administration's view that children need to return to school in the fall, stressing the risks to children's education and well being by spending too much time at home. The secretary offered few details on how to return to school safely.

With only weeks to go until the start of the school year in many states, the number of cases is now much higher than it was toward the end of the previous school year when



Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos offered few details on safety.

children were sent home over safety concerns. The virus has killed about 135,000 Americans and has continued to spread.

The pandemic is widely seen as posing a limited risk to children. But little is known about how readily the young carry the virus and spread it to others. "What we're saying is kids need to be back in school and school leaders across the country need to be making a plan to do just that," she said on CNN. "Where there are little flare-ups or hot spots, that can be dealt with."

Mr. Trump has called for schools to start classes as part of his push to reopen the country. Most policy makers share the goal of reopening schools, but worry about the costs and health implications.

Democrats said the administration is rushing to reopen schools and not listening to guidelines issued by the Center for Disease and Prevention.

"I think what we heard from the secretary was malfeasance and dereliction of duty," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D., Calif.) said on CNN on Sunday. "Going back to school presents the biggest risk for the spread of the coronavirus. They ignore signs and they ignore governance."

Alfonso Morales. "We had a series of events that many of us probably never experienced in our time."

At the same time, law-enforcement officials say they are weighing the risks of aggressively enforcing the law, concerned that a backlash from activists, protesters and residents could trigger attacks on police or a replay of the riots and looting that marked some of the earlier protests. In some cases, officials say, police

cently cut the proposed $760 million budget by $33 million.

"We've put so much stuff on their plate: homeless response, mental health, addiction response, these are not things they are best trained to respond to," said Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney. "We don't necessarily need to respond to every call to service with a person trained with a gun and a badge."

—Ben Chapman contributed to this article.

Economics Journals Are Criticized for Neglecting Race Studies

By Amara Omeokwe

Some economists say their field's most prestigious journals haven't been particularly receptive to scholarly work related to race and discrimination, effectively marginalizing such studies and their authors.

The result has been to discourage research on such topics and limit the writers' careers, some people in the field say. That, in circular fashion, limits the diversity of thought at the major journals, whose editors serve as gatekeepers for the profession and whose publications influence national economic policy making.

"These journals are supposed to be trendsetters, they're supposed to serve as the beacon for where the discipline is going," said Rodney Andrews, associate professor of economics at the University of Texas, Dallas. "So if you notice a lack of papers in those journals that address [race-related issues], then one could infer that maybe those issues are not as important," he said.

Some editors at the top economics journals defend their track records, but others agree they need to do more to diversify their ranks and think differently about race-related work.

The discussions come as the recent killing of George Floyd while in police custody has cast a spotlight on issues of racial inequality. The American Economic Association, meanwhile, has said it wants to improve the profession's climate, after a survey released last year and other developments revealed concerns about racial and gender discrimination in the field.

The publication process is highly competitive. The five journals widely considered in the profession to be the most



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Lisa Cook criticized top journals' review processes, while Samuel Myers said the economics field plays down racial discrimination.

prestigious—the American Economic Review, Econometrica, the Journal of Political Economy, the Quarterly Journal of Economics and the Review of Economic Studies—each receive roughly 1,000 to 2,000 submissions a year and each typically publish several dozen to around 100 articles a year.

Papers are subject to peer review by so-called referees and to revisions before they are accepted and published, a process that can take months or years.

Between 1990 and 2018, 10 economics journals, including the top five, published 105 empirical papers focused on topics such as discrimination, bias and disparities, according to research by the economists Aislinn Bohren, Alex Imas, Kareem Haggag and Devin Pope. Of those 105 papers, 58 were about race, according to the economists' working paper, which looks at how economic research may sometimes miscategorize types of discrimination.

Samuel Myers, a professor and economist at the University of Minnesota, said the rate at which race- and discrimination-related papers are published is hindered in part by the way the field has traditionally viewed such research.

"One of the components of race research in the economics profession is the belief that racial discrimination doesn't exist and that there are other reasons, other factors that could explain differences in" outcomes such as arrest and homeownership rates, Mr. Myers said.

Lisa Cook, professor of economics at Michigan State University, said she became dismayed by a decadelong review process at top journals as she tried to publish a paper that concluded ethnic and political conflict may affect invention and economic growth over time. Her analysis made the point by linking mass violence against African-Americans between 1870 and 1940 to a decline in patent rates among Black inventors.

Ms. Cook said referees objected not to her findings but to certain details and assumptions included in the paper. She said they asked, for example, why she equated lynchings of African-Americans to extrajudicial killings.

The comments "suggested to me that the referees didn't understand U.S. history, so they didn't understand the context," Ms. Cook said.

The paper was ultimately published in the Journal of Economic Growth.