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Essays on trends in income distribution and redistribution in affluent countries and China

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redistribution in affluent countries and China*

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Preface

Rising inequality has been observed in many parts of both developed and developing worlds over the last decades. This can be attributed to several factors such as government redistribution, labour market development and demographic changes. Understanding what roles these factors play is helpful for us to tackle the worsening income distribution. I was fortunate to have spent four years of research on such a stimulating subject, leading to this dissertation that consists of a collection of refereed journal articles and two other papers with one under review and another ready for submission.

I am very grateful to the Department of Economics at Leiden University for providing an excellent environment of academic freedom. In particular, I wish to thank Professors Koen Caminada and Kees Goudswaard for their enthusiastic supervision, encouragement and intellectual inputs. Appreciation also goes to colleagues at the Department of Economics, the Stichting Instituut Gak funded research programme 'Reforming Social Security' and Chinese Scholarship Council for their various assistance.

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