Amory Gethin

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Contact Information Personal Information

amory.gethin@psemail.eu Citizenship: French

48 boulevard Jourdan 75014 Paris Born in 1995

DOCTORAL STUDIES

2020-Present - Paris School of Economics, PhD in Economics

Dissertation title: Political Change and Inequality.

Advisor: Thomas Piketty.

2022-2023 – University of California, Berkeley

Visiting Student Researcher Sponsor: Emmanuel Saez.

2022 - Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Visiting Student Researcher Sponsor: Abhijit Banerjee.

2021 - Harvard Business School

Visiting Student Researcher Sponsor: Vincent Pons.

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES

2016-2018 - MSc in Economics, Paris School of Economics

Summa Cum Laude. Rank: 1^{st} .

2013-2016 – Multidisciplinary Degree, Paris Sciences et Lettres

Summa Cum Laude. Rank: 1st. Specializations: Economics, Philosophy.

2013-2016 - BA in Economics, Paris Dauphine University

Summa Cum Laude.

Воок

Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities. A Study of 50 Democracies, 1948-2020.

Co-edited with Clara Martínez-Toledano and Thomas Piketty.

Harvard University Press, November 2021. 656 pages.

Website: World Political Cleavages and Inequality Database: https://wpid.world.

Translations: French (EHESS/Gallimard/Seuil, April 2021), Dutch (De Geus, January 2022), Spanish (forthcoming), Portuguese (forthcoming).

PUBLICATIONS

Brahmin Left versus Merchant Right: Changing Political Cleavages in 21 Western Democracies, 1948-2020 (with C. Martínez-Toledano & T. Piketty)

Quarterly Journal of Economics 137, no. 1 (2022): 1–48. Lead article. [pdf] [appendix]

Abstract: This article sheds new light on the long-run evolution of political cleavages in 21 Western democracies. We exploit a new database on the socioeconomic determinants of the vote, covering over 300 elections held between 1948 and 2020. In the 1950s and 1960s, the vote for social democratic, socialist, and affiliated parties was associated with lower-educated and low-income voters. It has gradually become associated with higher-educated voters, giving rise in the 2010s to a disconnection between the effects of income and education on the vote: higher-educated voters now vote for the "left," while high-income voters continue to vote for the "right." This transition has been accelerated by the rise of green and anti-immigration movements, whose distinctive feature is to concentrate the votes of the higher-educated and lower-educated electorates. Combining our database with historical data on political parties' programs, we provide evidence that the reversal of the education cleavage is strongly linked to the emergence of a new "sociocultural" axis of political conflict.

Why is Europe More Equal than the United States? (with T. Blanchet & L. Chancel) *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 14, no. 4 (2022): 480-518. [pdf] [appendix]

Abstract: This article combines all available survey, income tax, and national accounts data to produce pretax and posttax income inequality series in twenty-six European countries from 1980 to 2017. Our estimates are consistent with macroeconomic growth rates and comparable with U.S. distributional national accounts. Inequality grew in nearly all European countries, but much less than in the U.S. This rise was concentrated at the top end of the income distribution and was most pronounced in Eastern Europe. Contrary to a widespread view, we demonstrate that Europe's lower inequality levels cannot be explained by more equalizing tax-and-transfer systems. After accounting for indirect taxes and in-kind transfers, the U.S. redistributes a greater share of national income to low-income groups than any European country. "Predistribution", not "redistribution", explains why Europe is less unequal than the United States.

Wealth Inequality in South Africa, 1993-2017 (with A. Chatterjee & L. Czajka) World Bank Economic Review 36, no. 1 (2022): 19-36. [pdf] [appendix]

Abstract: This article estimates the distribution of personal wealth in South Africa by combining microdata covering the universe of income tax returns, household surveys, and macroeconomic balance sheet statistics. South Africa is characterized by unparalleled levels of wealth concentration. The top 10% own 86% of aggregate wealth and the top 0.1% close to one-third. The top 0.01% of the distribution (3,500 individuals) concentrate 15% of household net worth, more than the bottom 90% as a whole. Such levels of inequality can be accounted for in all forms of assets at the top end, including housing, pension funds, and financial

assets. There has been no sign of decreasing inequality since the end of apartheid.

