



Articles:

- **Education Reform and the Corrosion of Community Responsibility.** Washington Post. 2/26/2014. “The outlines of a society-wide shift in our moral identity have been emerging for some time— at least since the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980. However, the recent push for self-directed rather than community-focused government policies in public education— from “school choice” to individual performance pay to undermining collective bargaining— strikes me...Self-concern is a rationale moral choice only in the context of a society that refuses to systemically address inequity and only if everyone becomes convinced that collective action is a hopelessly naïve moral and strategic principle. History and morality suggest otherwise.” [Read more](#)
- **Evidence Shows Increasing the Minimum Wage is No Threat to Employment.** Center for American Progress. 2/18/2014. “In short, the evidence shows that the U.S. economy has much to gain from increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 and comparatively little to fear. Policymakers should feel confident that raising the minimum wage will not hurt employment, and they should immediately take the steps necessary to ensure that all Americans are guaranteed a wage high enough to allow them to live with dignity and to contribute positively to lasting economic growth.” [Read more](#)
- **Gender, Race, and Rape During the Civil War.** The Atlantic. 2/20/2014. “A new book states that there are records of 450 rape or attempted rape cases in Union military courts (destruction of the Confederate records leaves the stats on that side a mystery). Outside the courtroom, societal pressures and the value placed on chastity made it difficult for women to come forward at all. I spoke with Murphy over the phone about Civil War-era rape laws and how attitudes toward the crime in the 19th century still resonate today.” [Interview here](#)
- **How Anti-Poverty Programs Marginalize Fathers.** Atlantic Cities. 2/25/2014. “U.S. government programs designed to help such families, however, haven't evolved with the population. Based on decades-old stereotypes that single mothers are raising children alone and single dads are "deadbeats," the majority of United States anti-poverty programs almost exclusively serve women and children. The welfare system, as a result, can become a muddled mess of rearranging rather than relieving poverty. Single, non-custodial fathers bear the brunt. But dads don't suffer alone. Because the poor pull together to support one another, everyone absorbs the pinch.” [Read more](#)
- **How Driver's License Suspensions Make Poverty Worse.** Atlantic Cities. 2/20/2014. “The irony of course is that if a person can't or won't meet their financial obligations, losing their driver's license—and the privileges that come with it—will only make meeting those obligations (and others) harder.” [Read more](#)
- **How Housing Is Making America's Wealth Divide Worse.** Atlantic Cities. 2/26/2014. “Homeownership has long been a central part of the American Dream. But for many families and communities, it's turning into a nightmare. A new report from the Demand Institute highlights

just how geographically uneven the housing market has become [[PDF](#)]. The report analyzed housing market data for states, metropolitan areas, and 2,200 of America's largest cities and towns, which account for about half of the country's total." [Read more](#)

- **How Rich is Too Rich? It Depends on Where you Live.** Washington Post. 2/21/2014. "Atlanta, San Francisco, Miami and Boston lead the pack when it comes to inequality. In Atlanta, households in the top 5% made nearly 19 times as much money as households in the bottom 20%...The chart below breaks out the detail for the 20th, 50th, and 95th income percentiles in the 50 cities Brookings studied. One striking finding? In each city the median wage is a lot closer to the bottom of the income distribution than it is to the top." [Read more](#)
- **Liberals Need to Think Beyond the Minimum Wage.** The Atlantic. 2/18/2014. "The numbers present a strong case for raising the wage. Accounting for moderate job losses (which some research suggests might not even materialize), we're talking a policy that collectively enriches working families. Some teens and less educated workers will have more difficulty finding a job, but more will receive a raise. When you weigh the potential trade-offs, it seems like a net plus for the economy." [Read more](#)
- **Loneliness Should be recognized as a Signal of Poverty in Today's Britain.** The Guardian. 2/26/2014. "Poor social bonds damage people's employment prospects, their living standards and their wellbeing. The demands of the modern labour market, especially for those on low incomes who are more likely to work night shifts and weekends, are often in conflict with the opening hours of public services. Sometimes formal childcare is just too expensive. Without support from family and friends, people are more likely to struggle in – or, worse, drop out of – the labour market." [Read more](#)
- **Michelle Obama Expands Program that Gives All Students Free Meals.** Think Progress. 2/25/2014. "On Tuesday, First Lady Michelle Obama and U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will announce the expansion of a pilot program that gives all students, regardless of income, free school meals, including breakfast and lunch." [Read more](#)
- **Milwaukee Retains One of the Nation's Highest Infant Mortality Rates.** Milwaukee Public Radio. 2/21/2014. "Though Milwaukee's infant mortality rate dropped for six years in a row, it still remains at crisis levels, a new report says. Overall in Milwaukee, more than 10 infants died per 1,000 live births from 2009 through 2011. But the problem is especially acute for black babies, who die at nearly three times the rate of white babies in Milwaukee." [Read more](#)
- **Obama Plan Aims to Improve Odds for Minority Boys.** Washington Post. 2/27/2014. "President Barack Obama on Thursday launched his "My Brother's Keeper" initiative, calling on public and private entities to create more opportunities for young minority men, and break down social conditions that keep them impoverished and imprisoned in disproportionate numbers. Under Obama's initiative, businesses, foundations and community groups would coordinate their investments to come up with, or support, programs that keep youths in school and out of the criminal justice system, while improving their access to higher education." [Read more](#)
- **Picturing Hunger in America.** PBS Newshour. 2/18/2014. "'Hunger Through My Lens' has a dual mission: to empower people who are living in poverty and to promote awareness about hunger issues. Sponsored by the non-profit group Hunger Free Colorado, the program gives



