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Authors: Daniel Halvarsson, Martin Korpi, Karl Wennberg

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Entrepreneurship and Income Inequality

Daniel Halvarsson

Ratio Institute
Po Box
Stockholm, Sweden
E-mail: daniel.halvarsson@ratio.se

Martin Korpi **

Ratio Institute
Stockholm Sweden
E-mail: martin.korpi@ratio.se

Karl Wennberg

Institute for Analytical Sociology (IAS)
Linköping University
60174 Norrköping
Sweden
E-mail: karl.wennberg@liu.se

** Corresponding author.

Highlights

- Our models suggest entrepreneurship as having a polarizing effect on inequality
- Self-employment increases bottom-end dispersion, explaining around 30% of variation
- Incorporated self-employed contribute to top-end inequality, explaining around 10%
- Evidence suggest overall modest micro-level link to aggregate level developments

Abstract: Entrepreneurship research highlights entrepreneurship as a simultaneous source of enhanced income mobility for some but a potential source of poverty for others. Research on inequality has furthered new types of models to decompose and problematize various sources of income inequality, but attention to entrepreneurship as an increasingly prevalent occupational choice in these models remains scant. This paper seeks to bridge these two literatures using regression-based income decomposition among entrepreneurs and paid workers distinguishing between self-employed (SE) and incorporated self-employed (ISE)

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