



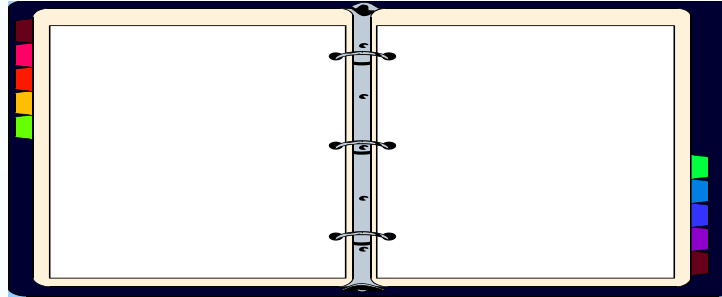
# **Inequality and Opportunities beyond High School**

**Jamil Salmi**

**University of Luxembourg, 20 January 2016**

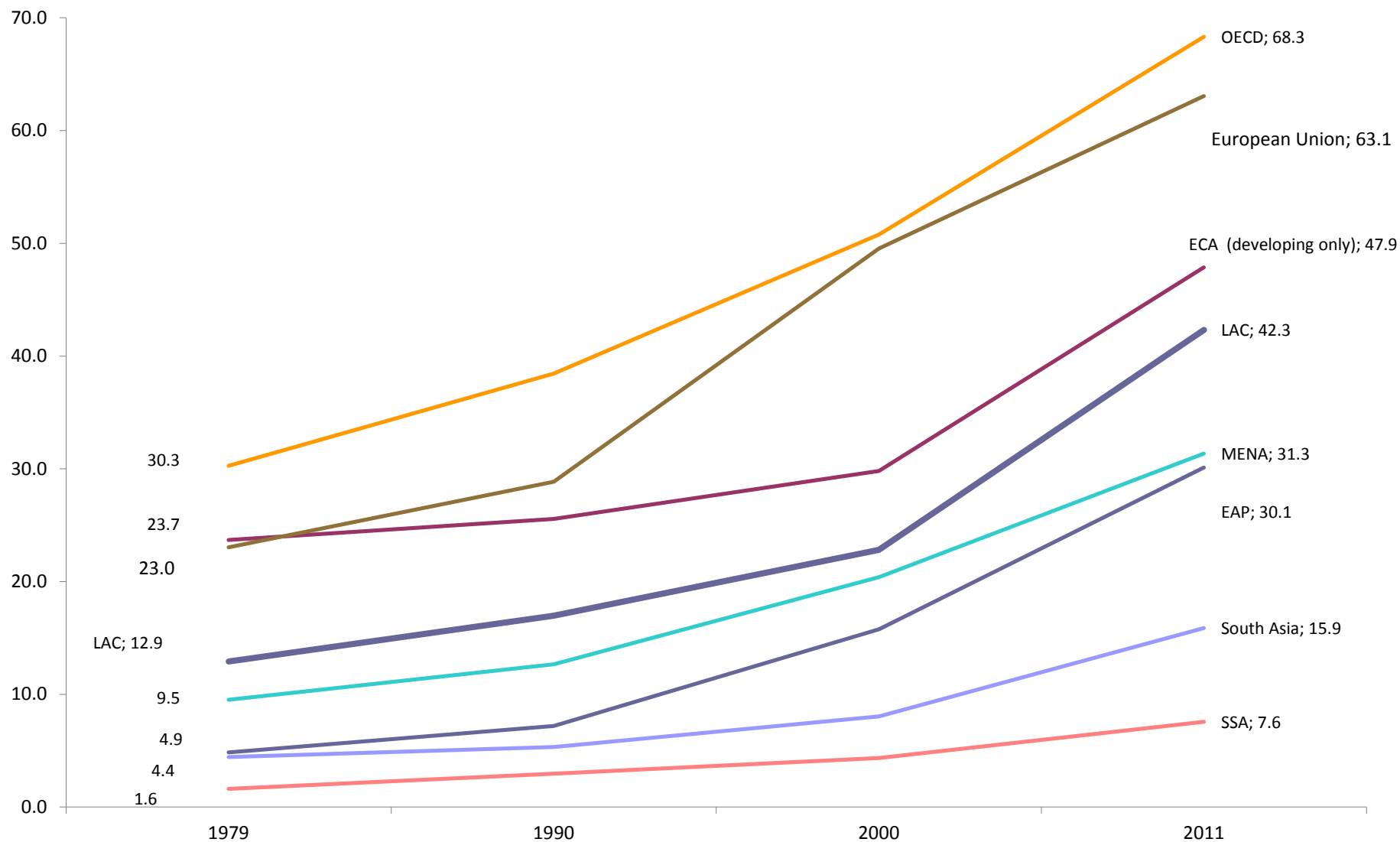


# Outline



- Why equity matters
- Determinants of inequality
- Equity promotion policies

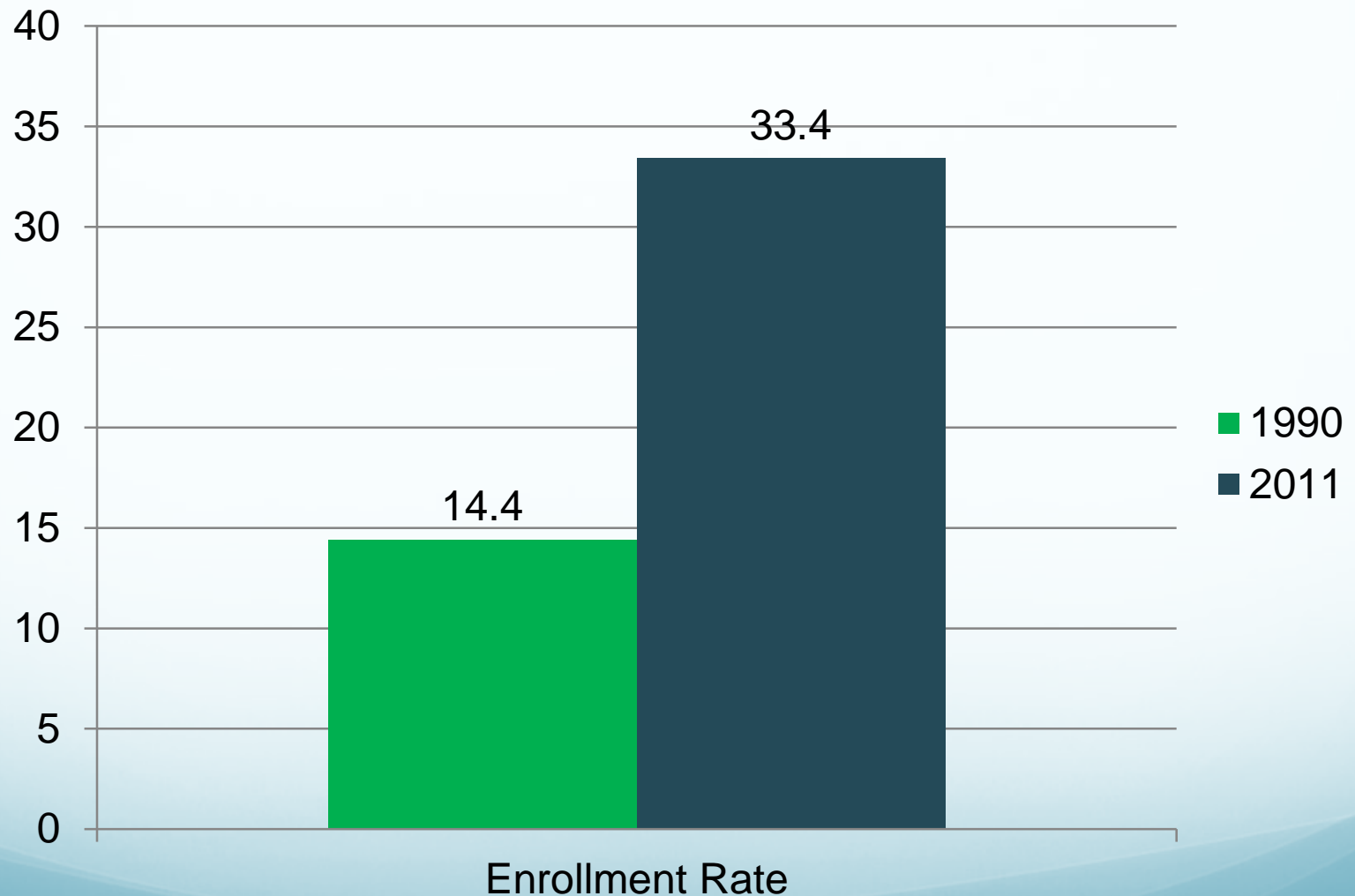
# Evolution of Tertiary Education Enrollments Rates (1979 – 2011)