digital cameras to food stamp recipients and asks them to chronicle what it's like to be hungry in America." [See images here](#)

- **Report: Almost 4 Million with Mental Illness Won't Be Covered in States That Don't Expand Medicaid.** Washington Post. 2/27/2014. "States that decide not to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act will leave more than 3.7 million Americans with mental illness without health-care coverage, according to a new report from an organization that represents mental health professionals." [Read more](#)
- **Study: Homophobic Lives are 2.5 Years Shorter.** The Atlantic. 2/21/2014. "anti-gay prejudice is significantly associated with less education and conservative ideologies. As individuals became more educated, they were less likely to express homophobia. With regard to mortality, even after controlling for demographic factors, there was still as significant association between homophobia and mortality risk. The difference in life expectancy between those who expressed prejudice and those who did not was 2.5 years." [Read more](#)
- **The Commuting Penalty of Being Poor and Black in Chicago.** Atlantic Cities. 2/21/2014. "Blacks – and black women in particular – face (at least) three obstacles. Economists reason that women and minorities often have to travel further to find the same job opportunities as whites, assuming that non-discriminatory employers are fewer and harder to find than those who'd hire a white man. The other two challenges speak directly to the communities in Chicago where minorities often live: Not only do they lack jobs close to home, but they also lack good access to transit to connect them to work elsewhere." [Read more](#)
- **The Incoherent Backlashes to Black Actors Playing "White" Superheroes.** The Atlantic. 2/20/14. "People say they object to black casting because it's untrue to the original source material, and a betrayal of the characters—a claim that seems particularly dicey in the case of The Hunger Games, where Rue is black in the original novel. No one, as far as I'm aware, has complained about Scarlett Johansson's casting as the Black Widow on ethnic grounds. Yet Johansson's background is Jewish...American racism holds that only certain racial differences matter." [Read more](#)
- **The Unsentimental Capitalist Case for Daddy Leave.** The Atlantic. 2/19/2014. "Paternity leave doesn't just mean men being more involved at home," Mundy said. "It means, for better or worse, women being able to put in more paid time at work...It may be hard to find a replacement mechanic or teacher or accountant for six weeks. But when mothers are able to take leave without guilt—and better yet, when fathers are able to share the time off—businesses are more likely to retain their female employees. [Currently] the U.S. is one of only four countries in the world without mandatory paid time off for new parents, along with Liberia, Papua New Guinea, and Swaziland." [Read more](#)
- **We are Not Our Genes: Social Policies Lag Behind Science.** HuffingtonPost Canada. 2/11/2014. "The choices we make, from breakfast to bedtime, reshape our gene expression, moulding us into the people we are. Living an active life of purposeful activity with social support, eating nutritiously and sleeping well in a safe place to call home can reduce our risk of

a host of diseases. But more important than whether we make healthy choices is whether we can make them. There is a fundamental disconnect between the parents most in need, who struggle each day to build the brains of their children and to keep them fed, and the policymakers who decide how many building blocks to hand over for the task.” [Read more](#)

