

ICPSR Data Brunch Podcast Episode 11: Wealth Inequality
Original Air Date: October 2021
Transcript

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Hello everyone and welcome back to season two of Data Brunch with ICPSR. If you love data, this is going to be food for thought. I'm Dory.

Anna Shelton:

And, I'm Anna, and we are excited to get into our interview later, which we know you will be thinking about long after the interview is over because we are. Whew. But, first, we wanted to let you know about some new data that is available at ICPSR. So, the first is a really interesting data set on COVID-19 disruptions that are disproportionately affecting female academics globally. And, this was in 2020, so these are new data and these data include information about things like school closures and the shift to working from home, social distancing, how all of that is disrupting economic activity around the world and really thinking about kind of who are the winners and who are the losers in that.

Anna Shelton:

And, this particular survey was administered globally to a broad range of academics across various disciplines and they were looking at really nuanced data on those respondents' circumstances, including things like spouse's employment and the number of children and ages of children. So, really interesting data there and we will connect to that into the show notes.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

So, another data set we would like to tell you about is called Targeted Interventions To Prevent Chronic Low Back Pain In High Risk Patients. And, this is a multi-site, pragmatic, randomized, controlled trial and it's also known as the Target Trial and it was done in four U.S. cities from 2016 to 2019. And so, Target basically was a primary care-based, multi-site cluster, randomized... Oh, I'm sorry. I can't say all this stuff. [inaudible 00:02:15]. Like, why? All right.

Anna Shelton:

It's a lot of good words. This is important data, but boy, it's a tongue twister.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

It's a lot of acronyms, and so, I'm going to break it down for you. So, it talked about... It compared guideline-based care to... Guideline-based care plus a referral to psychologically informed physical therapy. Interesting. Okay. For patients presenting with acute lower back pain and identify as high risk for persistent disabling symptoms. So, this study included, I mentioned before, four locations and they were the Boston Medical Center, Intermountain Health, Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Anna Shelton:

Very cool. I'm really interested to looking into those data more. That... As someone with lower back pain, that is a very interesting thing to look at. We also have a new research spotlight in our bibliography. If you haven't used these yet, these are really cool. So, the research spotlights are just short literature reviews on a topic of interest to students and researchers where findings that are based on data that's available from ICPSR. We compile those findings and we cite those findings.

Anna Shelton:

So, all of that to say this new spotlight is called The Criminal Justice and The LGBT Population, and it focuses on the risks to research of under-reporting crimes that are involving LGBT community members. It also includes hate crime reporting trends on LGBT at-risk youth. This is part of a trio of new research spotlights that summarize research focused on LGBTQ populations, so there's some really, really important data and articles that are included in this research spotlight. I highly recommend that you take a look at that research spotlight. And again, we'll put that in the show notes.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Thank you, Anna. And now, on to our interview.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Welcome back everyone to episode three of ICPSR's Data Brunch. Today, we have a really special guest, Fabian Pfeffer, a sociologist and associate professor at the University of Michigan with research focusing on social inequality and mobility, wealth and education. Fabian is director at the Center for Inequality Dynamics, which was founded at the Institute for Social Research in 2019 as a partnership between ISR, the Institute Survey Research Center, and the University of Michigan's College of Literature, Science and The Arts.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

And, before we start, I just want to say a huge congratulations, Fabian, for your recognition in 2020 with the William Julius Wilson Early Career Award from the inequality, poverty and mobility section of the American Sociological Association. Woohoo.

Anna Shelton:

Congrats.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Fabian Pfeffer:

Thank you. It's very exciting.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

We are so... We're so happy to have you here with us. And, yeah. We're happy to be able to, whenever we're in person, cross path with you at ISR. So.

Fabian Pfeffer:

That would be wonderful.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

So, welcome.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Thanks for having me.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

So, here at Data Brunch, we like to kind of take a step back and tell the stories behind some of these awesome projects and data collections that are going on in the world. And so, we just want to kind of give you a chance to tell your own story, your research story or your data story. What makes it a great story for our listeners?

Fabian Pfeffer:

Excellent. Well, I think... You know, I do research on social inequality, so in some sense, it's a story that affects everyone. Right? We all have a position in this unequal structure, so I think it's a topic that each one of us grapples with in some sense. And, a lot of my research recently has been on a particular aspect of inequality and then namely wealth inequality. So, wealth is different from income. Right? Income is the stuff you get on a monthly basis from various sources. Wealth is the stuff you have on the side, sort of a stock. So, it could be savings, could be money that's in your house, your home equity. Could be a car. Could be a pension account. And, so on. Or, it could be debts, credit card debt, student debt. And, when you put all of that together, that's when you get what we typically call net worth. So, a lot of my recent work has been on net worth as this very distinct and quite drastic dimension of socioeconomic inequality.

