

Peer Review

Review of: "Carbon Inequality: Resolving Contradictory Results From Two Different Approaches"

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An interesting paper. A few hurried comments.

1. I assume all the GHG emissions in this paper are consumption-based, not production-based?
2. Your country-level data in Figure 1 is interesting, though it still reveals considerable inequality.
3. Your comment on p.2 comparing Chancel's static, stock figures with population drivers over three decades is invalid: comparing distribution at points in time with changes over time.
4. I agree with your criticism of Chancel that it is invalid to group together, for distribution purposes, private consumption, public spending, and investment spending. As I understand it, he uses data on the distribution of consumption emissions to determine the distribution of investment emissions. I cannot understand why more wealthy investors should favour more emission-intense forms of investment. This is different from your own critique on p.5
5. You write on p.6 'When focusing on consumption alone ... carbon footprint is proportional or even less than proportional to income.' This is true; emissions elasticity reduces as we move from wealth to income to expenditure. But it still means that richer consumers emit more....
6. I was looking forward to your case to combine the two approaches by identifying 'excessive consumption', but you did not do so. This is a complex and much-researched task, but you do not cite any references. If I can refer to my own work, I would cite, among others, Gough, Ian (2017) *Recomposing consumption: defining necessities for sustainable and equitable well-being*. Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences, 375 (2017). p. 20160379. ISSN 1364-503X. Also Gough, Ian (2020) *Defining floors and ceilings: the contribution of human needs theory*. Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy, 16 (1). 208 - 219. ISSN 1548-7733





Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.