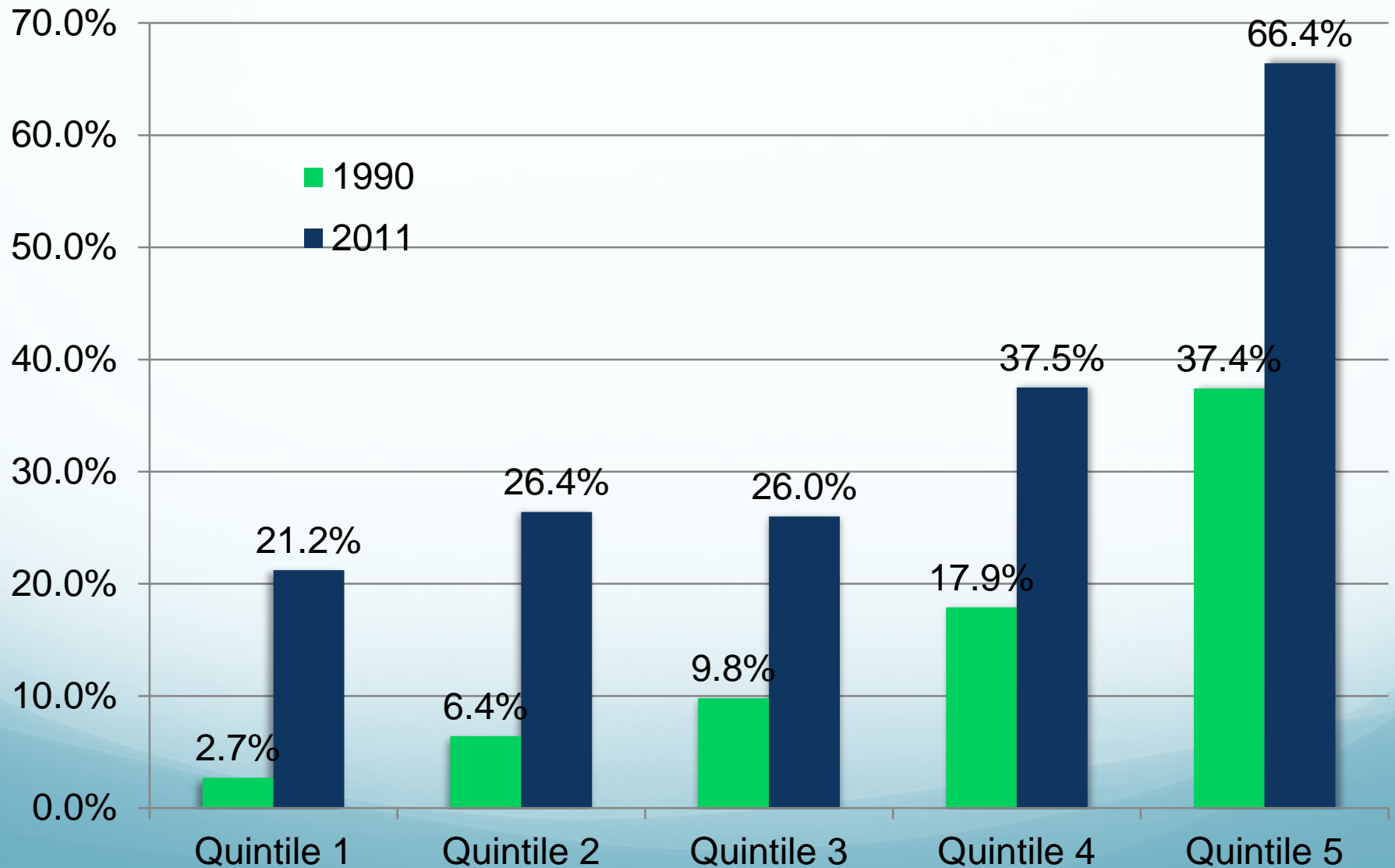
# Observation

- in spite of rapid enrollment growth world-wide, tertiary education remains largely elitist, with strong disparities in access and success persisting in high, middle and low income countries

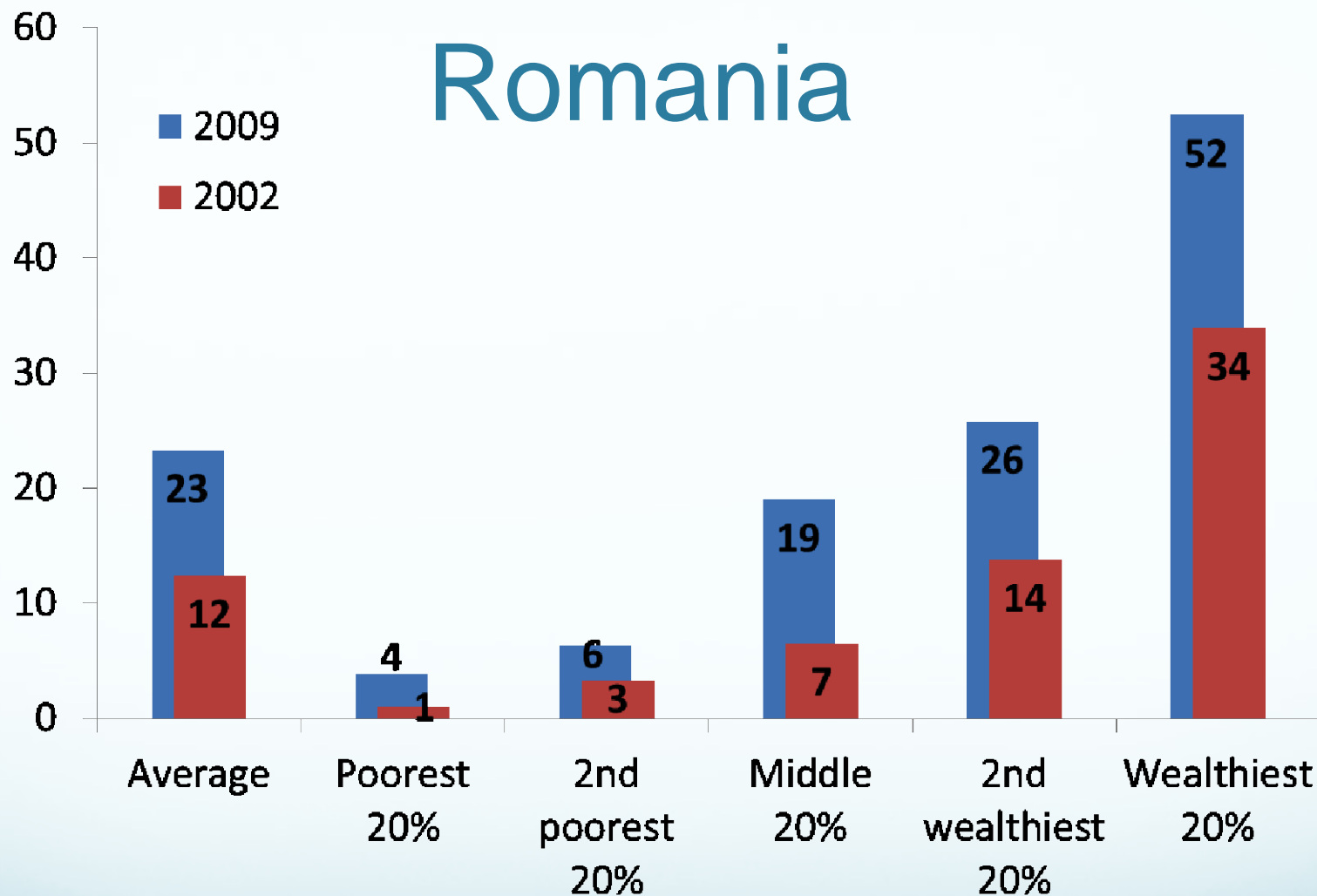
# Tertiary coverage in Chile (%)



# Enrollment rate per income quintile (1990 – 2011)




# Romania



# The equity imperative: social and economic cost

- social justice
  - 62 richest people on Planet Earth = 3.5 billion people in lowest income groups
  - risk of political instability

A man with a beard, glasses, a nose ring, and a flat cap is sitting on a concrete sidewalk. He is wearing a black jacket over a graphic t-shirt and dark pants. He is holding a white rectangular sign with both hands. The sign has handwritten text in black ink. The background consists of a dark, leafy ground with scattered yellow and brown leaves.

One day the  
poor will have  
nothing left  
to eat  
but the rich.