Anna Shelton:

Very cool. I already have about 15 questions.

Fabian Pfeffer:

[inaudible 00:07:42]

Anna Shelton:

So, this is going to be quite fun.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Yeah.

Anna Shelton:

So, I know that you work with... I think it's called the Inequality Lab. And, can you tell us a little bit about what that is?

Fabian Pfeffer:

Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Fabian Pfeffer:

Sure. Actually, the Inequality Lab is how the Center for Inequality Dynamics got started. So, I have appointments at both the Institute for Social Research and at the Department of Sociology and one of the big benefits of being in a department of sociology is that you get a lot of students and as I started out there, I was really looking for ways to bring students I work with together so that a lot of the mentoring that happens is not just sort of a conversation that's always one on one, but also really something that happens in community.

Fabian Pfeffer:

So, I got together with those students and said, "What should we do? Should we call ourselves a lab?". And, they said, "Sure. Let's do that." None of us sort of knew what that would be, but we started filling that with some content and came up with structures that were useful for doctoral students. You know, [inaudible 00:08:50]. You know, sort of certain ways to present their new ideas, ways to get feedback on their written work, and so on. So, that is in many ways where the Center for Inequality Dynamics got started, as a sort of bottom up process, and it still exists within the Center now as, hopefully as we're getting back from the pandemic, as sort of a hustling and bustling space where lots of doctoral students are around and some undergraduate students to push forward that kind of foundational research on social inequality.

Anna Shelton:

That's awesome. I was a sociology student myself, so getting to see how... You know, I have a soft spot in my heart for how sociology students can make the world a better place.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Excellent.

Anna Shelton:

And, I'm so excited to hear that.

Fabian Pfeffer:

That's the hope.

Anna Shelton:

Totally.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

So, it's really cool to see that the Center for Inequality Dynamics actually came from the Inequality Lab. So, thank you.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Thank you for sharing that tidbit and thanks for your students for helping make that happen.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Absolutely.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

All right. So, I am thinking about when you, a moment ago, were talking about wealth and income. Every once in a while, someone says something and my wheels get turning. So, you said wealth is the stuff on the side. Wealth is not income. And, if I understand it correctly, you mentioned that student loans, that would be in the wealth category?

Fabian Pfeffer:

Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Okay.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Absolutely. So, all kinds of debts. So, it could be student debt, medical debt, legal bills. All of that is on the negative side of it.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Fabian Pfeffer:

And, of course, then the reality of [inaudible 00:10:31] today is that when you look at the wealth distribution, unlike the income distribution, there is this section of the distribution at the bottom that's negative. Right? So, typically we don't have... Typically, we don't have negative income. But, certainly, namely 15% of the U.S. population, have negative wealth. Right? They have more debts than they have assets and that's one feature that makes the wealth distribution really different from the income distribution.

Fabian Pfeffer:

There are many other features. One, for example, is that inequality is just so much higher when it comes to wealth. There are a couple of sort of indicators for that, numbers that make it very clear that it's just radically more unequal. It's also more concentrated at the very top, right? So, this is often an idea that people have when they talk about wealth, is we know that there are a couple of billionaires around and then there are many people who have nothing or less than nothing, and both of these things sort of are true. I think it's... You know, when I study wealth, I typically don't study the billionaires, so I don't think about concentration at the very, very top, although that's an interesting topic to study. I often study wealth sort of across the distribution. Right? From those we just discussed at the very bottom that are net debt to sort of what you may call the wealth middle class and what that type of wealth does to their life, to their opportunity, and to the opportunities of their children.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Thank you for that. If I could ask a follow up, why does it matter if wealth inequality is different from income inequality?

