

## Origins and Consequences of Inequality

Winter Semester 2016/2017  
Bonn University

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### Description:

In this course, students will familiarize themselves with the study of economic inequality from the perspective of macroeconomics and public economics. Among other things, they will get to know about relevant dimensions of inequality and explore how inequality changes along different stages of development of a country. We will look at the impact of inequality on both developing and developed countries, as well as the intrinsic and functional aspects of this phenomenon. Part of the course will be devoted to uncover the historical origins of inequality. Another part will focus on the role increasing inequality plays for the design of government policies that intend to redistribute resources in an economy. Next to developing their understanding of theoretical tools and models, students are expected to learn how to measure inequality in the data and compare the degree of economic inequality across countries and time. The ultimate goal of this project module is to give students a solid foundation for selecting their own research topic in this area.

### Rough schedule:

- *October to November:*  
There will be lectures in October and November. During this time, students will regularly be given small analytical and data exercises to solve on their own. We will discuss the outcomes of these exercises during class (every third lecture or so) and students can talk about their experience and difficulties they had with theoretical models and when working with data.
- *December to mid of January:*  
Students will have time to prepare their presentations and a small research paper on their selected topic. Depending on the number of course participants, they may work alone or in pairs. They should regularly consult with the course instructors about the progress they have made.
- *Mid of January until end of semester:*  
Each student (group of students) will present their work to the course participants and instructors.
- *March 1st:*  
Students have to hand in their research paper.

### Grading:

Grading will be based on the presentation, research paper, solutions to the exercises given throughout the lecture part of the course, and an active participation during class.