

Change in Preferred Levels of Income Inequality: Poland, 1988 – 2003

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ABSTRACT

Rising trends in economic inequality are well-established across many affluent nations. However, researchers have accrued considerably less knowledge regarding the economic attitudes and preferences of individuals living within the context of increasing inequality, especially in developing or transition countries. Using data from four consecutive waves of POLPAN, a panel study of Polish citizens, from 1988 to 2003, we examine change over time in respondent's preferred levels of income inequality. Results of panel regression analysis show that Poles tend to prefer higher levels of income inequality over time. Implications of individuals' evolving benchmarks for preferred levels of inequality are discussed.