Fabian Pfeffer:

Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Fabian Pfeffer:

Yeah. Great question. I think it matters a lot because it's... So, in addition to it just being more unequal, it's also somewhat independent from income. So, there are households that are high on one dimension. You know, high income and low wealth, and at the reverse. So, it's not perfectly correlated. Right? So, it's something else. And, we also see that it actually exerts effects that are different from the income effects. So, for example, whether you go to college and graduate from college, to a large part and increasingly, as some of my work has shown, also depends on your parents' wealth even if their income is the same.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Wealth makes a difference independently of income. So, I'm showing this sort of in a generational perspective, right? Where your life chances depend on wealth, also. I've recently also shown this in a recent article in a national comparison. So, for example, there's lots of social scientific research on cross-national differences in inequality. Right? So, we know that some countries are more unequal than others. We know that the U.S. has very high inequality, Scandinavian countries comparatively lower inequality. All of that research is based on income information. So, now you would say, "Okay. Well, does it matter if we look at wealth?". Well, it turns out it does because the international ranking of inequality is totally different once you look at wealth inequality. Right? So, whether a country is unequal in terms of income tells you basically nothing about whether it's unequal in terms of wealth.

Fabian Pfeffer:

So, that really was an interesting finding in that paper, that wealth inequality at the national level is very different from inequality at the national level. There's one little exception. That's the U.S. Again, number one on both dimensions. You know, very high income inequality and very high wealth inequality. [inaudible 00:14:13] sticks out as the special case.

Anna Shelton:

Ooh. That is fascinating. So, has the pandemic affected wealth inequality?

Fabian Pfeffer:

Yeah. I think that is the crucial question that remains to be studied as sort of the data will come in. My suspicion is, based on work that I've done based on the Great Recession, so 2007, 2008 financial crash, right? Housing market crash. What we've seen in that study is that wealth inequality had been increasing for many decades, but that increase in inequality really accelerated throughout the recession and in its aftermath. So, for example, there was quite quick recovery at the top of the wealth distribution. There were sustained losses basically everywhere else and the overall level of wealth inequality really rose very drastically in the recession and its aftermath.

Fabian Pfeffer:

If that's any guidance, then what we may be seeing after the pandemic may be even worse than that. I think we've seen some of that actually already. Right? The financial markets have been, to some, perhaps surprisingly stable. Financial markets are... You know, that's where wealthy people have their

money. Actually, financial assets are very concentrated at the top and even short shifts really don't matter all that much at that end. And then, of course, at the other end we've seen people severely impacted by the pandemic. Right? Earnings losses, tapping into any savings they had, going further into debt, and so on.

Fabian Pfeffer:

So, my hunch is that compared to the sort of impact of the Great Recession on wealth inequality that was tremendous will probably pale in comparison to the impact of the pandemic. But, I think that's remains to be seen. You know, there are other... There are other tendencies, too, where some segments of the population weren't able to spend a lot of money so they saved more money than they ever did. You know? Truth be told, we got to wait for the data and it will be interesting. But, there will be major shifts, I think, to the wealth distribution and my suspicion is it won't be better.

Anna Shelton:

So, quick follow up to that, and I know... Sorry, Dory. I'm interrupting you. But, there's so many questions. So, when...? Like, you say we need to wait for the data. When do you think that data...? Like, is that within the next year or within the next 10 years?

Fabian Pfeffer:

Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Fabian Pfeffer:

No. I would say within the next year. So, lots of my research and that of other researchers in this area has been based on data produced at the University of Michigan, such as the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, that since the 1980s has collected information on families' assets. Right? So, what they hold in assets and how much that is worth. Basically, everything I've told you about so far comes from evidence based on the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, PSID. There are other surveys that do that, too. And then, the Center for Inequality Dynamics is currently engaged in a very massive data construction effort that uses tax records of all American households to look at wealth and it's in a generational transmission. But, that will take three or four years, so that's a bit away.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Thank you. So, is there a breaking point for wealth inequality? For example, what happens if you start to see negative wealth on a mass and possibly spreading scale?

Fabian Pfeffer:

Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Fabian Pfeffer:

Yeah. It's a great question. You... I guess we've... Many of us have been asking ourselves about these breaking points in a situation of severe and growing inequality. On the debt question, I will say that we are probably sort of within... Within the pandemic setting, in the moments of historical moment where there is an opportunity sort of to re-orient people's thinking about what it takes for a rich country to make sure that everyone profits from living in a rich country. So, for example, the debt question is much more central today than it was just a few years ago.

Fabian Pfeffer:

You know, canceling student debt has moved from an idea that was traded within academia for a while to the public policy debate, and that's a real achievement, I would say. But, it's also really thanks to the historical moment of people realizing, one, that many people can come into debt due to no fault of their own. And, two, we've actually set up structures that are in many ways predatory. Right? The way student debt is structured is often highly predatory. It's highly unequal. There is room for targeting of disadvantaged families and especially families of color. And, I think that, during the pandemic and post George Floyd, has just become a realization for many people that these are unjust systems that we have decided to put in place and we could also decide to take out of place, and I think there's quite a bit of movement there. So. So, yeah. There may be a breaking point.

