

# **Master Info Session**

Economics of Distribution

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Summer term 2023

### Field Course

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### Research & Policy Seminar (no RS seminar in summer term 2023)

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## **Field Course**

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This course provides an introduction to the analysis of economic inequalities and the interplay between inequality and economic growth.

Comprehensive overview about past and current research in this field based on journal articles.

After completion you should be able to answer these questions:

- How does inequality vary across countries and evolve over the path of development?
- What are the theories that can explain the degree of economic inequalities and its dynamic?
- How do policies affect inequalities, and what types of policies can foster equitable growth?

## 1. Introduction and Theory

- Inequality of what? Among whom?
- Overview over grand debates

## 2. Grand Debates

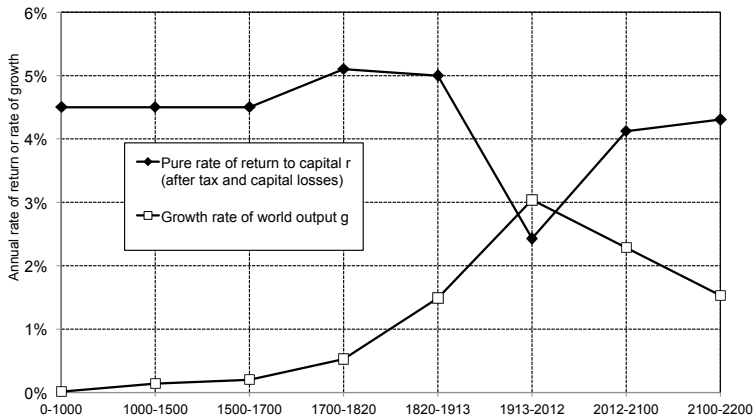
- Observing the economy
- Does  $r$  greater  $g$  imply greater inequality?
- Taxation and inequality
- Household structure and equivalence scales
- Labor markets I: Gender and Migration
- Labor markets I: Digital- and Globalization
- Social Mobility

## 3. Windup

- Recap and nexuses
- Exam

## EXAMPLE: PIKETTY'S $r > g$

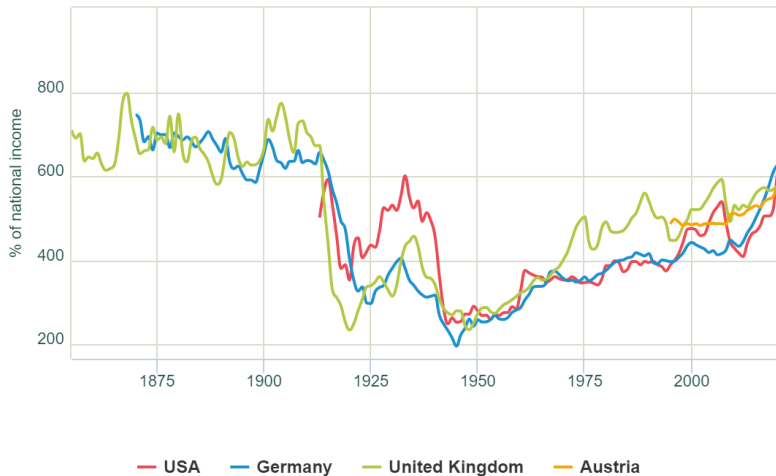
**Figure 10.11. After tax rate of return vs. growth rate at the world level, from Antiquity until 2200**



The rate of return to capital (after tax and capital losses) fell below the growth rate during the 20th century, and might again surpass it in the 21st century. Sources and series: see [piketty.pse.ens.fr/capital21c](http://piketty.pse.ens.fr/capital21c)

## EXAMPLE: PIKETTY'S $r > g$

### net national wealth to net national income ratio



Graph provided by [www.wid.world](http://www.wid.world)

### 1. Introduction and Theory

- Read slides & articles
- One quiz (5 questions) each week
- Choose topic to work on

### 2. Grand Debates

- Read main paper
- Write essay (5/7)
- Prepare 1 presentation
- Discuss 1 presentation

### 3. Windup

- Summary session
- Exam



### Components

5% Quizzes

25% Essays (5 of 7)

20% Presentation and Discussant

50% Exam

### Grades

≥ 89% Excellent

≥ 76% Good

≥ 63% Satisfactory

≥ 50% Sufficient

## **Research & Policy Seminar**

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- Applied perspective on recent questions, especially in the field wealth distribution
- Main goal: Students replicate and/or extend a (recent) research paper using data from the Luxembourg Wealth Study (LWS) along their research interest, preferably in groups
- This involves, among others
  - Learn to situate the chosen topic in relation to the broader research field to develop fruitful ideas for replications/extensions
  - In-depth understanding (of the choice) of the method
  - Development of the technical skills to apply this method, preferably using R

Part 1: Introduction to applied working with surveys on household finances included in LWS (sampling, selective non-response, multiple imputations,...)

Part 2: Presentation and in-class discussion of the chosen paper

Part 3: Supervised work on project, with regular and on-demand meetings to discuss progress

Part 4: Presentation of the project in a workshop-setting

Part 5: Written research paper to be handed in after the presentation

## **Recent Theses Supervised**

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## RECENT THESES SUPERVISED: SOME EXAMPLES

- Inequality and Private Schooling in the United Kingdom
- How are corruption and inequality related?
- Modelling a Job Guarantee for Germany using a Job Search Model
- Rental Market in Berlin: The Effectiveness of the Rent Freeze
- Analysing the Malaysian Housing Market using Google Trends
- Do incomes keep up with house prices? A global comparison
- How did the Increase in Tuition Fees in England affect Wealth Inequality?
- Inheritances and Wealth Inequality
- Wealth Inequality in Austria 1960 – 1990. Evidence from Tabulated Tax Data
- Private Wealth Accumulation and the Welfare State across the OECD
- Housing and Income Inequality