

Inequality Configurations

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Introduction

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 - different disciplines: political science, psychology, demography....
 - Generally two dimensions
 - Micro vs. Macro approaches

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 - Generally two dimensions
 - Micro vs. Macro approaches
- This paper: Multidimensional inq... to understand structure of inq... macro approach

Introduction

- Questions:
 - Do the different dimensions of inequality emerge from a single fundamental dimension? Or do different dimensions emerge from domain specific forces?
 - Do some types of inq relate? Some go together, or are traded-off (ex. Some have more economic inequality but less social or psychological inequality)?
- Understand/ Describe inequality configurations

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→ Understand/ Describe inequality configurations
- Descriptive paper:
 - Principal Component Analysis → “fundamental dimensions of inequality”
 - Cluster analysis → how are countries grouped?

Framework(s)

- How to think about these questions? Frameworks about multidimensional structure of inq?
- Four Frameworks/ hypotheses
 - 1. A single fundamental inequality** underlies all different types of inequality
 - 2. Separate domain-specific inequalities**

Framework(s)

3. Therborn (2013) multidimensional inequality

Dimension of human life	Dimension of inq	Components
Humans as organisms	Vital inq	Health
Humans as persons	Existential inq	Respect, Autonomy
Humans as actors	Resource inq	Income, Political participation/ influence, Power

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4. Piketty (2020) inequality regimes

	Economic Inequality	Social/ Political Inequality
Ternary Societies	Medium	High
Ownership societies	High	Low
Slave and colonial societies	Very high	Very high
Social-democratic societies	Low	Low

Data

- Variables → Measures of inequality (Gini coefficients) of:
 - Income
 - Health (length of life)
 - Political participation
 - Political influence, perceived
 - Social class, self-reported
 - Self efficacy

Data

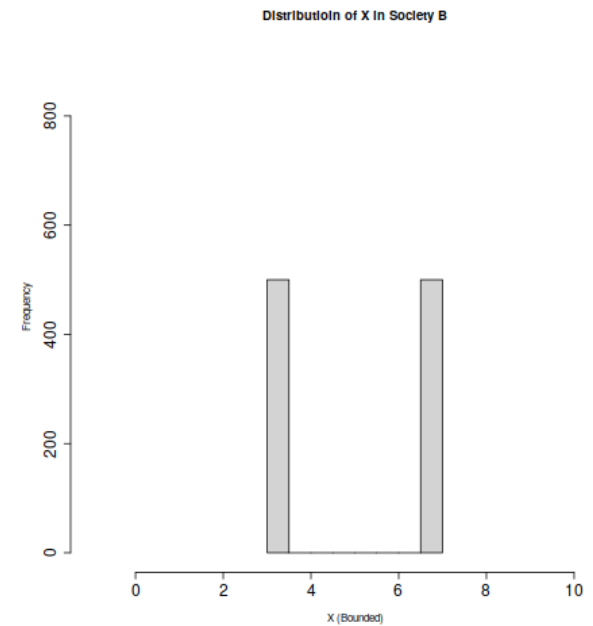
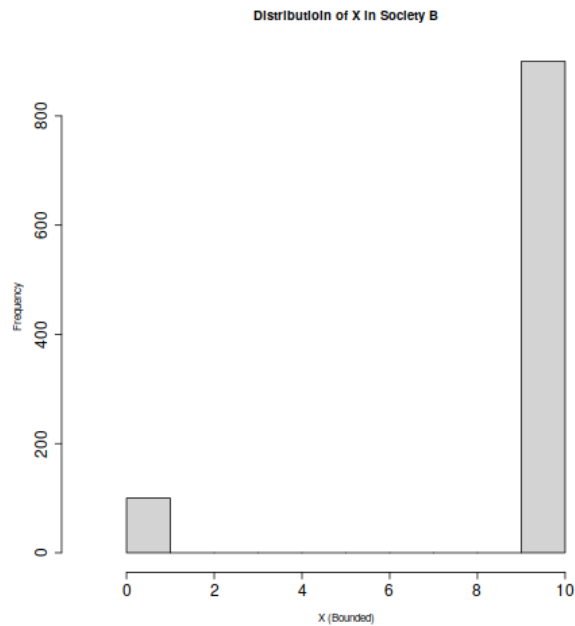
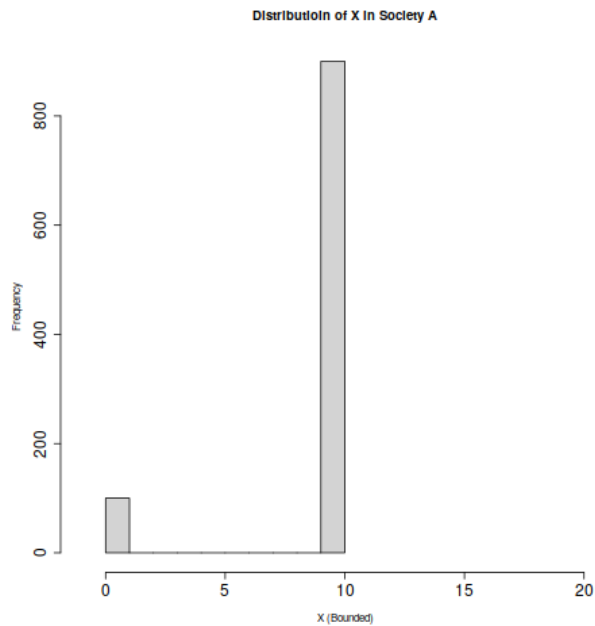
- Data sources for inequality
 - Income → WIID (average post 2010)
 - Health (length of life) → 2019 WHO life tables
 - Other variables → opinion surveys
 - WVS/ EVS (mainly 2017-20) → 64% inq measures
 - older WVS + ISSP + ESS + barometers → 18%
 - imputed → 5%

