Abstract: At the dawn of the 21st century, the future of educational inequality in the United States seemed clear: Racial inequality was on its way down, though economic inequality was holding steady. Fifteen years later, neither of these patterns still holds, as the decline of racial inequality has been slower than anticipated, and economic inequality has, on some measures, gotten worse. Why have these trends not turned out as predicted, and what can we do about it? In addition to answering these questions, Adam Gamoran will discuss the William T. Grant Foundation’s efforts to support research to improve the lives of young people, particularly in the domain of reducing youth inequality.

Adam Gamoran serves as president of the William T. Grant Foundation in New York City. He is the John D. MacArthur Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin, former director of WCER, and former chair of the UW-Madison Department of Sociology. Professor Gamoran is an elected member of the National Academy of Education and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was twice appointed by President Obama to serve as a member of the National Board for Education Sciences. He is chair of the National Research Council’s Board on Science Education, and he previously chaired the Independent Advisory Panel of the National Assessment of Career and Technical Education for the U.S. Department of Education. In 2014, he received the award for Distinguished Contributions to Research from the American Educational Research Association. His research interests include school organization, stratification and inequality in education, and resource allocation in school systems.