



**WID.WORLD**  
THE SOURCE FOR  
GLOBAL INEQUALITY DATA

World Inequality Lab's newsletter

## Editorial

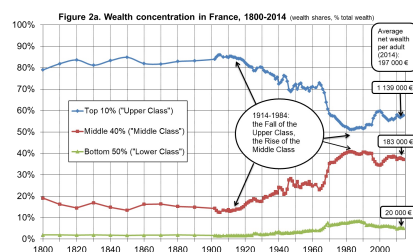
The outbreak of the Covid-19 crisis is having major social and economic consequences worldwide. These will be amplified in high-inequality countries, where limited access to social protection and fragile healthcare systems, among many other factors, are putting the most vulnerable at higher risk. In the US, where 40 million people live in poverty and 30 million people have no health insurance, a significant portion of the population won't be able to afford medical expenses, should they be affected. In low income countries, poor sanitation, lack of water, combined with the healthcare system's lack of resources, form an explosive mix that will exacerbate existing economic and social inequality levels.

The magnitude of this global crisis stresses the need for transparent and sound public health and social statistics, as noticed with the recent controversies around the reporting of casualties in some countries. The lack of sound (anonymized) public health statistics in many countries has become all the more problematic at a time when large digital corporations know key details about citizens' lives. In order to properly address the economic crisis resulting from the pandemics, it is also paramount to rely on good quality information on the distributional impacts of this economic shock and of the policies which will be implemented to counter it. Here again, much work needs to be done.

To this regard, the World Inequality Lab carries on its core mission of producing and publishing economic inequality statistics to inform and equip all actors of society during this extraordinary period. Our members have also developed proposals to fight the economic and distributional impacts of the pandemics (see Media section). Now more than ever the WID.world community remains fully committed to the ideal of inequality data as a global public good.

The World Inequality Lab

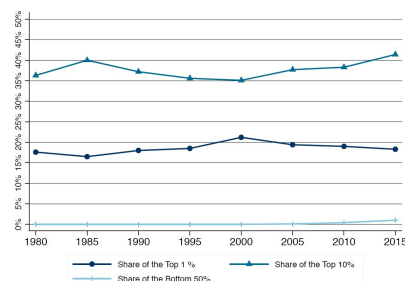
## Latest academic papers



### New method to estimate wealth inequality dynamics

Measuring and understanding the evolution of wealth inequality is a key challenge for researchers, policy makers, and the general public.

In this paper, **Bertrand Garbinti**, **Jonathan Goupille-Lebret** and **Thomas Piketty** present a new

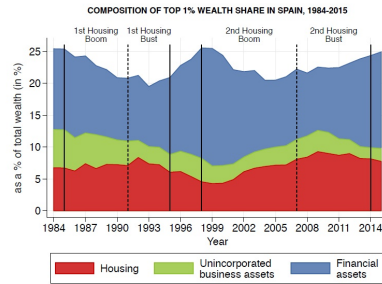


### The Concentration of Investment in Education in the US (1970-2018)

Are educational spending in the US more or less equally distributed than in the past? This working paper by **Cécile Bonneau** aims to describe the concentration of investments in education both for K-12 and for higher

method to estimate wealth inequality..

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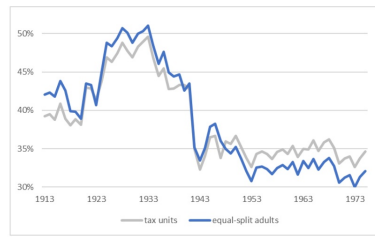
## House Price Cycles, Wealth Inequality and Portfolio Reshuffling in Spain

Business cycle dynamics can shape the wealth distribution through asset price changes, saving responses, or a combination of both. This working paper by **Clara Martinez Toledano** studies the implications of housing booms and busts for wealth inequality..

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education in the US from 1970 to 2017 ...

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## New Evidence on Midcentury American Inequality

The mid-20th century US decline in income inequality has been called "the greatest leveling of all time," despite a similarly unmatched rate of economic growth. This paper by **Matthew Fisher-Post** sheds light on changes within the middle class, to study early and midcentury trends in income and wage inequality ...

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To access all the publications of the World Inequality Lab, check out the dedicated page on [WID.world](http://wid.world)

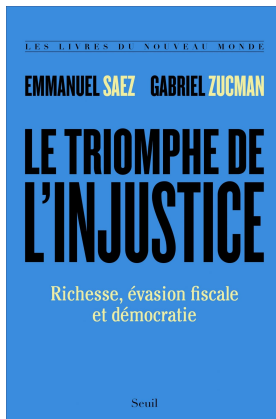
## More publications

OXFORD  
ACADEMIC

Journal of the  
European Economic Association

### Journal of the European Economic Association

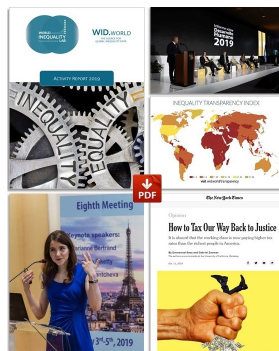
The paper "New method to estimate wealth inequality dynamics" has been accepted by the [Journal of the European Economic Association](#), published by the Oxford University.