Income Inequality in Africa, 1990-2019: Measurement, Patterns, Determinants (with L. Chancel, D. Cogneau, A. Myczkowski, and A.-S. Robilliard)

World Development, forthcoming. [pdf]

Abstract: This article estimates the evolution of income inequality in Africa from 1990 to 2019 by combining surveys, tax data, and national accounts. Inequality in Africa is very high: the regional top 10% income share nears 55%, on par with regions characterized by extreme inequality, such as Latin America and India. Most of continent-wide income inequality comes from the within-country component rather than from average income differences between countries. Inequality is highest in Southern Africa and lowest in Northern and Western Africa. It remained fairly stable from 1990 to 2019, with the exception of Southern Africa, where it increased significantly. Among historical determinants, this geographical pattern seems to reveal the long shadow of settler colonialism, at least in Sub-Saharan Africa; the spread of Islam stands out as another robust correlate. The poor quality of the raw data calls for great caution, in particular when analyzing country-level dynamics.

Growing Cleavages in India? Evidence from the Changing Structure of Electorates, 1962-2014 (with A. Banerjee & T. Piketty)

Economic and Political Weekly 54, no. 11 (2019): 34-44. [pdf]

Abstract: This paper combines surveys, election results and social spending data to document a long-run evolution of political cleavages in India. The transition from a dominant-party system to a fragmented system characterized by several smaller regionalist parties and, more recently, the Bharatiya Janata Party, coincides with the rise of religious divisions and the persistence of strong caste-based cleavages. Education, income and occupation play a diminishing role (controlling for caste) in determining voters' choices. There is no evidence of the new party system being associated with changes in social policy. In India, as in many Western democracies, political conflicts seem to be increasingly focused on identity and religious—ethnic conflicts rather than on tangible material benefits and class-based redistribution.

WORKING PAPERS

Revisiting Global Poverty Reduction: Public-Private Complementarities and the Rise of Public Goods

Abstract: This article studies the role of public goods in reducing global poverty. I construct a new historical database covering the cost, progressivity, and productivity of public services provided worldwide. Public goods are large and have considerably grown: they represent 30% of global GDP today and have doubled in real value since 1980. Nearly all public services reduce inequality, but with significant variations. Education and health transfers are the most progressive, whereas police and transport services are received in greater proportion by high-income groups. The rise of public goods has been a major driver of inclusive growth. It accounts for at least 20% of global poverty reduction and 30% of the decline in global inequality of the past four decades. Poor countries continue nonetheless to suffer from a "triple curse" of providing public services in lower quantities, less progressively, and less efficiently than in the rich world,

which considerably limits the incidence of public goods on global poverty. I outline proposals to incorporate estimates of public goods delivery in international poverty and inequality statistics.

Who Benefits from Public Goods? Evidence from South Africa [pdf]

Abstract: This article provides new evidence on the distributional incidence of public goods. I combine newly digitized budget data with tax data, census microdata, and various surveys to estimate the distribution of all government transfers received by income group in South Africa from 1993 to 2019. My estimates account for changes in the progressivity of different types of policies and allocate all public services to individuals, including education, healthcare, police services, transport infrastructure, housing subsidies, and local government services. All categories of public spending are progressive (less concentrated than income), but with large variations. About 60% of education expenditure is received by the bottom 50%, compared to only 7% of spending on transport infrastructure. There has been a dramatic rise of redistribution since the end of apartheid: the share of national income redistributed to the poorest half of the South African population rose from 11% in 1993 to 18% in 2019. The bulk of this transformation was driven by public goods, which act as a major redistributive tool. In 2019, accounting for public services lifts the share of income received by the bottom 50% from only 6.5% to almost 15%. These findings highlight the critical role played by public services in enhancing inclusive growth in developing economies.

