



Introduction of World Wealth and Income Database

Li Yang
PARIS SCHOOL OF
ECONOMICS

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- WID.world started with historical top income shares for France, USA, Britain
 - gradually extended to over forty countries and to wealth (Piketty 2001, 2003, Piketty-Saez 2003, Atkinson-Piketty 2007, 2010, Alvaredo et al 2013, Saez-Zucman 2016)
- New website WID.world launched in January, 2017
- Four major extensions underway:
 - **Emerging countries** and not only rich countries: new tax data recently made available for China, Brasil, India, South Africa, etc.
 - **Wealth distribution** and not only income distribution
 - **Bottom of the distribution** and not only the top
 - **Aggregated National Wealth and Income**
- Overall objective : **Distributional National Accounts (DINA) for all countries**

- **Most extensive database on the historical evolution of income and wealth**
 - Top income shares, averages, thresholds: 50 countries
 - Wealth income ratios, wealth distribution: 20 countries
 - Net National Income, CFC, GDP: 150 countries

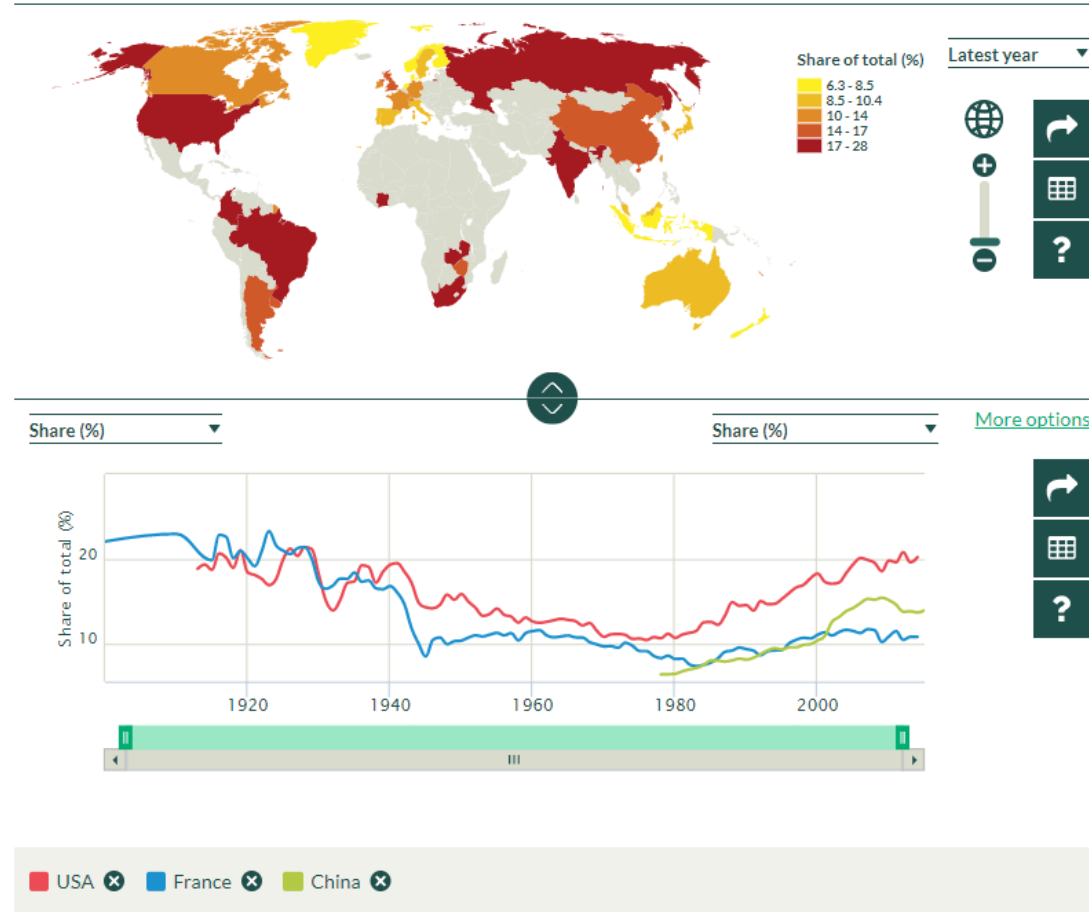
- **Open access, multi-lingual website and visualization tools**
 - Chinese, English, French, Spanish : reach more than 3 billion people

