

# Social Mobility and Inequality of Opportunity in Mexico

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# Plan of the presentation

Social Mobility  
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- Three facts on Mexico relevant for this lecture
- A (very) brief history of the study of social mobility in Mexico
- The newest data sources and their characteristics
- Some recent results on social mobility and inequality of opportunity for the Mexican case
- Some questions still unresolved

# 1a. High Inequality

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Figure 1: Distribution by Income Deciles, circa 2012

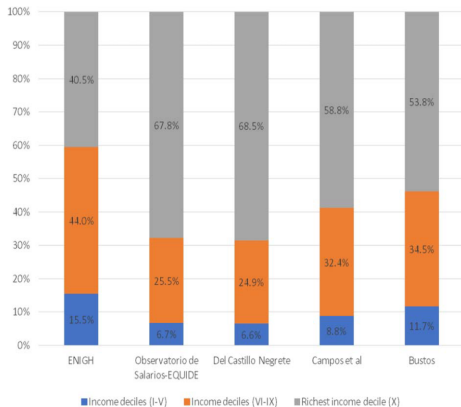


Figure 9. Distribution by Income Deciles: ENIGH vs. Alternative Estimates in Mexico  
Source: Campos et al. (2014); Del Castillo Negrete (2015); INEGI (2015b); Observatorio de Salarios-EQUIDE (2016).

## 1b. High Inequality

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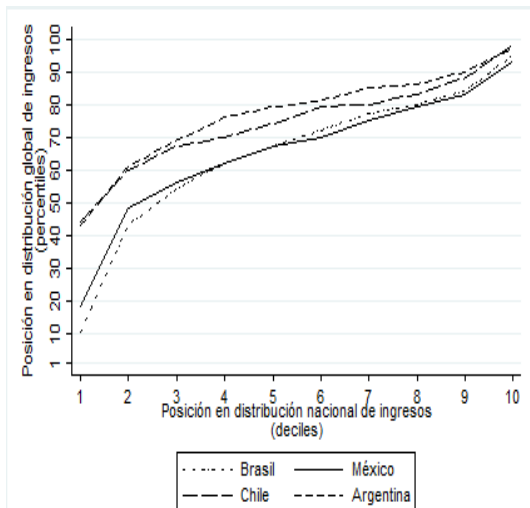
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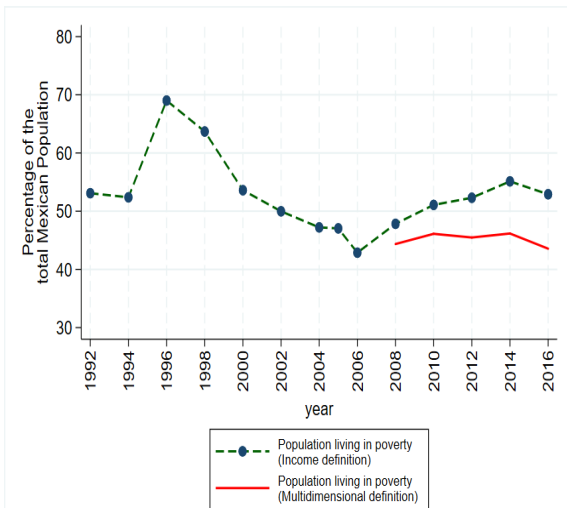
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Figure 2: Mexicans in the World Income Distribution, 2008



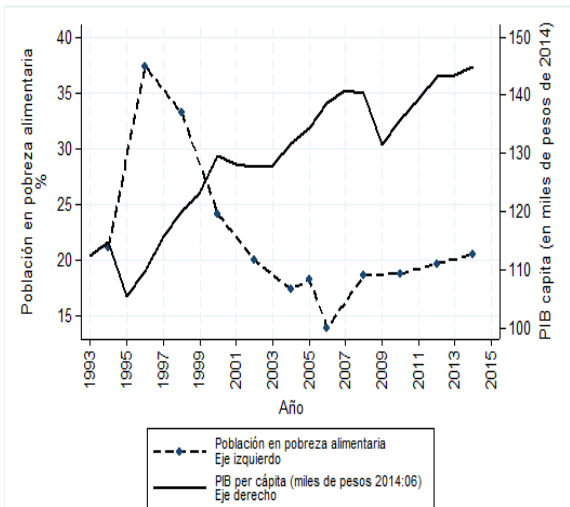
## 2. High Levels of Poverty

Figure 3: Population in poverty, 1992-2016



### 3. Slow (and not pro-poor) economic growth

Figure 4: Population in extreme poverty and GDP per capita



# Brief History

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- 1965: focus on the effects of rapid economic growth on occupational mobility in Monterrey and Mexico City.
- 1985-1994: focus on the effects of the "Lost Decade" on occupational mobility in the larger cities of Mexico.
- 2006: First national representative retrospective survey for the male population (EMOVI 2006), Allows analysis on educational and household wealth mobility.
- 2011: EMOVI 2011 includes information on both female and male population. Almost the same questionnaire as EMOVI 2006.