Can Redistribution Keep Up with Inequality? Evidence from South Africa, 1993-2019 (with A. Chatterjee and L. Czajka).

World Inequality Lab Working Paper 2021/20, September 2021. [pdf] [slides]

Abstract: Can government redistributive policies successfully curb rising inequality and foster inclusive growth in emerging economies? This paper sheds new light on this question by combining survey, tax, and historical administrative data to estimate the distribution of growth in South Africa since the end of the apartheid regime. Our new database is fully consistent with macroeconomic totals reported in the national accounts and allocates the entirety of government revenue and expenditure to individuals, including indirect taxes and in-kind transfers. We document a dramatic divergence in the growth of top and bottom income groups: between 1993 and 2019, the pretax income of the top 1% rose by 50%, while that of the poorest 50% fell by a third. However, the widening of pretax income gaps was almost fully compensated by the growing size and progressivity of the tax-and-transfer system, effectively mirroring a "chase between rising inequality and enhanced redistribution."

WORK IN PROGRESS

Social Movements and Public Opinion (with Vincent Pons)

Abstract: This article studies the impact of social movements on political attitudes. We combine a high-frequency survey covering over half a million respondents with data on the quasi-universe of protests organized in the United States from 2019 to 2021. Comparing respondents surveyed just before and after major protests, we investigate under which conditions social movements succeed in shaping public opinion on different political issues at the local and national level. We then extend our analysis to a global analysis of protest movements, combining data on the occurrence of significant events with international surveys

covering trust in political institutions and other measures of political efficacy and political interest.

Global Posttax Income Inequality (with Carmen Durrer & Matthew Fisher-Post)

Abstract: This project aims to provide new comparative and historical evidence on government redistribution worldwide. Combining data on the composition of government revenue and expenditure with estimates of the distributional incidence of taxes and transfers, we derive new measures of pretax and post-tax income inequality in over 150 countries since 1980. We then use this database to derive a new set of stylized facts on the incidence of tax-and-transfer systems on inequality. In particular, we investigate the extent to which cross-country differences in posttax income inequality are driven by initial differences in pretax income inequality ("predistribution"), rather than to differences in the incidence of government policies ("redistribution"). We also study the indirect role played by redistributive policies in ensuring a more equal distribution of pretax incomes.

Racial Inequality in South Africa, 1913-2019 (with Léo Czajka)

Abstract: This article provides new evidence on the long-run evolution of racial inequality in South Africa. We combine historical tax tabulations, census microdata, and household surveys to construct new series of average income by racial group from 1913 to 2019. The average White-to-Black income ratio remained largely stable throughout the twentieth century, ranging from 11 to 13, before declining to about 6 in the post-apartheid era. Inequality between racial groups explained about 60% of overall income inequality in South Africa in 1980, compared to 20% in 2019. This decline has been entirely driven by the rise of top Black incomes. The share of Black earners in the top 1% rose from nearly 0% to 40% from 1980 to 2019, while the relative incomes of the bottom 90% of Black earners remained largely unchanged. The rise of government redistribution since the end of apartheid has significantly curbed racial disparities, although posttax income inequalities remain large. In 2019, accounting for taxes and transfers reduces racial inequality by almost 50%.

Inflation and Political Preferences (with Clara Martínez-Toledano & José-Luis Peydro)

Abstract: This project aims to study the effect of inflation on political attitudes. Drawing on a new database combining historical election results with data on major inflation episodes in 178 countries since 1900, we investigate the impact of inflation on political turnover, turnout, and support for extreme parties. We then extend this analysis to the link between inflation and political attitudes at the local level in the European Union and the United States.

Social Bases of Redistribution in India (with Poulomi Chakrabarti)

Abstract: We study the impact of electoral turnovers on the allocation of public goods when parties are strongly divided along ethnic lines. Combining newly digitized data on Indian state budgets since 1960 with survey microdata on differential access to public services, we derive measures of the distributional incidence of government expenditure by caste, religion, and social class. Using a number of research designs, we test whether ruling parties representing specific groups are more likely to shift the composition of state budgets towards types of expenditure that most benefit their constituencies.