# The equity imperative: social and economic cost

- social justice
  - 62 richest people on Planet Earth = 3.5 billion people in lowest income groups
  - risk of political instability
- loss of talent
  - Roma children
  - Loss in productivity and taxes

# a genius in all of us?



THINKSTOCK

# a tale of two chemistry Nobel prize winners (almost...)



Lord Rutherford



Sir Chris Langan

# Lord Rutherford



Chris Langan, the most  
intelligent man in the US



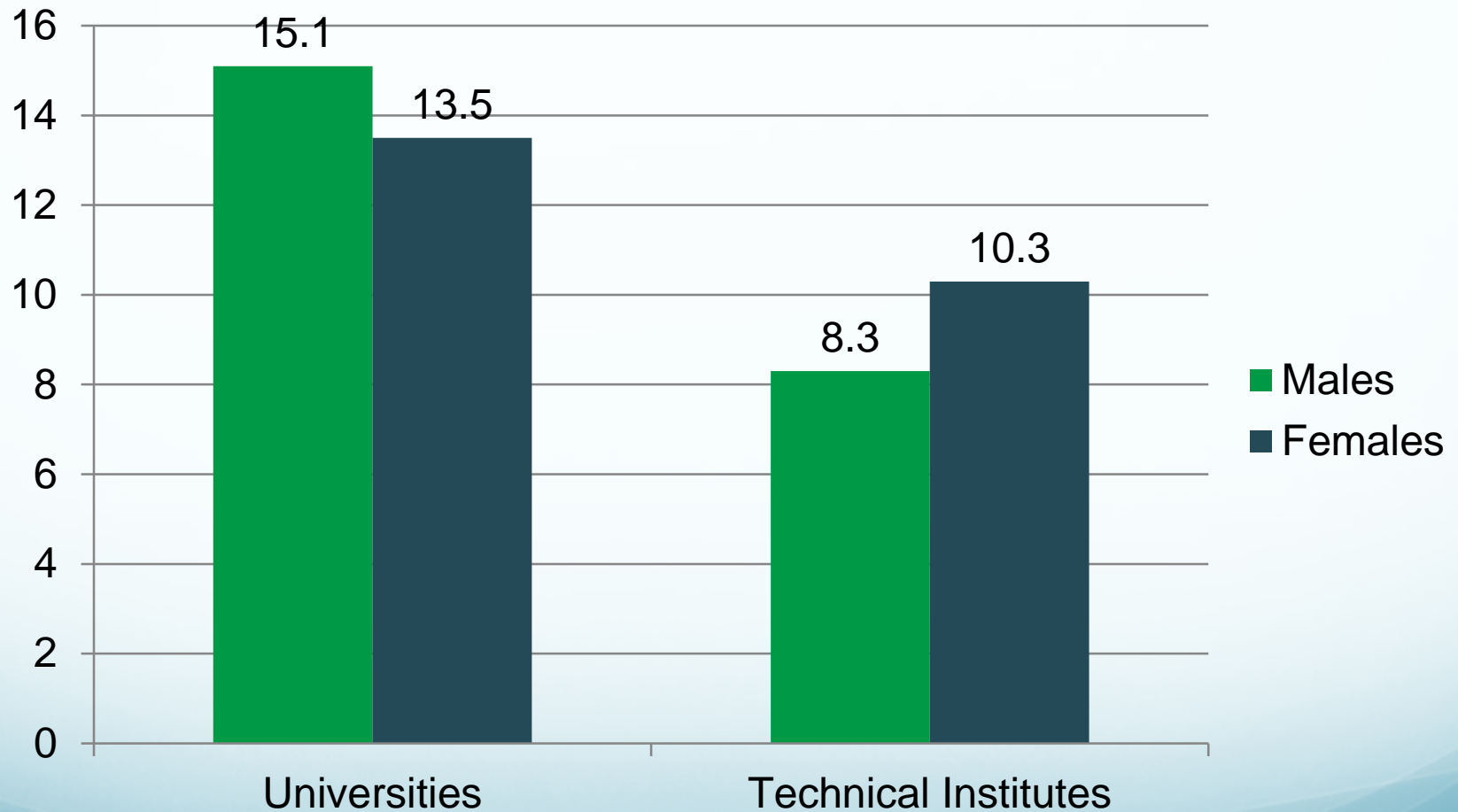
# Premise

- equity = providing equal opportunities for access and success in tertiary education
- circumstances beyond an individual's control should not influence a person's chances

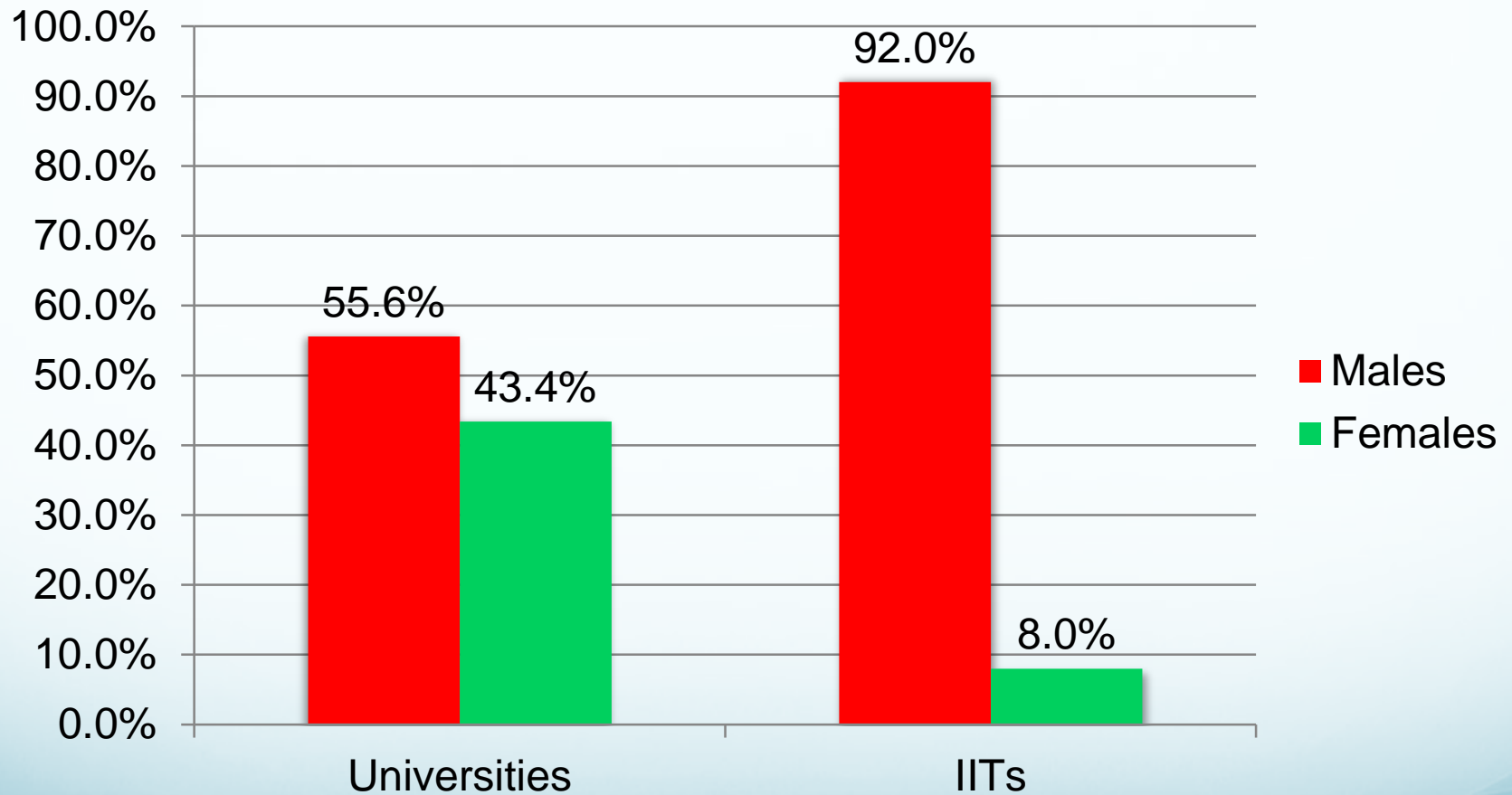
# Equity groups

- low-income groups
- females
  - non-university institutions

# Gender distribution in Peru



# Gender distribution in India



# Equity groups

- low-income groups
- females
  - non-university institutions
  - disciplines (agriculture, medicine, business, science and engineering programs)
  - leadership positions

