

INEQUALITY, POPULISM, AND UNFAIRNESS: A COMPARISON OF UNFAIR INCOME INEQUALITIES IN POLAND AND NORWAY

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ABSTRACT: Income inequality has been linked to political polarization and the rise of populist movements. However, the mechanisms through which this happens are not fully understood. The use of the Gini coefficient, which does not reflect the idea of fairness, may contribute to this challenge. To address this issue, the paper introduces the concept of "Unfairness Gini" to measure unfair income inequality, which takes into account the differences between people's real income and their fair income due to factors related to individual effort and choices. The Unfairness Gini draws on luck egalitarianism, which assumes that inequality in society is only justified if it arises from differences of personal effort or choice. The paper uses the methodological approach developed by Cappelen and Tungodden to calculate the Unfairness Gini using EU-SILC data from 2011 and 2019 for Poland and Norway, two countries with different levels of income inequality and populism. The choice of time points offers an opportunity to compare unfairness inequality before and after the populist party began to govern in Poland in 2015.

KEYWORDS: inequality, populism, unfairness, Gini coefficient.

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