Anna Shelton:

For everyone who's listening, we're cheering silently in the background. Maybe it's just me. But, I couldn't agree with this more.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

So, people who are listening to this, how can they use your work to make a difference and what can we do about this?

Fabian Pfeffer:

Another excellent question and of course the most difficult one, right? So, I mean, I grapple with this in my daily life as an academic, too. So, when you go into the field, as Anna said, with in some ways a dedication to making the world a better place and then you find yourself working for weeks on some obscure data question. You know, sometimes step back and say, "Okay. How am I doing this exactly?"

Fabian Pfeffer:

One easy answer is through teaching. In my case, teaching enough students and telling about the social world and making sure that when they come into position of power than they understand the systems that replicate inequality. That's one way to do it in my own life. But, you asked sort of what others can do with that and that's where I think my role is basically on the data side. So, that's why I'm on the Data Brunch, right? That we're really trying to invest in, especially now with that IRS tax database project, in a large scale data construction effort that will be available to the broad public and we're investing heavily in making it really accessible to that broad public. Right? So, we're, for example, working with a data visualization company and a very... You know, we'll be having a very intense data design process to make sure that that is a data product that anyone can access, can look into, can get informed about the wealth in their community, the wealth inequality in their community, the wealth transmission in their community, and hopefully can become input to social action.

Fabian Pfeffer:

It's not quite easy to plan that and it's not what we're trained to do, but I've been at ISR long enough to know that data takes on its own life and is used in many ways, and so, building these public data infrastructures I think is actually one good way to help make this a better place.

Anna Shelton:

I love that quote. Data takes on its own life.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Yeah.

Anna Shelton:

I love it.

Fabian Pfeffer:

So, this is where the ICPSR jingle can come in now.

Anna Shelton:

Yes. Oh, we got to write one of those.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Right.

Anna Shelton:

So, I feel like we could... I could ask you a thousand more questions. But, what has been something that has been surprising to you in this work?

Fabian Pfeffer:

So, unfortunately, as a sociologist you typically deal with social facts that are disheartening and sometimes the surprises are further disheartening when you thought you would no longer be able to be surprised. So, one aspect of wealth inequality that I haven't talked a lot about is the racial inequality in wealth. That is really tremendous in this country. So, for example, the typical white family... So, imagine the typical white family in the U.S. has a net worth... Right? Total wealth of \$100. I'll let you guess what the typical black family has. You know, \$100 versus...?

Dory Knight-Ingram:

\$5?

Fabian Pfeffer:

Ah. Good. All right. Okay. Yeah. Dory is pretty close. So, it's actually... It was as low as that. It's now at \$12. Still tremendously low. But, actually, if you look at children, black children versus white children, Dory is much closer. So, that's about a cent on the dollar, so... Or, a dollar on \$100. So, the racial gaps in wealth are really, really tremendous, and of course that's what makes wealth interesting to study, that it's both a reflection of longstanding historical patterns of active discrimination and the continuation of some of these processes in slightly more subtle ways.

Fabian Pfeffer:

So, we also have some work where we show that the intergenerational transmission of wealth also has racial inequality in it, namely black children who grow up in the middle of the wealth distribution. There are a few of them. Most of them, as we just learned, grow up at the bottom of the wealth distribution. But, those who grow up in the middle are more likely to fall down to the bottom as adults themselves and that is reflective, in my interpretation, of really deep and severe persistent forms of structural

racism and that... So, the current racial wealth gap is a combination of these two forces. Longstanding historical and continuing forces of structural racism.

Fabian Pfeffer:

So, that continues to be a surprise that I use, although it's a disheartening surprise. In lots of my work, in the same quiz structure that we just did to educate people because it's such a jarring number that people tend to underestimate just how large the wealth gap is.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Yeah. I'm trying to keep my tear ducts dry over here as you were talking.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Yeah.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

But, I'm just thinking like... You know, and this might be... I'm not sure if this is something that you can answer, but do you ever just wonder how much time it's going to take to make these numbers look better?

Fabian Pfeffer:

Yeah. In fact, some people have wondered that and tried to put a number to it. Again, I think we need to move on from the disheartening stuff at some point to keep your listeners. But, you know, they did that post-recession. Of course, as I just described, the recession broadly being bad for inequality, it was especially bad for racial inequalities. There were more pronounced losses among the African American community, the Hispanic community. And so, when you look at it over the last few years, projecting this forward, you're actually not seeing a whole lot of signs of hope of any closing of that gap. Right?