# General Characteristics

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- Due to resource constraints, all the recent surveys dedicated to the study of social mobility are retrospective cross sectional surveys.
- The age of reference for the respondent is 14 years old. This age is a compromise between the intention of capturing the conditions of the origin household and minimizing the recall bias.
- To minimize the recall bias (which generates measurement error), the surveys do not ask about the income of parents. Instead, ask about household assets.



- Representative sample of men (household heads) between 25-64 years old.
- Representative at the national, rural and urban levels.
- Basic questionnaire includes retrospective questions on origin household characteristics, parental educational attainment and occupational status of the parent. It also includes questions on perceived mobility.
- Sample size: 7,288 observations.

# EMOVI 2011

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- Representative sample of men and women (household heads and non household heads) between 25-64 years old.
- Representative at the national, rural and urban levels.
- Basic questionnaire equal to the one employed in EMOVI 2006.
- Adds information regarding parental expectations on educational achievements of the children.
- Sample size: 11,001 observations.

# EM-COLMEX 2015

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- Representative sample of fathers or mothers and children with an age between 12-18 years old who inhabit communities with more than 100,000 inhabitants.
- Same basic questionnaire as EMOVI 2006 and EMOVI 2011.
- Adds information regarding preferences, cognitive and socio-emotional abilities of parents and children.
- Sample size: 2,616 observations.

- Representative sample of men and women (household heads and non household heads) between 25-64 years old.
- Representative at the national, rural and urban levels.
- Basic questionnaire equal to the one employed in EMOVI 2006, EMOVI 2011.
- Adds information regarding self reported skin tone, using the tone scale developed for the Project on Race and Ethnicity in Latin America.
- Sample size: 25,634 observations.

# EMOVI 2017

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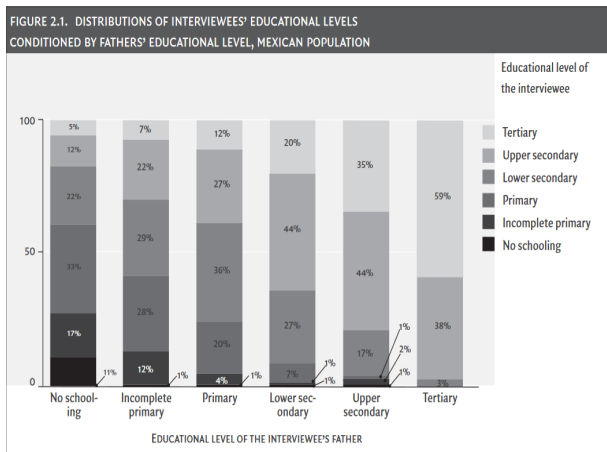
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- Representative sample of men and women (household heads and non household heads) between 25-64 years old.
- Representative at the national, rural, urban, and for 5 regions of Mexico and Mexico City.
- Basic questionnaire equal to the one employed in EMOVI 2006, EMOVI 2011.
- Adds detail to the information regarding health and access to medical/social security facilities and information on skin color as MMSI 2016.
- Sample size: 17, 692 observations.

# Educational mobility, 2011



Notes:

1. Educational classification for the interviewee and father considers grades completed after primary education.
2. In order to obtain representativeness in the Mexican population between 25 and 64 years of age, a sample weighting was applied. The results may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Source: By author with data from EMOVI-2011.

