

## **Is Economic Mobility Bad for Immigrants' Health? Evidence from Longitudinal Data**

### **Abstract**

U.S. immigrants' economic mobility and health assimilation present a paradox. On the one hand, they experience faster earnings growth than the native-born and have improved SES profiles over time. On the other hand, some studies have shown that immigrants' health deteriorates more quickly, and older immigrants have particularly vulnerable health profiles. Connecting these two literatures, this seminar will use Social Security earnings records linked with the Health and Retirement Study to let participants understand whether immigrants' earnings mobility in the labor force benefits or harms their later-life health. It is found that mobility clearly benefits health at age 60: those who experienced large upward mobility ("high risers") have the same low levels of health problems and functional limitations as those who had consistently high earnings ("high earners"). However, over time, high risers experience the fastest deterioration in health of all groups, such that they have significantly worse profiles than high earners by age 80.