

Agenda

1. Administrative
2. Cosmopolitanism & climate change
3. Inequality on a global scale
4. Globalization
5. Theories of global inequality
6. Naturalization

Cosmopolitanism & climate change



Remapping social inequalities in an age of climate change: for a cosmopolitan renewal of sociology

1. Format, style, and structure:
What kind of article is this? Who is it written for (audience)? What, broadly speaking, is Beck trying to do with this piece?
2. Substantive argument and content:
Specifically, what is Beck proposing here?
What are some of his main points?

Inequality on a global scale



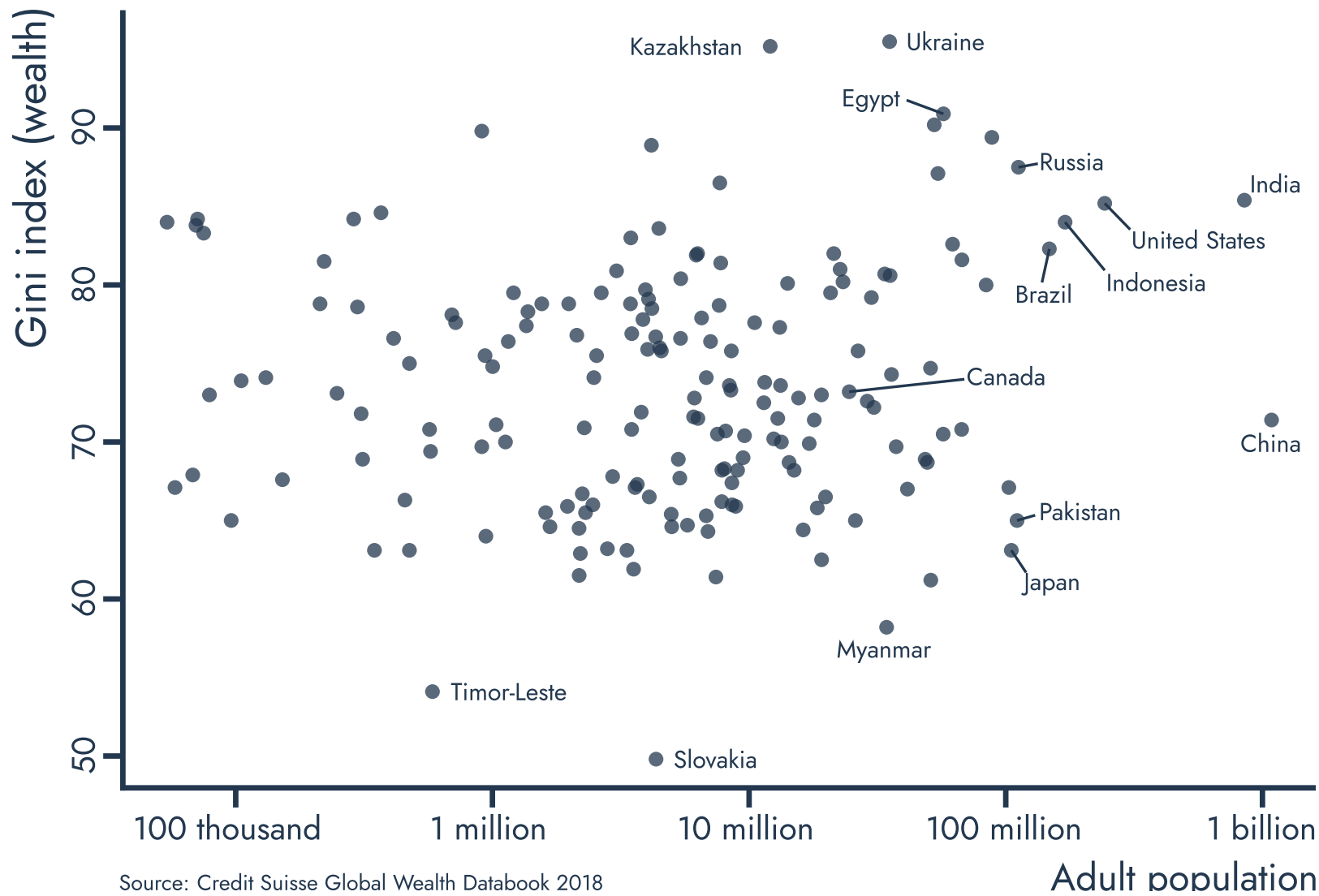


Implicit boundaries

- ⋮ Discussions of inequality imply the selection of a *population*
- ⋮ Most often, this is a political unit such as province or nation-state
- ⋮ Useful to understand, e.g., the effects of policies on inequality or to compare inequality under different governments

