About the **UCLA** Labor Center

The UCLA Labor Center develops research, education, and policy initiatives that aim to create jobs that are good for workers and their communities, to improve the quality of existing jobs in the low-wage economy, and to strengthen the process of immigrant integration, especially among students and youth.  

*Website: labor.ucla.edu*
Today’s Agenda

- Explore research justice approach
- Discuss Labor Center white paper, policy brief and report processes
- Discussion about how history plays a role
- Question and Answer
Different types of reports for different types of knowledge and audiences.
Research Injustice

- Community and worker voices and experience are dismissed or ignored.
- Information is inaccessible, whether through jargon, cost money, hidden in databases, not translated, etc.
- Narratives exclude or misrepresent community experiences and yet decisions about the community are made based on those narratives.
- Lack of community control over production, documentation, and possession and use of their own data (and stories).
What does research justice look like?

- Recognition of community as experts
- Equal access to information that impact the community
- Control over information
- Capacity to produce research that reflect the community’s experience and knowledge
- Use it to advance social change.
How to define and engage the audience? Who will benefit from the research?

- Worker-Community
- Participatory
- Action-based
- Primary and Secondary data collection

- Community knowledge key
- Challenge “expert”
- Ensure inclusion in research
- Value community knowledge
INVOLVING STUDENTS, WORKERS and COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Students
◆ Coursework
◆ Internships/Work study
◆ Research & Media Interns
◆ Research opportunities with partners
◆ Interactive data collection, analysis and design

Workers/Community Members
◆ Researchers, surveyors, interviewers, data analysts
◆ Media & Policy spokespeople
◆ Data experts and gallery walk leaders
◆ Engagement with students and faculty as partners
White Paper

White papers describe a given problem and propose a specific set of solutions to that problem. It’s commonly used in government, policy and legislative settings. A typical white paper might list ways to meet a policy or legislative need or educate decision makers about a particular labor issue, suggest the use of a certain business practice, or identify ways to tackle municipal problems.

First! Determine and understand your audience. Consider their expertise and needs. Consider key messages, titles, infographics, & design

1. Summary
2. Introduction: State the problem clearly
3. Demonstrate historical background or precedent
4. Analysis of the problem using data, literature, cases
5. Make convincing and engaging argument as to how to solve it
6. Conclusion
7. Recommendations
Policy Brief

A short document that presents the findings and recommendations of a research initiative with policy implications. A medium for exploring an issue and distilling lessons learned from the research and serves as a vehicle for providing policy advice.

Determine and understand your audience. Consider their expertise and needs. Consider key messages, titles, infographics, & design.

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction (may include historical overview)
3. Approach and Results
4. Conclusion
5. Implications and Recommendations
**Policy Brief**

**UCLA Labor Center | July 2015**

**Ridesharing or Ridestealing? Changes in Taxi Ridership and Revenue in Los Angeles 2009-2014**

**Introduction**

In 2013, Los Angeles saw the minimum wage as one of the highest in the country, leading the way in labor, especially for workers and drivers. In this context, workers are able to earn enough to support themselves and their families. Ridesharing refers to the increase in those women and men earning wages and being employed within the taxi industry, particularly to those of the rapid growth of transportation networks in major cities such as Los Angeles.

Entrepreneurs in the sector have identified an efficient model that is rendering a major impact on the taxis industry in terms of revenue, income for cab drivers, revenue for cab companies, and the local economy. This is by producing costs for their innovation and rapid growth by changing the way we work. In these changes, traditional models have been disrupted and dramatically impacted on workers in Los Angeles and nationally. It is important to further examine and research this business model and impact Los Angeles workers and the future of quality jobs in this industry.

Currently, there are 30,000 taxi drivers in Los Angeles. A 2015 study of taxi drivers found that most of these, 93%, had low- or middle-income jobs, worked long hours, and were often paid less than minimum wage. The study also found that 40% of drivers had trouble paying their bills and 34% of drivers were living below the poverty line. The report also found that 50% of drivers were likely to have a second job and 32% had been fired from their primary job due to their low income. The report also found that 80% of drivers had at least one serious health issue and 60% had at least one chronic health issue. The report also found that 70% of drivers had at least one major car accident in the past year. The report also found that 50% of drivers had at least one major accident in the past year. The report also found that 70% of drivers had at least one major car accident in the past year. The report also found that 50% of drivers had at least one major car accident in the past year. The report also found that 70% of drivers had at least one major car accident in the past year.

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**Young Workers in Los Angeles: A Snapshot**

September 2015

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**White Paper and Policy Brief Samples**

https://www.labor.ucla.edu/resources/reports/
Produced and Wrote animated video based on data and stories

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcrpfQP-3kQ
Issue: Seeing the decline of Black people in Los Angeles

Source: Census data and existing literature

Impact: Address discrimination
Who employs domestic workers in LA?

Source: Representative phone survey of Californians

Impact: Domestic Worker Bill of Rights
Question: How do undocumented youth access healthcare?

Source: Statewide survey by and for immigrant youth

Impact: Health4all bill
Question: What are the scheduling experiences of retail workers in LA county?

Source: 818 surveys
In collaboration with students and community partners

Impact: raise the visibility of experiences of retail worker hours and scheduling practices

Survey project: Experiences of Front-line Floor Retail workers; cashiers, clerks, sales, stockers, food workers
Thank you!

Q & A

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