Why Does Inequality Matter?

Paula Casal & Andrew Williams

ASAP: Academics Stand Against Poverty

ICREA UPF Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona
Why combat inequality?

1. Because it is at an all time high

2. Because all principles of distributive justice indirectly condemn it.

3. Because of its causes

4. Because of its consequences

5. Because it is moving to town
Economic inequality is greater than ever, even as relational equality (women, children, minorities...) may also be better than ever.
80 people = half humanity (4 billion)
JUST 8 BILLIONAIRES OWN THE SAME WEALTH AS THE POOREST 3.6 BILLION PEOPLE

DEMAND AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE, NOT JUST THE FEW

EVEN IT UP | OXFAM
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PRINCIPLES

• Utility: greatest happiness of the greatest number
• Sufficiency: what matters is that all have enough
• Priority: benefits matter more the worse off you are
• Equality: it is bad if some are worse off than others
Diminishing marginal utility
INEQUALITY HURTS ALL OF US

FIGHT INEQUALITY BEAT POVERTY
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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

JOSEPH E. STIGLITZ
WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS

“A searing read.” —Nicholas Kristof

THE PRICE OF INEQUALITY
HOW TODAY’S DIVIDED SOCIETY ENDANGERS OUR FUTURE
WITH A NEW PREFACE

THE ECONOMICS OF INEQUALITY
TRANSLATED BY ARTHUR GOLDFINDER
THOMAS PIKETTY
THOMAS PIKETTY

CAPITAL ET IDÉOLOGIE

SEUIL
ROUGHLY 1 IN 4 TEENS GET PREGNANT BY AGE 20
If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.

Benjamin Franklin
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Falling stars challenge
Explicit bias
- Expressed directly
- Aware of bias
- Operates consciously
- Example -- "I like whites more than Latinos."

Implicit bias
- Expressed indirectly
- Unaware of bias
- Operates sub-consciously
- Example -- sitting further away from a Latino than a white individual.

Source: Unconscious (Implicit) Bias and Health Disparities: Where Do We Go from Here?

CSI CENTER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION
Harvard Implicit Association Test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of web respondents with each score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong automatic preference for White people compared to Black people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate automatic preference for White people compared to Black people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slight automatic preference for White people compared to Black people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little to no automatic preference between Black and White people</td>
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http://implicit.harvard.edu
Greater visibility of both social and natural inequalities
Public parks: social blenders?
Ecology and equality
Thank you!