# Proportion of Female University Rectors

Countries	2008	2013
Austria	5.9%	17.4%
Belgium	0%	9.1%
Bulgaria	7.1%	18.1%
Czech Republic	0%	5.0%
Denmark	n.a.	n.a.
Finland	11.8%	30.8%
France	8.5%	10.7%
Germany	5.1%	13.3%
Italy	1.7%	6.8%
Netherlands	0%	7.1%
Norway	0%	11.1%
Romania	7.1%	10.0%
Russia	5.6%	9.1%
Spain	9.8%	10.9%
Sweden	34.0%	44.0%
Switzerland	0%	7.1%
United Kingdom	9.5%	15.5%
<b>Europe average</b>	5.5%	10.3%

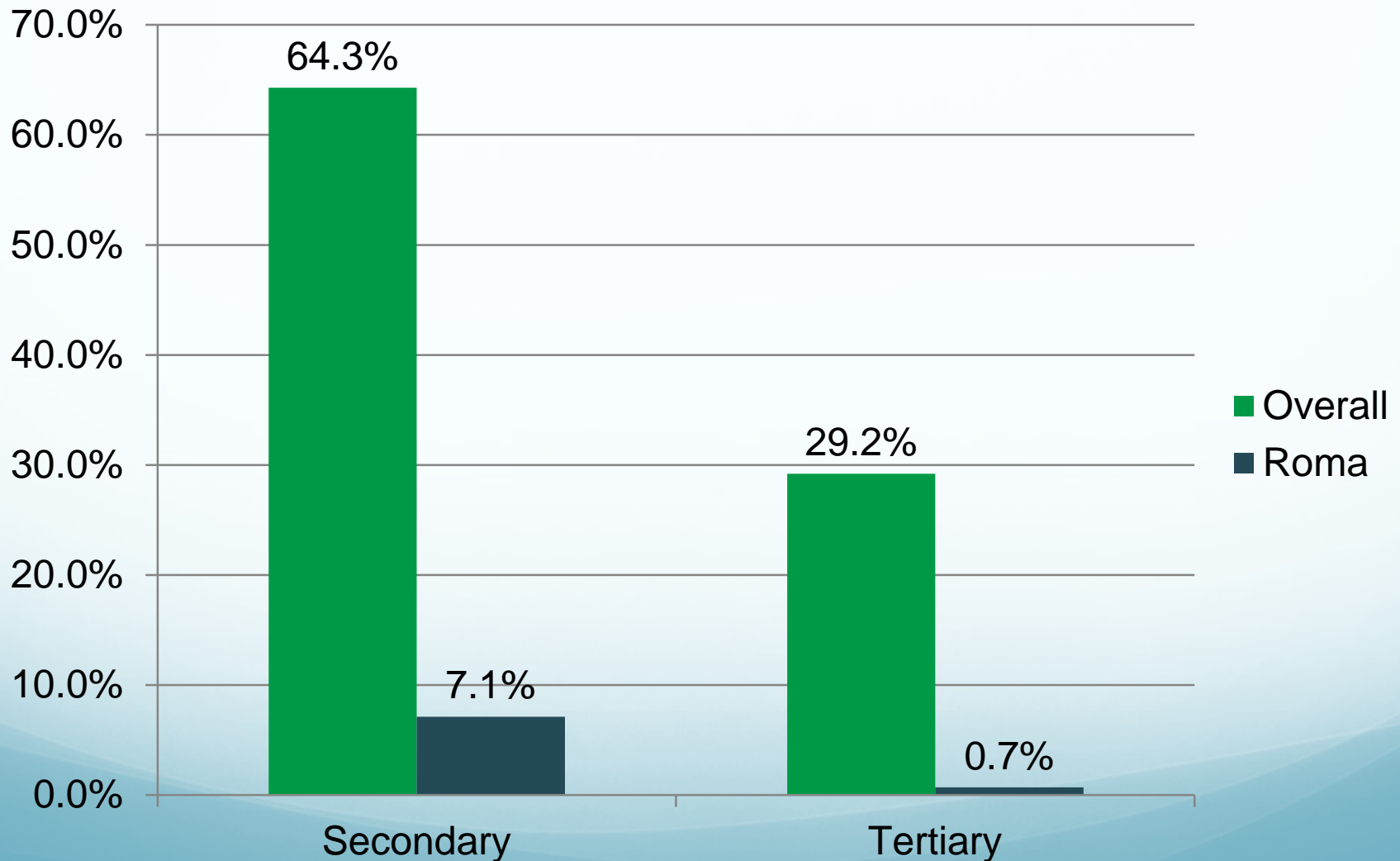
Source: European Association of Universities

# Equity groups (II)

- minorities (ethnic, language, religion, culture, age, etc.)

# Romania

## completion rates



# Equity groups (III)

- people with disabilities
  - in France, only 7% of universities have a system to accommodate students with disabilities



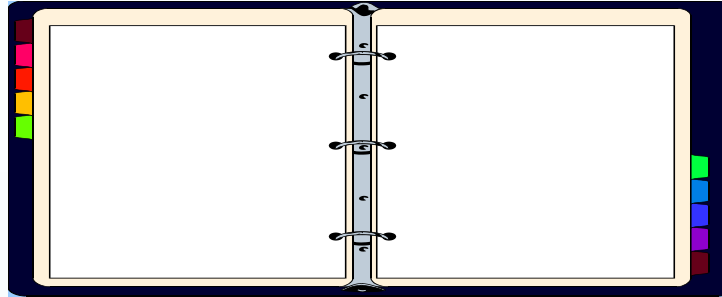








# Outline



- Why equity matters
- **Determinants of inequality**

# Where it all starts...

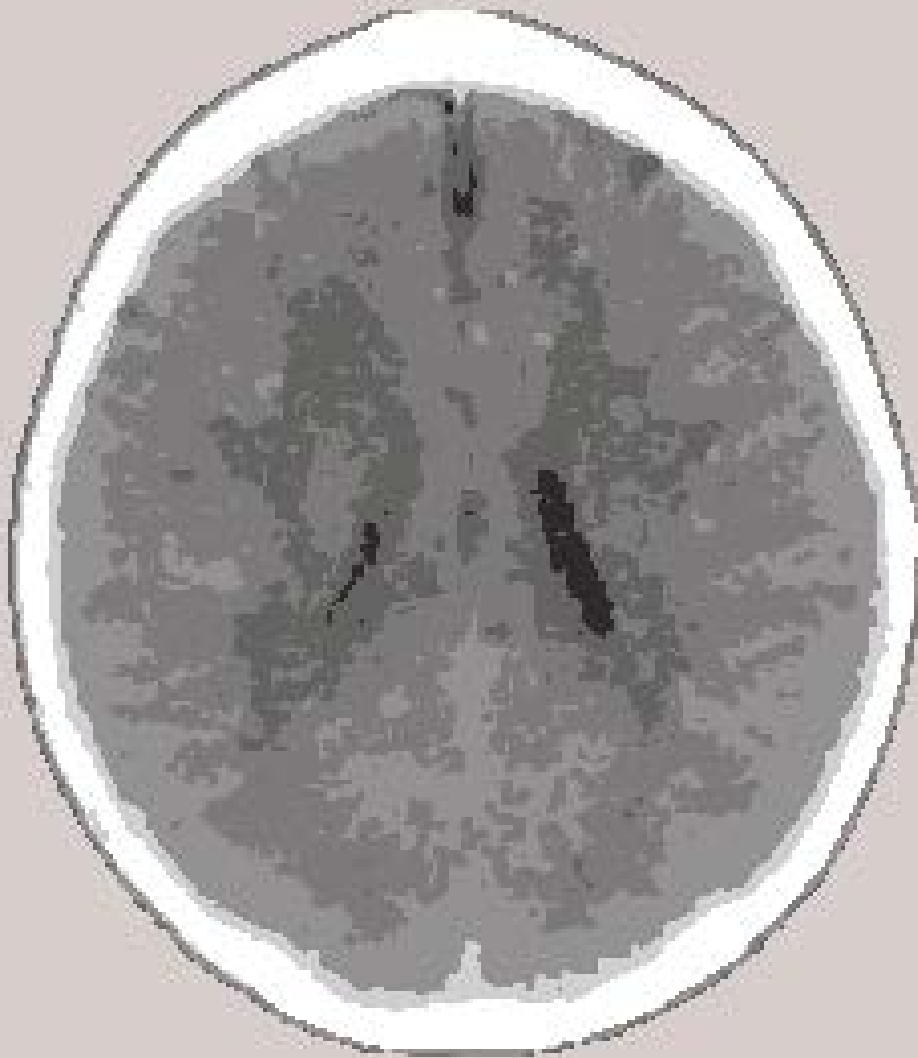
- inequality in tertiary education is, to a large extent, an extension of inequality at lower levels of education
  - reflecting structural barriers (income, ethnicity, gender, language, culture, religion, disability, caste, etc.)

Choose your parents  
carefully...