Fabian Pfeffer:

By the way, why is that? Why were black Americans and Hispanic Americans more impacted by the recession? Well, it harkens back to these exploitative systems of debt, for example. Right? We've learned that subprime mortgages were to blame for the recession. Who was more likely to receive subprime mortgages? African American households and Hispanic households. Why? Because they were targeted. Why could banks target them? Because we're living in a deeply unequal country where we've segregated neighborhoods that bank financial providers can target for these subprime mortgages. So, again, you know, this is an example of current active discrimination that's really based on historical patterns of discrimination.

Fabian Pfeffer:

So, that disheartening answer in some ways is it's been quite stable, so I think what you want to take from that is the interventions here need to be quite drastic and perhaps... Again, so, I do hope to end on a note of hope. You know, perhaps that's something we can also take from the pandemic. In many ways, our interventions were relatively dramatic. I mean, if you think about what we were willing to do in terms of adjusting our daily life. You know, there was a big threat to all of our health and I think we acted in unseen ways before that. We also started seeing the states spring into action and provide assistance.

Anna Shelton:

Yeah.

Fabian Pfeffer:

And, it will take something at least as drastic as that to really make progress on this. And, in fact, a very smart demographer, Elizabeth Wrigley-Field, at the University of Minnesota, she recently estimated the impact of racism on... Sorry. The impact of COVID on mortality and compared that to the impact of structural racism on mortality. Right? There's this large racial difference in mortality. And, we're just sort of getting their... It would take multiple COVID-19 crises to really recreate that kind of racial inequality and mortality. So, there is something really fundamental, I think, about the pandemic and this really exceptional level of anxiety that we all had that, in some ways, I hope that we can maintain when it comes to aspects of racial inequality. We should be at least as anxious about that and it will require at least as large of an adjustment as that.

Fabian Pfeffer:

And, here... So, here is the really good news. People are working on this. Right? So, it does take people who started basically... So, Sandy Darity is one of them, an economist who in the nineties already started putting numbers to what it would take for reparations. Back then, people thought that was a little out there. I don't think people really paid attention. It seemed just too unreasonable that we would engage in this discussion. But, he did and he put numbers on it and asked, "What is our historical duty here?". And, fortunately, now I think lots of political actors are knocking on his door and saying, "Tell us the number. We need to know. At least, we need to start thinking about this." Right? There is a Congressional committee that is working on reparations platform and so on. So, let's hope that movement continues.

Fabian Pfeffer:

But, again, data may help us make that point and the numbers I just gave you on wealth I think should help make that point.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Thank you for moving that in a more positive direction. I know I have the next question, but I wanted to just say thank you for just helping us conceptualize the massive scale that is needed for change. Like you said, like three COVID crises. Amazing. You know? And, maybe for everyone in this recording room right now. I don't know that we've ever seen the... Short of going to war, you know? The scale of mobilization of change and at such a rapid pace that we have seen in the pandemic.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Dory Knight-Ingram:

So.

Fabian Pfeffer:

[crosstalk 00:30:15]

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Wow. That puts it into perspective.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Yep. For better or worse.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

I'm betting on better.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Good. Good.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

So, hopefully in my lifetime.

Fabian Pfeffer:

I'm glad to hear it. I'm glad to hear it. Yes.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Yep. All right. So, this next question is a little lighter. Before preparing for this interview, I actually had an ice cream cone.

Fabian Pfeffer:

[inaudible 00:30:37]

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Butter pecan ice cream. So, that takes a... You know, we like to talk about food and one of the questions that we ask is... We talked a little bit about mimosas before we started recording.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Yep.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Is, you know, so... So, what do you like to have for brunch?

Fabian Pfeffer:

Yeah. Now actually after this discussion, seems like mimosas are insufficient. We may need something stronger. So, for brunch, I've been... You know, I've... It's been a while since I've been to brunch, but I am a total brunch person, so I'm a sweet tooth, so waffles. All of that goes. But, I will say, proudly claim that I've... I have weeks where I'm quite dedicated to cooking my two sons a delicious brunch-like breakfast on a normal school night and for some reason this comes in waves. Like, I have a week where they are all... They would be... You know, all the dishes would be Instagram worthy if I had Instagram, and then weeks where it's just Corn Flakes, truth be told.