- **What Really Happens When you Raise the Minimum Wage.** Think Progress. 2/18/2014. “The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a new report on Tuesday on the impacts of raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour and \$9 an hour. It found that a \$10.10 minimum wage, implemented by 2016, would mean higher earnings for 16.5 million workers, resulting in \$31 billion more in higher earnings. It would also lift nearly 1 million people out of poverty. But it also found that an increase would reduce jobs slightly. However...businesses may respond to a higher minimum wage in other ways.” [Read more](#)
- **When Even the Starting Line is Out of Reach.** New York Times. 2/22/2014. “One reason American antipoverty efforts over the last half-century haven’t been more effective is that they mostly treat symptoms, not causes. To put it another way, we don’t invest nearly enough in helping children in the first few years of life as their brains are developing. If we miss that window, then adult interventions like higher minimum wages can never be fully effective.” [Read more](#)
- **Why Dads Matter.** The Atlantic. 2/23/2014. “The time a dad spends with his children is a particularly strong predictor of how empathetic a child will become...Children who lack contact with fathers are more likely to be treated for emotional or behavioral problems. If parents get along, their children tend to be more psychologically and emotionally healthy. Moms who feel their child’s father backs them up are better mothers through all stages of the child’s development.” [Read more](#)
- **Why Income Inequality is so Much Worse in Atlanta Than Omaha.** Atlantic Cities. 2/20/2014. “America’s largest cities have long had wider inequality than the country as a whole, in large part because the rich households in big cities tend to be richer than the national average and the poor households simultaneously poorer. But inequality doesn’t look the same across each of those cities.” [Read more](#)
- **Why Ivy League Schools are So Bad at Economic Diversity.** The Atlantic. 2/27/2014. “Schools that are lower ranked and less rich but more committed to social justice—such as Antioch, Berea, or my current employer The New School—may be the actual bests for the normal-income student who is committed to economic equality. In their curriculum and admissions practices, these institutions of higher learning have centered concerns about systemic economic inequality. The experiences and perspectives of average income families are not rarefied but robustly reflected in these schools’ ethos and practice.” [Read more](#)
- **Yes, Evan Soltas, the US Still Needs Unions.** Jobs With Justice. 2/20/2014. “Unions are also necessary if public policy is going to effectively promote worker voice. Works councils and other non-union mechanisms can only succeed if workers have, under the protection of law, the ability to band together and engage in self-directed concerted activity – or put more simply, if they can form unions. It is fine if workers can exercise their voice in a non-union setting. However, without the right to form unions and engage in protected activity, workers run the risk of employer-dominated processes that may provide them a proverbial seat at the table without an ability to make the boss listen.” [Read more](#)



Policy, Reports & Tools:

- **Cities at Work: Progressive Local Policies to Rebuild the Middle Class.** February 2014. Center for American Progress. “The policies discussed in this report are numerous and varied, but in all cases they represent steps along the high road for local governments. Of course, in all the policy areas discussed, a comprehensive approach is needed to implement high-road economic development. Some of the things we recommend have been implemented in multiple places; others are relatively untested ideas but still worthy of consideration. We highlight below a short list of policy examples, which represent the broad scope of ideas needed to move metro areas onto the high road.” [Read more](#)
- **Connecting Tax Time to Financial Security.** New America Foundation. Feb 2014. “The ability to accumulate and access savings is a fundamental determinant of economic security for many families, especially those with low incomes and limited resources. Current federal policy favors longer-term, targeted purposes...which impedes a household’s ability to build up a stock of flexible use savings that are accessible to buffer against financial shocks or to invest in ways that may improve their future. Policy solutions to fill this gap need to address both the lack of resources that lower-income households can dedicate to saving and the lack of products that facilitate saving for flexible purposes. The Financial Security Credit offers lower- and middle-income households the option to open an account and an incentive to save in that account at a moment when they are receiving an influx of resources—tax time.” [Read more](#)
- **Expanding Federal Family and Medical Leave Coverage: Who Benefits from Changes in Eligibility Requirements?** Center for Economic and Policy Research. Feb 2014. “This paper looks at eligibility by demographic characteristics and finds that the probability of being eligible increases with educational attainment. Young men with high school degrees or less had the lowest rate of eligibility of all the demographic groups. We find that expanding FMLA coverage to smaller employers and to employees working fewer hours would increase access to job-protected leave for 1.4 million to 8.3 million more employees in the private sector. Women of childbearing age would especially benefit from an expansion in eligibility coverage.” [Read more](#)
- **From Poverty to Prosperity: A Conversation with Bill Gates.** AEI Philanthropic Freedom Project. March 13th, 11:30am CST. “The greatest antipoverty achievement in human history is unfolding before our eyes. The percentage of people living in extreme poverty has plummeted by 80 percent in the past four decades alone. What brought about this remarkable transformation? AEI’s Philanthropic Freedom Project welcomes Bill Gates for an exclusive event. In conversation with AEI President Arthur Brooks, Gates will describe philanthropy’s role in reshaping the landscape of global poverty, dispel myths about development that prevent the poor from rising, and discuss his prediction that almost no countries will still be poor by 2035.” [Register here](#)
- **Local Health Department Organizational Self-Assessment for Addressing Health Inequities.** BARHAIL. “The Organizational Self-Assessment (Self-Assessment) for Addressing Health Inequities Toolkit provides public health leaders with tools and guidelines that help