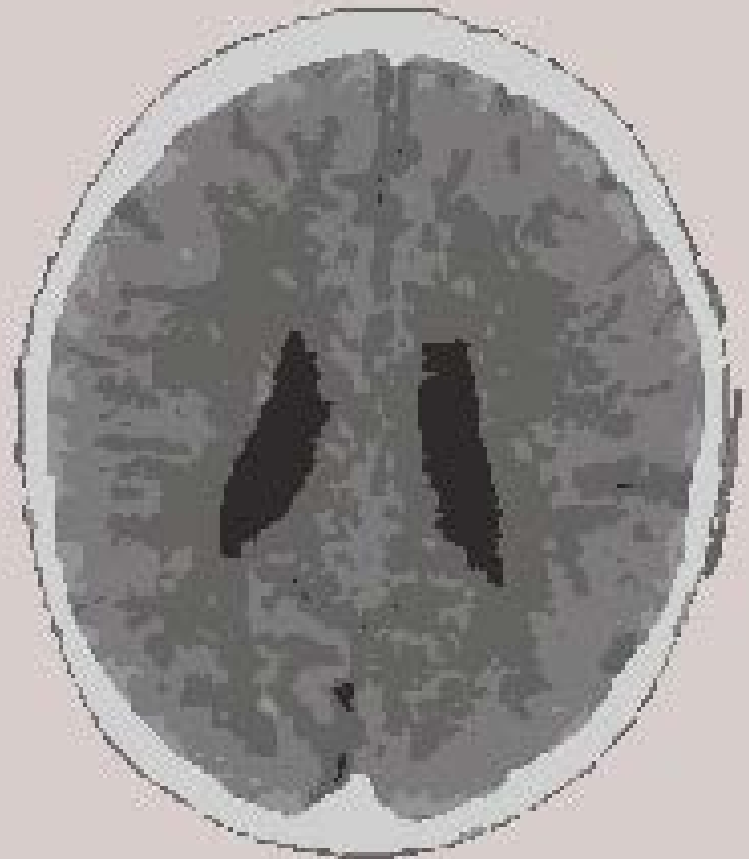
# United States

- by age 3, children from wealthy families have heard 30 million more words than those from low-income families
- by age 4, there is an 18-month academic gap between an impoverished child and his wealthier peers

### 3 Year Old Children



**Normal**



**Extreme Neglect**



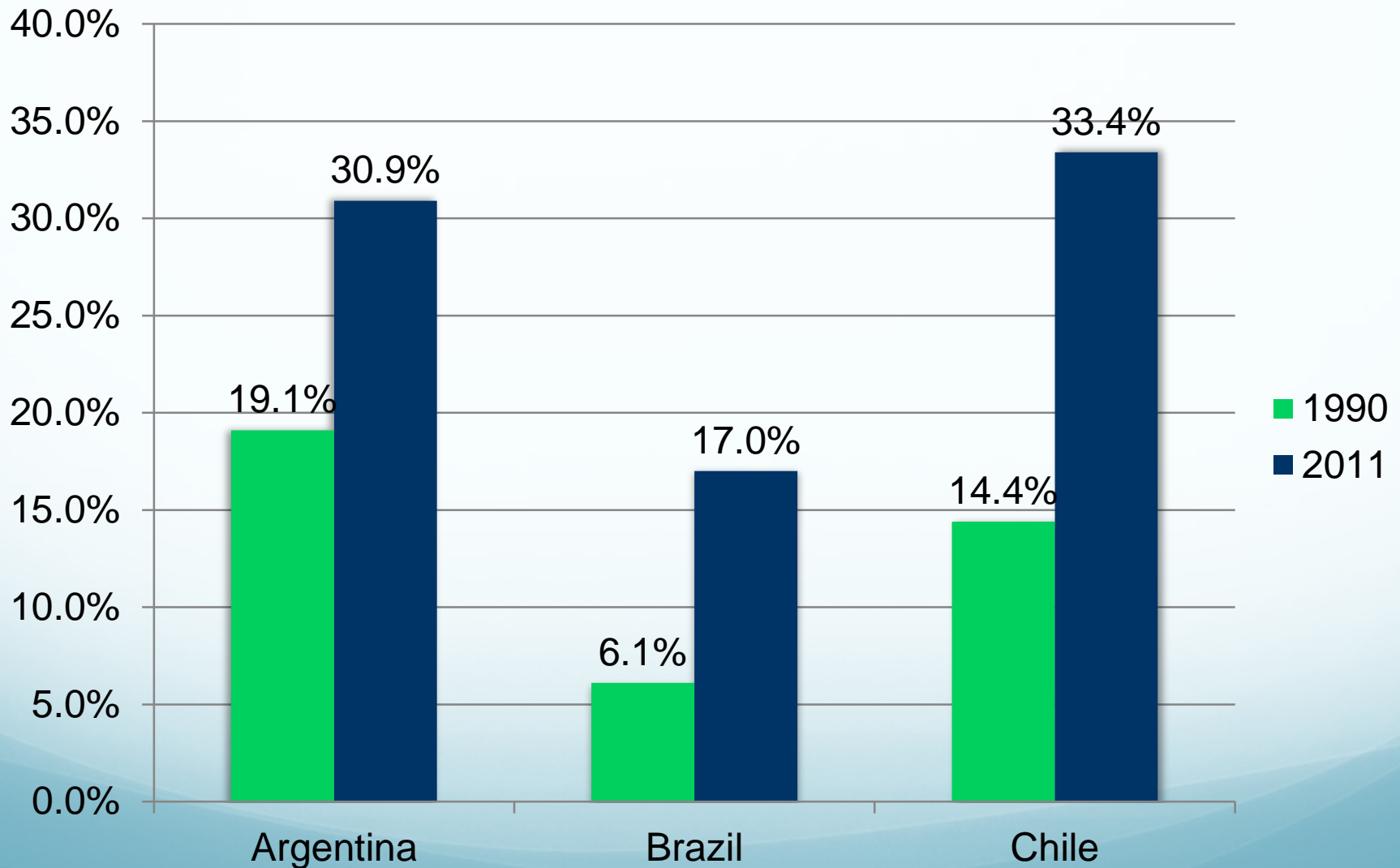
"IT GOES IN CYCLES, JUNIOR. SOMETIMES, THE RICH GET RICHER AND THE POOR GET POORER. SOMETIMES, THE RICH GET RICHER AND THE POOR STAY THE SAME."

# And it gets worse...

- the main additional barriers at the tertiary level are of two kinds:
  - financial
  - non-financial



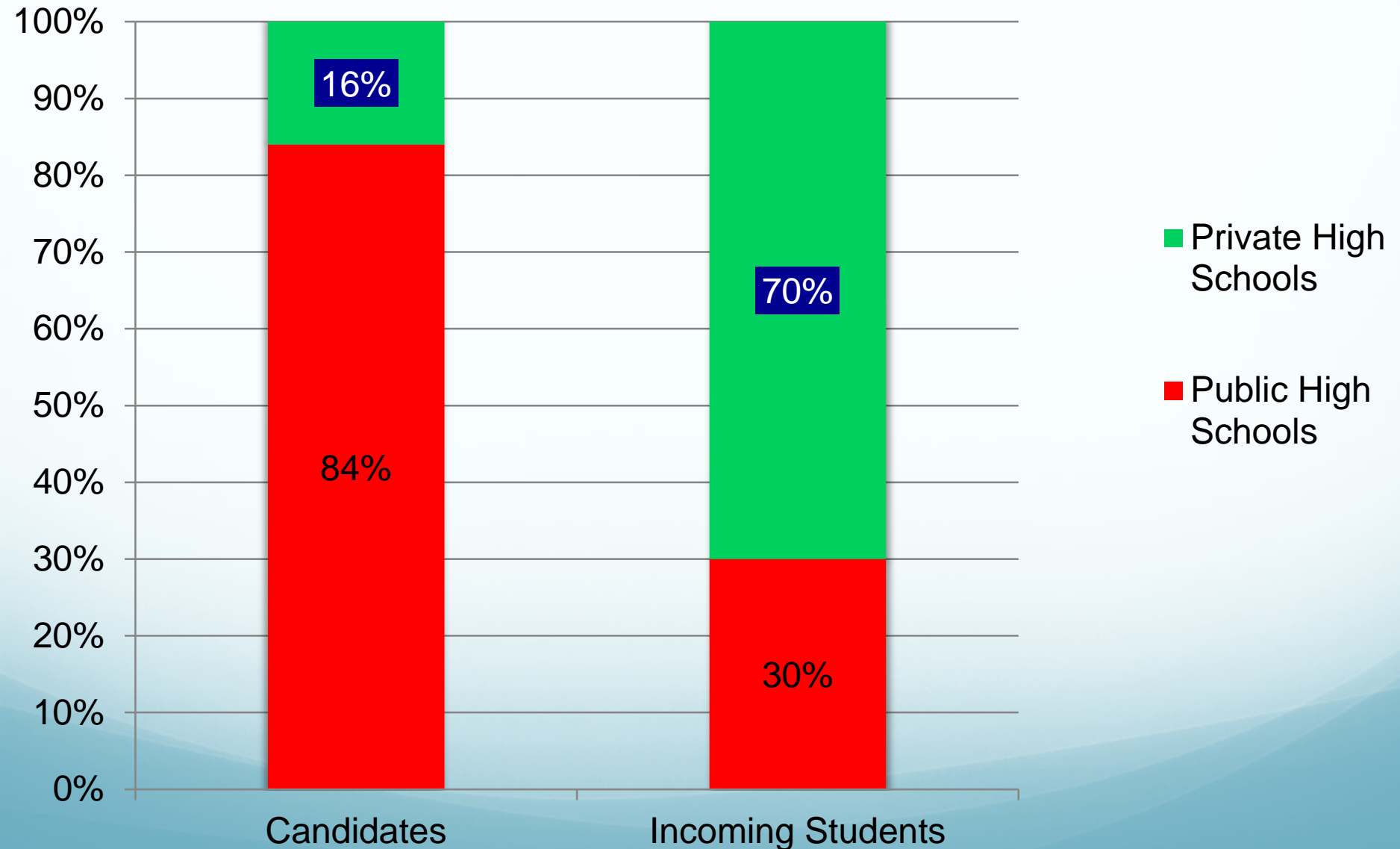
# Free is Fair?