Disentangling the Dynamics of Political Change in Western Democracies

Abstract: Western democracies have undergone profound political transformations in recent decades, marked by the rise of new green and anti-immigration movements. Is this phenomenon primarily due to changes

in parties' emphases (the supply side) or voters' preferences (the demand side)? Drawing on Gethin, Martínez-Toledano, and Piketty (2022), I build a new database covering the voting behaviors of individuals surveyed after about 300 elections held in 21 Western democracies from 1948 to 2020, together with information on their vote choice in the previous election. I match this dataset with expert-coded historical data on parties' programs. Based on this unique "semi-panel" party-voter database, I provide new stylized facts on the long-run evolution of vote choice consistency and party-to-party transitions as a function of ideological closeness on different dimensions of political conflict.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities in Fifty Democracies (with Clara Martínez-Toledano and Thomas Piketty), *in* A. Gethin, C. Martínez-Toledano, and T. Piketty (ed.), *Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities: A Study of Fifty Democracies*, 1948-2020 (Harvard University Press, 2021).

Political Cleavages, Class Structures, and the Politics of Old and New Minorities in Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, 1963-2019, in Gethin, Martínez-Toledano, and Piketty, Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities. [working paper]

Historical Political Cleavages and Post-Crisis Transformations in Italy, Spain, Portugal and Ireland, 1953-2020 (with Luis Bauluz, Clara Martínez-Toledano, and Marc Morgan), in Gethin, Martínez-Toledano, and Piketty, Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities. [working paper] [appendix]

Party System Transformation and the Structure of Political Cleavages in Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland, 1967-2019 (with Carmen Durrer de la Sota and Clara Martínez-Toledano), in Gethin, Martínez-Toledano, and Piketty, Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities. [working paper] [appendix]

Caste, Class, and the Changing Political Representation of Social Inequalities in India, 1962-2019 (with Abhijit Banerjee and Thomas Piketty), *in* Gethin, Martínez-Toledano, and Piketty, *Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities*. [working paper]

Democracy and the Politicization of Inequality in Brazil, 1989-2018 (with Marc Morgan), *in* Gethin, Martínez-Toledano, and Piketty, *Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities*. [working paper] [appendix]

Extreme Inequality and the Structure of Political Cleavages in South Africa, 1994-2019, in Gethin, Martínez-Toledano, and Piketty, Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities. [working paper]

Political Cleavages and the Representation of Social Inequalities in Japan, 1953-2017, in Gethin, Martínez-Toledano, and Piketty, *Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities*. [working paper]

Social Inequality and the Dynamics of Political and Ethnolinguistic Divides in Pakistan, 1970-2018 (with Sultan Mehmood and Thomas Piketty), *in* Gethin, Martínez-Toledano, and Piketty, *Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities*. [working paper]

Democratization and the Construction of Class Cleavages in Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia, 1992-2019 (with Thanasak Jenmana), *in* Gethin, Martínez-Toledano, and Piketty, *Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities*. [working paper]

Inequality, Identity, and the Structure of Political Cleavages in South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, 1996-2016 (with Carmen Durrer de la Sota), *in* Gethin, Martínez-Toledano, and Piketty, *Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities*. [working paper]

Social Inequalities and the Politicization of Ethnic Cleavages in Botswana, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal, 1999-2019 (with Jules Baleyte, Yajna Govind, and Thomas Piketty), *in* Gethin, Martínez-Toledano, and Piketty, *Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities*. [working paper]

Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities in Algeria, Iraq, and Turkey, 1990-2019 (with Lydia Assouad, Thomas Piketty, Juliet-Nil Uraz), *in* Gethin, Martínez-Toledano, and Piketty, *Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities*. [working paper]

La fiscalité peut-elle contrecarrer la hausse des inégalités ? Le cas français, 1990-2018, Regards Croisés sur l'Economie 2020/1.