- **State of the art tools for inequality research**
 - GPINTER package: manipulate distributions online
 - Stata and R packages: access our data from Stata directly



- COUNTRY & REGION >
- KEY INDICATORS >
- AVERAGE INCOME
 - Per adult national income
 - Per adult GDP
- AVERAGE WEALTH
 - Per adult national wealth
 - Wealth-income ratio
- INCOME INEQUALITY
 - Top 10% share
 - Middle 40% share
 - Bottom 50% share
 - Top 1% share
- WEALTH INEQUALITY
 - Top 10% share
 - Middle 40% share
 - Bottom 50% share
 - Top 1% share
- MORE INDICATORS >

Top 1% national income share



- The World Wealth and Income Database (WID.world) relies on the combined effort of an international network of **over a hundred researchers** covering more than **70 countries** from all continents.
- All the data being used in the database are compiled based on individual research papers using the same methodology.
- Data Sources
 - 1. Household/Individual Income Tax Data
 - 2. Income and Wealth Surveys
 - 4. National Account (National Balance Sheet, Flow of Funds, International Investment Position, Balance of Payment etc.)
 - 3. Rich List (Forbes's list)
 - 5. Estate Tax
 - 6. Other Data (Reports from International Investment Banks and Consulting Firms)

Example: Estimating DINA Income Distribution

1. Estimating survey income distribution (\mathbf{y}_s)
 - Income survey data
 - Generalized Pareto interpolation techniques (Blanchet-Fournier-Piketty, 2016)
2. Estimating fiscal income distribution (\mathbf{y}_f)
 - Correcting survey income distribution using income tax data
3. Estimating distribution of total personal income (\mathbf{y}_p)
 - $\mathbf{y}_p = \mathbf{y}_f + \mathbf{y}_{nf}$
 - Correcting tax-exempt capital income \mathbf{y}_{nf}
 - \mathbf{y}_{nf} : private share of undistributed profits and imputed rent
4. Transform the distribution of personal income (\mathbf{y}_p) into the distribution of national income \mathbf{y} (normalize the distribution by national income)

Challenge-Data Availability for Measuring Inequality

- It is extremely difficult to collect income tax data, especially in developing and emerging countries. Taking Asia-Pacific countries as example:
 - Countries/regions that publish tax tabulations regularly: Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand.
 - Countries/regions with limited published tax tabulations: China Mainland (annual income higher than 120,000RMB, 2006-2010), Indonesia (1920-1939, 2005).
 - Countries/regions without published tax tabulations: Vietnam, Philippines, Macau, North Korea.
 - Countries/regions that have not been explored yet: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, East Timor, Mongolia, Brunei

- National accounts are not complete in most of the countries. Taking Asia-Pacific countries as example:
 - Most of the countries do not provide complete official national balance sheet
 - Singapore publishes only household balance sheet
 - Malaysia and Mongolia publish only government balance sheet
 - China, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, etc. with no official national balance sheet published
 - Many countries do not provide complete Flow of Funds
 - Malaysia and Indonesia with only financial transaction of Flow of Funds

- Our studies and findings have been
 - presented in many economic conferences, such as the American Economic Association Meeting, European Economic Association, etc.
 - reported by various major international media, such as, BBC news, the New York Times, Washington Post, the Economist, the Guardian, etc.
 - published in a range of academic journals.

- **In January 2018, the [World Inequality Lab](#) will release its first bi-annual **World Inequality Report**,**
 - examining the latest trends in economic inequality across the world.
 - will be translated into nine different languages and be published by Harvard University Press.

Thank You

[Li Yang](#)

[Paris School of Economics](#)

li.yang@psemail.eu