

# Geography and inequality in Southeast Asia

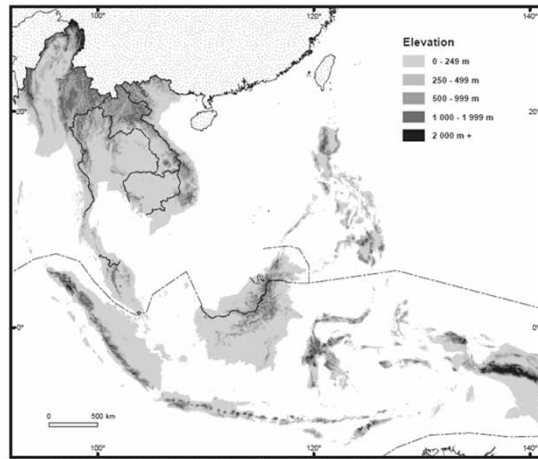
Philip Hirsch  
Professor of Human Geography  
University of Sydney

Ooi Giok Ling Annual Lecture  
Southeast Asian Geography Conference  
Hanoi, 23-27 November 2010

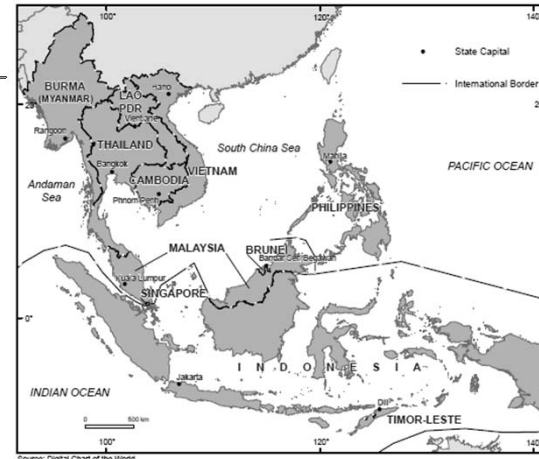
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Geographers thrive on uneven-ness...

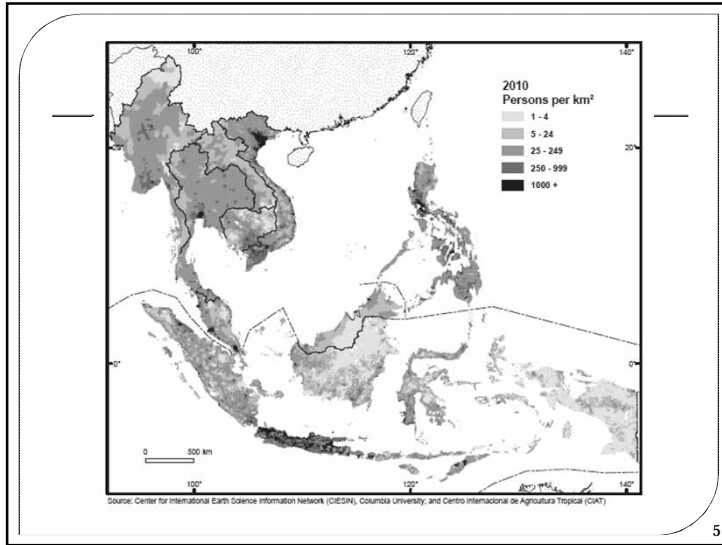
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Geographers thrive on uneven-ness...

...yet we also decry inequality  
as spatial injustice

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### Geography in an unequal world



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### Geography in an unequal world



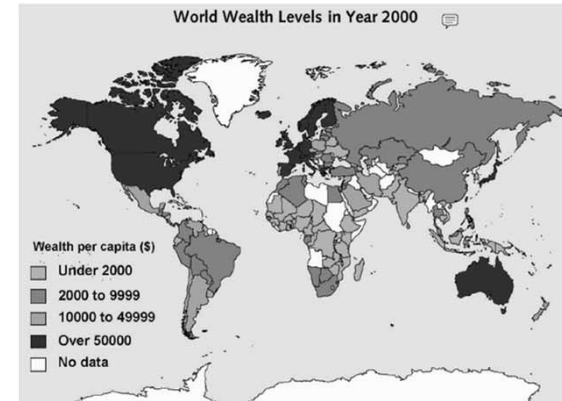
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## Geography in an unequal world