Global inequality

- ⋮ What if we look beyond these boundaries?

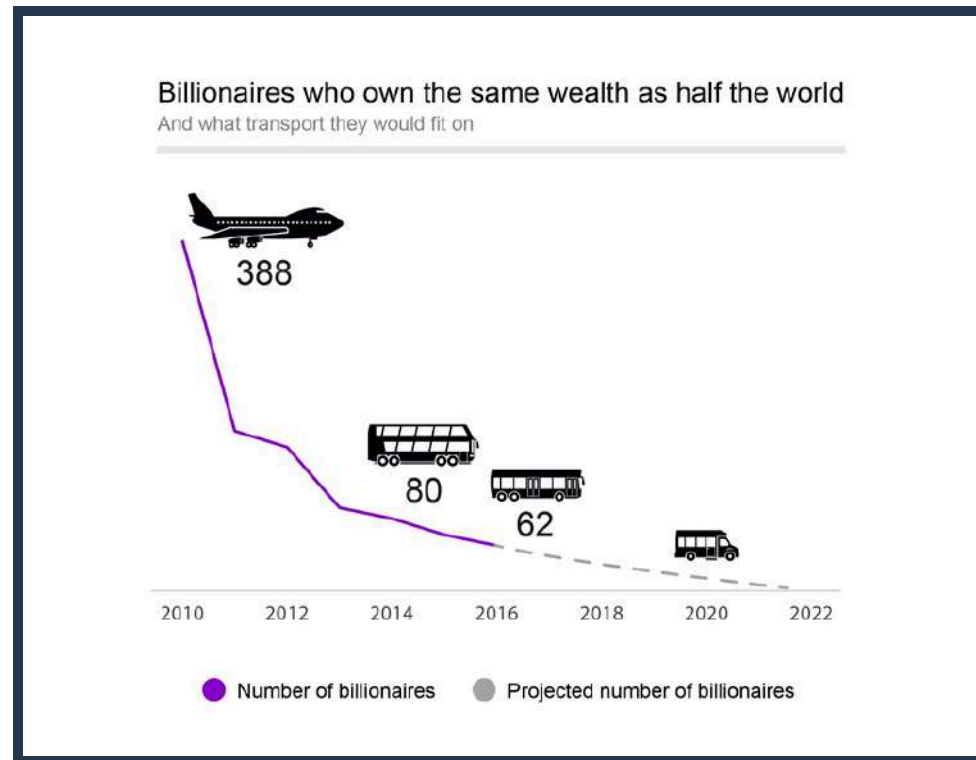




First takeaway

- ∴ Global inequality is severe and getting worse
- ∴ The wealthy are getting (much) wealthier
- ∴ The poor are getting (much) poorer
- ∴ Exacerbated by COVID-19, during which the richest 10 people have doubled their wealth

(Oxfam 2022; c.f. Klein 2015)



Second takeaway

- ∴ The difference between the national frame and the global frame is not just one of scale
- ∴ Inequality has a distinct character in a global context



Global- ization



Globalization is the process of national boundaries becoming less relevant as they become more "porous"

Money and goods

- ∴ "Globalization" often refers just to the globalization of *trade*
- ∴ Trend since the industrial revolution toward cross-national trade that is independent of state influence (taxes, restrictions, ...)
- ∴ Explosive growth in the second half of the 20th century
 - Formal international agreements (NAFTA, EU, ...)
 - Rise of multinational and transnational corporations
- ∴ Corporations become "locationless"

