

Curriculum Vitae

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Born July 13th 1990 in Copiapó, Chile.

INSEAD – Europe Campus

Centre for Wealth Inequality (Of. 2.10)
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Current Position

Regional coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Inequality Lab, Paris School of Economics; and Postdoctoral Researcher at the Stone Center for the Study of Wealth Inequality, INSEAD.

1 Positions and Training

Oct.2019-Present: Regional coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Inequality Lab (WIL), Paris School of Economics

Feb.2019-Feb.2021: Postdoctoral Researcher at the Centre for the Study of Wealth Inequality, INSEAD Europe

2017-2019: Research Fellow at WIL, Paris School of Economics

2014-2019: PhD in Economics at Sorbonne University (Paris 1), Jury: Facundo Alvaredo, François Bourguignon, Emmanuel Flachaire, Jérôme Gautié, Elvire Guillaud, Julian Messina, Nora Lustig.

2012-2014: Master in Applied Economics at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

2009-2012: *Licence* in Economics at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

2 Research

Journal Articles

1. Top Incomes in Chile: A Historical Perspective on Income Inequality (1964-2017),

with Jorge Atria, Claudia Sanhueza and Ricardo Mayer, *Review of Income and Wealth*, 66(4), pp. 850-874, 2020.

Abstract We present a novel series of Chilean top income shares covering half a century, mainly based on income-tax declarations and national accounts. Such a time-frame of analysis is still rare in the literature of developing countries. We distinguish between a fiscal income series (1964-2017) and an *adjusted* series (1990-2017). The former covers individual income, while the latter also includes corporate undistributed profits, which affects both levels and trends. Fiscal income estimates start with low levels and a decreasing trend over the 1960s. They then increase rapidly during dictatorship years (1973-1989). The series ends with high yet slowly decreasing concentration for most of the recent democratic period (1990-2017). By contrast, the adjusted series follows a U-shape since the return of democracy, contradicting the established consensus on falling inequality over the period. Furthermore, Chile ranks among the most unequal countries in both the OECD and Latin American countries over the period.

2. Measuring the Capital Share and Inequality: Increasing Gaps between National Accounts and Micro-data: Increasing Gaps between National Accounts and Micro-data. *R & R with minor comments at the Journal of Economic Inequality*

Abstract In the interest of reconciling macro- and micro-economic estimates of income, I measure the relative underestimation of capital and labour incomes in distributive data with respect to the system of national accounts (SNA). I study harmonised household surveys in a group of countries but also administrative records for the US. I find a higher underestimation of capital income, due to both conceptual differences and measurement error. The gap has grown in most countries during the last 20 years. Surveys therefore tend to exaggerate the impact of changes in the labour income distribution and to undermine those in the distribution of capital income. I present a novel theoretical framework, based on accounting identities, which shows that inequality estimates are likely affected in level, trend and composition. Yet, the intensity of the phenomenon varies by country and income concept (national vs. household income). To give a sense of magnitudes, in a 19-countries balanced panel with comparable SNA, the household sector receives around half of gross capital income, as opposed to corporations. In the subset of countries with comparable surveys, these only capture around 20% of that aggregate, versus 70% of labour income. For any quantile in the distribution, a unit increase in its share of labour income translates in a 0.91 increase in its share of total income, while the effect for capital income is only 0.09. Gaps are narrower in tax data but still present.

3. The Weight of the Rich: Improving Surveys Using Tax Data, with Thomas Blanchet and Marc Morgan. *R & R at Journal of Economic Inequality (Special issue: "Finding the upper tail")*

Abstract Household surveys often fail to capture the top tail of income and wealth distributions, as evidenced by studies based on tax data. Yet to date there is no consensus on how to best reconcile both sources of information. This paper presents a novel method that helps to solve the problem under reasonable assumptions. Our key innovation is to endogenously determine a "merging point" between the datasets, above which we start to incorporate information from tax data into the survey. We use this merging point within a concrete survey correction method that involves both a "reweighting" and a "replacing" step, and which preserves the microdata structure of the original survey. We thus ensure that resulting estimates incorporate all the information at

our disposal from both the survey and the tax data. We illustrate our approach with simulations, which show that our method performs better than existing alternatives. We also apply it to five countries, both developed and less developed, and find changes to the levels and trends in income inequality.

