

A pluralist view on inequality from Luxemburg Income Study (LIS)

Daniele Checchi (LIS and University of Milan – daniele.checchi@gmail.com)

Piotr Paradowski (LIS and Gdansk University of Technology – Paradowski@lisdatacenter.org)

After briefly reviewing the history of LIS, originating from an interdisciplinary project involving economists, sociologists and political scientists, this chapter analyses how the theme of income/wealth inequality has been differently addressed in the research conducted around LIS data. We will base our analysis on 268 LIS/LWS working papers produced since 2013 by LIS data users. Four academic communities (economists, sociologists, social policy and political scientists) adopt different methodological perspectives in terms of unit of analysis (the individual, the household or the community), heterogeneity (by gender, age, race, education), outcomes (income, wealth, consumption, education, employment and work hours, fertility), institutional framework (household, firm, local labour markets, nations) and methodological approach (poverty, inequality, income shares). Consequently, inequality analysis, an elusive and multidimensional concept, cannot become prerogative of a specific discipline or school of thought, favouring a pluralist approach to the topic.

1. Introduction

LIS is an independent, non-profit research institute that maintains a cross-national data archive. It was established in 1983 by a multidisciplinary group of academics and social statisticians as a research project and successively became permanent and financially independent through funding from public and private sponsors. Its primary activity is to harmonise and make available household microdata to researchers, thus enabling cross-national, interdisciplinary primary research into socio-economic outcomes and their determinants.

The LIS data include the *Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) Database*, which includes income data from surveys collected at household level, and the *Luxembourg Wealth Study (LWS) Database*, which focuses on wealth data. It currently includes microdata from 52 countries in Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia and Australasia. LIS contains over 620 datasets, organised into twelve time waves, spanning the years 1968 to 2020. Originally focused on high-income countries, the LIS Database has gradually expanded its coverage to several middle-income countries. The LWS Database contains more than 70 wealth datasets from 19 countries, and covers the period 1995 to 2019.

Since its foundation, 9,000 researchers around the world have used LIS datasets to analyse economic and social policies and their effects on outcomes including poverty, income inequality, employment status, wage patterns, gender inequality, family formation, child-wellbeing, health status, immigration, political behaviour and public opinion. The newer LWS datasets enable research on wealth portfolios, asset levels, and the interplay between household income and wealth.

LIS is a unique resource not only with respect to the breath of its data offering (it is the only data archive in existence that includes income, wealth and labour market microdata, over time and in one place from such diverse geographic regions and at such varied income levels), but also because it is the only archive providing access to confidential microdata through a secure remote execution system, that allows thousands of registered users all over the world to receive the logs of their statistical queries in real time (an average of about 70,000 requests are processed every year). This enables primary research that is increasingly global in scope – commensurate with countless emerging research questions. LIS has also long operated as a venue for researchers and practitioners to exchange research ideas, results, and methods. These exchanges take place through the widely accessed Working Paper Series, the Visiting Scholar program, pre- and postdoctoral postings, annual workshops and conferences.

All in all, this makes LIS a public good, whose origins are rooted in three concepts:

- a) cooperation instead of competition among researchers, since cooperation provides economies of scale in research;
- b) dialogue between disciplines (economics, sociology, political science, social policies). The sequence of past directors (Rainwater, Smeeding, Gornick, Jantti, Checchi, Lanjouw) and presidents (Erikson, Atkinson, Bourguignon) testifies this capability of dialogue;
- c) absence of mainstreaming in each discipline: in economics you find micro and macro economists, in sociology rational choice scholars and class analysts, in statistics axiomatic theory and descriptive analysis, in political science constructivists and rational choice scholars.

The crucial question is whether it is the good will of actors that allows for this mix of approaches, or rather it is the object of analysis that defies any attempt to set boundaries to the analysis? Our tentative answer is that the very concept of inequality (i.e. differences among otherwise similar individuals) prevents the reduction to a unique disciplinary approach.

In the sequel we will support our claim by analyzing the flow of research originating from LIS. Each scholar obtaining access to LIS¹ pledges to submit the results of her/his analysis in a working paper series, the LIS/LWS working paper (<https://www.lisdatacenter.org/working-papers/>). Through a meta-analysis of the contents of the papers, we aim to substantiate our mail claim about the pluralist approach to inequality.

2. Who are the LIS users

LIS is currently providing access to about 1,000 users every year, mostly based in universities and research centres (see Fig.1) located in developed countries (see Fig. 2).

Figure 1 - Distribution of LIS users by institutional affiliation and status in 2021

