

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [The Economists Who'd Rather Be Influencers](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-economists-whod-rather-be-influencers-social-science-data-errors-mobility-3be7d70d#>

Author(s)	Joshua Rauh and Gregory Kearney
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**Tweet:** .@joshrauh & Gregory Kearney of @HooverInst argue academic research suffers from a feedback loop that encourages economists to produce left-leaning research to achieve widespread coverage in the mainstream media.

**Summary:** Social sciences researchers hoping to become public influencers have one clear path: through the mainstream media. Unfortunately, journalists aren't unbiased arbiters. For more than a decade, the media has praised economists Saez, Zucman and Piketty. Their data purport to show the income share of the top 1% of [US] earners climbed to 21% in 2019 from 9% in 1970. In a recent paper that has received far less attention, Aulen of the U.S. Treasury and Splinter of Congress's Joint Committee on Taxation find the income share of the top 1% climbed to 13.7% in 2019 from 9.2% in 1970. and, incorporating increases in redistributive government policy, the income share of the top 1% only increased to 8.8% in 2019 from 6.8% in 1970. In 2017, [Harvard's Raj Chetty] published findings that U.S. trends in the likelihood of children achieving a higher income status than their parents has grown progressively worse, a point that received intense media coverage. Research published by Scott Winship of the American Enterprise Institute shows the fall in mobility was a direct consequence, not of inequality, but of slowing economic growth that began in the 1970s. Journalists' propensity to ignore research that refutes their beliefs encourages academics to pander to the liberal tilt of mainstream news organizations, leading to the general public's misunderstanding of important policy issues.

**Primary Topic:** Politics

**Topics:** Database, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Politics, Weekly

**Permalink:** <https://www.edwardconard.com/macro-roundup/joshrauh-and-gregory-kearney-argue-that-academic-research-especially-in-the-area-of-inequality-suffers-from-a-feedback-loop-where-journalists-desire-to-feature-left-leaning-research-which-in-turn?view=detail>

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