

# Economic Mobility and Belief in Meritocracy: Perception and Reality in the United States\*

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Do Americans' beliefs in meritocracy—that is, whether one can get ahead by hard work—reflect the actual extent of economic mobility in their communities? Let's find out.

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\*The paper's revision history and the materials needed to reproduce its analyses can be found [on Github here](#).  
Current version: November 18, 2018.