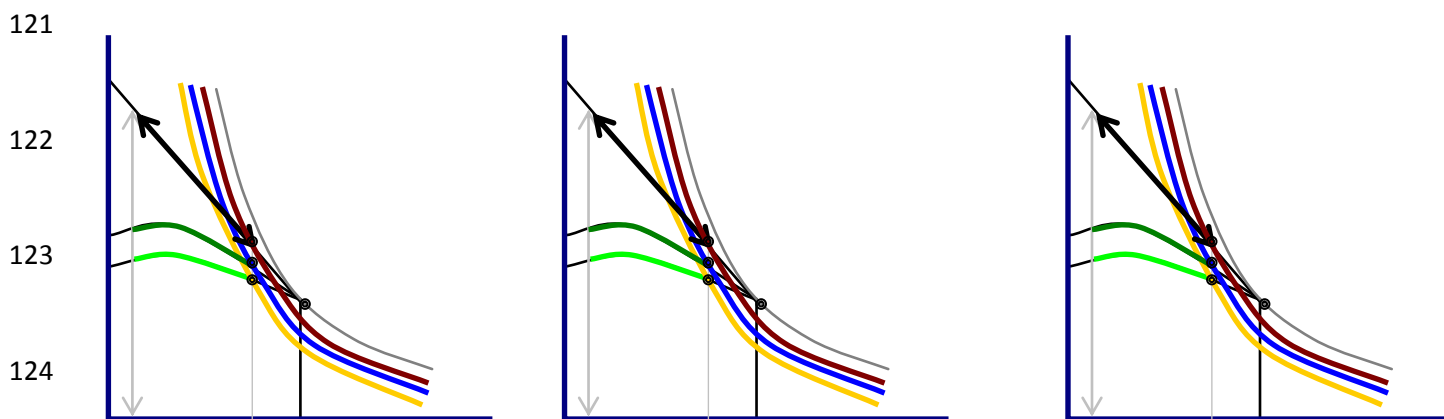
109 Note that this poses interesting, but possibly suspiciously-motivated questions, for individuals who have  
110 significantly progressed beyond historical family outcomes in terms of education and/or wealth.

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

120 Figure 1. Hours of Work, Leisure & Time

Figure 2. Social Intellectual Advances, Leisure & Higher Education Schooling

Figure 3. Wealth Acquisitions, Leisure & Real Space



125 Source: graph created by James Curtis, Jr., References include John C Ham, applications include constraints on the  
 126 portion of hours of work and leisure.

127 CHAPTER 7 Curtis Jr., James, "Four-Door Trap" *Laws & Economics I, Religion & Science*, December 20, 2003,

128 revised January 14, 2004.

129

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

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

132 productivity.

134

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

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

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

147 Given the possibility of social inefficiency, the crucial social question becomes, assuming all large land  
148 owners are crude short-run profit maximizers, then, what is the desire of managers to manage serfdom-slaves?  
149 More specifically, what is the capacity of managers to adjust their desire and participation? For instance, is the  
150 utility of the serfdom-slaves in the utility function of the manager? Why or why not? Do issues like conflicts of

- 151 interest in social governance *statutes* or *the historical outcomes* of *historically similar social structures* impact
- 152 manager choices? *Why* or *why not*?

153 CHAPTER 9 Curtis Jr., James "Justice during Staged Imperialism: ...Wealth Transfers by Exploiting Arrogance

154 and Ignorance" **Laws and Economics III, Wealth Inequality**, January 4, 2004

155

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

165 CHAPTER 10 Curtis Jr, James "Economic and Social Linkages to the African Slave Trade  
166 and Modern 'Faith' Motivations" *Economic History II, Religion & Science*, January 14, 2004.

167  
168 It is possible that the United States of America's northeastern founding fathers, in particular, envisioned  
169 God's plan or purposeful organization of America as the source of potential manifested prophecy of faith in the  
170 centuries to come ... especially given the adopted motto of the United States: "In God We Trust." It is also possible  
171 that the melting pot of European immigrants that eventually constructed the landscape and population of America  
172 were conscious of the manner in which prophecy was going to be ushered in: via the coerced existence and actions  
173 of potential involuntary subjects. Therefore, after unsuccessfully creating a critical mass/effective class of  
174 voluntary servants from poor European whites and after unsuccessfully attempting to create a class of involuntary  
175 servants among Native Americans, due to possible inability to withstand culturally-unique diseases from the  
176 European community, it is possible that Europeans engaged in the African slave trade, where members of African  
177 tribes/nations guided European slave traders through Africa to capture potentially the strongest and best slaves....

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



182 and whites... (Furthermore), large disparities among post-Civil War southern ex-slaves and whites were consistent  
183 with modern economic disparities among blacks and whites...

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

190

191 Expected Returns [Diagram A] versus Seemingly Actual Returns [Diagram B] to gains in new knowledge, due

192 to hypothetical lagged ... nullification [Diagram C]. The hypothesis of lagged ... nullifications suggests