# Occupational mobility, 2011

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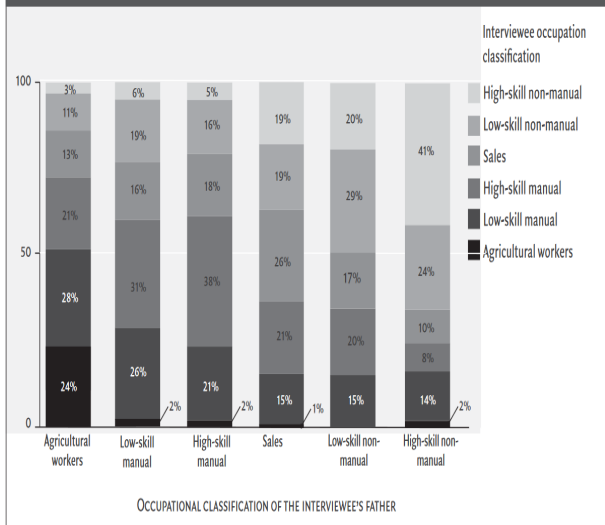
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FIGURE 2.2. OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS FOR TWO GENERATIONS, MEXICAN POPULATION



# Household wealth mobility, 2016

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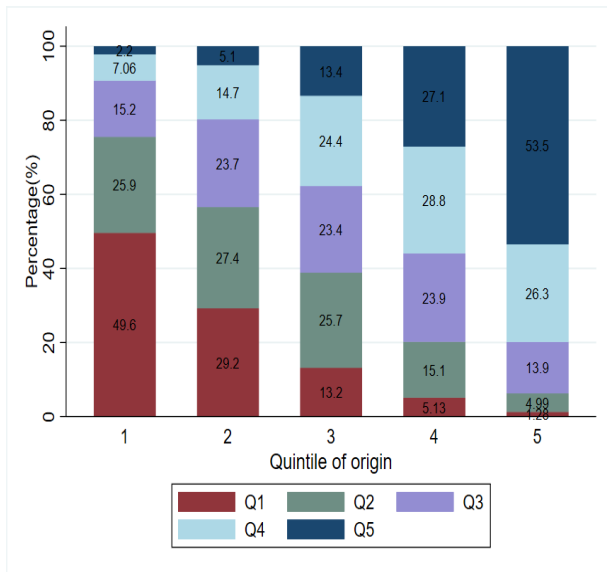
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# Rank-Rank regression, Total Population 2016

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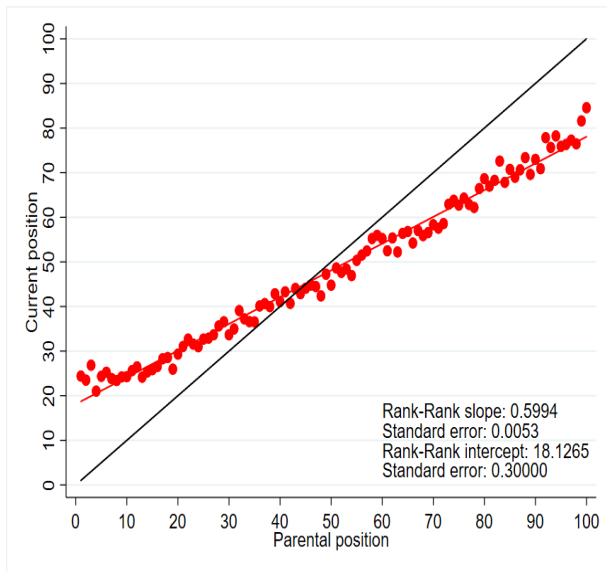
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# Rank-Rank regression, Population by skin color 2016

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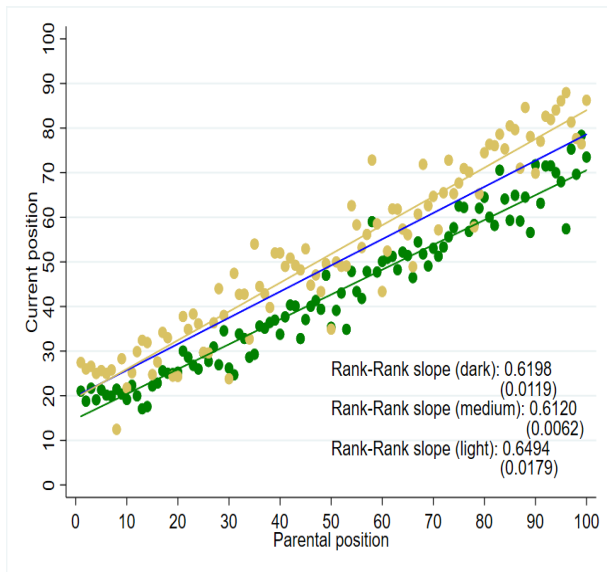
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# Composition of the First Quintile, by Skin Color and Quintile of Origin 2016

