# Employment and the Sex Ratio in a Two-Sided Model of Marriage (Seitz, 2000)

## Summary

### Motivation

Wide variation in marriage and employment behavior across race: blacks are less likely to marry and more likely to divorce than whites, black men have lower labor force participation rates than whites, and married black women are more likely to work than single black women while white married women work less than their single counterparts. The sex ratio is consistently lower for blacks than for whites throughout recent history due to differences in sex ratio at birth, homicide, accident and infant mortality rates.

## Question

Examine the relationship between the sex ratio and marriage and employment decisions within an equilibrium model of marriage.

## Data

National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 Cohort (NSLY79)

## Main Results

## Comments

* Differences in sex ratios are driven by differences in mortality rates in the model
* Marriage market is not stationary over time, but evolves endogenously: author argues that this allows the model to capture important changes in marriage and employment behavior as individuals age (which ones?)
* Divorce is possible in the model
* There are two marriage markets: for blacks and for whites. Within a marriage market, there’s no heterogeneity in earning potential among people of the same sex