

Perspectives on Inequality and Social Protection

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Akademisk avhandling, för avläggande av filosofie doktorsexamen i freds- och utvecklingsforskning, Institutionen för globala studier, Göteborgs Universitet, som med vederbörligt tillstånd av Samhällsvetenskapliga fakultetsnämnden läggs fram för offentlig granskning fredagen den 30 september 2011, klockan 13.00 i sal 420, Annedalsseminariet, Seminariegatan 1 A, Göteborg.



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG
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Abstract

Holmqvist, Göran (2011), *Perspectives on Inequality and Social Protection*, Ph.D. Thesis in Peace and Development Research, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, Box 700, 405 30 Gothenburg, Sweden.

Language: English with summary in Swedish

ISBN 978-91-628-8322-5 <http://hdl.handle.net/2077/25729>

The dissertation consists of an introductory chapter and four separate articles. Two of the articles investigate the links between income inequality and two increasingly salient development problems, particularly in Latin America and Africa: violent crime and HIV. These two articles connect to a broad literature on how income inequality is related to various social and political outcomes. Previous econometric findings are reviewed, replicated and in some cases questioned. Alternative theories on mechanisms that constitute the link from inequality to these social outcomes are formulated and some preliminary steps are taken to test them against each other. The last two articles focus on specific issues related to the provision of social protection in the form of social transfers: the impact of social pensions on fertility in sub-Saharan Africa and the potential use of external financing to relax the affordability constraint for introducing social transfers in low-income countries. Findings are presented in support of the assumption that the introduction of social pensions would tend to reduce fertility, also in sub-Saharan Africa. The last article discusses and problematizes the use of external financing for social transfers. It points out risks as well as opportunities and suggests innovative aid modalities.

Keywords: income inequality, social transfers, HIV, crime, fertility, social protection, aid, aid modalities

List of publications:

1. "Latin American Crime and the Issue of Inequality", *Iberoamericana, Nordic Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, Vol XXX:2 2000.
2. "HIV and Income Inequality – If there is a link what does it tell us?" International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth/UNDP, Working Paper 54, April 2009.
3. "Fertility Impact of High-coverage Public Pensions in sub-Saharan Africa" *Global Social Policy (forthcoming)*.
4. "External Financing of Social Protection – Opportunities and risks", *Development Policy Review (forthcoming)*.