Apports et limites de la théorie des jeux, Regards Croisés sur l'Economie 2019/1. [url]

Qu'apportent les théories économiques à la compréhension du commerce international? (with Édouard Mien), *Regards Croisés sur l'Economie* 2017/2. [url]

POLICY AND RESEARCH NOTES

A Wealth Tax for South Africa: A Proposal to Help Finance COVID-19 Pandemic Measures (with Aroop Chatterjee and Léo Czajka), in *Wealth tax: Perspectives in a post-pandemic world*, United Nations International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, Policy in Focus 19(3), December 2021. [pdf]

A Wealth Tax for South Africa (with Aroop Chatterjee and Léo Czajka), World Inequality Lab Working Paper 2021/02, January 2021. [pdf]

Building the World Political Cleavages and Inequality Database: A New Dataset on Electoral Behaviors in 50 Democracies, 1948-2020 (with Clara Martínez-Toledano and Thomas Piketty), World Inequality Lab Technical Note 2021/01. [pdf]

Has the European Model Withstood the Rise in Inequalities? Inequalities and Redistribution in Europe, 1980-2017 (with Thomas Blanchet & Lucas Chancel), World Inequality Lab Issue Brief 2019/3, April 2019. [english] [français] [deutsch]

Rising Inequalities and Political Cleavages in Spain (with Clara Martínez-Toledano and Marc Morgan), World Inequality Lab Issue Brief 2019/4, April 2019. [pdf]

Extreme Inequality, Democratisation and Class Struggles in Thailand (with Thanasak Jenmana), World Inequality Lab Issue Brief 2019/1, March 2019. [pdf]

Brazil Divided: Hindsights on the Growing Politicization of Inequality (with Marc Morgan), World Inequality Lab Issue Brief 2018/3, October 2018. [english] [french]

Foreign Income and Assets in Comparative Perspective: Highlights from the World Inequality Database, World Inequality Lab Issue Brief 2018/1, June 2018. [pdf]

Building a Global Income Distribution Brick by Brick (with L. Chancel). World Inequality Lab Technical Note 2017/5, December 2017. [pdf]

Confiance et Anticipations au Lendemain de l'Élection Présidentielle de 2017, CEPREMAP Observatoire du bien-être, October 2017. [pdf]

Du Mal-Être au Vote Extrême (with Thanasak Jenmana), CEPREMAP Observatoire du bien-être, September 2017. [pdf]

Google: Espace Politique, Espace de Préoccupations (with T. Jenmana, Y. Algan, E. Beasley and C. Senik), CEPREMAP Observatoire du bien-être, June 2017. [pdf]

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO COLLECTIVE WORKS

Translator of *Political Cleavages and Social Inequalities: A Study of 50 Democracies* (1948-2020) from English to French (\approx 600 pages).

Member of the World Inequality Report 2018 research team. [url]

Contributor to Y. Algan, E. Beasley, and C. Senik, *Les Français*, *le bonheur et l'argent*, Collection du CEPREMAP n. 46, 2018. [url]

Best research project award at École des Mines de Paris (2015) for "A socio-technical analysis of the French écotaxe" (with M. Fresnel, D. Futscher-Pereira, E. Raineau-Rispal, and C. Wren), presented on a dedicated website. [url]

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018-2020 – Research Economist, World Inequality Lab, Paris School of Economics.

2020 – Visiting Fellow, Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, Johannesburg.

2017-2018 – Research Assistant to Prof. Facundo Alvaredo, Lucas Chancel, and Thomas Piketty, World Inequality Lab, Paris School of Economics.

2017 – Research Assistant to Prof. Yann Algan, Elizabeth Beasley, and Claudia Senik, CEPREMAP, Paris School of Economics – Sciences Po Paris.

2017-2020 – Member of the editorial board of *Regards croisés sur l'économie*. [url]

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

2022 – American Economic Association Annual Meeting; Harvard Labor and Public Finance Workshop; Harvard Comparative Politics Workshop; International Institute of Public Finance Annual Congress; Johannesburg Rethinking Economics for Africa Festival; UC Berkeley Public Economics Seminar; UC Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor and Employment Seminar.