identify the skills, organizational practices and infrastructure needed to address health equity and provide insights into steps LHDs can take to ensure their organization can have an impact on this growing problem.” [Download here](#)

- **Millennials and Poverty.** Half in Ten Campaign. “In many ways, young people have the most at stake economically, and poverty today will affect both Millennials and generations to come. Millennials’ unique challenges and the weak economy’s disproportionate impact on young people must be considered in crucial policy decisions. The Millennial generation needs high-quality jobs, support for the long-term unemployed, improved college affordability, and aid for those with high student debt.” [See poverty and opportunity profile here](#)
- **Raising the Minimum Wage to \$10.10 per hour in Wisconsin: Workers Affected and the Broader Impact on the Wisconsin Economy.** COWS. Feb 2014. “Given federal and state proposals to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour, COWS offers this overview of the workers who stand to gain and the broader impact of minimum wage increases on the Wisconsin economy.” [Read more](#)
- **Take Action and #TalkPoverty Toolkits: Minimum Wage.** Take action, share your story, and get your elected officials to listen. This toolkit provides several resources to help you take action with the media, other advocates, and your elected officials in support of raising the minimum wage, including...” [See state-by-state toolkits here.](#)
- **The Effects of a Minimum-Wage Increase on Employment and Family Income.** Congressional Budget Office. Feb 2014. “Increasing the minimum wage would have two principal effects on low-wage workers. Most of them would receive higher pay that would increase their family’s income, and some of those families would see their income rise above the federal poverty threshold. But some jobs for low-wage workers would probably be eliminated, the income of most workers who became jobless would fall substantially, and the share of low-wage workers who were employed would probably fall slightly.” [Read more](#)
- **The Freedom to Serve and the Freedom to Work: LGBT Service Members and Veterans Deserve Employment Protections.** Center for American Progress. “The freedom to serve and the freedom to work are interconnected when we consider that there are more than 1 million LGBT veterans who must find work in the civilian sector after they finish their term of service. This report begins by highlighting some federal government actions to combat service member and veteran unemployment and the ways in which these actions fall short for LGBT people.” [Read more](#)
- **The Increasingly Unequal States of America: Income inequality by state 1917-2011.** Economic Analysis Research Network. 2/19/2014. “While there are plentiful data examining the fortunes of the top 1 percent at the national level, this report examines how the top 1 percent in each state have fared over 1917–2011, with an emphasis on trends over 1928–2011. In so doing, this analysis finds that all 50 states have experienced widening income inequality in recent decades. Specific findings include...” [See here](#)

Websites:

- **INFOGRAPHIC: What do African American Women Think?** Center for American Progress. 2/24/2014. “African American women have disproportionately lacked health insurance and been affected by higher rates of poverty, as well as a variety of socioeconomic factors that contribute



to a number of health disparities. We celebrate Black History Month by honoring the voices of African American women who were polled on the best solutions to protect their own health and remedy health care disparities in their communities.” [See here](#)

- **Rejecting Stereotypes, Photographing ‘Real’ Indians.** New York Times. 2/19/2014. “Ms. Wilbur had been traveling across South America documenting indigenous communities, far from her family’s land on the Swinomish Reservation in Washington, a small Native American community one hour north of Seattle. With Project 562 — the number of federally recognized tribes when she started — she only asks her subjects to be photographed outdoors on indigenous land.” [See images here](#)
- **Unemployment Rises to Top Problem in the US.** Gallup Poll. 2/17/2014. “Americans have a new No. 1 problem. Nearly one in four Americans mention jobs and unemployment as the most important problem facing the country, up from 16% in January. The government and politicians had topped the list since the government shutdown in October.” [Read more](#)
- **8 Charts That Prove Obama’s Right About Young Black Men’s Chance in the Economy.** Think Progress. 2/27/2014. [See here](#)