Information

- ∴ Global communication (especially the Internet) has made it easier to interact across national boundaries
- ∴ Harder for government to prevent international communication

People

- ∴ Globalization traditionally meant fewer barriers for migration from country to country
- ∴ In recent years, there has been a strong backlash and restrictions on many borders

Environment

- ∴ Scale of global economy affects shared environment in meaningful, lasting ways
- ∴ "Externalities" ignore national boundaries



Globalization is *not neutral* toward global inequality

Trade

- ∴ The history of colonialism is one of globalized trade reinforcing wealth disparity

Information

- ∴ Those with the means to exploit globalized media have greater influence (marketing campaigns, political influence, etc.)

People

- ∴ Migration is highly imbalanced, and state policies are designed to maintain power differences

Environment

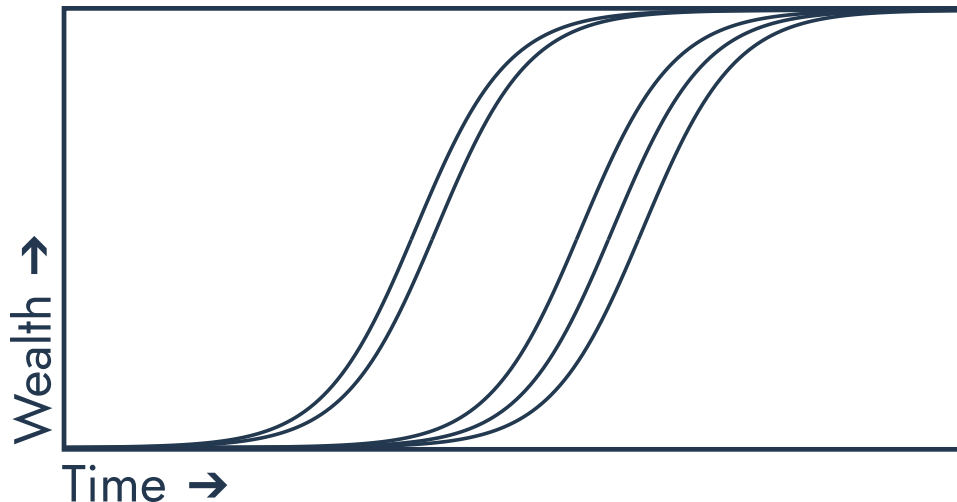
- ∴ The immediate and long-term negative effects of environmental transformation hit the poor hardest (Beck 2010)

Theories of global inequality



Modernization theory

- ∴ Nation-states are all on a path toward full modernization / industrialization
- ∴ Inequality exists because some countries are "ahead" of others
- ∴ Over time, the world will equalize as contrasts diminish
- ∴ *Ignores inter-dependence of nations*



