As announced in the course outline, for the assessment of 607 Seminar in Public Economics, each of you will choose a (different) topic, probably related to lecture material or a discussion we had (but not necessarily very closely), and write an in-depth paper. It is time to start thinking what topic you would like to address.

You could write a literature review, critically evaluating the relevant journal articles and going deeper than we did in class. Or you could do something with an empirical angle (e.g. something related to your main research interest, or your country, why not?). The only criterion is that you should bring into your paper, in a substantive way, some kind of distributional concern and be able thereby to show, by your approach, and by the critical views you express, or the results you achieve, that this course gave you some new skills.

So, please start to think about this, if you haven’t done so already! I don’t want to force a topic on anybody, I want you to follow your own inclinations and interests. Please feel free to come individually to see me to talk about an idea you may have. And please email me once you have your topic.

As a possible help to you, here is an extended bibliography of possible major topics:

1. Genesis of income distributions
2. Equivalence scales: positive and normative theory, variable scales
3. Disappearing middle, polarization, stratification
4. Statistical Inference and Dominance Testing
5. Decomposable inequality concepts and indices
   (a) across subgroups
   (b) across income sources
   (c) world and country inequality and polarization
      (i) Country studies
      (ii) Interpretation of results and policy relevance
      (iii) World inequality, influence of China
6. Poverty
7. Pro-Poor Growth
8. Deprivation
9. Horizontal Inequity: Classical and No-Reranking Approaches
10. Labor Supply and Taxation
11. Risk-taking and taxes
12. Opportunity Inequality
13. Popularity of progressive taxes
14. Health care uses of V+H+R

Peter Lambert, September 2014
1. Genesis of income distributions


2. Equivalence scales: positive and normative theory, variable scales


3. Disappearing middle, polarization


Rose, S. (2006) "What’s (Not) the Matter With the Middle Class?", American Prospect Online, September 4th 2006


4. Statistical Inference and Dominance Testing


5. Decomposable inequality concepts and indices

(a) across subgroups


(b) across income sources


(c) world & international inequality & polarization

Methodology


Country studies


Interpretation of results and policy relevance


World inequality, influence of China


6. Poverty


7. Pro-Poor Growth


8. Deprivation

Chakravarty, S. R. and D. Mukherjee, Measures of deprivation and their meaning in terms of satisfaction, Theory and Decision, 47, 89-100, 1999


Podder, N., Relative Deprivation, Envy and Economic Inequality, Kyklos, 3, 353-376, 1996


Sen, A. K., Poor, relatively speaking, Oxford Economic Papers, 2, 153-169, 1983


Temkin, L. S., Inequality, Philosophy and Public Affairs, 15, 99-121, 1986


9. Horizontal Inequity: Classical and No-Reranking Approaches


10. Labor Supply and Taxation


11. Risk-taking and taxes


12. Opportunity Inequality


13. Popularity of progressive taxes

14. Health care uses of V+H+R decomposition: