

Limitarianism & Economic Inequality

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Outline

- Previous Research
- Research Interests
- Polinequal: Ideas & Contribution

Previous Research

Limitarianism

- There are moral and ethical reasons to interfere with people's lives and freedoms by implementing limits in society to advance society as a whole.
- *Economic* Limitarianism
 - It is morally impermissible to be rich → exploring an upper limit of economic resources (i.e., income and wealth).
- Two doctrines
 - 1. Moral - We have a moral responsibility not to be rich
 - 2. **Political - Excess wealth should not be allowed**

Previous Research

Why Limitarianism?

- Democratic
- Urgent unmet needs
- Environmental
- Autonomy
- **Neo-Aristotelian virtue ethics**
 - Human flourishing
 - Practical wisdom

Limitarianism, human flourishing and blind Spots: *How limiting wealth can help promote human flourishing.*

- **Aim:** (i) to support and strengthen political Limitarianism as a concept by (ii) showing how limiting wealth could be helpful to promote human flourishing.
- **Research question:** *Could limiting wealth help promote human flourishing?*
- **Main argument:** The current economic environment, which is built on the idea of endless accumulation of wealth, undermines the development of practical wisdom by creating harmful blind spots. Limiting wealth could help alleviate these blind spots and generate a welcoming environment for practical wisdom to develop, promoting human flourishing.

Research Interests

- **Political Theory**
 - Normative
 - Empirical

- *How can we achieve a more equal world?*

- **(p)redistribution of wealth; Limitarianism; Power**
 - i. Why isn't there a greater urgency for redistributing wealth?
 - ii. Would people's attitudes towards limiting wealth change if they were informed of the economic inequalities in their states?
 - iii. Would public support for limiting wealth be greater if concrete benefits of such a limit were specified?
 - iv. How do the media, the politicians, and the elites' framing of economic inequality affect people's attitudes toward redistributing wealth/limiting wealth?
 - v. Predistribution policy: maximum income as a multiple of the minimum wage.

Polinequal: Ideas & Contribution

- Contribute with a theoretical perspective.
- Provide a “Swedish” cultural and social lens to data analysis.
- Complement surveys with Limitarian questions.
- Design a Limitarian survey based on polinequal data for PhD project.
- Investigative survey designed to explore if attitudes towards Limitarian policies will differ when exposed to upward/downward economic comparison.

Thanks!

POLINEQUAL
The Politicisation of Economic Inequality
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