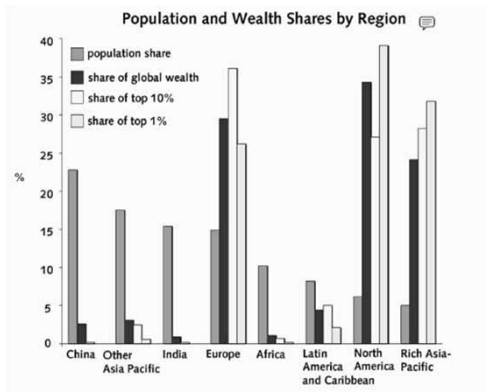
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## Unequal distribution of per capita global wealth



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## Measures of inequality



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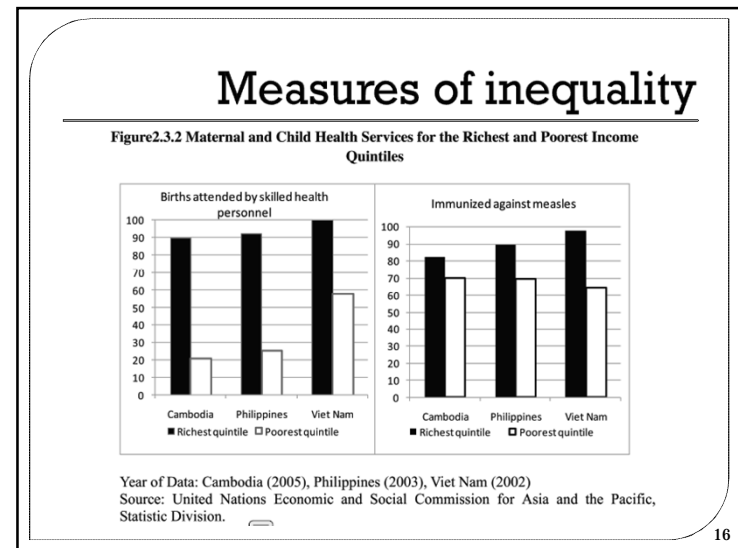
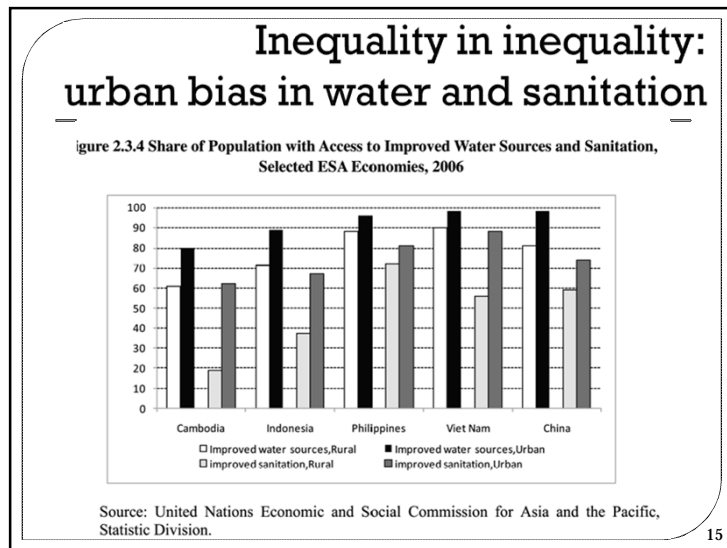
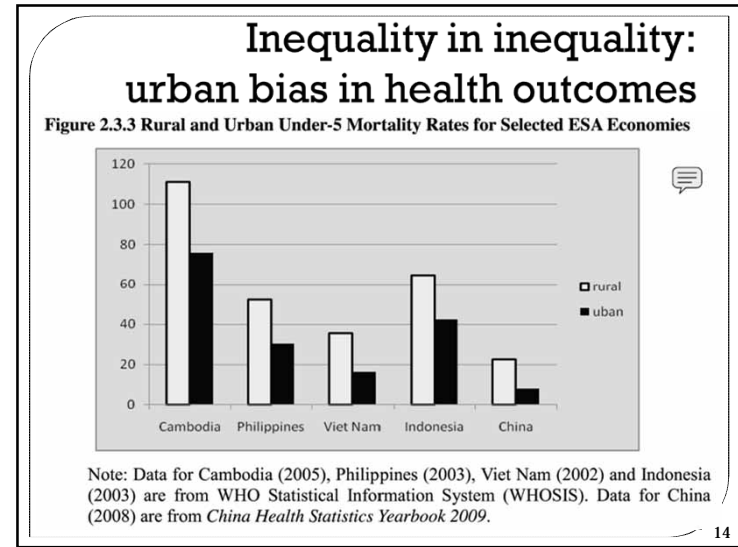
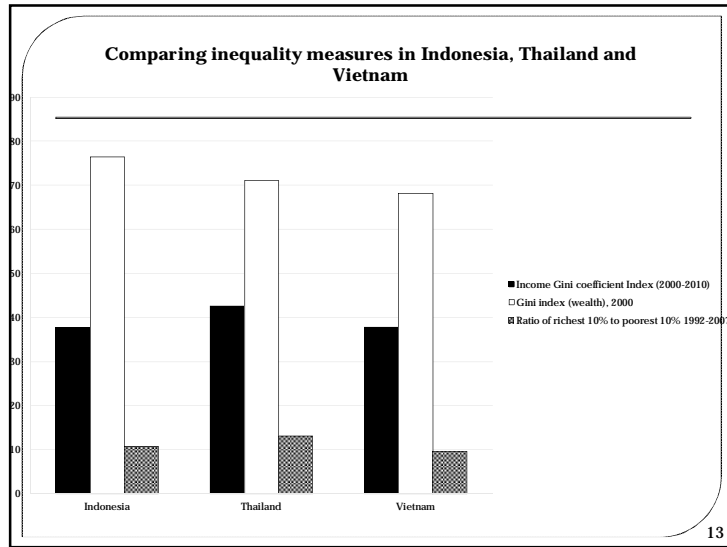
## Measures of inequality: wealth vs income

