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

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Citation

Wang, C. (2015, February 19). *Essays on trends in income distribution and redistribution in affluent countries and China*. Meijers-reeks. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/32025>

Version: Corrected Publisher's Version

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

Issue Date: 2015-02-19

Propositions relating to the dissertation

ESSAYS ON TRENDS IN INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND
REDISTRIBUTION IN AFFLUENT COUNTRIES AND CHINA

by Chen Wang

1. From the mid-1980s to the mid-2000s, income inequality has increased remarkably in OECD countries. This was mainly caused by the increase in market income inequality.
2. The tax and benefit system in OECD countries is essential for the reduction of income inequality. In most countries, transfers play the dominant role in reducing initial income disparities.
3. State old-age and survivors benefits are the most important contributor to income redistribution in European countries, followed by social assistance benefits and benefits for sickness, occupational injury and disease.
4. The member states of the European Union have committed themselves to social investment through the adoption of the Lisbon Strategy in 2000 to achieve a more equal society with more social cohesion and less poverty. However, the social investment strategy has not been successful in reducing poverty.
5. Waning trade union power is associated with higher levels of earnings inequality.
6. Before its economic reform in the late 1970s, Chinese society had an egalitarian income distribution. Since then China has experienced a sizable and increasing income inequality, largely attributable to urban-rural gaps.

7. Globalisation leads to higher income disparity in China.
8. The household registration system (Hukou system) in China leads to a segregated labour market. It should be further reformed to improve labour mobility and reduce income inequality.
9. Thinking and planning before doing leads to more efficient research.
10. A power nap at noon gives you more power in the afternoon.