Exploitation in the United States, 1975-2018

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Abstract: This paper proposes a novel index to empirically measure exploitation at the individual level. First provide an axiomatic characterisation of the paper based a small set of properties that capture the key insights of Marxian exploitation theory. Then we should that the index correlates with important outcomes, such as health, happiness, and class status, and that it provides interesting insights on political views in line with recent work on electoral behaviour. Finally, the complete distribution of exploitation in the US population is derived and its dynamics explored over the last six decades.