Table 2.2 Global Wealth Distribution in 2000, PPP Values and Income/Expenditure Gini Coefficients, Various Years for Selected Economies

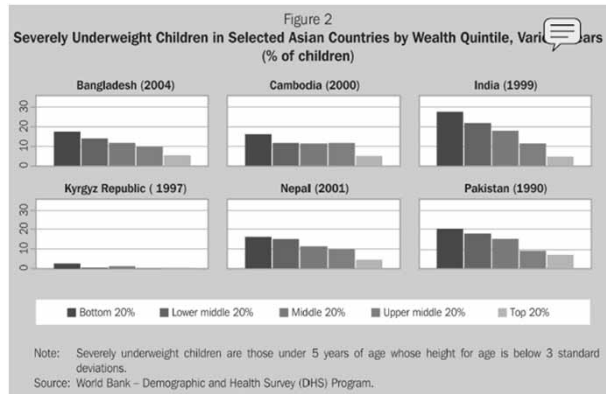
Economy	Wealth Distribution in 2000, PPP Values				Income/Expenditure Gini Coefficient Estimates		
	Top 10%	Top 5%	Top 1%	Wealth Gini	Year	Type	Gini
United States <sup>a</sup>	19.6	23.5	36.8	80.1	2003	Income	46.4
Japan <sup>a</sup>	14.2	15.9	11.7	54.7	1998	Income	33.9
Germany <sup>a</sup>	7.0	8.9	3.9	67.1	1998	Income	25.0
Italy <sup>a</sup>	5.8	5.5	5.3	60.9	2002	Income	35.9
China, People's Rep. of <sup>b</sup>	4.1	1.4	—	55.0	2004	Expenditure	47.3
Spain <sup>a</sup>	3.7	3.2	2.3	36.5	2002	Income	33.0
France <sup>a</sup>	3.5	3.9	5.6	73.0	2002	Income	27.0
Brazil <sup>c</sup>	2.4	2.3	2.3	78.3	2004	Income	57.0
India <sup>a</sup>	2.3	1.2	—	66.9	2004	Expenditure	36.2
Canada <sup>a</sup>	2.0	2.2	2.5	66.3	2000	Income	36.5
Korea, Rep. of <sup>a</sup>	1.8	1.1	0.9	57.9	2004	Income	31.6
Taipei, China <sup>a</sup>	1.7	1.8	1.9	65.4	2003	Income	33.9
Australia <sup>a</sup>	1.7	1.7	1.9	62.2	2000	Income	30.9
Mexico <sup>c</sup>	1.4	1.3	1.2	74.6	2002	Income	53.2
Argentina <sup>c</sup>	1.0	1.0	0.9	74.8	2001	Income	—
Indonesia <sup>b</sup>	0.9	0.7	0.7	76.3	2002	Expenditure	34.1
Thailand <sup>c</sup>	0.5	0.4	0.2	70.7	2002	Expenditure	29.2
Bahrain <sup>c</sup>	0.4	0.3	0.2	65.8	2004	Expenditure	29.2
Bangladesh <sup>c</sup>	0.3	0.2	0.2	65.8	2005	Expenditure	31.1
Viet Nam <sup>c</sup>	0.1	0.1	—	68.1	2004	Expenditure	31.1
Nigeria <sup>c</sup>	—	—	—	—	2003	Expenditure	—
WORLD	100	100	100	80.2			