Data

- Full data → 104 countries/ 6 variables
 - Select only questions that capture really the same thing and that are in many countries
 - Homogenize answers/ scales
 - But survey effects for some variables
- For robustness → use also WVS/ EVS 2017-20 only → 79 countries/ 4 variables
- Trade-off: WVS/ EVS 2017-20 only...
 - homogeneous survey
 - but! No social class inq, no political influence inq + low coverage of Africa and America

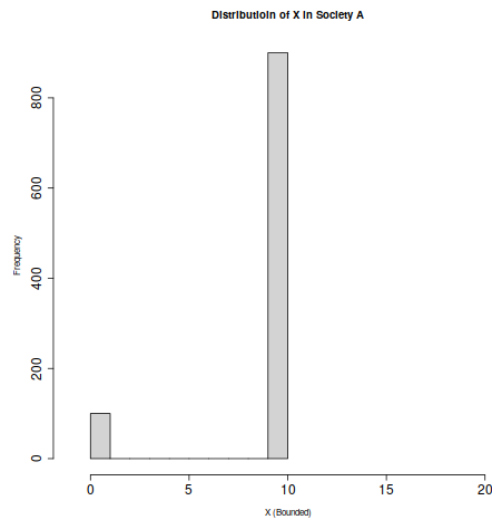
Inequality Measurement

- Gini Coefficients
 - Income → WIID integrated and standardized series
 - Length-of-life and attitude variables → Bounded

