Comparing Global Trends in Wealth and Income Inequality

James Davies and Anthony Shorrocks 13 September 2018

Has inequality been increasing in recent years?

Yes/no

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- Economic variable: income, wealth, ...
- Area coverage: world, region, country, ...
- Time period: 1900-2018, 1960-2018, 2000-2018, ...
- Inequality measure: Gini, top 10%, top 1%, mean/median

Objective

To compare global inequality trends using two huge synthetic data sets:

Wealth sample for each country and year 2000-2017

- wealth = real property + financial assets debts
- compared across countries using official exchange rates
- comparisons for **adults**
- top tail adjustment for missing wealth

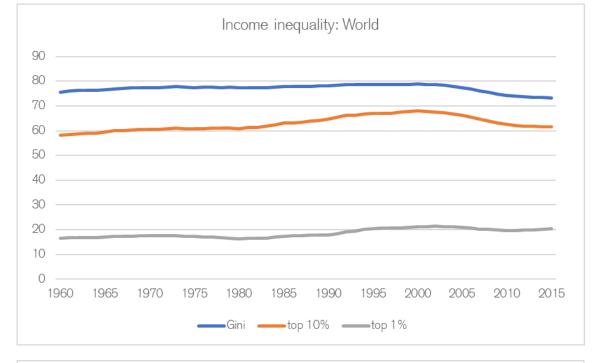
Income sample for each country and year 1960-2015

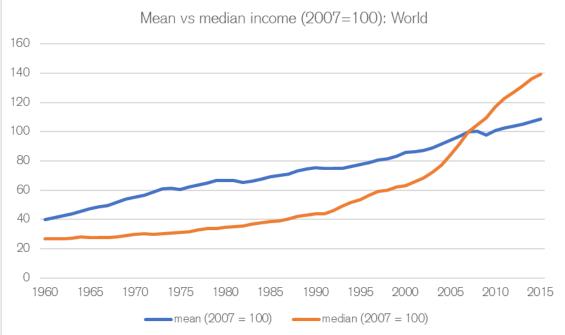
- Income = net household income per capita (alt: gross income, consumption)
- compared across countries using official exchange rates (alt: PPP)
- comparisons for **individuals**
- no top tail adjustment (yet)