2021 – Workshop on Political Inequality and Representation, Bergen; World Inequality Conference, Paris; Paris School of Economics Informal Seminar; Harvard Growth Lab General Seminar; National Tax Association's Annual Conference on Taxation, Detroit; Applied Young Economist Webinar, Monash/Warwick; International Conference on the Shadow Economy, Tax Behaviour and Institutions; Annual Conference of the Research Federation on the Theory and Evaluation of Public Policies, Évry Paris-Saclay University; SA-TIED Policy Dialogue on Economic Inequality in South Africa; CEVIPOF General Political Science Seminar, Paris; Virtual Lunch Seminar, Stellenbosch University; Applied Economics Lunch Seminar, Paris School of Economics; Virtual Inequality Brownbag, Center for Inequality Dynamics; International Macro History Seminar, Graduate Institute Geneva; Debates on Equality, World Inequality Lab; CUNY Comparative Politics Workshop, New York.

2020 – University of Cape Town – Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit; Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, Johannesburg; Faculty of Economics, Wits University, Johannesburg; Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, Johannesburg.

2019 – École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales Workshop on Inequality and Preferences for Redistribution; University of Bergen Workshop on the Roots of Political Inequality and the Working of Democratic Representation; European Union Department of

Economic and Social Affairs, Brussels; United Nations Workshop on the 2019 Human Development Report, New York; Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality, Paris School of Economics.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2020-2023 – Paris School of Economics and Paris 1 University full doctoral fellowship.

2021 – Paris School of Economics International mobility grant.

2020 – Southern Centre for Inequality Studies research fellowship.

2020 – National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences Innovative Research Papers Award for "A Wealth Tax for South Africa" (with A. Chatterjee and L. Czajka).

REFEREEING

American Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, Electoral Studies, International Tax and Public Finance, Socioeconomic Review, Structural Change and Economic Dynamics, World Development.

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

"Radical Right Voting and the New Dividing Lines of French Politics," *Agenda Pública*, 04/2022. [url]

"How Culture War KILLS Class Politics," Breaking Points, 12/2021. [interview]

"Political Cleavages, Inequality, and Party Systems in 50 Democracies," *Democracy Paradox*, 09/2021. [podcast interview]

"Not So Black and White: Unpicking Inequality in South Africa," *The Economist*, 09/2021. [url]

"How Politics Became a Contest Dominated by Two Kinds of Elite" (with C. Martínez-Toledano & T. Piketty), *The Guardian*, 08/2021. [url]

"Educated Voters' Leftward Shift is Surprisingly Old", The Economist, 05/2021. [url]

"La librairie de l'éco", BFM Business, 05/2021. [video]

"Debates on Equality", World Inequality Lab, 04/2021. [video]

"Taxing Wealth in a Context of Extreme Inequality Legacy: The Case of South Africa" (with A. Chatterjee & L. Czajka), *VoxEU*, 04/2021. [url]

"Coronavirus: Why South Africa Needs a Wealth Tax Now" (with A. Chatterjee & L. Czajka), *The Conversation*, 04/2020. [url]

"Can Indian Democracy Tackle Social Inequalities?" (with A. Banerjee & T. Piketty), *Paris School of Economics 5 papers in 5 minutes*, 03/2020. [url]

"Why US Inequality is Higher than Europe's" (with T. Blanchet & L. Chancel), *Project Syndicate*, 11/2019. [url]

"How Did Europe Do on SDG 10.1?" (with T. Blanchet & L. Chancel), *United Nations Development Program*, 05/2019. [url]

"Forty Years of Inequality in Europe: Evidence from Distributional National Accounts" (with T. Blanchet & L. Chancel), *VoxEU*, 04/2019. [url]

"Thailand's Democratic Foundations Remain Weak" (with T. Jenmana), Bangkok Post.

"A quem interessa aumentar a desigualdade?" (with T. Piketty, P.P. Zahluth Bastos, M. Morgan), *Valor Econômico*, 2019. [url]

"Classe média espremida pesou na eleição" (with M. Morgan), Valor Econômico. [url]