Dear Gustavo,

We appreciate the chance to revise our piece and thank you for all your comments and suggestions. We have added all your suggestions accordingly. Below you can find a point-by-point answers with an explanation on how we approached your comments.

1. **(almost) all our articles (and all those that present measures) come with numbers: tables, figures, evolution over time, comparison between countries, genders, socio-economic groups. Instead, you do not have a single number in your article! Why? You need to insert them - several of them, I suggest.**

We added 3 figures to motivate our argument with respect to how lifespan inequality is important, how it relates to life expectancy, and how these two measures react to changes in mortality over age. In addition, we included several numbers that back up our arguments based on data from the Human Mortality Database and from other studies throughout the text. Note that we do not use inequality in the normative sense of fairness or justice. Although ages at death are partially shaped by social and economic inequalities, we simply use lifespan inequality as an additional descriptive measure of the shape of the distribution of lifespans.

1. **Your article is about inequality, and you do not even define it. How come? Please do it - first thing.**

The first section now has been relabeled to ‘What are life expectancy and lifespan inequality.’ In this section we define life expectancy and lifespan inequality since the beginning. Further, the concept of lifespan inequality is motivated by its significance at the individual and population levels with an example of Italy illustrated in figure 1, which we calculated.

1. **You claim that there is a historical relation between life expectancy and inequality, but I do not see it anywhere in your article (OK, I admit: this is practically the same as point 1).**

In addition to a known article, we illustrate the relationship between life expectancy and lifespan inequality in figure 2 plotting life expectancy against lifespan inequality for Italy from 1920 to 2017.

1. **At the beginning and at the end (conclusions) you say that, if one must choose (because of limited resources), it is better to save a young life than an old life. Frankly, this is obvious to everybody, and is already incorporated in several widely used measures (e.g. DALY). Anyway, OK: there is no evil in repeating it (although, if I may suggest, it should be presented for what it is: an obvious notion), especially in that it fits well with the issue of inequality.**

Historically, it is well known that reducing mortality at infancy and very young ages increase life expectancy as you point out. However, this has changed in low mortality countries. As we show in Figure 3, in Italy today reducing infant mortality by 5% leads to the same gain in life expectancy as reducing mortality at age 79 by 5%. The allocation of resources it therefore not trivial and can have implications for the relationship between life expectancy and lifespan inequality.

1. **But then you present the examples of Central and Eastern Europe plus Venezuela, where things run counter your argumentation: better survival at young ages leads to greater inequality. This needs to be qualified (with numbers, dates, etc.) and to be justified. Instead, you present things almost as if they were corroborating your point (e.g. “increased lifespan inequality in periods when ... improvements in mortality at very young ages”).**

While most studies focusing in low-mortality countries show a strong negative association between life expectancy and lifespan inequality, recently more cases are showing that this relationship is not automatic, i.e. that a rise in life expectancy is followed by a decrease in lifespan inequality. To make this point we include the Venezuelan example where lifespan inequality increased together with life expectancy. This was a results of divergence patterns of mortality improvements. We now include specific numbers accordingly in the text.

1. **You seem to imply that this (increasing) inequality is linked to SES (socio economic status) but you don’t prove it in any way - not even suggest it illustratively. Now, if this connection with SES is not there, I am not sure that I agree with what you say. Let me use the following example. Imagine that everybody is guaranteed to survive up to 80 years. Then you can choose between three scenarios (all yielding exactly to e0=85)**

**a) everybody dies exactly on the day of their 85th birthday, at noon;**

**b) everybody dies between their 84th and the 86th birthday (at random)**

**c) there is a very wide (and random) dispersions of ages at death past age 80 (with average 85).**

**As you move from a) to c) inequality increases. Is (a) your preferred scenario? Would you like to know the exact day and time of your death? Do you think that this preference of yours is shared by everybody, or at least by the vast majority? I doubt it.**

From EF: This point didn’t make any sense to me and I wonder whether he’s completely missed what we were trying to convey. By the example above, he seems to still be thinking of countries in which lifespan inequality is small (mostly concentrated in old age), while we are thinking of countries in which time of death is distributed much more widely. So the issue isn’t 80 or 90, but anything in between 30 and 80. Am I right? If so, I think we need to stress more that this is what we are talking about, and not the kind of small(ish) interval he is thinking about.

1. **when it comes to differences by SES, I stick to the old-fashioned idea that if blue collars die at (say) 75, while white collars die at 85 (general average=80, for the sake of the argument) this is unjust, unequal, etc. Adding other measures of inequality (within groups I suppose? That between groups is already in the 10 years of difference in life expectancy), adding these new measures, I was saying, simply blurs the picture, and distracts from the main problem. Am I wrong? Most likely. But please prove it.**

From EF: Again, I feel he didn’t get our point, but maybe it’s because of the above. I do hope he’s going to be satisfied with the extra references you guys added. I did make a comment in the text asking Jose´ to add data about feelings of uncertainty linked with higher lifespan inequality, if he has some.