Announcement of Special Issue and Call for Papers:
Household Economic Instability and Social Policy

Guest Editors:
Heather Hill, Marybeth Mattingly, and Jennie Romich

Social Service Review announces a special issue dedicated to studies of household economic instability and social policy. Since the 1970s, changes to the structures of work, family, and social policy have coalesced to expose American families—particularly those with low incomes—to greater variability in family structure, employment and earnings, and public benefit receipt. There is a solid foundation of existing descriptive research on the prevalence of and trends in household economic instability. However, many questions about its causes and consequences, particularly as they relate to social policy, remain to be carefully conceptualized or empirically tested.

We invite submissions from scholars studying household economic instability in multiple disciplines and research fields. For the purposes of this call, economic instability is defined as repeated changes in employment, income, or financial well-being over time, particularly changes that are not intentional, predictable, or part of upward mobility. We are also interested in the concept of economic insecurity, which includes both actual and perceived economic uncertainty. The papers can engage a broad array of social policies that primarily or disproportionately affect economically vulnerable families, including (but not limited to), means-tested and universal income support (e.g., Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF], the Earned Income Tax Credit [EITC], or Social Security), labor regulations governing wages and work hours, housing policy and housing assistance, health insurance, child welfare, criminal justice, and social services (e.g., education, health, child care).

Scope and Topics of Interest

We will consider studies that provide new empirical evidence or a major theoretical contribution. Specific topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- The causes of economic instability, potentially including factors related to labor markets and employment, family composition, and policy.
- The consequences of economic instability for child, adult, and community health and well-being.
• The specific **mechanisms** by which economic instability affects children, adults, or communities.
• How the **design of specific policies** affect economic instability, positively or negatively.
• How economic instability affects **program eligibility, participation, or service provision**.
• How **administrative rules or practices** in the provision of social policy and social services affect economic instability.
• **Promising practices** for policy design and practice to promote economic stability and mobility.

For any of these topics, we encourage submissions that examine differences in the causes and consequences of economic instability by race, ethnicity, or immigration status.

Please direct questions about the scope of this special issue to the guest editors: Heather Hill (hdhill@uw.edu), Marybeth Mattingly (beth.mattingly@unh.edu), and Jennie Romich (romich@uw.edu).

**Submission**

Papers should be submitted via the SSR Editorial Manager page: [http://www.editorialmanager.com/ucp-ssr/](http://www.editorialmanager.com/ucp-ssr/). Please select “Household Economic Instability Special Issue” as the article type. Submitting authors are required to include a cover letter that briefly explains how their paper contributes to the theme of the special issue. More information for authors can be found here: [http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/journals/ssr/instruct](http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/journals/ssr/instruct). Papers that are selected for review will be evaluated in SSR’s normal double-blind process.

Although the schedule, especially the publication date, for any special issue cannot be guaranteed, we plan to proceed as follows:

- Papers will be accepted through September 15, 2016
- Peer reviews will be concluded and initial decisions returned to all submitting authors by December 15, 2016
- The special issue is projected to be published in 2017

Please contact Nora Malone, managing editor, at ssr@uchicago.edu with any questions.