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# 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 reveals that the formal statistical analysis. Pursuit of T5 publications has

become a dominant theme in the career of many economists. This paper

explores the relationship between placement of publications in top five

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

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## Additional Materials

[Replication Package](#)

[Online 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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