

EGAP Latin American Regional Hub. Learning Days: Introducción al diseño de investigación

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① Introduction

② Causal model

③ Inquiry

④ Data Strategy

Panel survey experiment
Instruments

⑤ Answer strategy

MIDA framework: Blair, et al. (2019). Declaring and diagnosing research designs. American Political Science Review, 113(3), 838-859.

- ① Causal Model of the world.
- ② Inquiry about the model.
- ③ Data strategy.
- ④ Answer Strategy.

Study: Maldonado, et al. (2023): Does information about economic inequality affect opportunity beliefs? Results from survey experiments

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- ⑦ Discussion

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Stylised fact

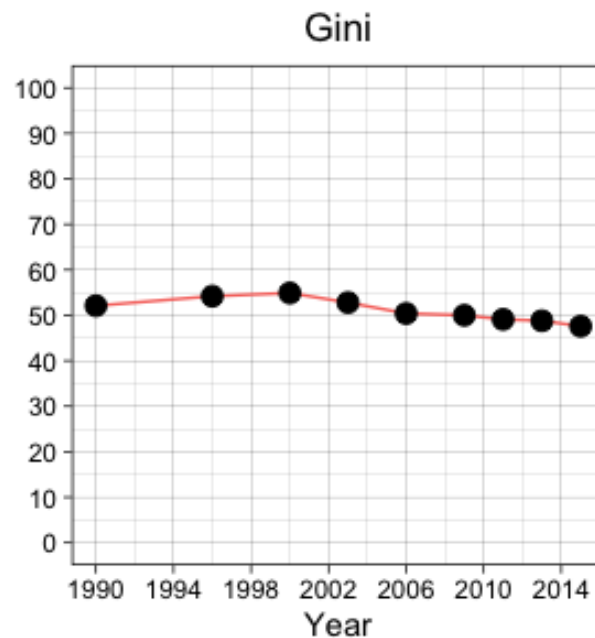
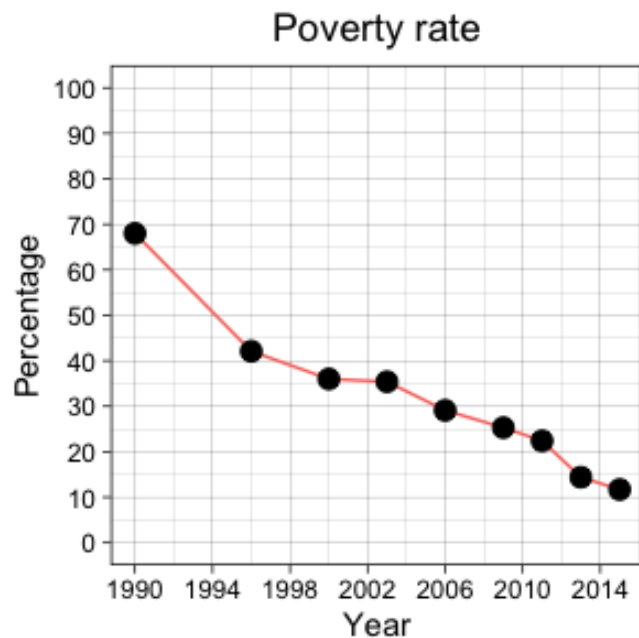
- Evolution of economic inequality in last decades.
- Citizens' knowledge about these trends.

What happens when researchers correct this misinformation?

- Contradictory findings:
 - Information about income inequality and social mobility heightens concerns about inequality and sometimes increases demand for redistribution (Alesina et al. 2018; Cruces et al. 2013; McCall et al. 2017; Karadja et al. 2017; Nair 2018).
 - Learning about income inequality affects perception of inequality but does not impact preferences for redistribution (Kuklinski et al. 2000; Kuziemko et al. 2015).
 - Information may make people more willing to accept large income inequality (Trump 2017).

