

Economics Workshop

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Thursday
October 25, 2018

CL 117
3:30-5:00pm

"Examining the Effect of Economic Shocks on the Schooling Choices of Southern Farmers"

Abstract: Black men born in the Cotton South during the turn of the twentieth century attended school for three and half fewer years relative to their white counterparts. In this paper, I examine whether economic fluctuations contributed to blacks receiving fifty percent less schooling than whites. Using US Census data, I find a positive correlation between black school attendance and cotton production. The attendance rates of white children are unaffected by changes in cotton production. Using features of the Southern



agricultural economy, I show credit constraints drives the positive correlation between school attendance and cotton production for black households.

Paul Lombardi, Ph.D.

Paul Lombardi is an Assistant Professor in Economics at San Jose State University specializing in historical development economics.

Economics Workshops offer an opportunity for SJSU students, faculty and invited guests to enjoy academic research presentations by scholars from around the world in their areas of expertise. Following most workshop events, the Barstool Economists group meets at a local eatery, where conversations with the speaker may be continued in a less formal environment. For information on upcoming workshops: www.sjsu.edu/economics/events.