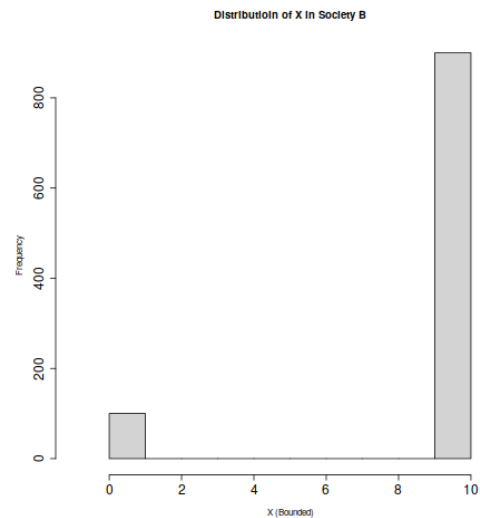


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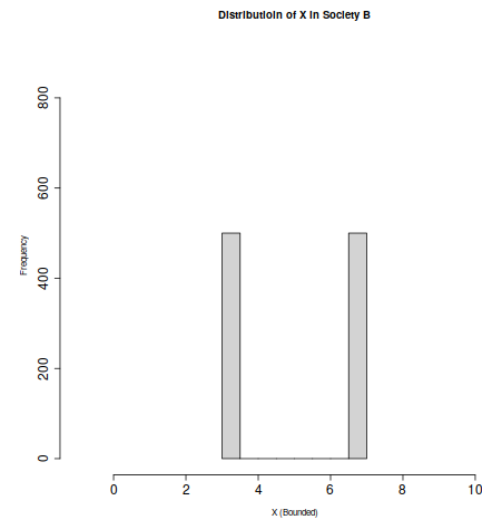
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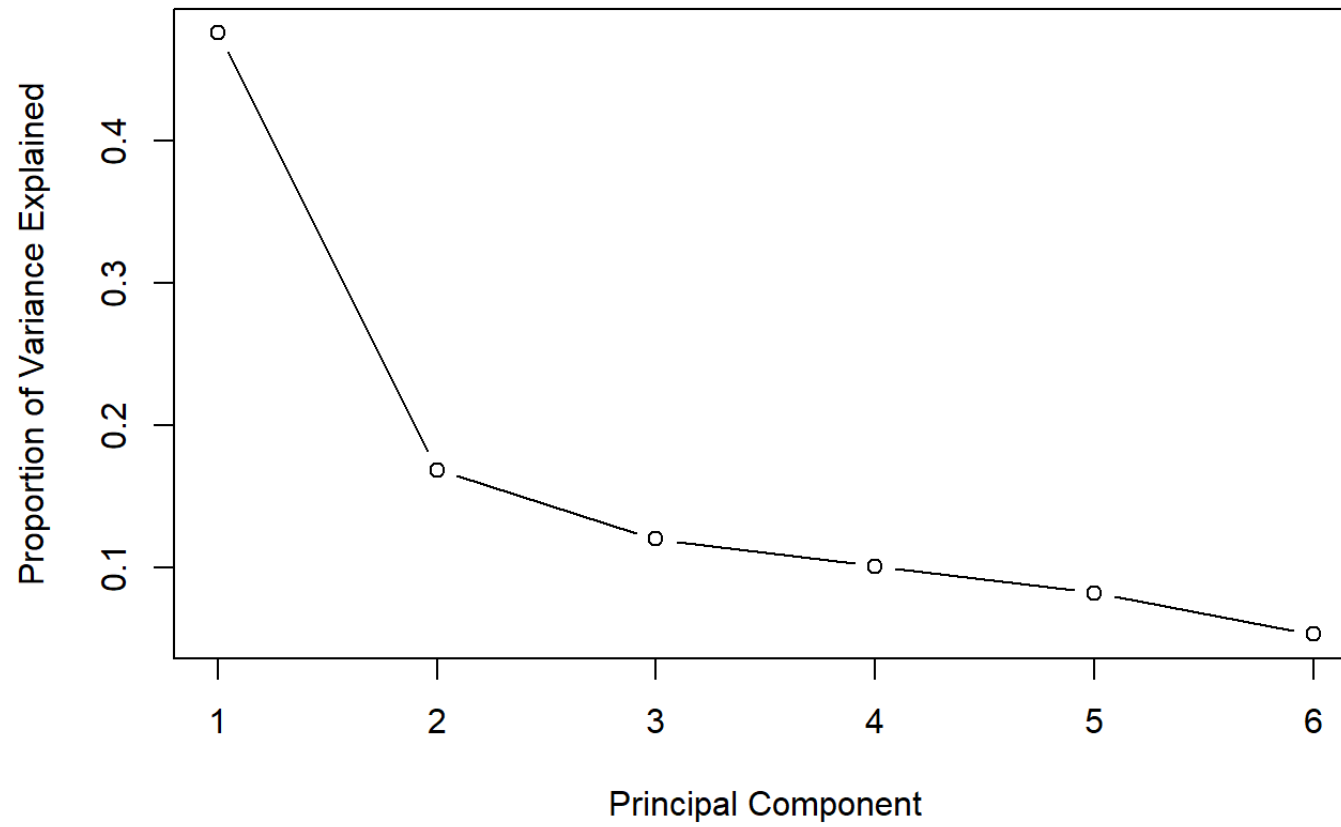


“Usual” Gini = 0.2

- Adjust Gini following Permanyer, Seth and Yalonetzky (2022)
- Idea → with what there is in total, how unequally distributed is it relative to how it could be?
 - Adj Gini (A) = 1 ; Adj Gini (B) = 0.7