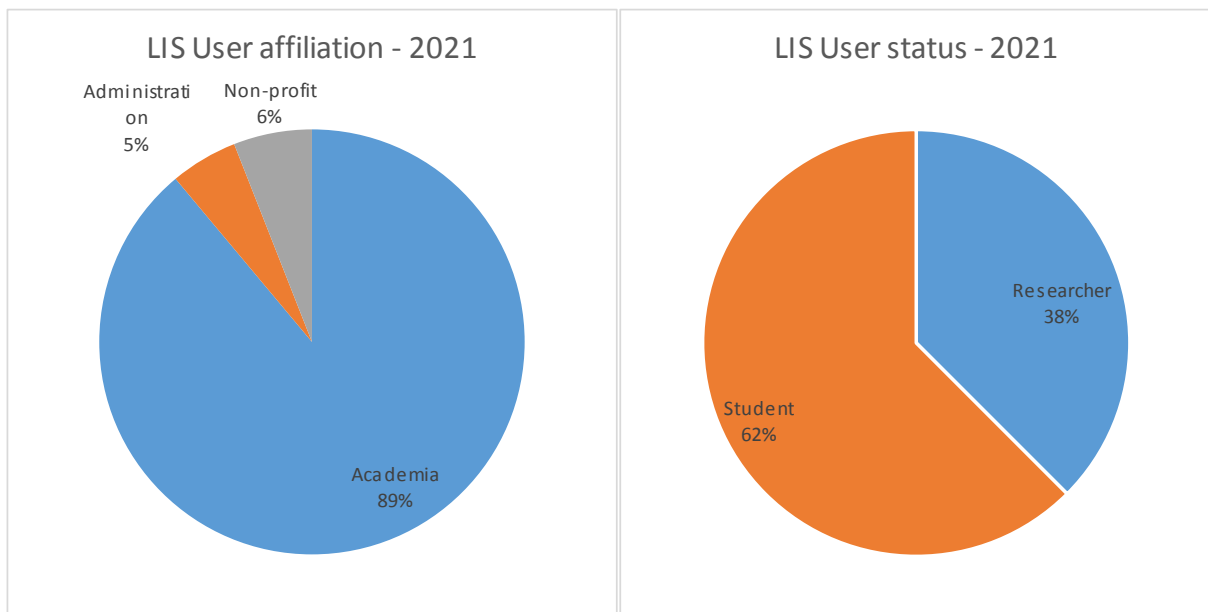
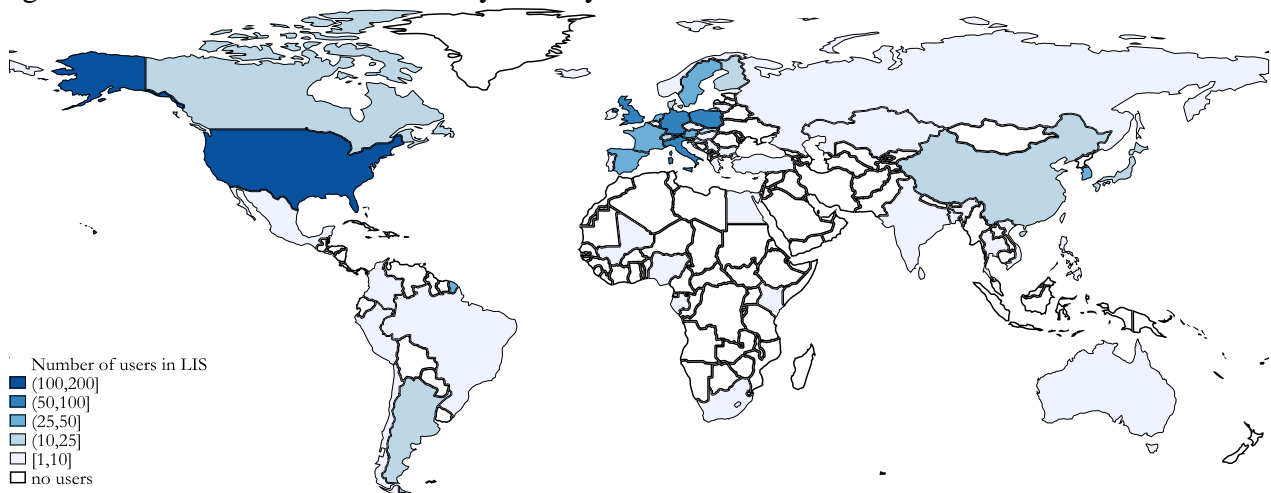


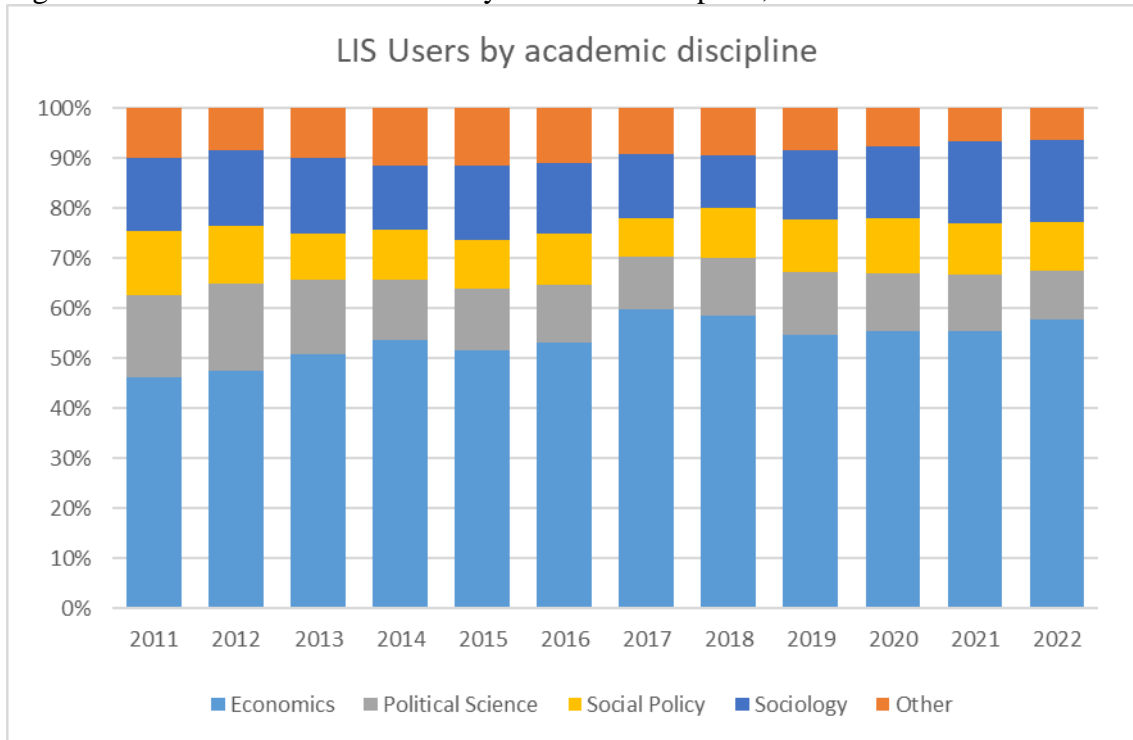
Figure 2 – Distribution of LIS users by country in 2021



