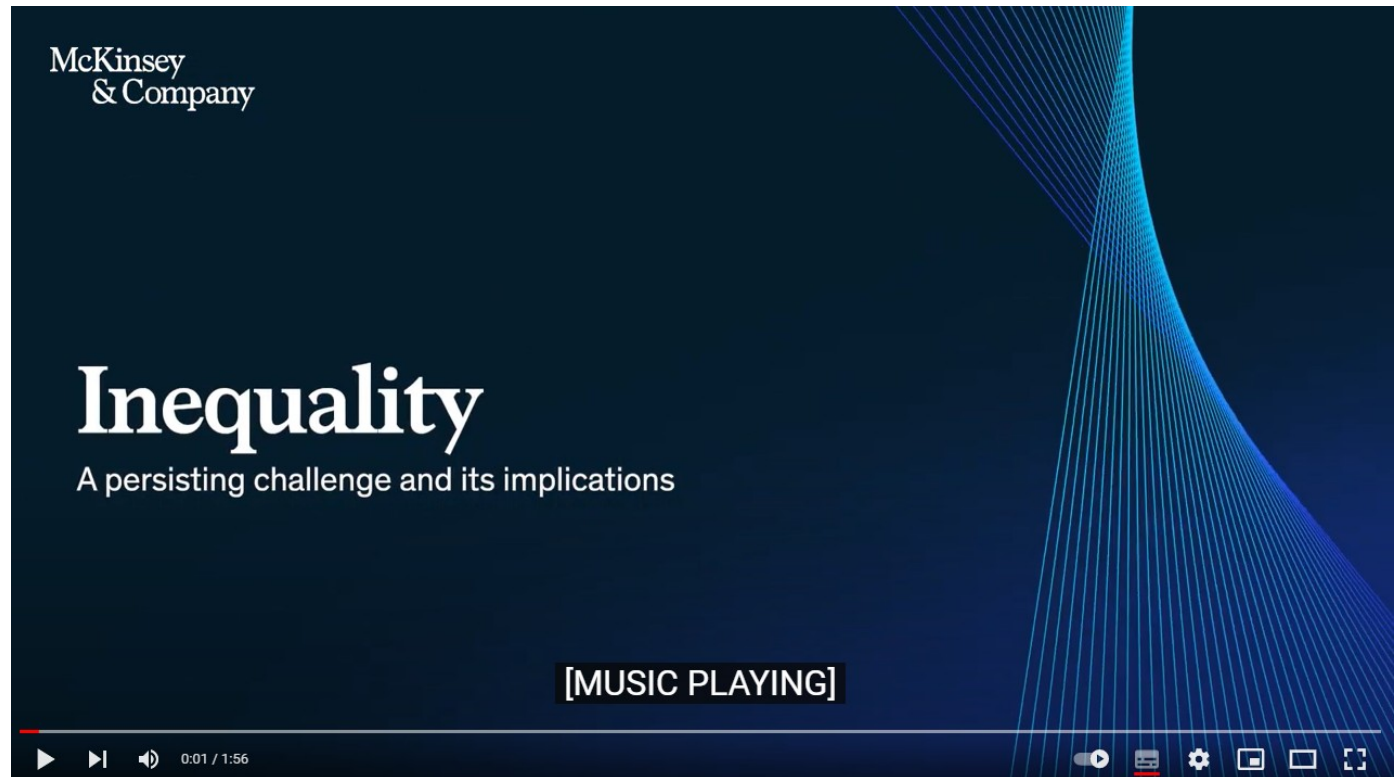


Intro to theme

Video: Inequality: A persisting challenge and its implications

<https://youtu.be/PQlrwVTrBWc>



Inequality and social stratification

- Connection between social stratification and inequality
- Systematic inequality between groups of people = social stratification
- Why social?
 - SS concerns the groups of people
 - Inequality is organized around groups with similar characteristic
- Criteria delimit the inequality
 - wealth, income, prestige, power, gender, education, age
- Rankings of groups change only very slowly
- All societies are stratified societies