PPP = purchasing power parity  
<sup>a</sup> Data from wealth levels sourced from household balance sheets.  
<sup>b</sup> Wealth levels sourced from survey data.  
<sup>c</sup> Wealth levels sourced from imputed values.  
 Sources: Wealth distribution from Davies et al (2000). Income/expenditure Gini coefficients from World Institute for Development Economics Research, World Income Inequality Database.

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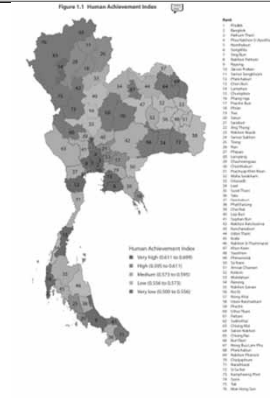


## Inequality in health may be greater than income inequality



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## Measures of inequality: human achievement index: Thailand



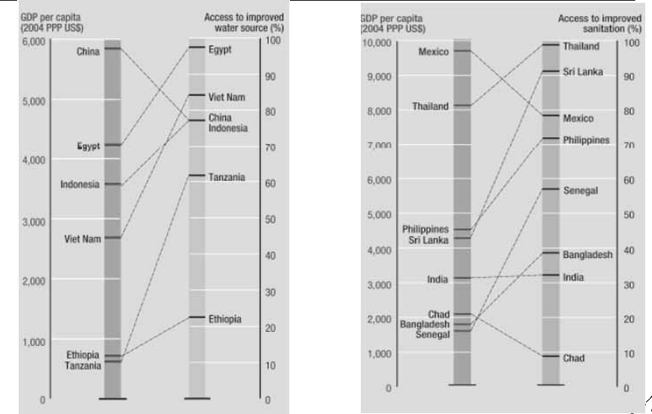
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## Inequality in inequality



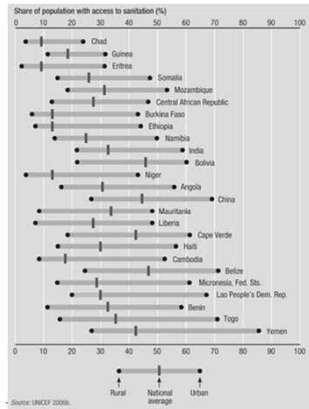
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## Inequality in inequality: income vs water supply & sanitation



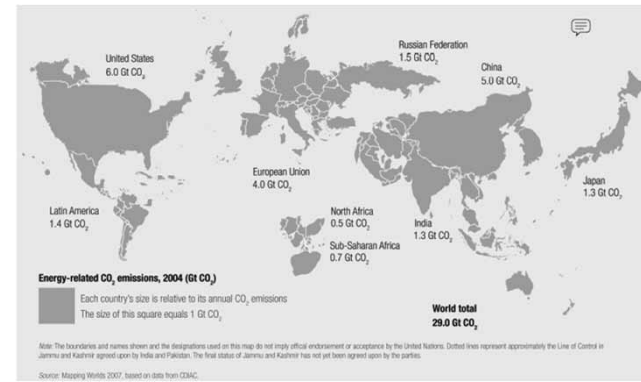
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## Inequality in inequality: between and within countries



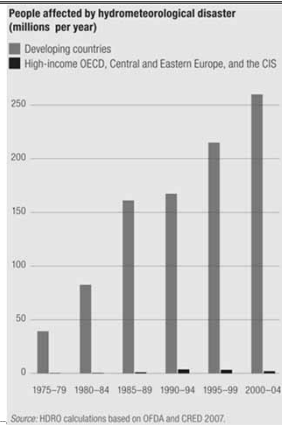
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## Improved environmental performance with wealth?