# Enrolment rate per quintile

Quíntiles	Argentina	Brazil	Chile
Q1	18.0%	5.0%	21.2%
Q2	25.3%	6.3%	26.4%
Q3	29.5%	11.6%	26.0%
Q4	38.2%	20.7%	37.5%
Q5	56.6%	47.0%	61.6%

# U. of São Paulo



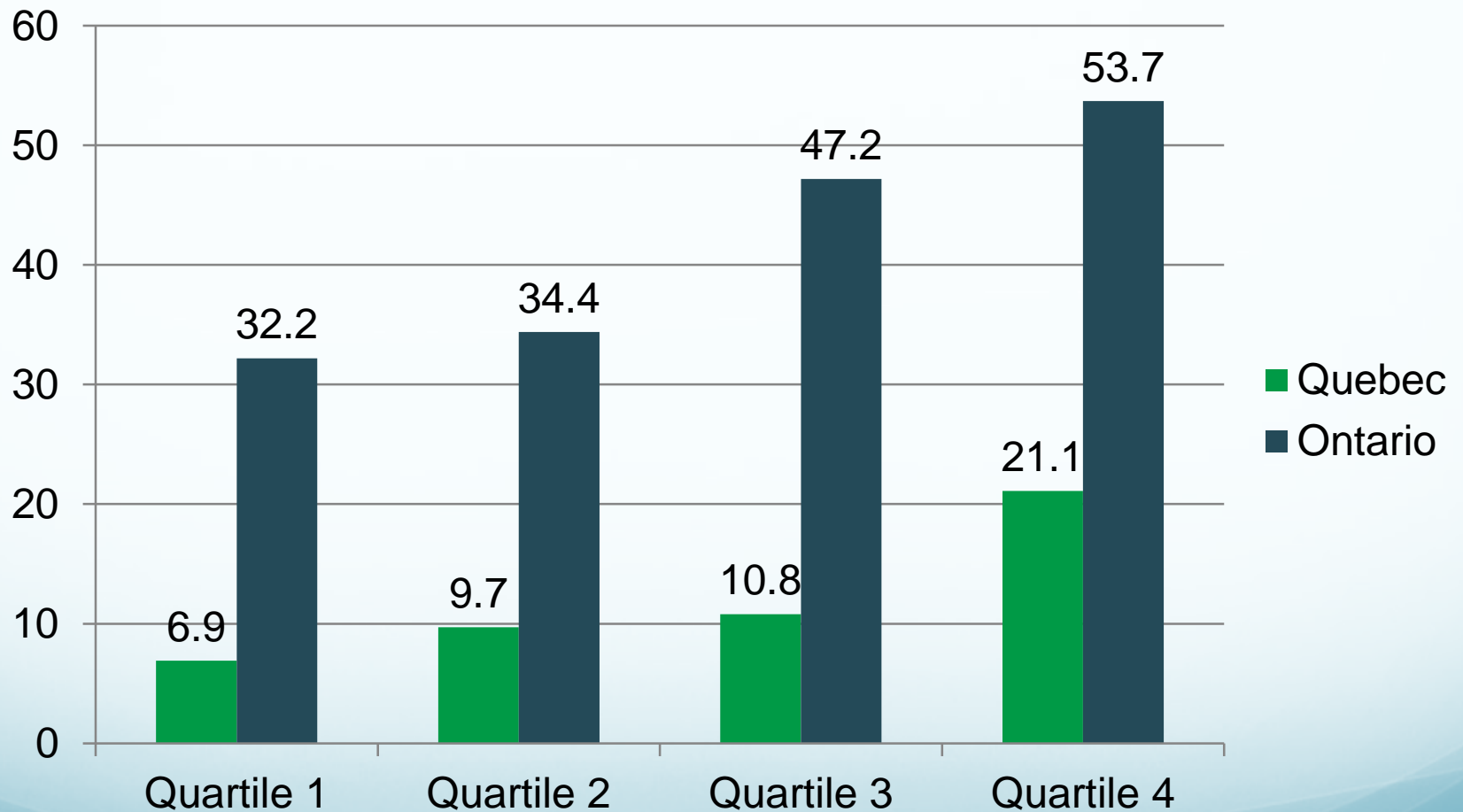
# Ecuador

- 800\$ per year on average
- suppressed in 2007
- inequality increases
  - poorest: from 4 to 7%
  - others: from 16 to 24%

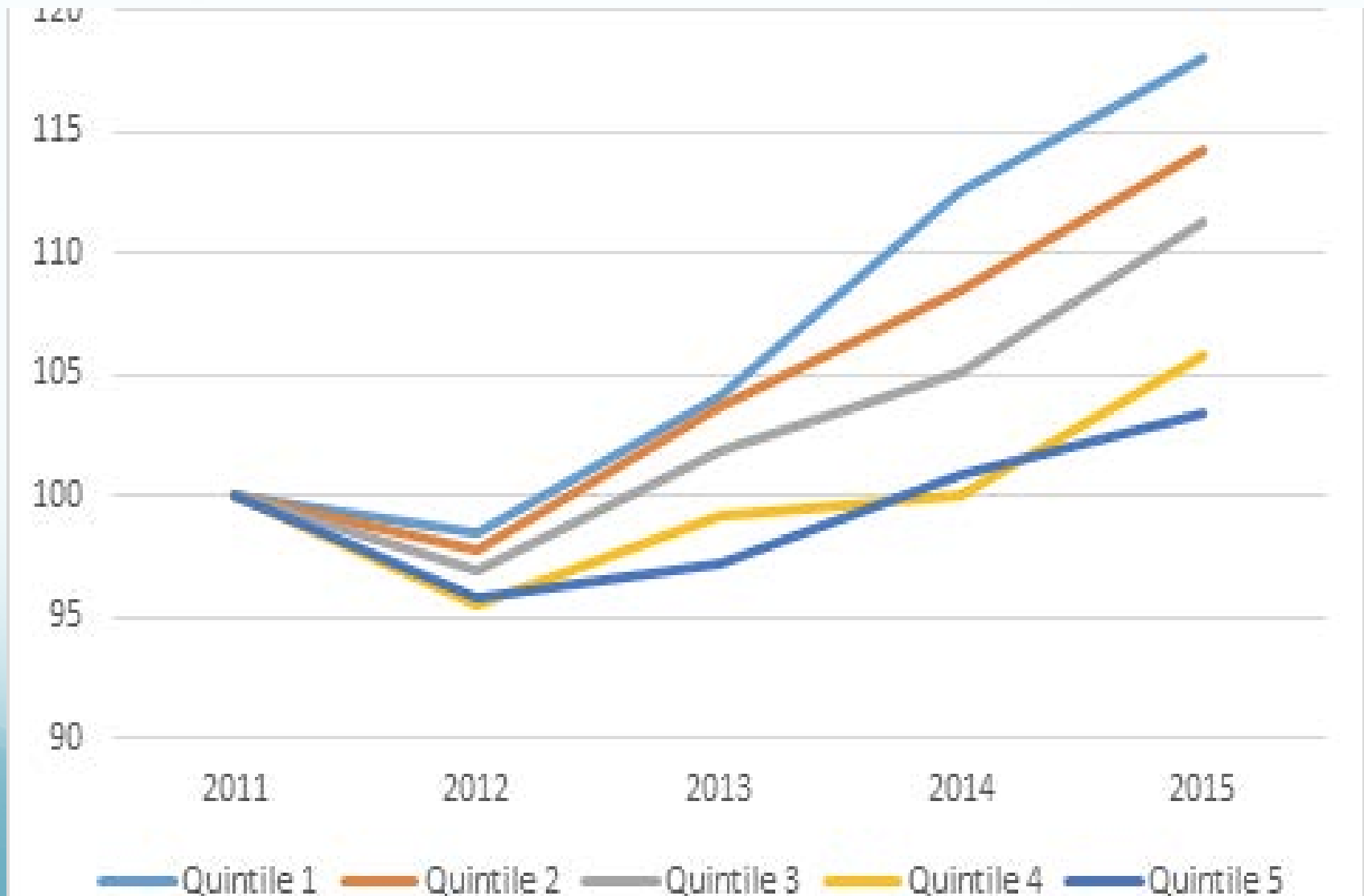
# Canada

- Canada: average undergraduate tuition fees:
  - in Quebec: \$1,862
  - in Ontario: \$4,923