Three basic historical models of inequalities

- Slavery—ownership of certain people
- Caste—status for life
- Class—positions based on:
 - economics
 - employment (paid jobs)
 - labor markets
- Modern and postmodern societies

Inequality dimensions

- Economic inequality: wealth, money (rich vs. poor people)
 - measured by GINI coeff, Lorenz curve (advantages vs. disadvantages)
- Social class inequality: occupations (labour market positions)
 - measured by EGP, ESeC (categories), ISEI, Prestige scal (continuous)
- Social status inequality: prestige, respect
 - measured by artificial socioeconomic indexes
- Power inequality: influence, authority
 - measured by level of authority in paid job
- The debate is over which type if inequality is the most important?
- Three main dimensions of inequality:
 - Economic
 - Educational
 - Power

Two basic inequality concepts

- *Inequality of conditions*
 - unequal distribution of income to people
 - differences in wealth and material conditions
 - different incomes means different chances to get different goods
- *Inequality of opportunity*
 - unequal start positions
 - different start positions means different chances to get different levels of education, jobs and incomes

Reproduction of inequality

- Reproduction of social strata
 - In European countries children from the highest social classes have about 80% higher probability to attend university compare to children from the working class
 - IEO: inequality of educational opportunity
 - Children from highest social class have 70% probability to get married with the same social class partner
 - Homogamy: preferences for the same partner
 - Inequality is reinforced by:
 - socials mechanisms (system)
 - individual based actions (actor)

Two reasons of reproduction of inequalities

- System: social reproduction
 - glass ceiling
 - social barriers
 - everyone wants the same
- Actor: cultural reproduction
 - sticky floor
 - cultural values, attitudes
 - behavior
 - people want different things

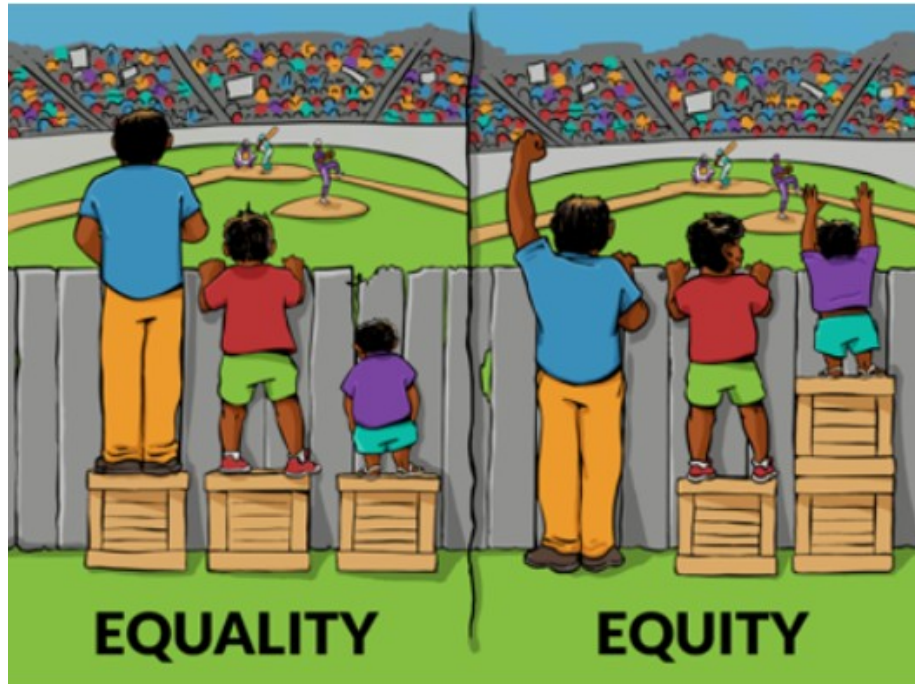
Structuralism vs. Culturalism
explanation of inequalities

Equality vs Equity

Equality is the provision of equal access to resources and opportunities.

Everyone gets the same thing, regardless of where they come from or what needs they might have.

