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The Role of Constitutions on Poverty: A Cross-National Investigation

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Highlights

- Do economic and social rights provisions in constitutions reduce poverty, measured as headcount income and health outcomes?
- Second, does the strength of constitutional language of the economic and social rights matter?
- Using new historical data on economic and social rights from the constitutions of 195 countries, we find a strong negative association between economic and social rights framed as enforceable law and poverty when we use legal origin as our instrument.

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