PCA

- Proportion of the variance explained by components

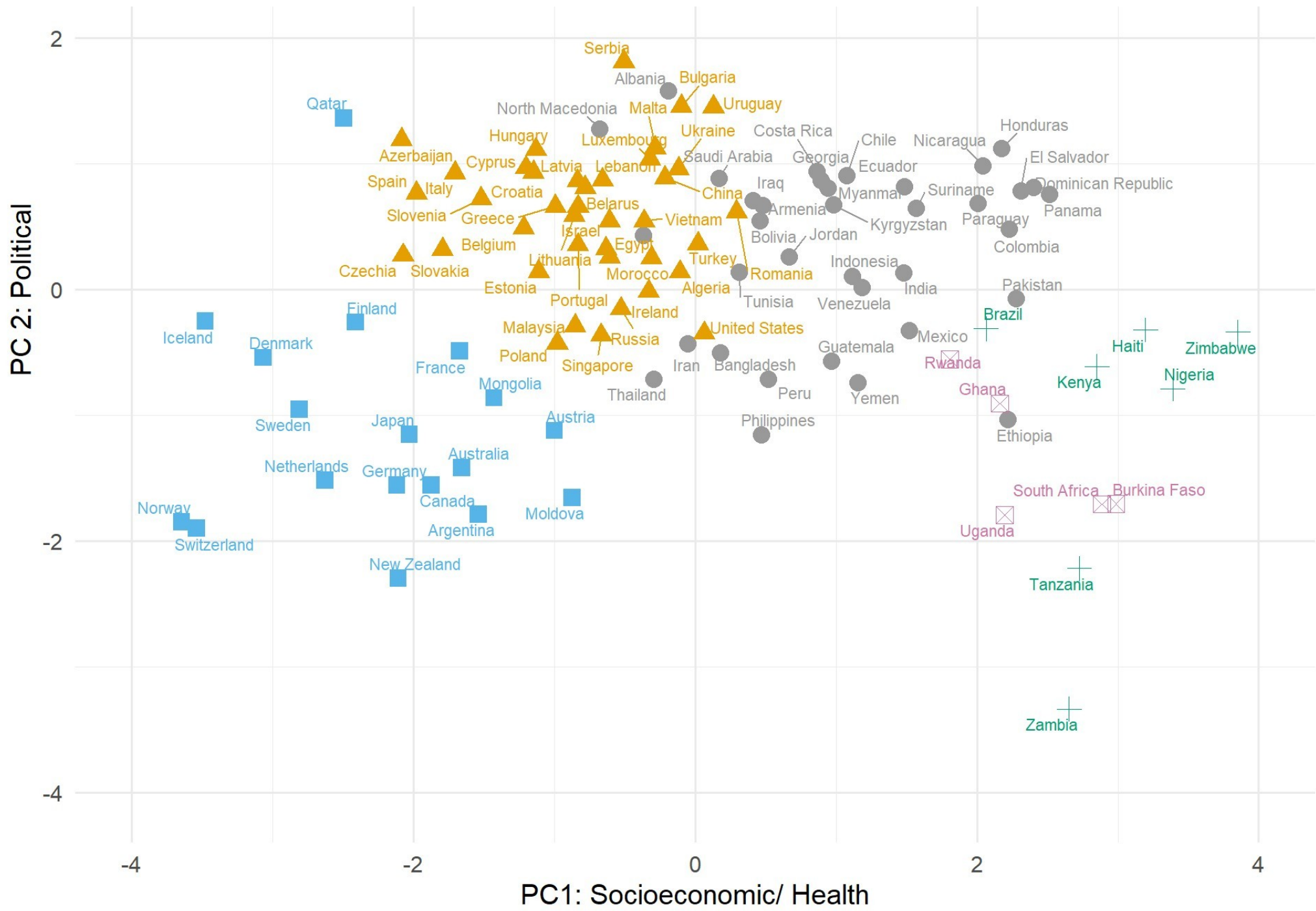


PCA

Loadings

	PC 1	PC 2
Income inequality	0.49	-0.25
Length-life inequality	0.46	-0.38
Self efficacy inequality	0.42	0.14
Social class inequality	0.44	-0.27
Pol. participation inequality	0.30	0.58
Pol. Influence inequality	0.30	0.61

- PC1 → Socioeconomic/ health inequality
- PC2 → Political inequality



Robustness – only WVS/EVS

Loadings

<u>Ginis</u>	<u>PC 1</u>	<u>PC 2</u>
Income inequality	0.55	-0.19
Health inequality	0.47	-0.62
Self-efficacy inequality	0.54	0.13
<u>Pol. participation inequality</u>	0.43	0.75

Life Satisfaction

- Do the basic inq dimensions matters for life satisfaction?

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	Life satisfaction inequality		Life satisfaction mean	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
PC1: Socioeconomic/ Health Inq	0.040 ^{***} (0.009)	0.036 ^{***} (0.011)	-0.049 [*] (0.019)	-0.032 (0.023)
PC2: Poitical Inq	-0.005 (0.011)	-0.005 (0.011)	0.006 (0.024)	0.008 (0.024)
log GDP		-0.008 (0.012)		0.036 (0.027)
Observations	105	104	105	104

Note:

* $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$

Conclusion

- Think of multidimensional inequality in analytical terms not only for measurement
- Results
 - Two basic dimensions of inequality
 - Socioeconomic/ Health Inq → Matters for life satisfaction inq (and maybe average)
 - Political Inequality
 - Clusters
 - Western Europe Countries low in both
 - African Countries high in Socioeconomic/ Health, but low in Political inq
 - LA countries high in both
 - Life satisfaction inq correlated with socioeconomic/ health inq but not political inqs

Thank you