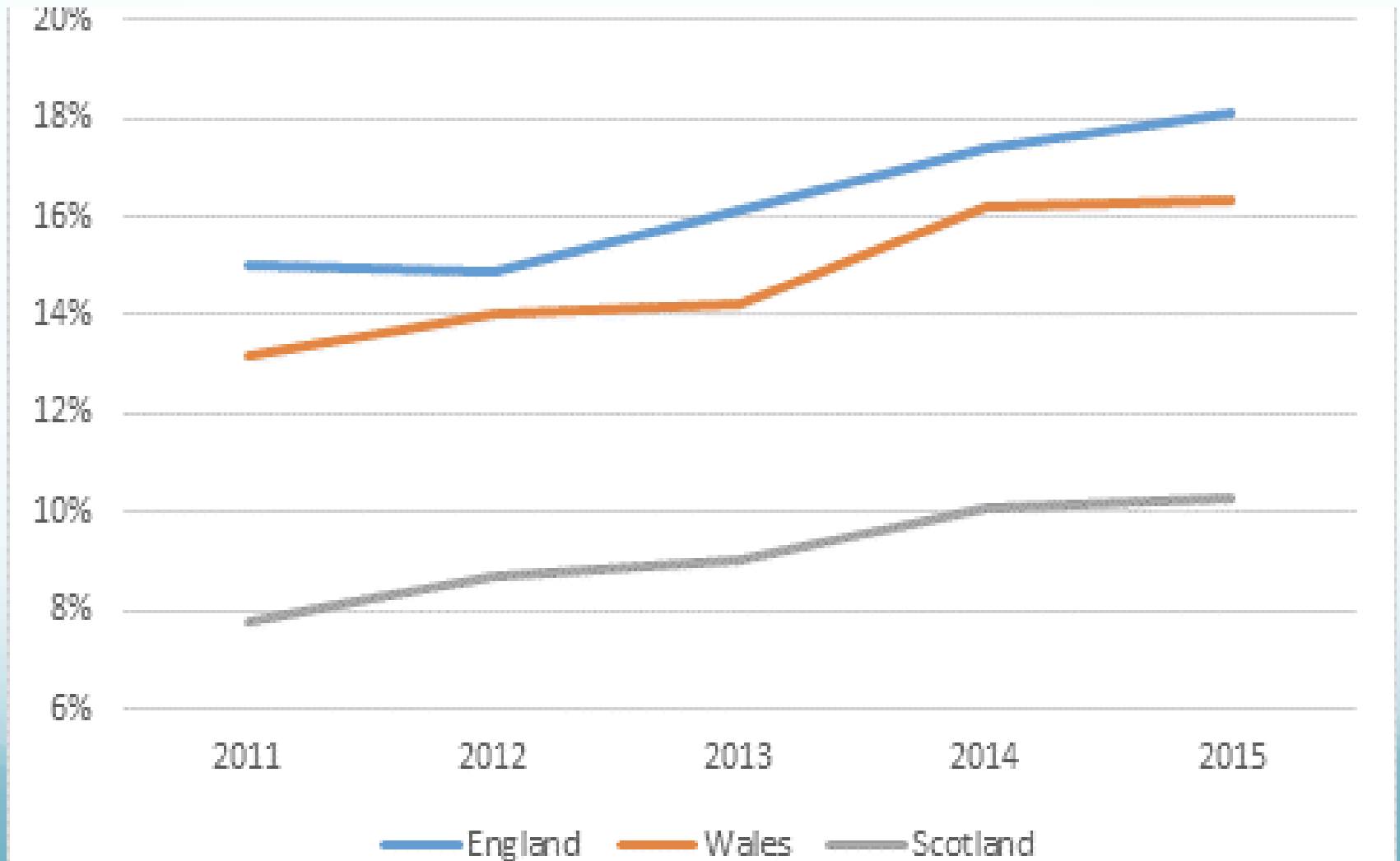
# University participation at age 19



# New Q1 students in England (2011-2015)



## Increase in number of Q1 students (2011-2015)







If in some states of the (United States) higher education institutions are also "free", that only means in fact defraying the cost of education of the upper classes from the general tax receipts.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, 1875

# And worse...

- non-financial barriers include inadequate information, motivation, academic preparation and social capital

