

This is a very interesting paper that can bring some light in a long lasting debate in the literature. The empirical analysis is very well done and nicely motivated. However, given the economic significance of the findings the interpretation should probably be formulated more carefully: On average changes in inequality have only added 3 days in life expectancy per year, this does not seem to be a lot. Of course it is also due to the fact that in most countries inequality has changed only slowly. What the paper could still try to explain is under which conditions countries experience a switch from a negative to a positive relationship between inequality and life expectancy. Further research – clearly beyond the scope of this paper - could also explore in more detail the exact channels linking both. Finally, the authors are quite enthusiastic about the WIID and in particular SWIID database. Stephen Jenkins (LSE) recently reviewed both databases and draws some interesting conclusions (see <https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/research/publications/working-papers/iser/2014-31.pdf>).