Public Sector Transformation and Racial Inequality in the United States

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Social scientists have only recently begun to recognize "new governance" shifts in the United States, which include the privatization of both many public sector institutions as well as federal and state sector jobs in the United States. Using data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, we examine the extent to which these changes have shaped patterns of racial inequality. Results suggest that new governance shifts have lead to increased racial inequality in the public sector, casting doubt on whether that sector remains a relative bastion of racial equality.