¹ When an institution in a country annually subscribes the institutional fee to LIS, all the scholars in the country are entitled to free access to the data. Currently there are 15 contributing countries. Irrespective of the country, all students around the world have free access. Otherwise, there is an individual fee of 750 to 3,000 EUR per year depending on the income classification of the country of affiliation. Researchers from poor countries can obtain sponsorship from private benefactors (like Jim Stone through the Stone Center in New York).

In terms of academic discipline, while economists are among the most numerous and increasing over time, scholars from other disciplines have used it over time, their share varying from 40 to 55% depending on the year (see Fig.3). It is impossible to assess whether the community of LIS user is representative of a global research community. When running our summer school (before the Covid-19 pandemic) we hosted every year an average of 25 scholars from about 12 countries. Most participants were either PhD students, post-doctoral scholars or assistant professors.

Figure 3 - Distribution of LIS users by academic discipline, 2011-2021



3. The archive of LIS/LWS working papers

LIS provides the means by which researchers all around the world can make accurate cross-national comparisons of diverse social and economic outcomes. LIS data provide the basis for descriptive results and policy-oriented analyses, and a substantial amount of methodological and theoretical work. As of April 2022, there are 904 Working Papers, many of which have been published in the top refereed journals in the field of economics, sociology, political science and other fields, for instance in: *Science*, *The Lancet*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *American Economic Review*, *Econometrica*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Economic Literature*, *Economic Journal*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Review of Economic Dynamics*, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review* and *American Journal of Political Science*.

In the present analysis, we consider 268 working papers that appeared between 2013 and 2021.² The large majority are included in the LIS series that considers income as the output variable (240), followed by the LWS series centred on wealth (23) and few LIS technical papers (5) dealing with methodological issues.

² We have chosen 2013 as starting year since previous research has been reviewed by Gornick et al (2013), also LIS technical paper n.5.

The production of papers has been rather constant over the years, as detectable from Table 1. We have also classified the papers by discipline according to the prevailing field of research of the authors. According to this classification, about half are written by economists, followed by one-fifth written by sociologists and another fifth by political scientists and social policy experts. Notice that there is a significant fraction of papers (around 20%) written either by a group of co-authors in different fields or by scholars working at the disciplinary boundaries of their fields.

Table 1 – Distribution of the papers by discipline of the authors and year of completion.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
	percentage distribution									
economics	50.0	46.4	57.6	59.4	59.5	42.9	50.0	66.7	45.0	53.7
sociology	20.8	21.4	18.2	18.8	19.1	17.1	12.5	10.0	30.0	18.3
political science	12.5	7.1	9.1	3.1	7.1	14.3	16.7	3.3	0.0	8.2
public/social policy or administration	0.0	3.6	3.0	9.4	7.1	11.4	8.3	3.3	10.0	6.3
political science/sociology	4.2	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	5.7	0.0	3.3	0.0	1.9
social science	4.2	17.9	6.1	0.0	4.8	2.9	4.2	6.7	5.0	5.6
economics/sociology	8.3	0.0	3.0	6.3	2.4	2.9	4.2	3.3	10.0	4.1
economics/political science	0.0	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.8
economics/public or social policies	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	2.9	4.2	0.0	0.0	1.1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

An alternative classification can be based on journal fields. We have conducted a search on what happened to these working papers, finding that less than half of them have not (yet) been published. According to Table 2, the fraction of papers in economics is lower than the share of economists, reaching one-third, while interdisciplinary social sciences journals gain more visibility.

By cross tabulating the two classifications, we can observe the publication habits of LIS users. In Table 3, we provide the distribution of published papers by the discipline of the authors. It is interesting to notice that a large fraction of scholars publish in journals that are either multidisciplinary or out of their field of specialization. In particular, political scientists seem to be the most open to disciplinary contamination, publishing their papers in different fields. This confirms that inequality is a multifaceted concept that defies field categorization and attracts a multidisciplinary community of scholars.

