

Robynn J.A. Cox, Ph.D.

Biography

Dr. Robynn Cox is an associate professor in the School of Public Policy at the University of California, Riverside, faculty affiliate at the Presley Center for Crime & Justice, and Senior Scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis' Opportunity & Inclusive Growth Institute (OIGI). Her expertise concerns understanding how policies and institutions impact inequality. She is concerned with understanding structural barriers that have led to the social exclusion of marginalized groups, with an emphasis on those disproportionately faced by the Black community. She uses a life course approach to study how the criminal legal system and associated policies impact the social and racial hierarchy within the United States. Specifically, her research focuses on understanding the social, economic, and health consequences of mass incarceration policies.

Her work has been supported by various organizations such as the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, the National Institute on Aging, the USDA, and the Rutgers' Institute for the Study of Employee Ownership and Profit Sharing. Cox is a member of the advisory committee for the National Academy of Medicine's Culture of Health Program (CoHP). She was recently elected president of the National Economic Association and began her term as president-elect on February 1, 2024.

Cox earned her master's and doctorate degrees in economics from Georgia State University. She completed her undergraduate studies at Duke University, where she obtained her AB in economics and Spanish and Latin American studies.