

# **Income inequality and economic development in the very long run: Portugal 1500-1910**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This paper surveys the evolution of income and wealth inequality in Portugal from the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. By utilizing new income and wealth data from an important historical university city, Coimbra, we are able to calculate a plethora of inequality measures across this large period, and we are able to investigate the interactions between income inequality and Portuguese economic development in the very long run. In addition, this research also presents new evidence on nominal and real wages for a wide variety of professional categories (including builders, doctors, university professors, and low skilled workers), as well as on the evolution of wages premiums. We conclude that inequality tended to rise in periods of low economic activity, but decreased in more dynamic periods.