Equity is the provision of personalized resources needed for all individuals to reach common goals. The goals and expectations are the same for all students, but the supports needed to achieve those goals depends on the students' needs.



conservativ

liberal

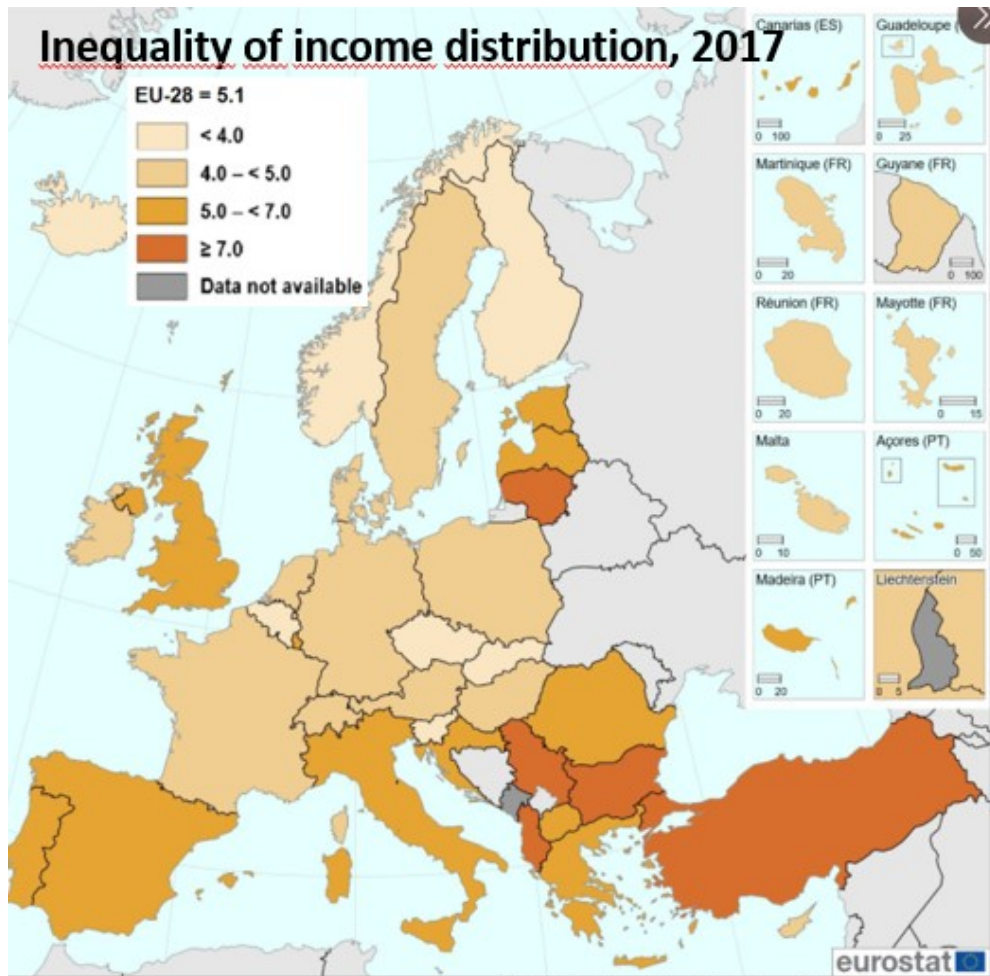
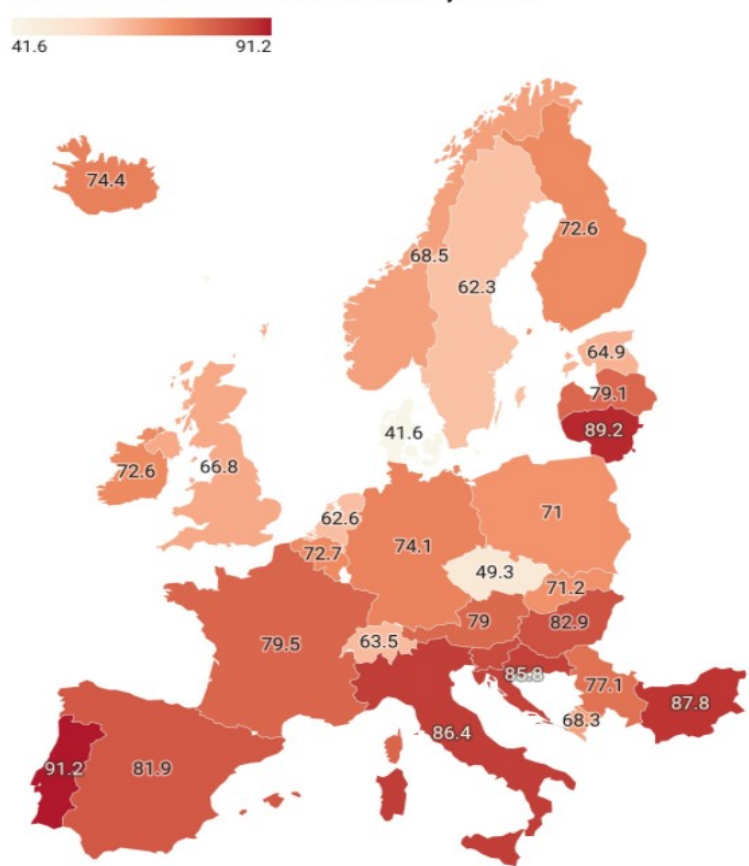
political view

