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| Prof. Dr. M. Yaish  Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology  University of Haifa  Mt. Carmel, 31905  Haifa, Israel |  | |
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|  | | 18. November 2015 |
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| **Submitting manuscript “The Suitability of Tax Data to Study Trends in Inequality – A theoretical and empirical review with tax data from Switzerland.”** | | |
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Dear Professor Yaish,

Please find attached for your kind review our manuscript entitled "The Suitability of Tax Data to Study Trends in Inequality - A theoretical and empirical review with tax data from Switzerland".

Since the work of Thomas Piketty tax data is commonly used for inequality analyses. While there is an extensive body of literature involving tax data for top income studies, the suitability of tax data to analyze the entire income distribution is not yet clarified thoroughly. In our paper we therefore discuss the general advantages and pitfalls of tax data for inequality research. Based on exclusive datasets (aggregated federal tax statistic and cantonal micro tax data from Switzerland collected through our research team, [www.inequalities.ch](http://www.inequalities.ch)) we estimate magnitude and direction of alleged biases and are able to rank tax data related methodological advantages and shortcomings which are valid also for other countries beyond Switzerland. As a substantial byproduct our tax data based estimations put into question the declining inequality trend in Switzerland reported by surveys.

As reviewer we recommend Prof. Dr. Anthony B. Atkinson, Prof. Dr. Thomas A. DiPrete and Prof. Dr. Marius Brülhart. Mister Atkinson is with no doubt one of the most prominent scientists regarding research on distribution of income. Mister DiPrete is also an expert in the field of inequality research with a large reputation in regard to methodological expertise. We would be glad to have an editor of the journal among our reviewers. Lastly, we recommend Mister Brülhart because he is an inequality expert for Switzerland, who is familiar with tax data from Switzerland.

We wish a joyful and stimulating lecture and look forward to your favorable consideration.

Most sincerely,

Oliver Hümbelin (Bern University of Applied Sciences)

Dr. Rudolf Farys (University of Bern)