Dear Professor Vuolo,

I’d like to thank Sociological Methodology for conditionally accepting my paper for publication. I have incorporated the changes recommended by Paul von Hippel into this most recent draft. Most importantly, in response to Paul von Hippel’s request that I share my data and code, I have created a Github repository where the public data and all the code needed to recreate the tables and plots based on the public data can be found. This repository provides instructions for reproducing these results.

Another significant change in this draft is that I have altered some of the content regarding the theory behind why Lorenz interpolation provides more accurate estimates than MCIB or CDF interpolation. In the previous draft, I suggested that Lorenz interpolation produces less positively biased estimates of the closed bin means, resulting in a better estimate of the top bin mean. In his response, Paul von Hippel disputed this point. I agree with Paul von Hippel that there’s no theoretical reason to think that a Lorenz curve would produce less positively biased estimates of the bin means, and that the improvement yielded by Lorenz interpolation may be due to a “fine point of the implementation of the method.” In my latest draft, I have dropped the paragraph of the introduction attributing the improvement of Lorenz interpolation to the bin mean estimates. Instead, I simply state that Lorenz interpolation produces better estimates of the income distribution upper tail. This is evidenced by the lower relative bias and RMSE of the open-ended bin mean at the top of the income distribution.