Table 2 – Distribution of the papers by journal field and year of completion.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Number of not published papers or in other WP series	10	17	15	15	25	19	13	17	9	140
Number of published papers	14	11	18	17	17	16	11	13	11	128
<i>Of which (in %)</i>										
<i>economics</i>	28.57	27.27	33.33	29.41	35.29	12.50	36.36	46.15	27.27	30.47
<i>sociology</i>	21.43	18.18	16.67	11.76	11.76	12.50	18.18	15.38	27.27	16.41
<i>public policy</i>	0.00	0.00	5.56	5.88	5.88	0.00	18.18	7.69	0.00	4.69
<i>political science</i>	7.14	9.09	5.56	0.00	0.00	6.25	0.00	7.69	0.00	3.91
<i>social work</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.78
<i>finance</i>	7.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.78
<i>economics and social sciences (multidisciplinary)</i>	14.29	9.09	5.56	5.88	0.00	18.75	18.18	15.38	0.00	9.38
<i>social sciences (multidisciplinary)</i>	7.14	27.27	16.67	23.53	5.88	37.50	0.00	7.69	36.36	17.97
<i>health policy/issues</i>	7.14	0.00	5.56	17.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.91
<i>education</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.78
<i>business and intern.management</i>	0.00	9.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.78
<i>book chapter</i>	7.14	0.00	11.11	5.88	35.29	6.25	9.09	0.00	9.09	10.16
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 3 – Distribution of the published papers by authors' disciplines and journal field (2013-2021)

	economics	sociology	public policy	political science	social work	finance	social sciences multidisciplinary	health	education	business /management	book chapter
economics	58.5	1.9	3.8	1.9	0.0	1.9	15.1	5.7	0.0	0.0	11.3
sociology	5.9	44.1	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	29.4	0.0	2.9	0.0	14.7
political science	6.7	6.7	6.7	26.7	0.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.3
public/social policy or administration	0.0	11.1	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	77.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
political science/sociology	0.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
social science	16.7	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	33.3	0.0	16.7	0.0
economics/sociology	50.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
economics/public or social policies	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

4. Research communities: the case of LIS project

We have seen that the scientific production arising around the LIS project is characterized by a multidisciplinary approach to inequality. One may wonder what drives the creation of research communities, whether the variable of interest (income, consumption, wealth, education, and so on), the methodological approach (inequality, poverty, intergroup comparison) or the statistical methods (descriptive, decomposition, multivariate, multilevel). In order to shed light on these aspects, we have classified the paper along these three dimensions: the outcome of interest, the approach and the statistical methods. Needless to say, these attributions are somehow arbitrary, but we deem them useful to provide an overview of scholarly research undertaken with LIS data, built on income/consumption surveys.

Then, it does not come as a surprise that almost 70% of the working papers consider income as their main outcome variable; if we were to add wealth (fraction of income saved over the previous year) and consumption (the complementary fraction of income), we end up with 80% of papers dealing with monetary command on commodities. Considering that education and employment represent the means for obtaining income in a market economy, it is intriguing to discover that 11% of papers discuss these two variables as main outcomes. The remaining fraction gathers all forms of public interventions, from taxation to unemployment benefits and social benefits. As clearly visible from Table 4, these distributions are rather similar across authors' disciplines once we aggregate them into four main groups. The limited role played by the analysis of other outcomes, like education, employment or worked hours has probably to do with the lack of information details in the original surveys. A scholar wishing to study the policy impact of schooling rules or labour legislation can exploit only time and/or country variation, which are generally too coarse to allow for identification of the effect.³

³ In addition, information on educational attainment is limited to the maximal educational attainment, without reference to the field of specialization or the level of competences.

Table 4 – Distribution of the working papers by (main) variable of interest and authors' disciplines

	economics	sociology	political science	multi-disciplinary	Total
income	66.0	75.0	77.3	55.0	69.0
wealth	8.3	5.0	4.6	5.0	6.7
consumption	6.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	3.7
education	0.7	3.3	0.0	0.0	1.1
employment and work hours	10.4	8.3	6.8	15.0	9.7
fertility	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.4
taxation	3.5	1.7	0.0	5.0	2.6
other	4.9	5.0	9.1	20.0	6.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Number of cases</i>	144	60	44	20	268

When we consider the approach in Table 5, we discover that inequality measurement is at the core of half of the papers, but also that economists tend to disregard poverty measurement, preferring indicators based on income shares (like the Palma index or top income shares). On the contrary, scholars with different backgrounds pay more attention to poverty and social exclusion, given the fact that a significant fraction of welfare policies are meant to relieve a state of need.

This is consistent with the indications of Table 6, where we have tabulated the papers according to their statistical approach and once again, the discipline of the authors. We observe that economists prefer distributional analysis, while other disciplines favour conditional analysis based on either OLS/RIF regressions or multilevel analysis (which is almost unknown to economists).

Table 5 – Distribution of the working papers by approach and authors' disciplines

	economics	sociology	political science	multi-disciplinary	Total
poverty	9.0	30.0	22.7	35.0	17.9
inequality	56.3	53.3	56.8	30.0	53.7
income shares	34.7	16.7	20.5	35.0	28.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