- Reasons for these results
 - ① **Conflation of several constructs:** 1) Redistributive preferences, 2) perceptions of economic inequality and justice, and 3) Opportunity beliefs (people's understanding of the causes of economic inequality).
 - ② **Learning:** new and accurate information about social mobility and income distribution should lead those with new information to correspondingly adjust their beliefs (Hauser and Norton 2017; McCall et al. 2017).
 - **Challenge 1:** Evidence for contexts with increasing economic inequality, but counterfactual?
 - **Challenge 2:** Social sampling. Awareness of, and exposure to, social structure is tightly "bounded by private orbits in which they live" (Mills 1959).
 - **Challenge 3:** Backlash. Relative to the prior belief, the posterior belief moves in the opposite direction of the information presented.

Chile as an adjudicative case



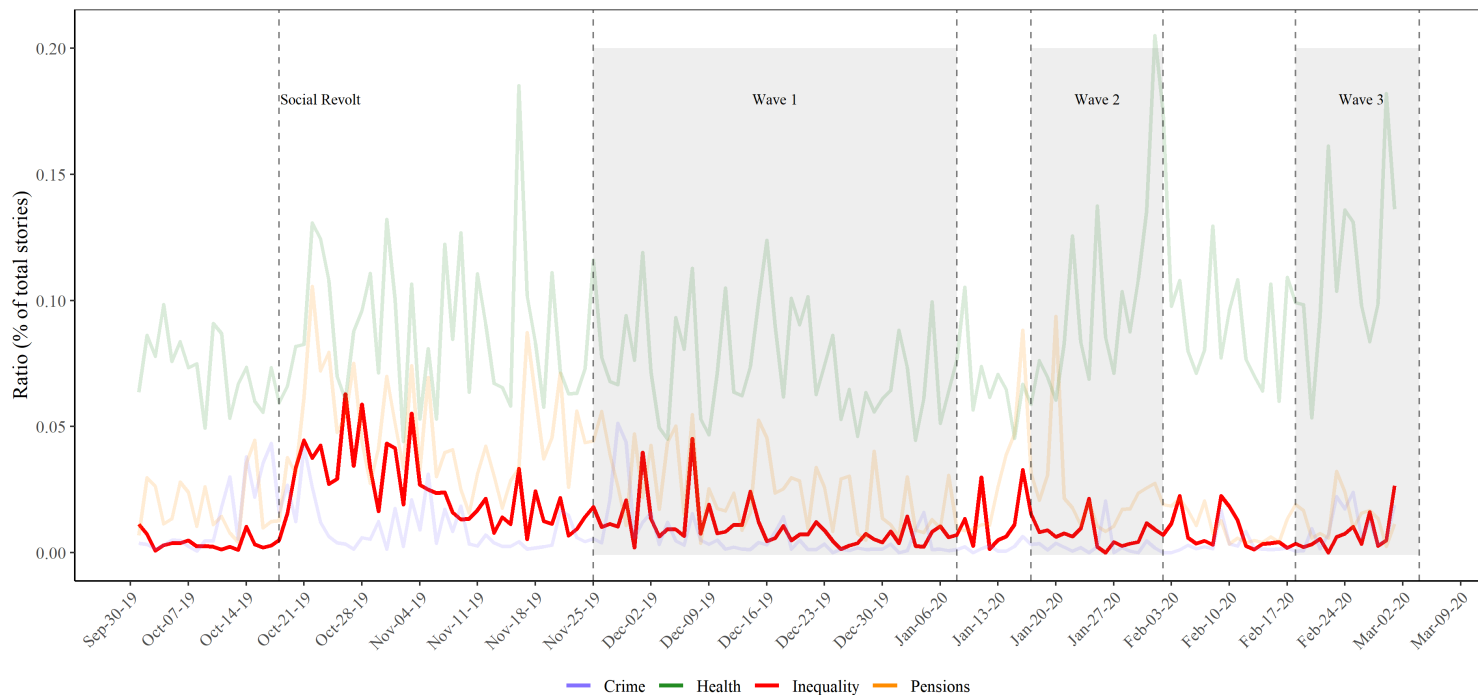
Source: PNUD 2017.

