

**Hamermesh, Daniel S. Beauty pays: why attractive people are more successful. Princeton, 2011. 216p index afp ISBN 9780691140469, \$24.95**

For the last 20 years, Texas economist Hamermesh has been intrigued by, and has contributed significant research on, what one may term "The Economics of Beauty" (which, perhaps no accident, is the title of the first chapter and the overall theme of Beauty Pays). This short, provocative, engaging volume takes its audience through the author's previous work and contemporary data, analyses, and impact of being considered good-looking by others on one's labor-market outcomes (employment and compensation); in the social world of friends and family; and even the extent to which one's happiness is affected by the presence (or absence) of looks. Hamermesh thus complements other "discrimination" literature and findings on more conventional dimensions--age, race, gender, and even height--by adding physical attractiveness to the mix. He also tiptoes into the legal and public policy waters to ponder appropriate protections for those who drew nature's short stick (or in this case, its! ugly st ick). Whether at the beach, on an airplane, or in the seminar room, Beauty Pays pays handsome dividends for intelligent lay readers, scholars, and public policy decision makers. Solid notes; superb index. See related, Deborah Rhode's The Beauty Bias: The Injustice of Appearance in Life and Law (CH, May'11, 48-5378). Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readership levels.