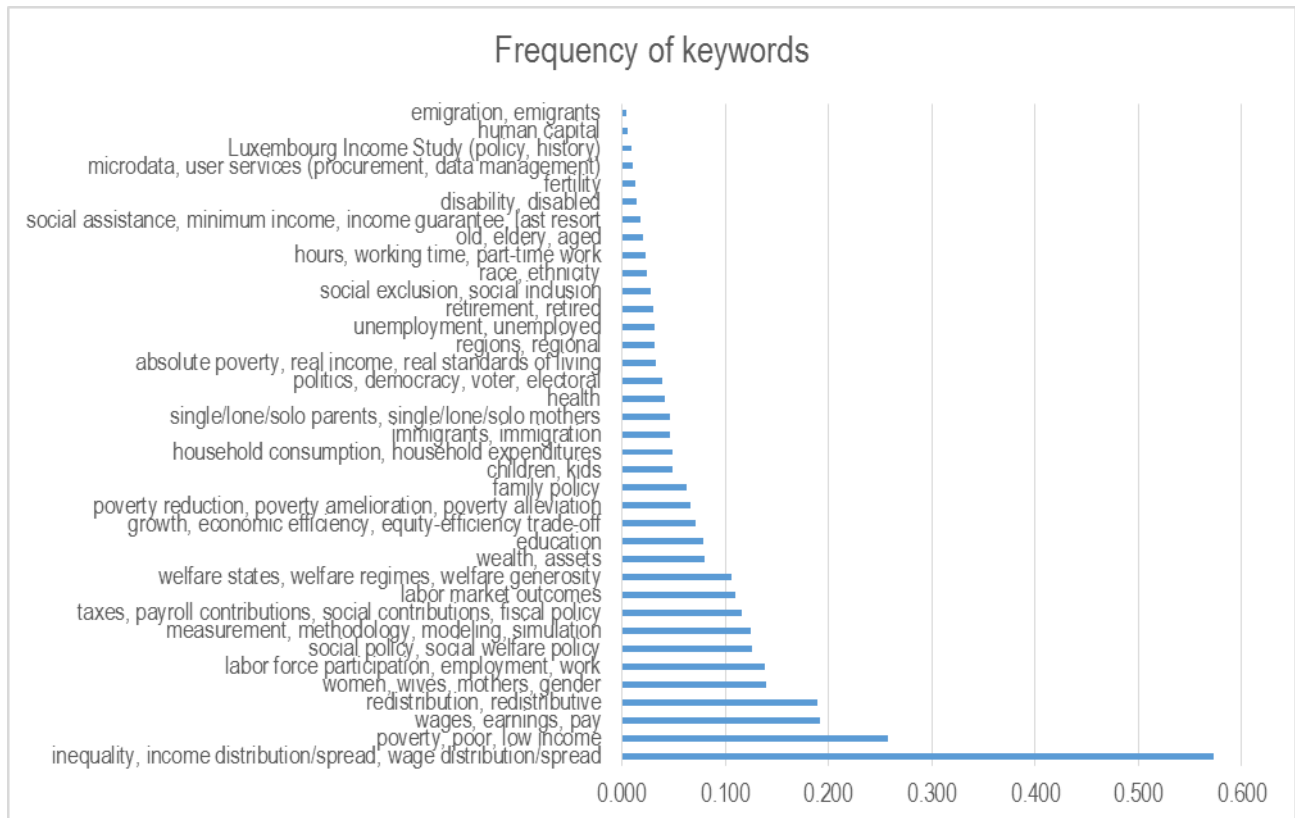
Table 6 – Distribution of the working papers by statistical approach and authors' disciplines

	economics	sociology	political science	multi-disciplinary	Total
descriptive statistics	9.7	11.9	9.1	5.0	9.7
distribution/decomposition	59.7	32.2	27.3	40.0	46.8
multivariate regressions	29.9	39.0	50.0	50.0	36.7
multilevel analysis	0.7	17.0	13.6	5.0	6.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

A more detailed picture emerges when we consider the keywords associated with each paper. In Figure 4, we have plotted the relative frequency of each topic in the three keywords under the assumption that these are the main ones.⁴ Reading from the bottom bar, we find that income/wage inequality in distribution is by far the main topic of LIS papers, followed by labour market participation (especially gendered one) and then by welfare policies.

⁴ The submission procedure allows up to 8 keywords, but only few papers use all options. All papers have at least one keyword, 230 have two, 168 have three, 94 have four, 48 have five, 22 have six, 5 have seven and 2 have 8.

Figure 4 – Frequency of topics in keywords



A further step in the attempt to characterize the scientific production is clustering the papers according to observable features. We have used a procedure that maximizes the Euclidian distance among the median values of each group. After some attempts, we selected five groups, which are reported in Table 7 with their mean frequencies of the observables. The first group (*cluster 1*) groups papers written by quantitative sociologists and political scientists dealing with standard economic variables (income/consumption/wealth) by means of multivariate analysis. The second group (*cluster 2*) collects multidisciplinary papers on less standard outcomes (work hours, fertility, taxation and income shares) analysed by means of multilevel analysis. The third group (*cluster 3*) seems to gather labour economists providing descriptive analyses of wage shares. The fourth group (*cluster 4*) includes scholars of social policies dealing with poverty in a multi-cause perspective. Eventually, the fifth and most numerous group (*cluster 5*) includes papers written by economists that study income inequality by means of statistical decomposition.

It is interesting to notice that papers attributed to economists (*cluster 3* and *cluster 5*) have a lower probability of publication. The list of the papers in each cluster is reported in the Appendix, which also contains the list of journals where these contributions have appeared.

