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LEVY INSTITUTE CONFERENCE ASSESSES POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF FIRST MULTIRACIAL CENSUS

Participants to include Ken Prewitt, director of the Bureau of the Census; Officials from the Office of Budget and Management, the Department of Justice, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and noted scholars including Reynolds Farley, Nathan Glazer, Hugh Davis Graham, Jennifer Hochschild

ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, N.Y.— Census 2000 introduces far-reaching, but not well understood, changes in the way the federal government collects information about race. For more than two decades, Americans were instructed to declare themselves members of one race only, a policy that ignored the incidence of racial intermarriage. After much debate, the federal government is now allowing people to identify themselves by more than one racial origin, a move that could fundamentally change the demographic look of America's melting pot. What has not yet been explored is the way this new information will be tabulated and utilized throughout the federal government and the private sector.

Given the importance of race counts to federal laws and programs, social research and the private sector, the debate now turns to crucial questions concerning how the new race data will be used. On **September 22-23**, The Jerome Levy Economics Institute will hold a conference, *Multiraciality: How Will the New Census Data Be Used?* exploring the new federal race methodology and considering its potential consequences. The conference, organized by Levy Institute Senior Scholar Joel Perlmann and Mary Waters, professor of sociology at Harvard University, will examine not only how the new census information will be tabulated, but also the impact of this new methodology on educational, economic, and health statistics; in legislative and judicial actions involving civil rights and voting rights; and in predicting the future racial composition of the American population.

Will respondents who list themselves as black and white or Asian and white be counted as minorities? Participants in the conference will explore this question and others as they consider the long-range implications of the census changes for the implementation of public policy.

The conference will be Webcast live on the Internet. For more information visit the Levy Institute website at www.levy.org and click on the Webcast section.