INSIDE MONOPSONY: UNDERSTANDING HOW LABOR STANDARDS SHAPE EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES IN THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY

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Conditions in the low-wage service sector are at an historically low level. Recent, high-profile efforts to increase wages and benefits follow a two-decade long pattern of attempting to improve labor standards through passage of a host of minimum wage, living wage, and related legislation at the city and state levels. While the impact of publicly mandated labor standards on employment and other labor outcomes is well studied and remains highly controversial, there are still important missing pieces in our understanding of how locally enacted labor laws impact the labor market.

Dr. Lester will discuss previous research and outline his proposed study of the restaurant industry across two fundamentally different institutional settings, namely San Francisco—where employers face the nation’s highest minimum wage, a pay-or-play health care mandate, and paid sick leave requirements—to the Research Triangle region—where there are no locally enacted labor standards. Feedback is welcome.

Friday, October 4
12:30 to 1:45 p.m.
Hickerson House
108 Battle Lane
beverages & light dessert provided