Fabian Pfeffer:

But, when I'm in the more creative ones, I normally do some kind of egg-based dishes, some good old German recipes because that's where I was born and grew up and without sausage. I don't think that's the way to start the day. And, crepe, pancakes, the whole thing. So, yeah. I could talk... We could spend the rest of the podcast talking about brunch foods.

Anna Shelton:

That would be fun. I'm in for that.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Me too.

Anna Shelton:

Well, as much as I would love to stay and chat about brunch for hours, what would be a way...? If somebody wanted to know more about the work that you're doing or even contact you, how would they go about doing that?

Fabian Pfeffer:

Sure. So, first you could go to the web page of the Center for Inequality Dynamics. That web page is inequalitydynamics.com. From there or directly, you can get to my home page, which is www.fabianpfeffer.com. You could also follow me on Twitter, at Fabian Pfeffer. And, if you are on campus coming through or you just are on campus, then the Center for Inequality Dynamics is an open space that welcomes visitors and you should just swing by and see what we're up to.

Anna Shelton:

Cool. I'm going to be one of those people.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Perfect.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Me too.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Mimosas are in the fridge. Yeah.

Anna Shelton:

Fantastic. [crosstalk 00:33:19]

Fabian Pfeffer:

[crosstalk 00:33:19]. Don't tell anyone. It's actually true. It's actually... If you walk by now, we're waiting for the announcement of a big injection of resources that we're hoping to get anytime this week, and for that I have something in our cooler. But again, do not tell anyone. It's in a brown bag, so, yeah.

Anna Shelton:

The secret is ours and all of our Data Brunchers.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Exactly.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

All right. So, thank you so much, Fabian. It's always a pleasure talking with you and just thank you for keeping it real during this interview. You know? I think you painted a picture for not just us but our listeners and we just really hope that that drastic change that you are working toward, that you get to see it.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Great. I hope so, too, for all of us. And, thanks. This is fun. I'm up for any future brunch, but if it's post-pandemic, I will insist on waffles or something to accompany.

Anna Shelton:

Fantastic. We're all coming to your house.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

That's right.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Oh, perfect. Sounds good. On an on week.

Anna Shelton:

Yes.

Fabian Pfeffer:

Yeah.

Anna Shelton:

Exactly.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Otherwise, we're bringing it, right?

Fabian Pfeffer:

Exactly. Great. No, this has been fun. Thank you so much.

Anna Shelton:

Whew. Oh my goodness. I'm going to be thinking about that one for a long time.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Same here.

Anna Shelton:

Yeah. I didn't... I didn't realize the difference between wealth inequity and income inequity and how longstanding a problem that is. There was just... There's so much to unpack here. It's... It's... Yeah. There's a lot here.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Yeah. The thing that I think I will take away, the biggest takeaway, is just the amount of effort that is needed to make a dent in the inequities that Fabian talked about. So, thanks again, Fabian.

Anna Shelton:

Yeah. Yeah. Thank you so much and as... You know, we were chatting offline about how the more you can do, the better. Right? If you are wondering what you can do and how much you can do, please do what you can because this stuff matters and it matters to a lot of people, so... So, we hope that these data can bring you some evidence to make changes in your own communities.

Anna Shelton:

So, that is the end of our episode. Thank you all for being with us today.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

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Anna Shelton:

Awesome. You know, I realized the reason that we were able to get Fabian on to do this interview is because somebody requested that we talk to him. So, we do... We do listen to these feedback forms and it's awesome to get to hear your ideas. We want to say thank you as always to the over 700 members of ICPSR. This podcast, it just wouldn't be possible without the ICPSR members. And, special thanks to our producer, Scott Campbell, who is as always invisible in the back, but you make this thing run.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Thank you, Scott. You can get in touch with us by visiting our website, icpsr.umich.edu or emailing us at icpsr-podcast@umich.edu. And, I also want to mention if you are posting about this on social media, please use the hashtag Data Brunch.

Anna Shelton:

I'm Anna.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

And, I'm Dory.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

Wait. Did we skip over one step?

Anna Shelton:

I don't know.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

[inaudible 00:37:10].

Anna Shelton:

Oh. We should tell folks we are... We'll be giving away some ICPSR swag to someone out there, so please do take a picture and tag us on social media using hashtag Data Brunch. You can also send us an email as well and we cannot wait to see it. And, with that, I'm Anna.

Dory Knight-Ingram:

And, I'm Dory. And, thanks for joining us at ICPSR's Data Brunch.