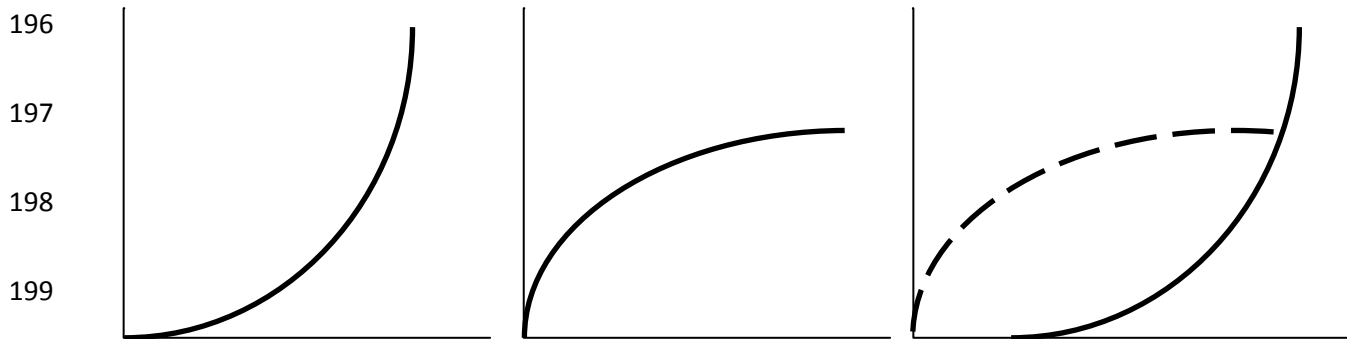
193 designed interruptions from the happiness gains of new knowledge in the path of an individual's life.

194

195 Diagram A/ Figure 4 Expected Return to "New" Knowledge

Diagram B/ Figure 5. Seemingly Actual

Diagram C/ Figure 6. Hypothesized Lagged Nullification



200

201 CHAPTER 12 Curtis Jr, James "Economic Opportunity & Cultural Clashes" *Economic History II, Religion & Science*,  
202 February 20, 2012

203

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

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

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

218 CHAPTER 13 Curtis Jr, James “Market/Government Rationing”

219 *Economic History III, Ethnicity, Religion & Science, and Theory of the Firm*, February 21, 2012.

220

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

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

228 Note that many political scientists, economists, and politicians question the government-based rationing  
229 methods of more centralized governments around the world. But a deeper introspection into the possible bubble of  
230 big business funding of USA government candidates & indirect ‘too big to fail’ tags of these businesses through  
231 government bailouts could lead one to believe that the country marketing the beauty of free markets to the world is  
232 actually the Alaskan neighbor of their criticism.

234

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

237

238

**TABLE 1. EMPLOYMENT INQUIRIES 1987 - 2017**

239	001.5 Employment title, Inquiry	002.5 Institution/Organization	004.5 Salary, Expected	006.5 Year
240	FIFA, <del>certified official</del>	Prince William County Parks & Recreation	\$20.00/hour	1987
241	Employment, <del>social science work study</del>	Boston University	\$7.50/hour/ 20 hours/week	1991
242	Analyst	USA, Central Intelligence Agency	\$30,000.00/year	1996
243	Analyst	financial consulting	\$30,000.00/year, advance	1996
244	Graduate Resident Assistant	college/university	\$2,000.00/year, \$10.00/hour	1996
245	Graduate Teaching Assistant	University of Delaware	\$2,000.00/year, \$10.00/hour	1996
246	Stockholder Relations Coordinator	COMSAT	\$30,000.00/year	1996
247	Economist, <del>technology specialist</del>	USA, Federal Reserve Board Of Governors	\$40,000.00/year	1996
248	Graduate Teaching Assistant	Michigan State University	\$2,000.00/year, \$10.00/hour	1997
249	Page, <del>people network &amp; future salary substitutes</del>	USA Congress, Senate	\$0-\$10.00/hour, reimbursement	1997
250	Assistant Professor of Political Science	college/university	\$45,000.00/year	2001
251	Contractor, <del>small business grant</del>	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$2,000.00 expenses	2001
252	Lecturer	small college	\$10.00/hour	2001
253	Assistant Professor of Economics	Texas A&M University	\$70,000.00/year	2002
254	Contractor, <del>property ownership grant</del>	small bank, co-applicant	\$250,000.00 real estate contract	2002
255	Economist	USA, Federal Reserve Board Of Governors	\$70,000.00/year	2002
256	Economist	Rand	\$70,000.00/year	2002
257	Analyst	USA, DOJ, Federal Bureau Of Investigations	\$49,500.00/year	2003
258	Contractor, <del>property ownership grant</del>	small bank	\$125,000.00 real estate contract	2003
259	Contractor, <del>small business grant</del>	Willie Gary Foundation	\$2,000.00 expenses	2003
260	Instructor	Trinity University	\$10,000.00/semester	2004
261	Economist	USA, Department Of Labor, BLS	\$49,500.00/year	2004
262	Econometrician	USA, Department Of Energy	\$49,500.00/year	2005
263	Economist	USA, HUD	\$49,500.00/year	2005
264	Economist	USA, DOT IRS	\$49,500.00/year	2005
265	Microsoft Office Tech, <del>100% score, Excel Word</del>	Connecticut Avenue, NW DC, temp agency	\$25.00/hour	2005
266	Accounting Manager, <del>apply bookkeeping skills</del>	Shade Grove Maryland agency	\$40,000.00/year	2009
267	Receptionist, <del>maintain religious mission focus</del>	mission	\$22,000.00/year	2010
268	Economist, <del>post - econ eJournal publications</del>	USA Food And Drug Administration	\$70,000.00/year	2012
269	Senior Economist/Operations Researcher	USA, Postal Service	\$70,000.00/year	2012
270	Building Manager, Treasurer, <del>religion work study</del>	church	\$300.00/month	2012
271	Author, <del>religion &amp; science /social science royalty?</del>	journals	7+ %/book issue sale	2012
272	CEO, <del>admin/axe, admin/religion, admin/university</del>	small? business self employment	\$125,000.00+ /year	2012
273	Author, <del>general publishing royalties?</del>	journals, publishing organizations	7+ % a book/issue sale	2017

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