### Le triomphe de l'injustice - French edition

"In this book, **Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman**, economists who revolutionised the study of inequality, demonstrate how the super-rich pay a lower tax rate than everybody else. In crystalline prose they dissect the deliberate choices and the sins of indecision that have fuelled this trend: the gradual exemption of capital owners; the surge of a new tax-avoidance industry and, most critically, tax competition between nations."

The book is published by [Seuil](#) and was presented at a Debate on Equality that took place on February 13th.



## 2019 Activity Report

- Extension of the [World Inequality Database](#) (Africa, Asia, Europe).
- 2 interactive tools: the [Income comparator](#) and the [Inequality Transparency Index](#)
- 30+ academic [publications](#) & 3 books
- Contribution to the [UNDP Human Development Report](#)
- Co-organization of the [8th ECINEQ conference](#)
- 500+ [interviews](#) in major outlets

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## In the media

Selection of recent contributions:

### English

- [VIDEO] **France 24**: "[Gabriel Zucman: The wealth tax guru advising Sanders & Warren](#)", 13/02/2020.
- **The Guardian**: "[This crisis calls for massive government intervention: here's how to do it](#)", 17/03/2020.
- **The New York Times**: "[The Liberal Economists Behind the Wealth Tax Debate](#)", 21/02/2020.

### French

- [VIDEO] **CliqueTV**: "[Plongée au coeur des inégalités](#)", 26/02/2020
- [AUDIO] **France Inter**: "[Une majorité d'américains soutient une fiscalité plus redistributive](#)", 10/02/2020.
- **France Culture**: "[Les crises ont un effet très fort en bas et en haut de la pyramide sociale](#)", 21/03/2020
- [AUDIO] **France Inter**: "[Comment sortirons-nous de la crise économique ?](#)", 29/03/2020

*To access all the media contributions of the World Inequality Lab, check out the dedicated page on [WID.world](#)  
Any questions: [press@wid.world](mailto:press@wid.world)*

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## Towards Distributional National Accounts (DINA)



The World Inequality Lab (WIL) continues to collaborate with international organizations and governments to establish novel statistical indicators on income and wealth inequality. The partnership with the **United Nations Development Program**, started in 2019 and bore its first fruits in the recent publication of the 2019 UNDP Report, in which the WIL contributed a chapter on

how to accurately measure income and wealth inequality. The WIL is also closely working with the **OECD** in the framework of a 6-year project funded by the European Research Council.

Furthermore, Lucas Chancel, co-director of WIL, participated in the **United Nations Senior Management** discussion on the Economy of the Future in February to emphasize the need to produce distributional growth statistics (DINAs) in order to improve inequality measurement. **Secretary-General António Guterres** praised the work of WIL.world's research community. Indeed, indicators that display how growth is distributed across income groups - capturing the extent to which the bottom 40% of the income distribution benefit from the economic growth - are essential to better evaluate the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition, moving towards more data transparency requires a solid effort at the national level. To this regard, the WIL participated in an **unprecedented exercise between researchers and statisticians** around the production of distributed national accounts. The results should be published in the coming months.

The WIL also engaged in discussions with governments. During its visit to Paris, the **Argentine government** committed to cooperate with the WIL in the production of the necessary data for the adequate measurement and analysis of inequality in the country. In February, **former Brazilian presidents Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Dilma Rousseff**, and 2018 Workers' party candidate **Fernando Haddad**, outlined their efforts to make inequality their priority issue going forward. The WIL will be glad to provide support and expertise, and is now waiting to see the concrete form these commitments will take. Other governments are also ready to move in this direction, an encouraging development in the context of the next review of the United Nations' System of National Accounts.

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## Debates on equality



Due to the current pandemic and until further notice, our programming is on hold.

→ Stay informed of the next debates via [WIL.world](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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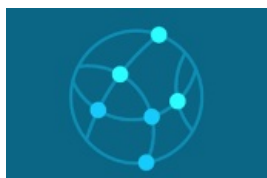
## Life at the WIL



- **Rowaida Khaled** joined the WIL in January as a research assistant, after graduating from Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University. She manages the database updates and participates to its future improvements.
- **Daniel Sánchez Ordóñez**, M2 student at PSE, is writing his master thesis on land inequality and cooperates with the WIL on this issue.
- **Fausto Spiga**, PSE master student, is writing his master thesis on earnings inequality in Latin America and has joined the LA team.

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## More about WIL.world



WIL.world relies on the



The World Inequality



WIL.world aims to provide

combined effort of an international network of over a hundred researchers from all continents...

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Database is funded by public and non-profit institutions...

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open access to the most extensive available database on the historical evolution of the world distribution of income and wealth...

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World Inequality Lab  
48 Boulevard Jourdan  
75014 Paris, France



Media contact: [press@wid.world](mailto:press@wid.world)

*Editors: Lucas Chancel, Olivia Ronsain*

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