TITLE: Sticky income inequality in the Spanish transition, 1973–1990

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ABSTRACT: This paper investigates the evolution of income inequality in Spain during its transition to democracy, suggesting a method for the correction of under–reporting of earnings and profits in the Household Budget Surveys’ data. The contribution is twofold: the methodological proposal, based on income–expenditure discrepancy and scaling–up to National Accounts, improves on previous work and can be useful for similar historical sources in other countries. Second, its application results in an alternative history of the distribution of income in this case, changing the levels and also the observed trend. Previous literature asserted a substantial equalisation, related to the democratisation process, while after the adjustment inequality in disposable income is shown to have been quite persistent.

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