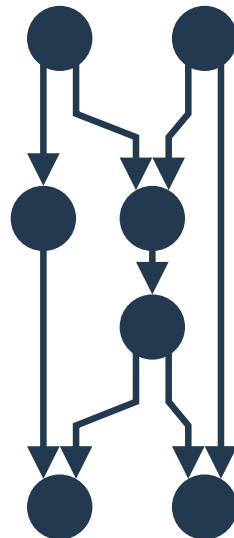
Dependency theory

- ⋮ Wealthy nations keep poor nations dependent

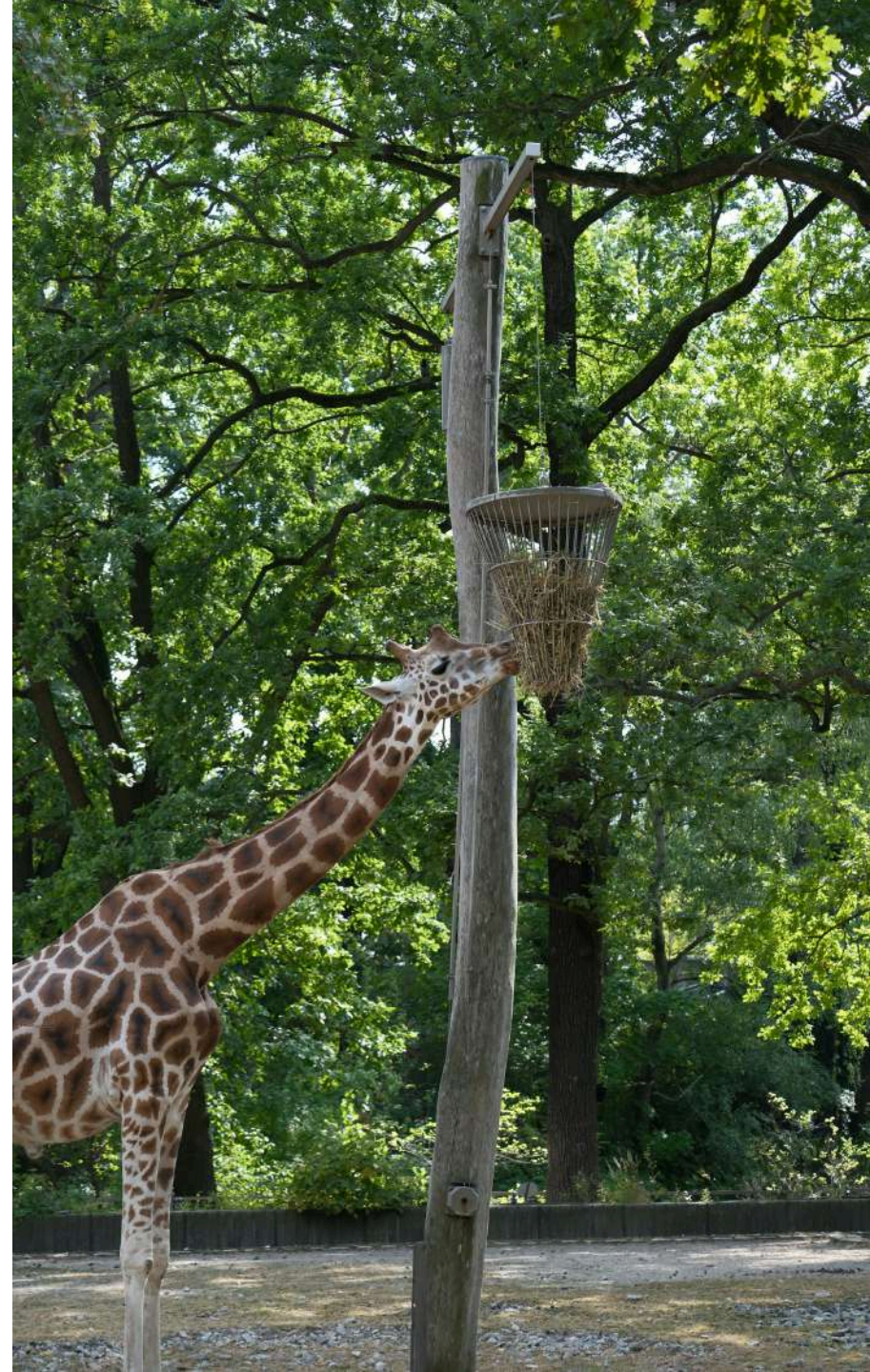
Manufacturing: raw materials extracted, finished goods sold

Finance: World Bank and IMF use debt to maintain relationship

- ⋮ Relationship between wealthy and poor nations maintains inequality by design
- ⋮ Emergent from global colonial history



Natural- ization



Naturalization of inequality

- ∴ Beck (2010, p171)) discusses the *naturalization* of inequality as a result of climate change. What does he mean by that?
- ∴ Thinking back to our discussion on class boundaries and socioeconomic mobility, are there any *other* aspects of inequality (aside from climate change) in which naturalization plays a role?

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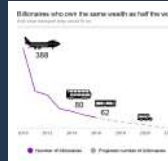


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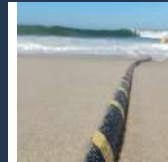


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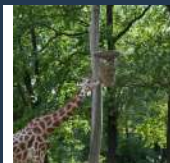


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