Seminar on "Evaluating Distributional Differences in Income Inequality: Capturing Glass-Ceiling/Floor Effects."

Organised by Department of Sociology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Speaker: Professor Tim Liao, Professor of Sociology and Professor of Statistics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Date: 3March 2016 (Thursday)
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Venue: Conference room (Room 422), 4/F, Sino Building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Map)
Enquiries: (852) 3943 6271 / sociology@cuhk.edu.hk

Abstract

Income and wage inequality between gender and other social groups is commonly evaluated by the difference in average income or the decomposition of the total amount of inequality into between-group and within-group components using an inequality measure such as the Theil index. Either approach ignores the dispersionsal difference between social groups, often manifested in glass-ceiling and glass-floor effects. The author introduces a refined Theil decomposition that offers two ways of capturing such between-group distributional differences. An analysis of income data from 10 European countries illustrates the usefulness of the proposed evaluation and decomposition methods.

Biography

Professor Tim F. Liao is Professor of Sociology and Professor of Statistics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He served as Head of the Sociology Department from 2004 to 2009. He was Chair of the Methodology Section, the American Sociological Association (2009-2011). He edited Sage’s Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences series from 2004 to 2009 and is Editor of Sociological Methodology (2009-2015). He conducts research in the areas of social statistics, historical and comparative demography, and collective memory. His current research focuses on visualization and testing in sequence analysis, estimating social stratification from data, and measuring structural inequality. His recent publications include “How to Find an Appropriate Clustering for Mixed Type Variables with Application to Socioeconomic Stratification” (with discussion) in Journal of Royal Statistical Society Series C (2013, with Christian Hennig) and “Visualizing Sequences in the Social Sciences: Relative Frequency Sequence Plots” in Sociological Methods & Research (2014, with Anette Fasang).