Bob Joondeph, Chair
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Board Meeting Public Agenda
May 20, 2022

Virtual Session

Researching and Evaluating Equitable Access to Social Security Programs

1 – 2:30 pm   **Public Session**

*The Board will host Professors **Pamela Herd** and **Sebastian Jilke** to discuss how research about people's experience with Social Security can make government services work better, particularly for people who encounter barriers to access. As Social Security begins implementing its equity plan and research agenda, Herd and Jilke will discuss:*

- *The implications of administrative-survey data linkages*
- *Administrative burdens people experience accessing Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*
- *Applying and testing behavioral insights around mailer and third-party outreach*

Pamela Herd, PhD, Professor, McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University
Sebastian Jilke, PhD, Associate Professor, McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University

*The Board is committed to ensuring all sessions are accessible to the public. Public sessions will be recorded with live closed captioning. To request an accommodation, please email **events@ssab.gov**. The Board can meet requests more effectively if notice is provided at least three business days before the event.*

Speaker Bios

Professor Pamela Herd is a Professor at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University. Herd's research focuses on inequality and how it intersects with health, aging, and policy. She is also an expert in survey research and biodemographic methods. She is currently one the Principal Investigators for General Social Survey, an Investigator with the Wisconsin Longitudinal Survey, Chair of the NIH Data Advisory Board for the National Study of Adolescent Health, and a board member for the Population Association of American. She has received grant awards for her work from the National Institutes for Health, National Institutes on Aging, the Russell Sage Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and AARP.

Herd also does research on administrative burden, or the bureaucratic obstacles that people encounter when trying to access government benefits, services, and rights. She is especially interested in how this burden both is shaped by and further reinforces inequality. She has a book published by the Russell Sage Foundation: *Administrative Burden: Policymaking by other Means*, which has received numerous awards.

Herd earned a BA from Colby College and a PhD from Syracuse University in Sociology.

Professor Sebastian Jilke is an Associate Professor at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University, where he also co-directs the Better Government Lab. He is also affiliated with GSA's Office of Evaluation Sciences where he works design and implement large-scale RCTs with federal agencies.

Jilke research applies insights from the behavioral sciences to public management and policy to study how government reforms affect public employees and the people they serve – especially regarding social equity in access to public services and programs. He is also interested in designing and applying (behavioral) interventions to improve government effectiveness more broadly and is currently the PI of an effort to link academic expertise with federal agencies to conduct impact evaluations of important social programs.

Jilke has directly worked with and provided advise to a wide range of organizations, including OMB, SSA, VA, OPM, IRS, and GSA, as well as

nonprofit/advocacy organizations such as the Equal Rights Center, and international organizations such as the World Bank. He has presented research to policymakers at OMB, the CFO Council, SSA, USDA, and USPTO. He has also directly contributed to OMB policy guidance under President Biden.

Since 2022, Jilke serves as co-editor of the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (JPAM)*. Prior to that, he co-founded the *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration*, a not-for-profit, open-access journal, and served as JBPA's editor-in-chief until 2021. Jilke is also co-editor of *Experiments in Public Management Research: Challenges and Contributions* (Cambridge University Press). In 2017, he received the Beryl Radin Award for the best article published in the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory (JPART)*.

Jilke received his MPA from Zeppelin University (Germany), and PhD from Erasmus University Rotterdam (the Netherlands).