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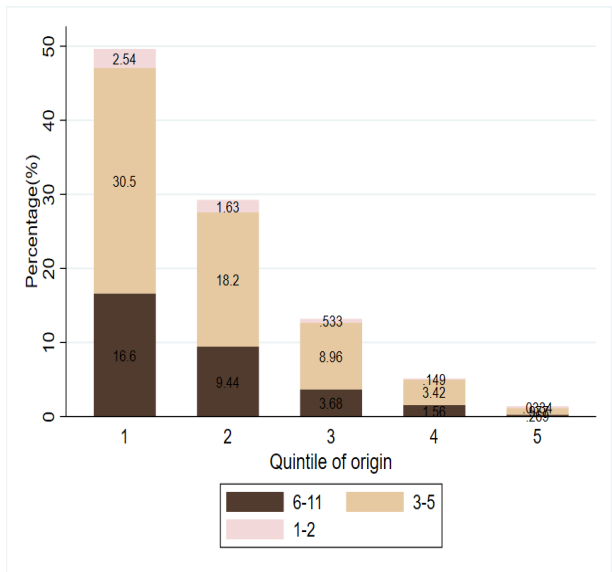
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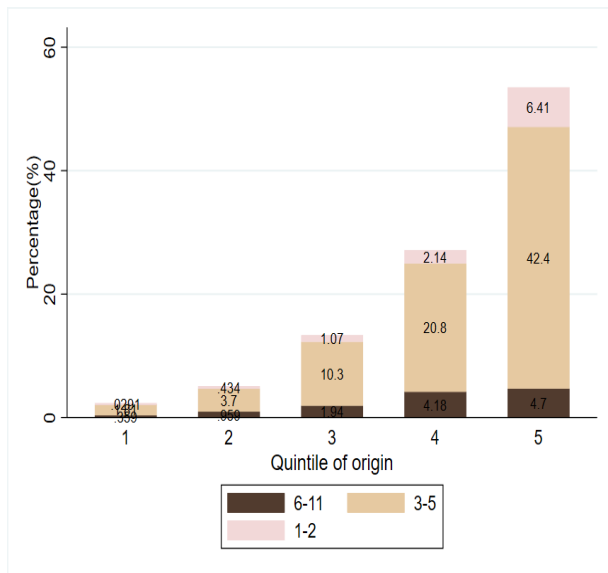
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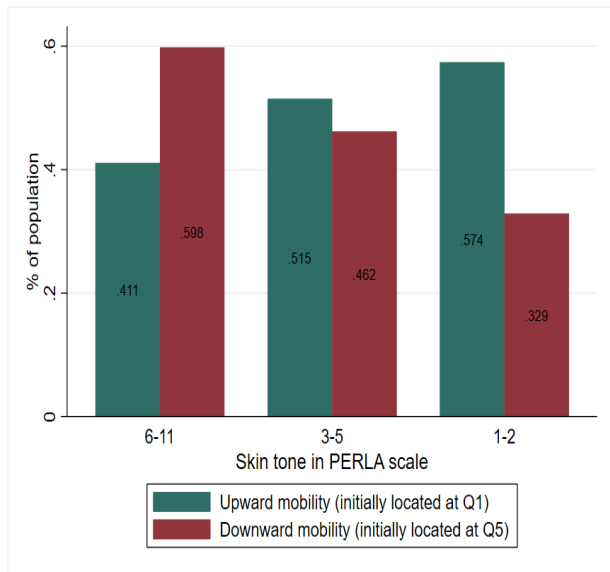
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# Direction of social mobility, by skin color



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# Inequality of opportunity, different circumstance sets 2016

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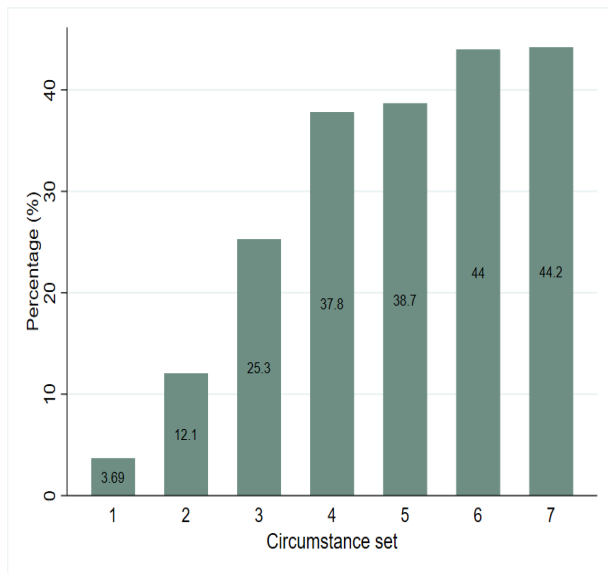
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# Inequality of opportunity, different circumstance sets 2016