Working Papers

1. Land Inequality, Productivity and Biodiversity: A View from Space (with Dylan Glover)

Abstract Agriculture occupies close to half of habitable land worldwide. While certainly being essential to human development, it often had devastating effects on the environment, largely contributing to global warming and land degradation in general. In this article, we study how the distribution of agricultural land-ownership relates to its productivity; where productivity has a twofold interpretation, first in terms of crop yields, but also on the land's capacity for carbon dioxide absorption. We innovate by combining French cadastral data with other georeferenced data, mostly from NASA's satellite imagery, covering the last decade at the least. Available data not only allows us to identify crops at the plot level, surrounding ecosystems and protected areas, but also to study the land's productivity at a 2.5 hectare resolution. We find that higher land inequality is correlated to lower productivity, at the canton level, controlling for both time and canton fixed effects. We conjecture that land concentration impacts productivity through the lowering of biodiversity, given the high level specialisation among farmers; and consensual findings by the literature in biology, reporting a positive relation between biodiversity and biomass.

2. More Unequal or Not as Rich? Distributing the Missing Half of National Income in Latin America, (with Mauricio De Rosa and Marc Morgan)

Abstract Household survey-based estimations suggest that Latin America experienced a significant income inequality reduction in the first fifteen years of this century, yet recently available studies using tax data provide less optimistic results. Moreover, previous estimates considered different income aggregates and only accounted for around half of national income, hence preventing the interplay between growth and income inequality to be properly analyzed. Based on a coherent procedure, we combine surveys, tax records, social security data and national accounts to provide consistent and comparable inequality estimates for a number of Latin American countries –covering 80% of the population–, making explicit assumptions and analyzing their effect on the estimations. Results indicate that only one of the following stories is true: either Latin America was not as rich as we thought it was, or inequality did not fall as we thought it did.

Work in Progress

3. Extreme Wealth Inequality: the Case of Chile, (with Pablo Gutierrez)
4. An Inventory of Micro-Micro Income Data in Latin America, (with Facundo Alvaredo, Mauricio De Rosa and Marc Morgan)
5. Accounting for Capital and Wealth in Latin America, (Luis Bauluz and Marc Morgan)

3 Teaching and Outreach

Teaching Experience

2014-2016: Financial and Monetary Economics, Teaching Assistant for Professors Jézabel Couppey- Soubeyran and Bruno Tinel at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. 2nd year of *Licence*.

2014-2016: Comparative Economics Theory, Teaching Assistant for Professors Michael Assous and Christophe Ramaux. 2nd year of *Licence*.

Conferences and Presentations

Perspectivas sobre la desigualdad en América Latina y Costa Rica at Universidad de Costa Rica, Dec. 2020. *Charlas de los Viernes* at Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia, Nov. 2020. PhD Seminar “Should we care about inequality?” at INSEAD, Fontainebleau, Oct. 2019. Keynote speaker at the *Seminario Desigualdad*, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC-UN), Santiago, Sep. 2019. *Seminaire Travail en Economie Politique* (STEP) at Sorbonne Paris 1, Paris, Jun. 2018. Workshop on harmonization of household surveys, fiscal data and national accounts at the Paris School of Economics, Paris, May 2018. COES-LSE *Desigualdades* conference at *Universidad de Chile*, Santiago, Nov. 2016.

Refereeing

International Tax and Public Finance. Journal of Income Distribution. Socio-Economic Review. Economics of Transition. Empirical Economics.

Media Outreach

1. “La crisis es inevitable en América Latina, la desigualdad no” *El País*, May 31, 2020
2. “Apesar da crise da Covid-19, América Latina pode conter aumento da desigualdade” *Folha de São Paulo*, May 5, 2020
3. “Rage against the system: From Chile to Lebanon, why the sudden wave of protests?” *France 24 – The Debate*, Oct. 22, 2019
4. “Au Chili, deux pays coexistent au sein d’un même” *Le Monde*, Oct 5, 2019

4 Further Information

Research Interests

Income and wealth distribution, political economy, economic history, institutions, biodiversity.

Prizes and Scholarships

2014-2017: Contrat Doctoral, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

2009-2014: Bourse excellence major, AEFÉ, Campus France.

References

Thomas Piketty

Facundo Alvaredo

Mark Stabile