- **Our research:** In a context with decreasing poverty trends but persistent income inequality, how does information about economic inequality impact opportunity beliefs?
- Contributions.

Hypotheses: Learning

- H1a: Factual information about poverty reduction reinforces the meritocratic dream and therefore leads to believe more in individual than structural opportunity factors.
- H1b: Factual information about large inequality undermines the meritocratic dream and therefore leads to believe more in structural than individual opportunity factors.

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Source: Own elaboration based on Media Cloud data (<https://mediacloud.org>).

Power: 0.80 for N=580 in each condition. Quotes for gender, age and education. N in wave 2 is 1779.

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Treatments

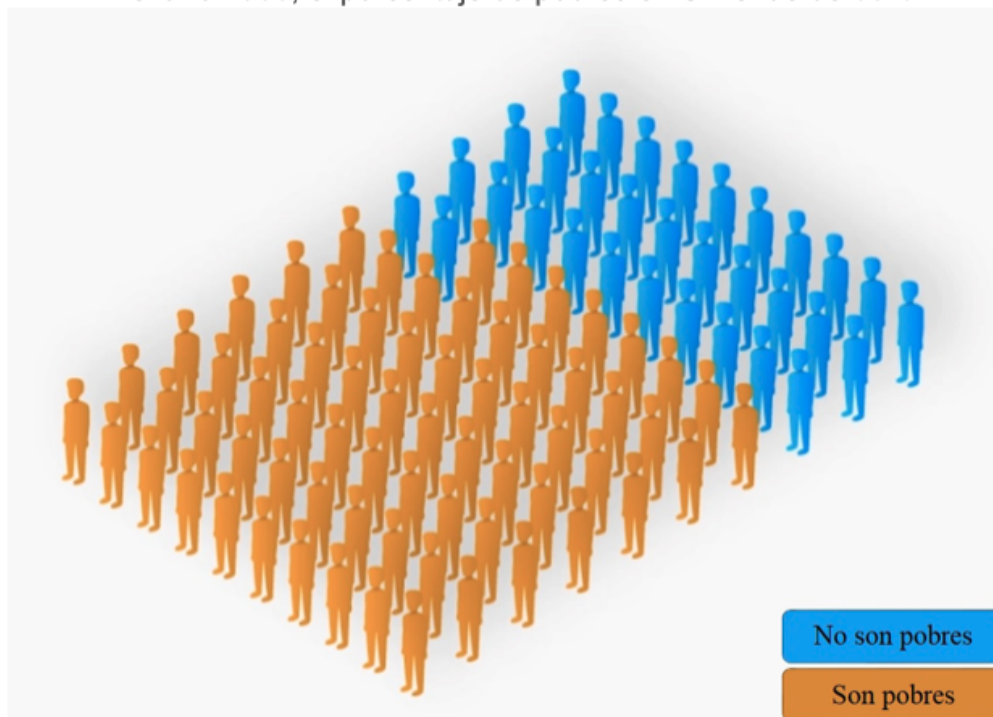
- Three conditions
 - ① **Poverty condition:** Information about evolution of poverty in Chile in period 1990-2015.
 - ② **Control condition:** Information about consume of cigarette in Chile during the last decades.
 - ③ **Inequality condition:** Information about income inequality in Chile in terms of index 10/10 that shows Chile as one of the countries with the highest income inequality within OECD.
- 80% of participants passes manipulation checks, 97% provides correct answer in attention check.

Poverty condition

Recent studies have shown **a decrease in poverty over the last decades in Chile**. According to a study by the United Nations Development Programme (2017), in parallel with accelerated and positive economic growth, **family income has increased, and access to goods has widened in Chile, which are signs of evident transformation of the living conditions**.

