

Review of: "Longitudinal Academic Mobility Patterns at Howard University"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Commentaries about the paper "Longitudinal Academic Mobility Patterns at Howard University"

The paper addresses an interesting topic, which is the mobility of professors between Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and other types of institutions, including primarily White institutions (PWI). The paper proposes a quite complicated methodology of data collection, and this is the strongest part of the paper. However, they collected data for only 11 HBCU and analyzed the data for only one HBCU, Howard University.

In my opinion, to make the paper publishable, the authors may follow two approaches. They should focus on writing a methodological paper. The methodology should be applied to more universities, and the validation test would be more encompassing. In addition, the methodology should be more clearly explained to be reproducible by other individuals. The paper is written as a methodological one and as a data analyses one. For an empirical paper, the description of the methodology is too detailed, and the reader can hardly follow it.

I will make some specific commentaries before proposing the second approach.

What do the authors do with professors that die or retire?

The authors show that the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Medicine represented each close to 32% of all the professors in the had-collected IA data. In the AARC matched data, the numbers were very different. Is this not a point of concern?

The number of mobile professors is very small. Hence, any empirical analysis should be done with many HBCUs. Data from only one is not enough to present any reasonable result. Therefore, as a second possibility for the paper, many more HBCUs should be analyzed to obtain a larger sample. Moreover, the profile of those moving should be analyzed. Are those moving from a PWI to a HBCU different from those who make the reverse movement? Why are more individuals going from a PWI to a HBCU than the reverse movement? In this second possibility, the methodological part would be much smaller.