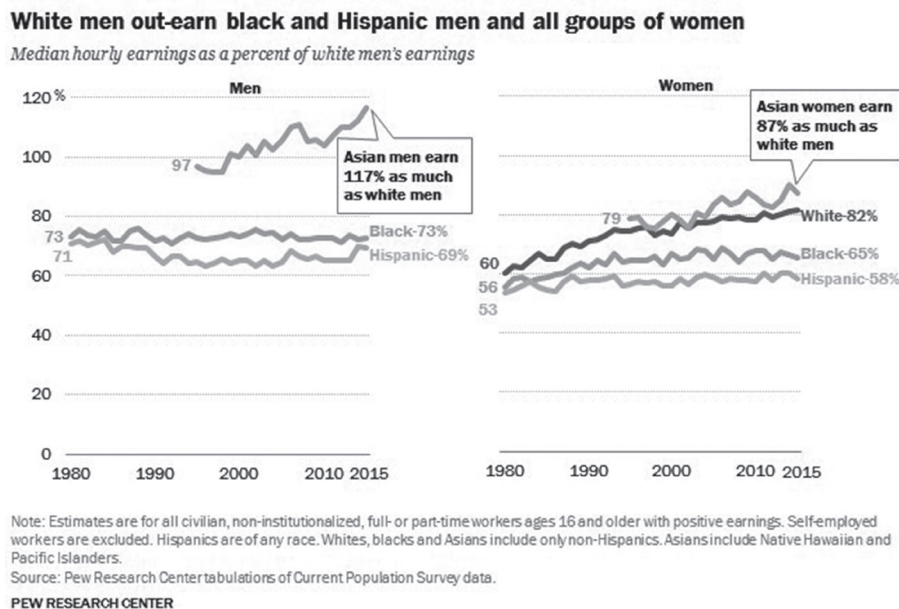


Investigating the Wage Gap: Race and Gender

The graphs below demonstrate the gains in closing the wage gap for men and women of different races since 1980 (Patten, 2016).



- For each of the following groups, construct a function to model the relationship between time and percent of white men's earnings:
 - Asian women
 - Black women
 - Hispanic women
 - white women
 - Asian men
 - Black men
 - Hispanic men
- Use a graphing utility to graph each function. Graph all the models for women's income disparity on the same coordinate plane. Graph all the models for men's income disparity on the same but separate coordinate plane. Answer the following questions:
 - Using your model, what would be the percentage of median hourly earnings of a Black woman in 2009?
 - Using your model, what would be the percentage of median hourly earnings of a Hispanic woman in 2009?
 - Using your model, what year would you predict a Hispanic male would make 65% of the median hourly earnings of a white male?

3. Using your model and respective graphs, how would you describe the gains in closing the wage gap made by men of different races over time?

4. Using your model and respective graphs, how would you describe the gains in closing the wage gap made by women of different races over time?

5. Hypothesize why the rates of gains in closing the wage gap are different for men and women.

6. The Institute for Women's Policy Research (2017) stated that at the current rate, it would take white women until 2059 to close the wage gap, Hispanic women until 2233, and Black women until 2124. Do your models support or disagree with these claims?

7. What does the difference in percentage of median hourly earnings mean over time? Use your model to construct an argument for your claim.

8. What other factors might impact a rise or decline in the difference over time?