

# Ethnic discrimination in access to public housing in France

Sylvain CHAREYRON<sup>1</sup>, Yannick L'HORTY<sup>2</sup>

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## Abstract

*We measure ethnic discrimination in access to information for public housing applicants, based on a representative sample of 1,875 registration offices, i.e. almost two-thirds of offices in France. Between April and May 2022, two female applicants sent emails to each of these offices, indicating that they wished to apply for public housing and requesting information on the steps to be taken. The first and last names of the applicants suggest that one is of French origin and the other of West African origin. We show that female applicants of French origin obtain significantly more responses than applicants of West African origin. An exploratory analysis shows that the level of discrimination tends to diminish with the share of non-French nationals in the municipality. We also find that that discrimination is more prevalent in the most "favored" communes, due to their social composition (low proportion of white-collar and blue-collar workers) and their economic situation (median income).*

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<sup>1</sup> Univ Paris Est Créteil, ERUDITE (EA 437), TEPP (FR 2042), F-77454, Créteil, [sylvain.chareyron@u-pec.fr](mailto:sylvain.chareyron@u-pec.fr)

<sup>2</sup> Univ Gustave Eiffel, ERUDITE (EA 437), TEPP (FR 2042), F-77454, Marne-La-Vallée, France, [yannick.lhorty@univ-eiffel.fr](mailto:yannick.lhorty@univ-eiffel.fr)