Table 7 – Cluster analysis

	cluster 1	cluster 2	cluster 3	cluster 4	cluster 5	Total
academic community of authors						
economics	42.4	47.73	83.87		80.23	53.73
sociology	28.8	15.91	16.13	29.27	19.77	22.39
political science	22.7	18.18		51.22		16.42
multidisciplinary	6.1	18.18		19.51		7.46
outcome						
income	81.8		74.19	87.8	83.72	69.03
wealth	10.6		6.45	7.32	6.98	6.72
consumption	6.1		3.23		5.81	3.73
education	1.5				2.33	1.12
employment and work hours		43.18	16.13	2.44	1.16	9.70
fertility		2.27				0.37
taxation		15.91				2.61
other		38.64		2.44		6.72
approach						
poverty	19.7	6.82		41.46	17.44	17.91
inequality	57.6	27.27		56.1	82.56	53.73
income shares	22.7	65.91	100.0	2.44		28.36
statistical methods						
descriptive statistics		6.82	22.58	21.95	8.14	9.70
distribution/decomposition		6.82	74.19	48.78	91.86	46.64
multivariate regressions	100.0	72.73				36.57
multilevel analysis		13.64	3.23	26.83		6.72
fraction of published paper cases						
	0.55	0.57	0.32	0.54	0.41	0.48
	66	44	33	41	86	268

A related question that may be asked to our data is whether the approach drives the likelihood of publication. If this were the case and it were common knowledge in the research community, our sample may be distorted by self-selection due to the so-called “publication bias” (Franco et al 2014). In table 8, we have estimated a linear probability model for obtaining publication. While one would expect that the publication probability increases with time passing, this does not occur in our dataset. Working papers written by sociologists and political scientists are more likely to obtain publication. It is interesting to notice that papers containing conditional approaches (either multivariate or multilevel) are more likely to obtain publication than papers that are mainly descriptive. Finally, an approach based on the bottom tail of the distribution (i.e., dealing with poverty) is more likely to be published against paper using income/wealth shares.

Table 8 – Probability of publication for a LIS/LWS working paper

	Coeff.	Std. Err.	t	P>t
<i>discipline of the authors</i> (excluded: multidisciplinary)				
economics	0.144	0.109	1.320	0.189
sociology	0.318	0.121	2.630	0.009
political science	0.318	0.124	2.580	0.011
<i>statistical method</i> (excluded: descriptive)				
distribution/decomposition	0.067	0.110	0.610	0.542
multivariate regression	0.217	0.108	2.000	0.046
multilevel analysis	0.246	0.142	1.730	0.085
other	0.576	0.147	3.910	0.000
<i>approach</i> (excluded: income share)				
poverty	0.313	0.086	3.640	0.000
inequality	-0.085	0.071	-1.200	0.233
<i>year of appearance</i> (excluded: 2021)				
2013	0.045	0.157	0.280	0.777
2014	-0.137	0.139	-0.990	0.325
2015	-0.006	0.140	-0.040	0.966
2016	-0.021	0.145	-0.150	0.883
2017	-0.149	0.138	-1.080	0.281
2018	-0.069	0.139	-0.490	0.623
2019	-0.098	0.146	-0.670	0.502
2020	-0.039	0.151	-0.260	0.795
constant	0.197	0.179	1.100	0.274
Number of observations			268	
R ²			0.199	

5. A variety of methodological approaches

Despite the impossibility of providing a complete account of the qualitative differences in the scientific production stimulated by the availability of LIS/LWS data, in this section, we have focused on the subset of 128 published papers, taking them as the most visible (and likely the best representation of this) research community.

Traditionally, different social disciplines employ different units of analysis and institutional frameworks while conducting research. For example, political scientists would generally analyze nation-states or the behavior of individuals under the institutional framework of a state. Beside their focus on individuals, sociologists would employ groups of individuals (small, like households, or larger, like racial groups, generations, social movements, communities, and societies) as their unit of analysis, and they would conduct research from the perspective of social institutions that materialize in family, social organization, or society. On the other hand, economists would utilize individuals or households (micro-economists), or countries (macro-economists) as their relevant units of analysis. Therefore, we would expect that the income and wealth inequality research, if conducted within the disciplinary boundaries, would show clear differences in the unit of analysis and institutional framework by discipline.

Inequality can be defined with reference to different units of analysis. LIS considers the disposable household income (DHI) as the key variable when comparing different countries or communities, since it incorporates the household structure (where income is assumed to be equally redistributed among family members, taking also into account economies of scale) as well as the redistributive role of the state.⁵ As long as households exhibit similar size, when using DHI a researcher is comparing inequality across households. Almost half of the published papers take the household as

⁵ To go from the (gross) market income to the disposable income, one has to deduct taxes and add all public benefits and transfers.

the relevant unit of analysis (see Table 9). However, when analysing the labour market, the relevant dimension becomes the personal income from labour (i.e. labour earnings), which is more dispersed, due to differences in qualifications and in work hours. A third of papers take this line of analysis, and more than half of them deals with labour market issues. The remaining ones take communities or countries as their relevant dimension, thus focusing more on inequality between groups than within groups. Looking at Table 9, one sees that there are no significant differences across disciplines in the choice of the unit of analysis.

A second dimension we have considered is the institutional framework considered in the various papers. When analysing inequality, most authors aim to correlate the observed imbalance to a context of reference, which may contribute to its shape. When looking at Table 10, one becomes aware of different attitudes of economists, sociologists and political scientists. While more than half of published papers written by economists consider the national community as the relevant environment (markets are typically regulated by national laws), papers by sociologists seem to privilege local communities (including families of origins), which are regulated by norms and customs. Needless to say, political scientists and social policy scholars take the legislative framework as their relevant framework, and therefore the institutional framework of their papers is mostly identified at the national level.