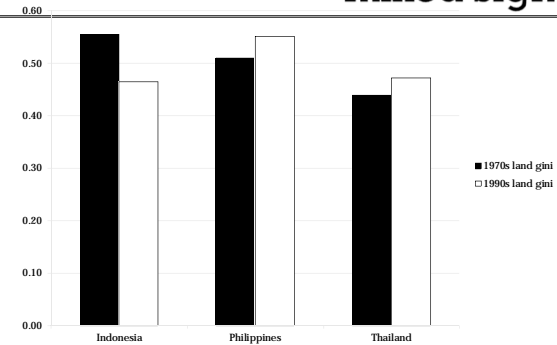
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## Inequality in impact inverse to inequality in responsibility



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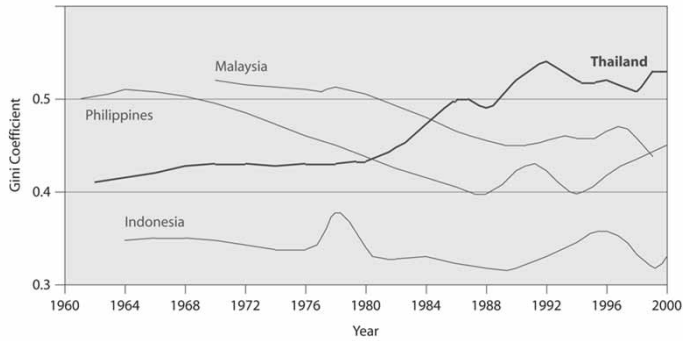
## Change in inequality: mixed signals



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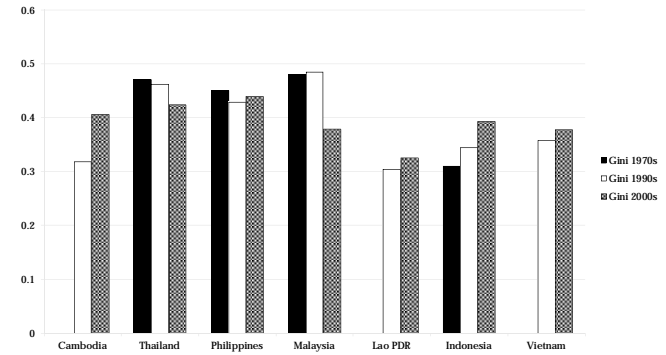
## Inequality on the rise?

Figure 2.3 Trends in inequality (Gini Coefficient), 1960-2000



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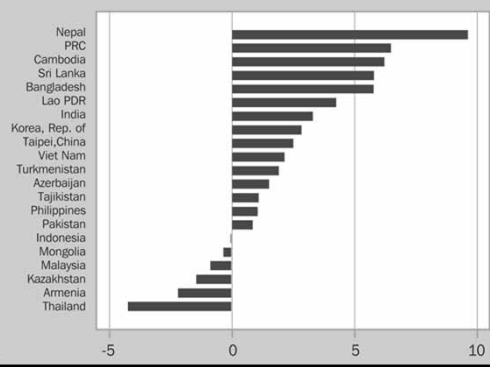
## Income inequality on the rise?



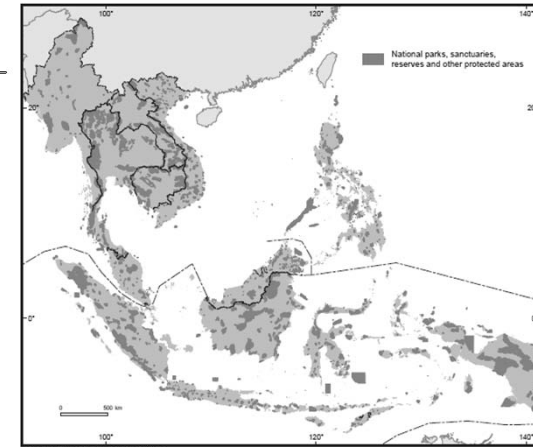
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## Inequality on the rise?

Figure 3 Changes in Gini Coefficient for Expenditure/Income Distributions, 1990s-2000s (percentage points)



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**Summary:**

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**Geography and inequality**

- ◉ Inequality over space
- ◉ Inequality and the environment
- ◉ Inequality in context

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**Summary:**

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**Geography and inequality**

Descriptive

Critical (Analytical)

Critical (Normative/judgmental)

Transformative (policy/advocacy)

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**Thank you**

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