The following images summarize the main results of the study about poverty in Chile.

En el año **1990**, el porcentaje de pobres en Chile fue de **68%**

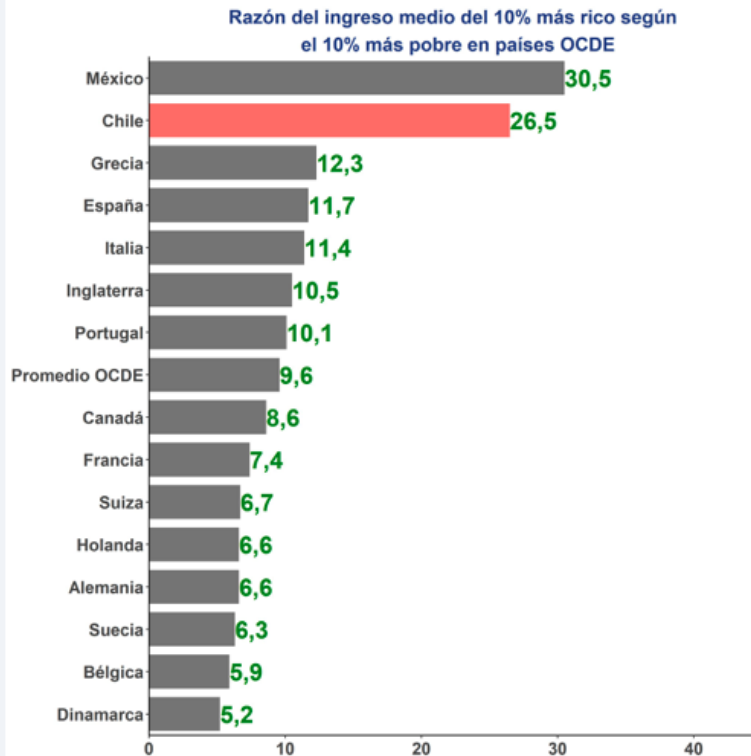


En otras palabras, de **100 personas**, **68 eran pobres** en 1990

Inequality condition

The following chart shows the performance of the OECD countries in one of the most common indicators to measure income inequality, **the 10/10 indicator**. This indicator compares the income of the richest 10% of households to the income of the poorest 10% of households. The 10/10 indicator suggests how much higher are the richest 10% in relation to the poorest 10% of households in a country. Thus, **the higher the number, the higher the difference between households**.

In the chart below, Chile is highlighted in red. The country has an indicator 10/10 of **26,5**. In other words, on average, **10% of the country's richest households have an income 26.5 times higher than the poorest 10% of households**.



Esto significa que, en promedio, **por cada \$100.000 que tiene un hogar del 10% más pobre, un hogar del 10% más rico tiene \$2.650.000.**

Outcomes

- Opportunity beliefs: Battery of ISSP, social inequality module.
 - **Structural factors:** a) coming from a wealthy family.
 - **Individual factors:** b) hard work and c) composite index for education.

Covariates

- Socio-demographic characteristics, left/right scale, communes, and getting ahead measures for parents education and ambition.
- **Moderators:** egalitarianism, household income, and perception of poverty's evolution.
- All measures were applied before the treatments. Covariates are balanced among treatment conditions with the exception of gender and secondary.

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$$Y_i = \alpha + \beta_1 T p_i + \beta_1 T i_i + \beta_2 X_i + \epsilon_i$$

- We estimate average treatment effects (ATEs) (β_1 and β_2) with OLS regressions (HC2 standard errors).
- We control for covariates X for efficiency. Furthermore, we use Benjamini-Hochberg correction for multiple comparisons.
- Causal heterogeneity:
 - Conditional average treatment effects (CATEs): OLS regressions with interactions.
 - We also explore heterogeneity by using random forests (Athey and Wager 2019; Brand et al. 2019; Molina and Garip 2019).
- Design and analysis are registered in pre-analysis plan in OSF.