Webinars, Recordings & Videos:

- **Expanding the EITC: The President’s Proposal.** Tax Credits for Working Families. March 5th, 2pm. “This webinar will explore the details of the President’s proposal to increase the federal Earned Income Tax Credit and its potential impact on low-income workers. Panelists will also discuss the proposal’s prospects on Capitol Hill.” [Register here](#)
- **Organizational Self-Assessment for Achieving Health Equity: Toolkit and Guide for Implementation.** BARHAIL. March 20th, 2014 and April 17th, 2014; 1-2pm CST. “This two-part webinar series will provide public health leaders with tools to identify skills, organizational practices, and infrastructure to achieve health equity. During Part I (March 20, 2014) participants will learn: benefits of completing the self-assessment, how to get started, and the components of the toolkit. In Part II (April 17, 2014) participants will learn how to use each component of *Self-Assessment*.” [Register here](#)
- **Paycheck to Paycheck: The Life and Times of Katrina Gilbert.** Maria Shriver and Center for American Progress. Premieres March 17 8pm CST. HBO. “Film offers the deeply personal, unvarnished, and moving story of Katrina Gilbert, a single mom of three, whose daily struggles illuminate the challenges faced by the 42 million women who are living in poverty or on the brink of it and the 28 million children who depend on them. The film will be available for free streaming during the premiere and for the following week at ShriverReport.org and HBO.com.” [More information here.](#)
- **The Long Road Back from Homelessness.** The Atlantic. 2.25.2014. “After several years living on the streets, Paul Mitchel describes what it took to get back on his feet. The short film is part

of the I Am Los Angeles documentary portrait series. On His Way Back is directed by Joris Debeij and features an original composition from Pedro Marques.” [Watch video here](#)

- **The Work to Wealth Escalator: Why a Quality Job is More than Just Income.** March 12, 1-2:30 CST. PolicyLink, the Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP), Jobs with Justice, and Family Values @ Work. “A dynamic discussion on the characteristics of job quality that lead to wealth building opportunities for families. The webinar will lift up key takeaways from data suggesting the link between employment and building wealth goes far beyond the paycheck. Panelists will also point to factors such as the importance of paid leave, the challenges of part-time and contingent work, and policy opportunities to improve quality employment for families.” [Register here](#)

Conferences & Presentations:

- **Healthy Food for All Summit.** March 27th, 2014. Neenah, WI. “UW Cooperative Extension and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The Summit will feature a keynote by Madeleine Levin from Food, Research and Action Center (FRAC) in Washington D.C. and multiple tracks including: the role of schools, the relationship between hunger and obesity, barriers to food access, and hunger and health.” [Register here](#)
- **Health Impact Project: 2014 Call for Proposals.** Due April 2, 2014. “The Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), promotes the use of Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) and related approaches to help policy-makers in a wide range of fields incorporate health considerations into new policies, programs, plans, and projects, and make decisions that reduce unnecessary health risks, improve health, and decrease costs. This call for proposals (CFP) supports two types of initiatives.” [See here](#)
- **Incarceration and Inequality.** Madison Opera and Madison Public Library. March 10th, 5:30pm. “Sociologist Pam Oliver who is investigating the causes and consequences of racial disparities in the criminal justice system and Rhodessa Jones, Director of the Medea Project: Theater for Incarcerated Women, speak with Jean Feraca about incarceration and inequality in Wisconsin and across the US.” [More here](#)
- **Making the Connection 2014: Environmental Health Across the Lifespan.** University of Wisconsin. Feb 28th and March 1st. [Register here](#)
- **National Public Health Week**—April 7-13, 2014. [Information here](#)
- **White Privilege Conference.** March 26-March 29th, Madison, WI. “WPC is a conference that examines challenging concepts of privilege and oppression and offers solutions and team building strategies to work toward a more equitable world.” [Register here](#)
- **Wisconsin Public Health Association Annual Meeting: Navigating Change Through Social Innovation.** May 13-15, 2014. Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee. [More here](#)