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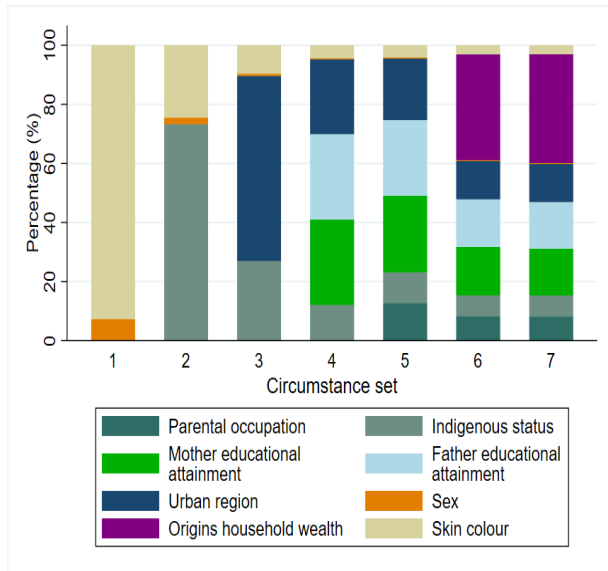
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# Inequality of opportunity, top and bottom quintiles 2016

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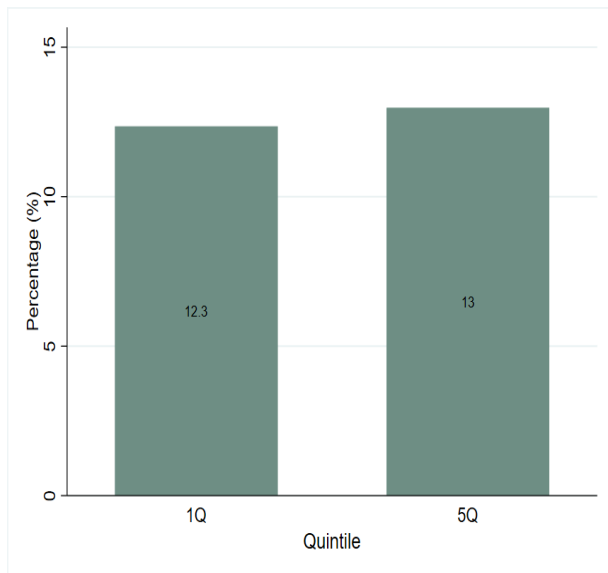
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# Inequality of opportunity, top and bottom quintiles 2016

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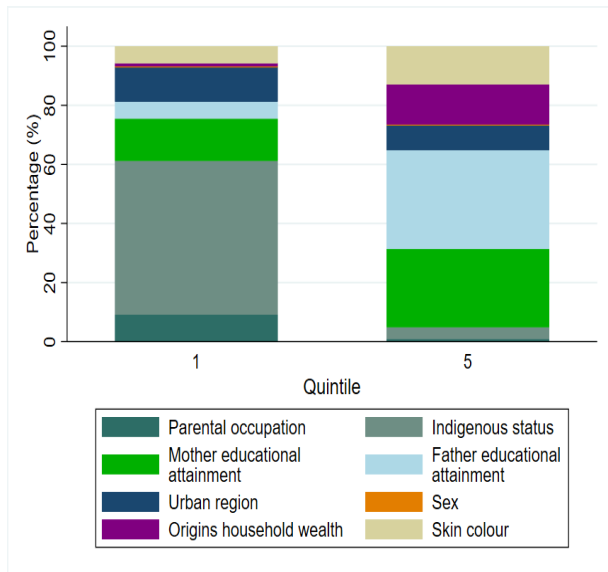
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# Conclusions

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- Are there any nonlinearities on social mobility/inequality of opportunity for the Mexican case?
- What explains the disassociation between educational/occupational mobility and household wealth mobility?.
- To what degree is the original distribution of household wealth and educational attainment based on skin color lines?.
- What is the political economy behind these results? What makes a low mobility, high inequality and high poverty equilibrium stable?

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