

Pierre Yared

Associate Professor of Business

Columbia University

Global Justice Forum 2014 Presentation, Panel 1

Abstract

The purpose of this panel is to discuss current trends in income inequality. By many measures, income inequality has increased in the United States over the last thirty years. The discussion in the popular press surrounds the top one percent of tax units, who saw their share of pre-tax market income more than double between 1979 and 2007. In fact, even within the one percent, income inequality has also grown dramatically. Though some commentators fear that this increase in inequality should lead to declining mobility, there is no strong evidence to date that there has been a noticeable change in income mobility. The purpose of this panel is to explore the following questions: What is driving this trend in increasing inequality? Is income inequality a problem to be addressed by government? If so, what is the best way for the government to intervene?