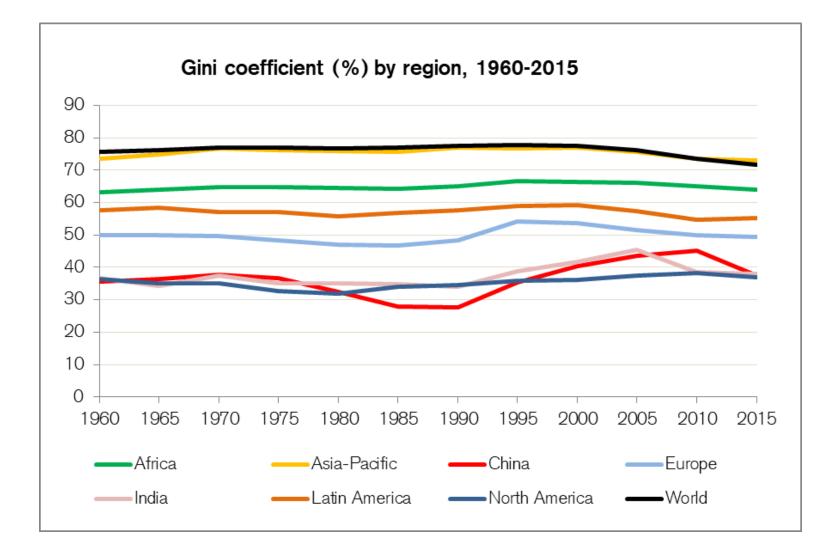
Comparison 2015: World

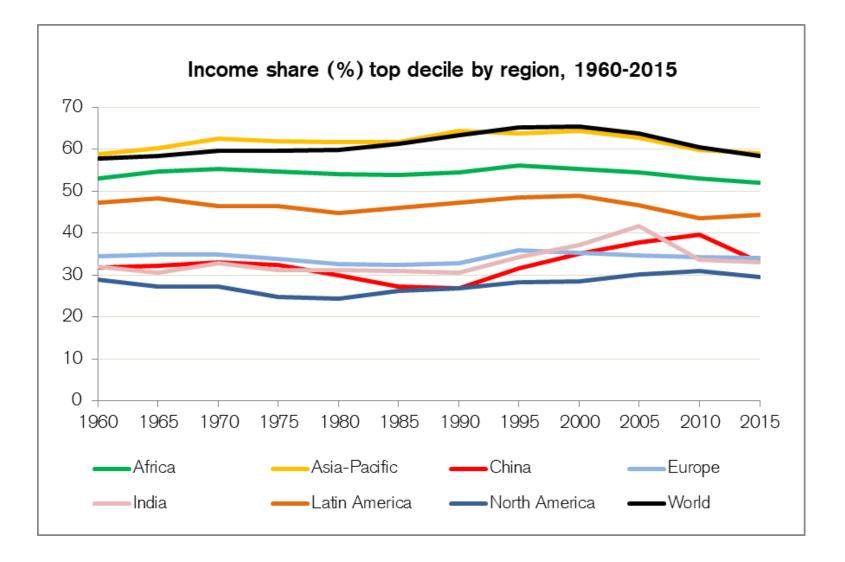
	net income per capita	net wealth per adult
mean	10,228	52,275
median	2,772	3,596
Gini	73.3	91.2
top 10%	61.5	87.1
top 1%	20.4	49.2

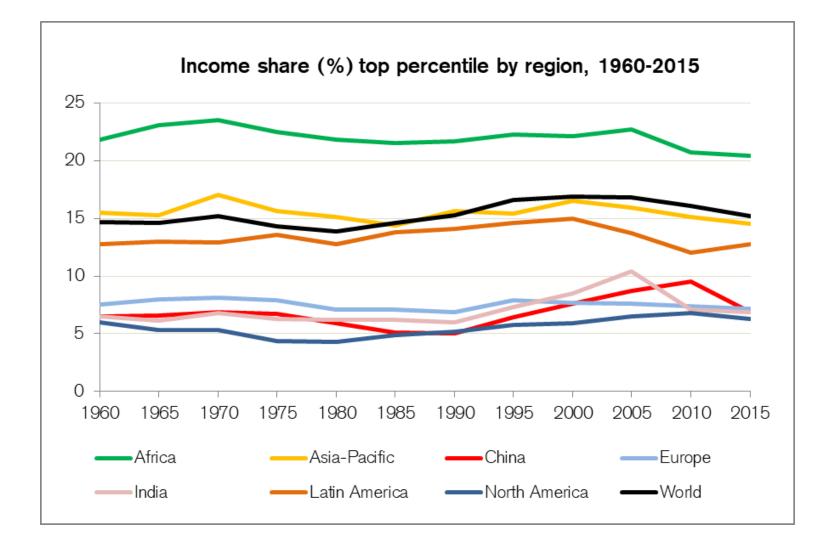
Income Inequality

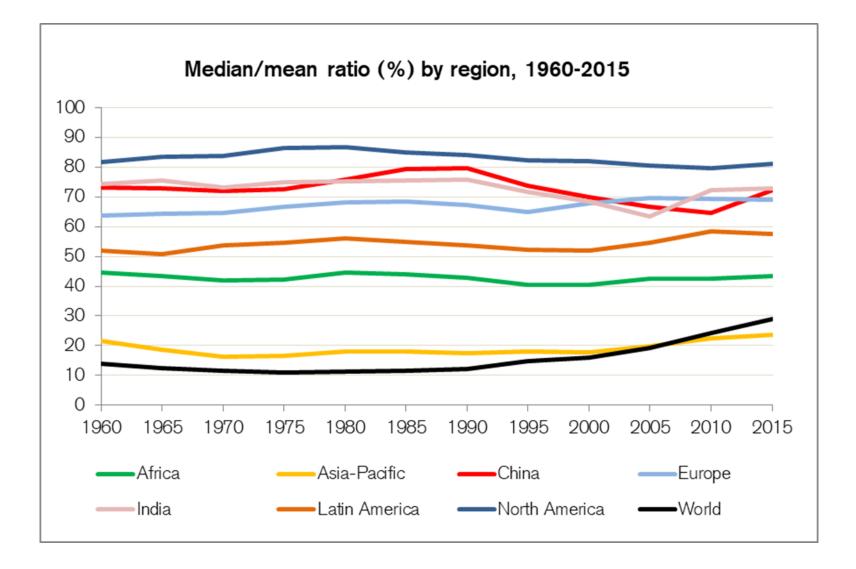












Wealth Inequality



