

# Economic Inequality and Class Consciousness

## Memo to the Editor

Thank you very much for the opportunity to publish our work in the *Journal of Politics*. We have made the following revisions to the paper in light of the reviewers' very helpful suggestions.

### Reviewer 1

- “First, while I appreciate page constraints I do think it would broaden the appeal of even this short article if the author did include some references to earlier works on false consciousness, perhaps even Marx or Engels.”

We followed your recommendation and skipped this one.

- “Second, this was something the authors did in the original article, but why limit the analysis to white respondents only? This should be explained in a footnote.”

We added an explanatory footnote at page 5.

- “Third, why do wealthy people become more ‘class conscious’ in response to greater inequality? Again, I realize space constraints are severe but at least speculate on the difference. Is it that the wealthy actually have more information?”

Given the space constraints, we decline the reviewer's invitation to elaborate on this, though this pattern is consistent with theory we have published elsewhere.

- “Fourth, how is income inequality measured? I know this from looking at the NJL article, but this should certainly be explained somewhere. There are different ways to measure inequality, which one was used? Perhaps I missed it but I cannot find an explanation of how inequality is measured in this article.”

We added a brief description at page 5.

## Reviewer 2

- “I was surprised on p.3 which states that NJL could not reproduce their own results. Indeed, NJL’s readme file states, ‘Further, we have not been able to exactly replicate the estimates reported in Table 3.’ However, I think the text as currently written is misleading because NJL were able to replicate their Table 2, which is the key point of emphasis on p.3. I think the wording should be revised to clarify this point.”

This was a good catch. We revised accordingly.

- “The middle of p.6 addresses a second aspect of the NJL paper. I think this should be clarified. Perhaps starting the paragraph with, ‘Another important question that NJL ask is . . . .’ I apologize for such a pedantic suggestion, but I think clarifying that the analysis is shifting would be really helpful.”

We revised this line as well, now at the top of page 7.

- “Is there a reason that Figure 3 uses 90% CIs and Figures 1 & 2 uses 95% CIs? It seems like they all should be 95%.”

We now explain in the figure’s caption that the 90% confidence interval corresponds to the one-tailed 95% test employed in NJL.

We have also formatted the paper to the *JOP* guidelines and submitted reproducibility materials to the *JOP* Dataverse. Thank you again for the opportunity to publish our work in the *Journal of Politics*.

Best regards, Frederick Solt, Yue Hu, Kevan Hudson, Jungmin Song, and Erico Yu