Table 9 – Unit of references in the published papers

unit of analysis	published papers	economics	sociology	political Science	multidisc	Total
individual	39	32.1	35.0	21.4	28.6	30.5
household	58	47.2	42.5	50.0	28.6	45.3
community/country	31	20.8	22.5	28.6	42.9	24.2
Total	128	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 10 – Institutional framework in the published papers

institutional framework	Published papers	economics	sociology	political science	multidisc	Total
household	18	13.2	17.5	10.7	14.3	14.1
local community/class	10	7.6	15.0	0.0	0.0	7.8
labour market	40	20.8	32.5	46.4	42.9	31.3
country	60	58.5	35.0	42.9	42.9	46.9
Total	128	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

If we combine the two dimensions (unit of analysis and institutional framework), we can define three levels of analyses: *i*) micro-level, where the unit of reference is the individual and the institutional framework is the household, or the local community/class; *ii*) meso-level, where the unit of reference is the household and the institutional framework is the local community or labour market; and *iii*) macro-level, which includes all remaining combinations. The data show that analyses at the micro- and meso-level are the minority (6.9% and 19.5%, respectively), while macro-analyses dominate among published papers. This may be explained by the nature of the data, mostly coming from a random sample of the household population. For each interviewee, the information available is standard but limited (sex, age, education, occupational and marital status, ethnicity in a few cases), and there are no data on relationships, political or religious participation, or more general opinions that constitute the backbones of social life.

However, the limited information available at the individual level only partially explains the lack of heterogeneity analysis in almost half of the papers detectable from Table 11. One would have expected that at least the gender dimension would have crossed the majority of inequality analysis, especially when taking the individual as unit of analysis. Even in such a case, only one-fourth of

papers take this perspective. This is even more surprising for authors with an economic background, who are typically more concerned with a micro-perspective on individual behaviour.

Table 11 – Heterogeneity in the inequality analysis among the published papers

	published papers	economics	sociology	political science	multidisc	Total
none	61	60.4	40.0	39.3	28.6	47.7
gender	15	9.4	15.0	10.7	14.3	11.7
age	9	5.7	10.0	3.6	14.3	7.0
race/ethnicity/immigration	3	0.0	7.5	0.0	0.0	2.3
education	7	1.9	7.5	10.7	0.0	5.5
occupation	9	7.6	7.5	7.1	0.0	7.0
hhld.composition/living arrangement	24	15.1	12.5	28.6	42.9	18.8
Total	128	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6. Concluding remarks

In the previous sections, we have provided evidence of the pluralist attitude that underlies the Luxemburg Income Project. Thanks to the open-mindedness of the founders and the consistent behaviour of the following management, a multidisciplinary community of scholars have produced a significant bunch of research on inequality seen from different perspectives.

Inequality is an elusive concept by itself, since it requires a definition of a unit of analysis, at least one outcome dimension, and a group as a benchmark of reference. However, by differently combining these three dimensions one may get completely distinctive perspectives that fit disciplinary paradigms in social science.

Said differently, mainstreaming is impossible in inequality analysis, and this contributes to the richness of perspectives emerging from research reviewed in this chapter. Each disciplinary approach takes some dimensions for granted and focuses on what it considers as the core mechanism. However, if one is available to listen to other perspectives (and the management of the LIS project has always paid attention to creating exchange opportunities), then cross-fertilization emerges as an opportunity, preventing more consistent perspectives characterizing similar projects, like the World Inequality Lab (<https://wid.world/>) or the Commitment to Equity Institute (<https://commitmenttoequity.org/>).

References

- Franco, Annie, Neil Malhotra and Gabor Simonovits. 2014. Publication bias in the social sciences: Unlocking the file drawer. *Science* Vol 345, Issue 6203, pp. 1502-1505
- Gornick, Janet, Berglind Hólmi Ragnarsdóttir, and Sarah Kosteci. 2013. Cross-National Data Center in Luxembourg, LIS. Chapter 5.2, in Brian Kleiner, Isabelle Renschler, Boris Wernli, Peter Farago, and Dominique Joye (eds.) *Understanding Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences*. Zurich: Seismo Press.

Appendix – List of WPs numbers grouped according to cluster analysis contained in table 7 – The full list of WPs with abstract is available at <http://www.lisdatacenter.org/lis-wp-webapp/app/search-workingpapers>)

Cluster 1

TP 15, LWS 18, LWS 20, LWS 21, LWS 30, LWS 31, LWS 36, LIS 584, LIS 586, LIS 592, LIS 596, LIS 599, LIS 602, LIS 606, LIS 608, LIS 610, LIS 613, LIS 614, LIS 615, LIS 622, LIS 628, LIS 631, LIS 634, LIS 636, LIS 638, LIS 643, LIS 645, LIS 653, LIS 656, LIS 664, LIS 671, LIS 675, LIS 676, LIS 680, LIS 681, LIS 684, LIS 694, LIS 703, LIS 708, LIS 710, LIS 720, LIS 722, LIS 727, LIS 734, LIS 735, LIS 740, LIS 742, LIS 743, LIS 744, LIS 745, LIS 750, LIS 752, LIS 762, LIS 763, LIS 766, LIS 768, LIS 769, LIS 777, LIS 781, LIS 789, LIS 798, LIS 801, LIS 807, LIS 811, LIS 815, LIS 819.

