

# Review of: "Who Belongs to the Middle Class? Identifying Them Using Monthly Family Income"

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This reviewer focuses on social class – and thus middle class – definition, and thus the methodological procedure to obtain a snapshot of the class structure, and specifically the middle class, of a given society at a given point in time. This seems to be the aim of the study as it is stated in the abstract (“[...] outline the method of using family income to identify the middle class of a country [...] using the monthly median income of a country. [...]”)

Given this goal, one may expect a methodological article that builds upon and goes beyond previous and similar works. In this regard, Peilin Li's "China's Path to Overcoming the Double Middle-Income Traps" (China & World Economy, pp. 28–44, Vol. 25, No. 6., 2017) would be at hand.

One could also expect an external validation of the method. As with any other procedure to obtain a picture of a society's class structure, pinpointing the middle class, this one is also a means to an end. The point then would be to undoubtedly put forward what this end can be. Perhaps adding what can be analytically achieved, such as the household distribution by social class, by employing the method presented should suffice.

The definition of social class does not automatically equate with the method devised, which does not necessarily restrict the socioeconomic strata to a given number. The class structure hinges upon the social class definition. Accordingly, social classes tend to be fractioned. Considering the income range of the middle class in this study, it is likely that the households closer to the lower income limit are socially different from those nearer the upper income limit.