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≡ Menu

# Publishing and Promotion in Economics: The Tyranny of the Top Five

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### Article Information

#### Abstract

This paper examines the relationship between placement of publications in top five (T5) journals and receipt of tenure in academic economics departments. Analyzing the job histories of tenure-track economists hired by the top 35 US economics departments, we find that T5 publications have a powerful influence on tenure

decisions and rates of transition to tenure. A survey of the perceptions of young

economists finds that the formal statistical analysis. Pursuit of T5 publications has

become a dominant strategy for young economists. This paper also analyzes the

relationship between T5 publications and tenure decisions. We find that T5

publications have a powerful influence on tenure decisions and rates of transition to tenure. A survey of the perceptions of young

economists finds that the formal statistical analysis. Pursuit of T5 publications has

become a dominant strategy for young economists. This paper also analyzes the

relationship between T5 publications and tenure decisions. We find that T5

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[Replication Package](#)

[Supplemental Appendix \(3.29 MB\)](#)

[Author Disclosure Statement\(s\) \(66.61 KB\)](#)

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## JEL Classification

**A14** Sociology of Economics

**I23** Higher Education; Research Institutions

**J44** Professional Labor Markets; Occupational Licensing

**J62** Job, Occupational, and Intergenerational Mobility; Promotion

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