Published in: *American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review (3), Children and Youth Services Review, Comparative Economic Studies, Global Social Policy, Journal of European Social Policy (2), Journal of Marriage and Family, Journal of Social Policy, Political Research Quarterly, Politics and Society, Research in Social Stratification and mobility, Social Forces, Social Policy Administration, Socio-Economic Review.*

Cluster 2

TP 10, TP 14, LWS 16, LWS 19, LWS 25, LIS 582, LIS 583, LIS 585, LIS 587, LIS 594, LIS 607, LIS 612, LIS 617, LIS 623, LIS 625, LIS 637, LIS 644, LIS 649, LIS 654, LIS 657, LIS 658, LIS 662, LIS 668, LIS 678, LIS 682, LIS 685, LIS 709, LIS 711, LIS 716, LIS 718, LIS 725, LIS 728, LIS 733, LIS 741, LIS 746, LIS 770, LIS 771, LIS 779, LIS 782, LIS 783, LIS 800, LIS 814, LIS 816, LIS 817.

Published in: *Community, Work Family, Comparative Economic Studies, European Political Science Review, European Sociological Review (2), International Journal of Comparative Sociology, International Review of Applied Economics, Italian Economic Journal, Journal of European Public Policy, Journal of European Social Policy (2), Journal of Income Distribution, Journal of Marriage and Family, Journal of Monetary Economics, Korean Social Security Studies, Open Economies Review, SAGE Open Medicine (2), Scandinavian Economic History Review, Social Forces (2), Social Policy & Administration, Social Service Review, Socio-Economic Review (4), Sociological Inquiry, Sustainability, The European Journal of Finance, The Quarterly Journal of Economics, The Review of Income and Wealth.*

Cluster 3

TP 7, LWS 23, LWS 24, , LIS 611, LIS 619, LIS 630, LIS 641, LIS 650, LIS 651, LIS 659, LIS 660, LIS 673, LIS 688, LIS 690, LIS 698, LIS 702, LIS 715, LIS 723, LIS 753, LIS 755, LIS 773, LIS 791, LIS 796, LIS 797, LIS 804, LIS 805, LIS 806, LIS 808, LIS 809, LIS 812, LIS 822.

Published in: *Journal of European Social Policy, NBER Macroeconomics Annual, Review of Economic Dynamics, Social Welfare Policy.*

Cluster 4

TP 9, LWS 27, LWS 29, LWS 35, LIS 588, LIS 590, LIS 603, LIS 605, LIS 618, LIS 624, LIS 627, LIS 633, LIS 639, LIS 642, LIS 647, LIS 652, LIS 661, LIS 665, LIS 666, LIS 672, LIS 689, LIS 693, LIS 696, LIS 717, LIS 719, LIS 721, LIS 724, LIS 726, LIS 738, LIS 747, LIS 748, LIS 754, LIS 758, LIS 761, LIS 767, LIS 774, LIS 778, LIS 799, LIS 802, LIS 820, LIS 821.

Published in: *Economic Policy, Higher Education, International Business Review, International Journal of Public Health, International Labour Review, International Review of Social Research, Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Journal of Environmental and Public, Journal of European Social Policy (2), Journal of Family and Economic Issues, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Social Policy, Political Science Research and Methods, Research in Social*

Stratification and mobility, Research in the Sociology of Work, Review of Economic Dynamics, Social Politics: International Studies, Social Science Research, Socio-Economic Review (2), European Journal of Political Research.

Cluster 5

TP 6, TP 8, LWS 17, LWS 22, LWS 26, LWS 28, LWS 32, LWS 33, LWS 34, LIS 589, LIS 591, LIS 593, LIS 595, LIS 597, LIS 598, LIS 600, LIS 601, LIS 604, LIS 609, LIS 616, LIS 620, LIS 621, LIS 626, LIS 629, LIS 632, LIS 635, LIS 640, LIS 646, LIS 648, LIS 655, LIS 663, LIS 667, LIS 669, LIS 670, LIS 674, LIS 677, LIS 679, LIS 683, LIS 686, LIS 687, LIS 691, LIS 692, LIS 695, LIS 697, LIS 699, LIS 700, LIS 701, LIS 704, LIS 705, LIS 706, LIS 707, LIS 712, LIS 713, LIS 714, LIS 729, LIS 730, LIS 731, LIS 732, LIS 736, LIS 737, LIS 739, LIS 749, LIS 751, LIS 756, LIS 757, LIS 759, LIS 760, LIS 764, LIS 765, LIS 772, LIS 775, LIS 776, LIS 780, LIS 784, LIS 785, LIS 786, LIS 788, LIS 790, LIS 792, LIS 793, LIS 794, LIS 795, LIS 803, LIS 810, LIS 813, LIS 818.

Published in: *Acta Sociologica, American Economic Review, American Sociological Review, Applied Economics Letters, Canadian Public Policy, Economia Politica, Economic Studies, European Sociological Review, Forum for Social Economics, Health Policy, Italian Economic Journal (3), Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Journal of Economic Issues, Journal of Income Distribution (2), Journal of International Commerce,, Journal of Royal Statistical Society, Papers in Regional Science, Poverty and Public Policy, Research in Social Stratification and mobility, Social Forces, Social Indicators Research, Social Science Quarterly, The Journal of Economic Inequality (2), The Review of Income and Wealth (5), Comparative Sociology, Journal of Comparative Economics, Latin American Policy.*

Note : TP=LIS Technical Paper ; LIS=LIS Working Paper ; LWS=LWS Working Paper