Basic principles inequality reproduction

- Cumulative advantage
 - Matthew effect
 - Advantages have tendency to strengthen itself
 - The same can be applied to disadvantages
 - Feedback loop
- Compensatory advantage
 - Economic, cultural, social, family resources to face risks along the life course
 - Glass floor (vs. sticky floor)

Proportion of respondents agreeing with the statement "government should reduce differences in income levels", %, 2018 (European Social Survey) and the level of income distribution inequality in Europe.

% agreeing with the statement "government should reduce differences in income levels", 2018

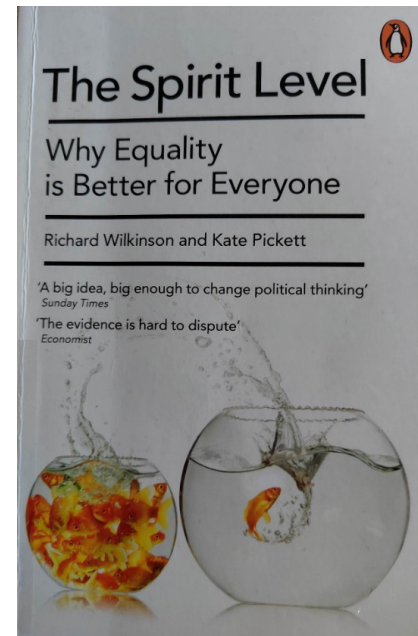


Legitimization of inequality

- Inequality is needed (for instance in salaries) in order the talented people would be motivated for education that is necessary for different jobs (doctors, lawyers, other professionals)
- Is it true or we just believe in it?
- How large these differences in salaries should be?
- What is *ascription*?
 - How does ascriptive society work?
- What is *achievement*?
 - How does meritocratic society work?

Should we strive for equal societies?

- Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett (Penguin 2009)
 - British social epidemiologists
- **Argument**
- It is not the economic wealth of country (level of GDP) but the level of inequality inside the country which influence all social statistics in negative way.
- Higher economic inequality = worse (general) quality of life no regards the wealth of society (GDP: gross domestic product)
- There is a cost of inequality
 - prize that societies pay for inequality



Should we strive for equal societies? (cont.)

- Inequality influences inside the country :
 - life expectancy
 - health and social problems
 - infant mortality (deaths) per population
 - teenage first birth rate per population
 - level of abortions per population
 - homicides per population
 - prisoners per population
 - gender inequality
 - obesity level per population
 - educational attainment and IEO
 - percent of dropping out high schools
 - educational aspiration by social origin
 - social mobility (GGC)
 - child well-being
 - trust between people
 - level of anxiety of people
 - level of violence per population
 - mental health of people and drug use per population
 - proportion of happy people
 - level of social cohesion

Video YT: Richard Wilkinson
<https://youtu.be/cZ7LzE3u7Bw>

