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Education

1993	Ph.D., Economics, University of Pennsylvania
1985	A.B., Economics, Princeton University, with honors

Career Brief

Richard W. Johnson, Ph.D., is an economist and senior fellow at the Urban Institute, where he directs the Program on Retirement Policy. The program consists of about a dozen researchers who analyze how current government policies, private sector practices, and demographic trends influence older Americans' economic security and decisionmaking. Current projects examine the distributional impact of potential changes to Social Security, alternative ways of boosting private retirement savings, employment challenges and opportunities at older ages, and the financial burden of medical and long-term care costs for future generations of older Americans.

Dr. Johnson writes and speaks frequently about income and health security at older ages. His current research focuses on older Americans' employment and retirement decisions, long-term services and supports for older adults with disabilities, and state and local pensions. Recent studies have examined job loss at older ages, occupational change after age 50, employment prospects for 50+ African Americans and Hispanics, and the impact of the 2007-2009 recession and its aftermath on older workers and future retirement incomes. He has also written extensively about retirement preparedness, including the financial and health risks people face as they approach retirement, economic hardship in the years before Social Security's early eligibility age, and the adequacy of the disability safety net. Dr. Johnson's long-term services and supports research focuses on financing options and uses DYNASIM, the Urban Institute's dynamic microsimulation model, to project demand for services under current and alternative policies. His other major research thread involves state and local pension plans. He recently directed a team of researchers evaluating public pension plans in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and is examining how reforms might affect public-sector employees.

Prior to joining the Urban Institute in 1998, Dr. Johnson was an assistant research professor at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research at Rutgers University. He received an A.B. from Princeton University and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, both in economics.

Professional Background

2010–Present	Director, Program on Retirement Policy, The Urban Institute
2009–Present	Senior Fellow — Income and Benefits Policy Center, The Urban Institute (reclassification)
2005–2008	Principal Research Associate — Income and Benefits Policy Center, The Urban Institute
2000–2004	Senior Research Associate — Income and Benefits Policy Center, The Urban Institute.
1998–1999	Research Associate I — Income and Benefits Policy Center, The Urban Institute.
1995–1998	Assistant Research Professor — Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research, Rutgers University.
1993–1995	National Institute on Aging Post-Doctoral Fellow — Labor and Population Program, RAND, Santa Monica, CA.
1985–1987	Research Analyst — Strategic Planning Associates, Inc., Washington, D.C.

Project Reports, Publications, and Working Papers***Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles***

Johnson, Richard W. 2011. “Phased Retirement and Workplace Flexibility for Older Adults: Opportunities and Challenges.” *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 638(1): 68-85.

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Johnson, Richard W., and Cori E. Uccello. 2003. "Cash Balance Plans and the Distribution of Pension Wealth." *Industrial Relations* 42(4): 745-73.

Johnson, Richard W., Amy J. Davidoff, and Kevin Perese. 2003. "Health Insurance Costs and Early Retirement Decisions." *Industrial and Labor Relations Review* 56(4): 716-729.

Davidoff, Amy J., and Richard W. Johnson. 2003. "Raising the Medicare Eligibility Age: Effects on the Young Elderly." *Health Affairs* 22(4): 198-209.

Lo Sasso, Anthony T., and Richard W. Johnson. 2002. "Does Informal Care from Adult Children Reduce Nursing Home Admissions for the Elderly?" *Inquiry* 39(3): 279-297.

Johnson, Richard W., and Anthony T. LoSasso. 2001. "Balancing Retirement Security with the Needs of Frail Parents: Caregiving, Financial Transfers, and Work by Women at Midlife." *North American Actuarial Review* 5(1): 104-108.

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Johnson, Richard W., Matthew M. Chingos, and Grover J. Whitehurst, and. 2013. "Are Public Pensions Keeping Up with the Times?" Washington, DC: Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution.

Johnson, Richard W., and Alice G. Feng. 2013. "Financial Consequences of Long-Term Unemployment during the Great Recession and Recovery." Unemployment and Recovery Project Brief No. 13. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

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Favreault, Melissa M., Richard W. Johnson, Karen E. Smith, and Sheila R. Zedlewski. 2012. "Boomers' Retirement Income Prospects." Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

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Eyster, Lauren, Richard W. Johnson, and Eric Toder. 2008. "Current Strategies to Employ and Recruit Older Workers." Final Report to Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor. Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute.

Johnson, Richard W., Rudolph G. Penner, and Desmond Toohey. 2008. "Do Out-of-Pocket Health Care Costs Delay Retirement?" Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

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Butrica, Barbara A., Richard W. Johnson, and Sheila R. Zedlewski. 2007. "Volunteer Transitions Among Older Americans." Retirement Project Discussion Paper 07-06. Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute.

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Fellowships, Honors, Awards:

National Institute on Aging Post-Doctoral Fellowship, RAND, 1993-1995
National Institute on Aging Pre-Doctoral Trainee, Univ. of Pennsylvania, 1990-1992
Hiram C. Haney Fellowship Award in Economics, Univ. of Pennsylvania, 1991
University Fellow, Univ. of Pennsylvania, 1987-1988

Professional Activities and Associations:

Member, Advisory Committee for the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation's *Working Longer Program*,

2011 to present.

Member, Editorial Board of the *Journal of Retirement*, 2013 to present

Guest Editor, “Family, Public Policy, and Retirement Decisions.” special issue of *Research on Aging*, March 2009.

Guest Editor, “Employment Opportunities at Older Ages,” special issue of *Research on Aging*, January 2009.

Member, National Institute on Aging Special Emphasis Panel, ZAG1 ZIJ-1 02, Health and Retirement Study, 2005.

Member, National Institute on Aging Special Emphasis Panel, ZAG1 ZIJ-1 (J1), Determinants of Retirement Behavior, 2003.

Faculty, National Governors Association Policy Academy on Civic Engagement of Seniors, 2007

Chair, Economics of Aging Interest Group of the Gerontological Society of America, 2004-2005.

Secretary-Treasurer, Economics of Aging Interest Group of the Gerontological Society of America, 1997 - 2000.

Reviewer for *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Health Affairs*, *Inquiry*, *Demography*, *Journal of Population Economics*, *Social Security Bulletin*, *Labour Economics*, *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, *Southern Economic Journal*, *Review of Income and Wealth*, *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, *The Gerontologist*, *Health Care Financing Review*, *Research on Aging*, *Journal of Aging and Social Policy*, *Journal of Population Research*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Sociological Forum*, *Human Relations*, AcademyHealth, AARP Public Policy Institute, Smith Richardson Foundation, Retirement Research Foundation, California Public Policy Institute

Member, National Academy of Social Insurance, Gerontological Society of America, Population Association of America, American Statistical Association