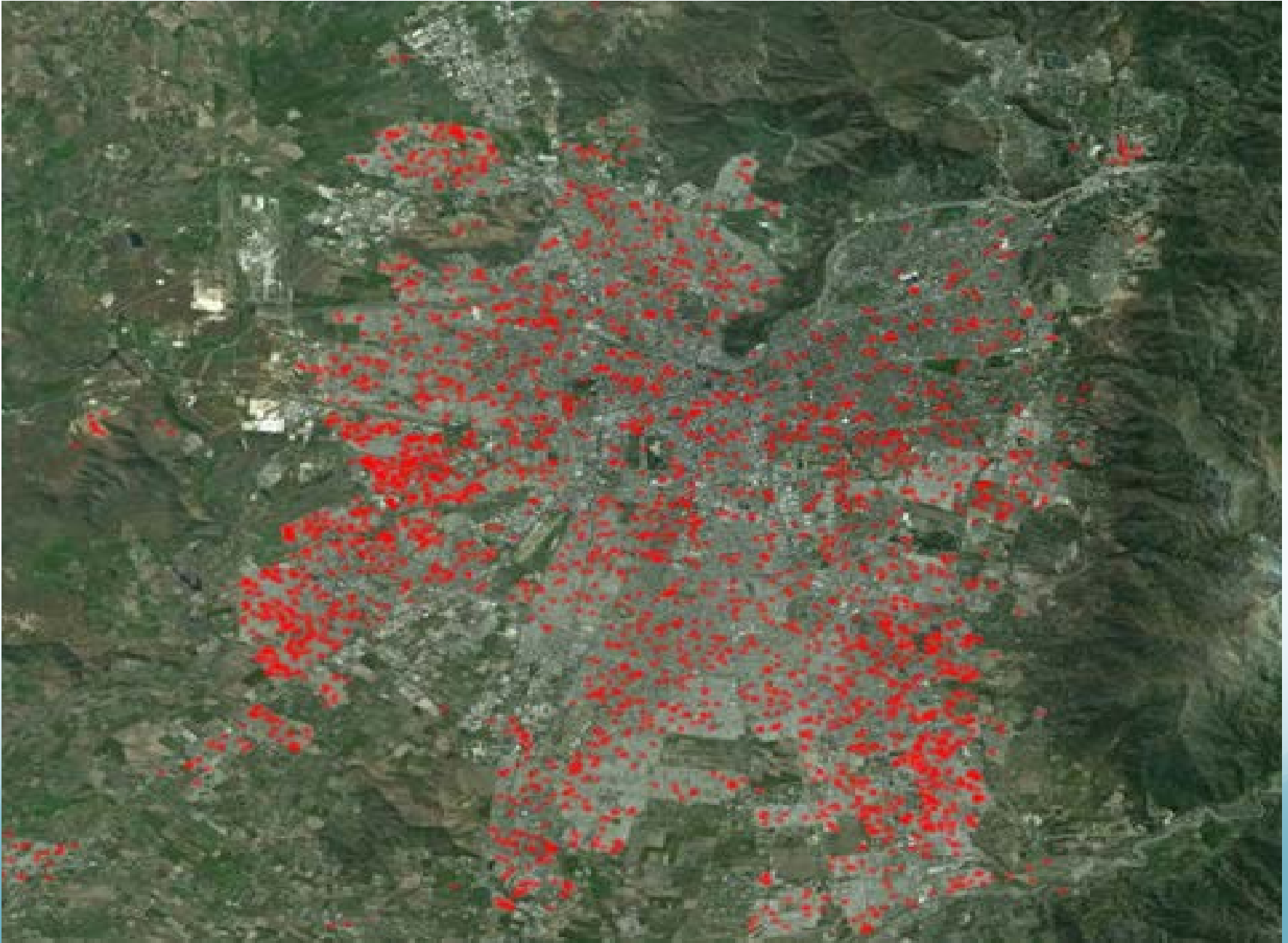
# Non-financial factors

- Academic preparation

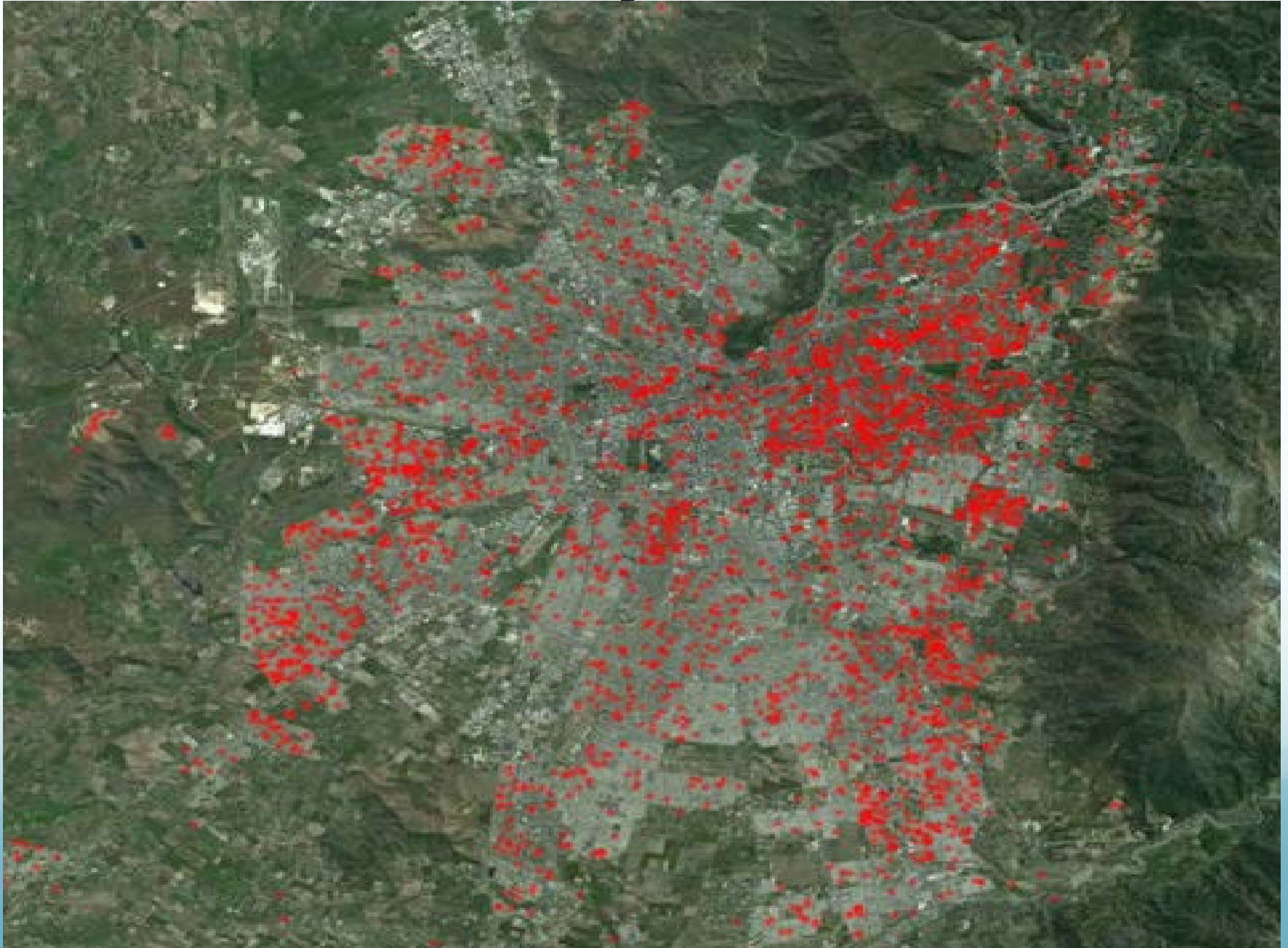
# Fair is fair

- meritocratic entrance exam is the best guarantee of fair access
  - transparent, objective way of selecting students
  - elimination of corruption (former Soviet Union)

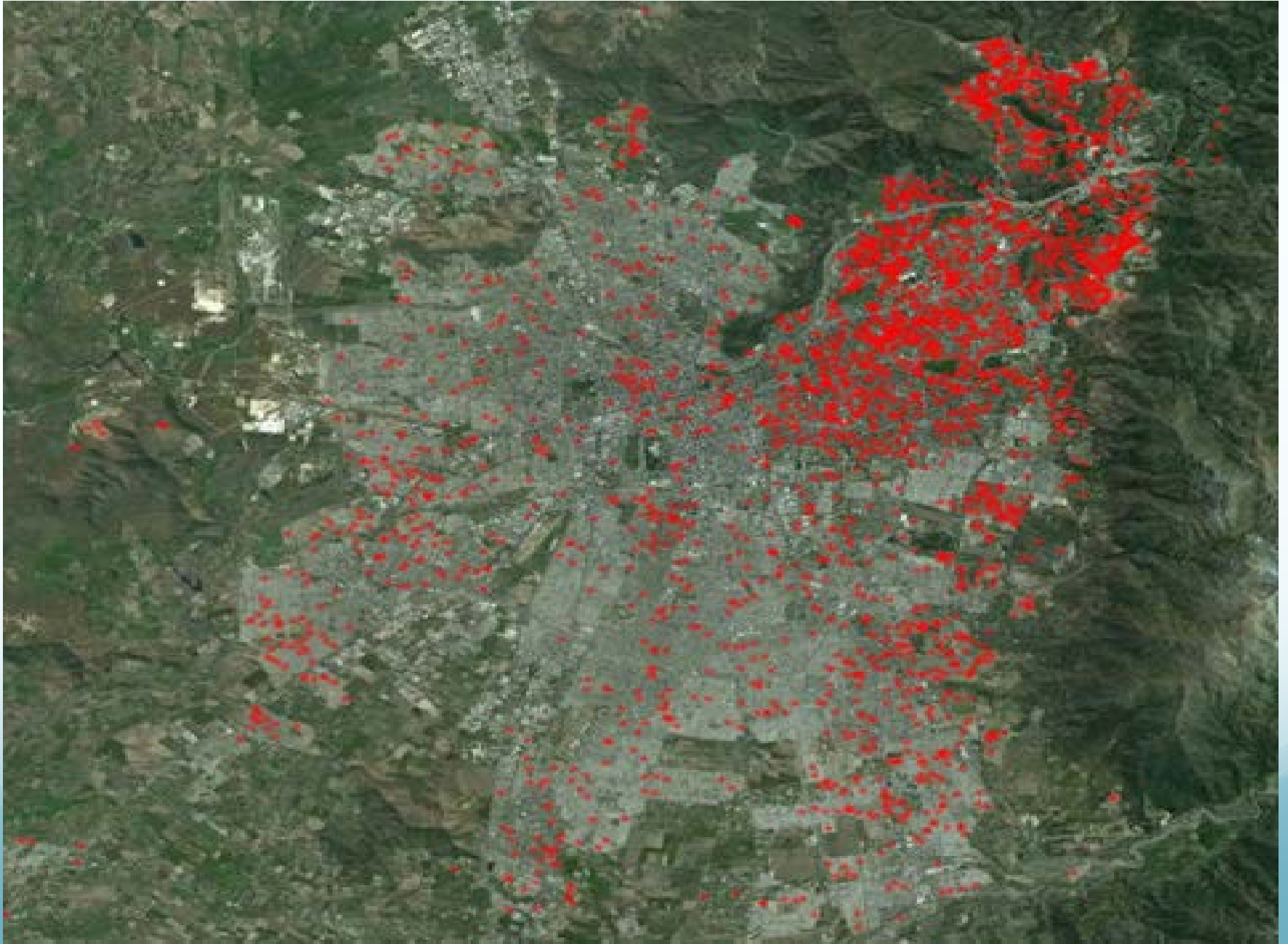
# University of Santiago de Chile



# University of Chile



# Catholic University of Chile



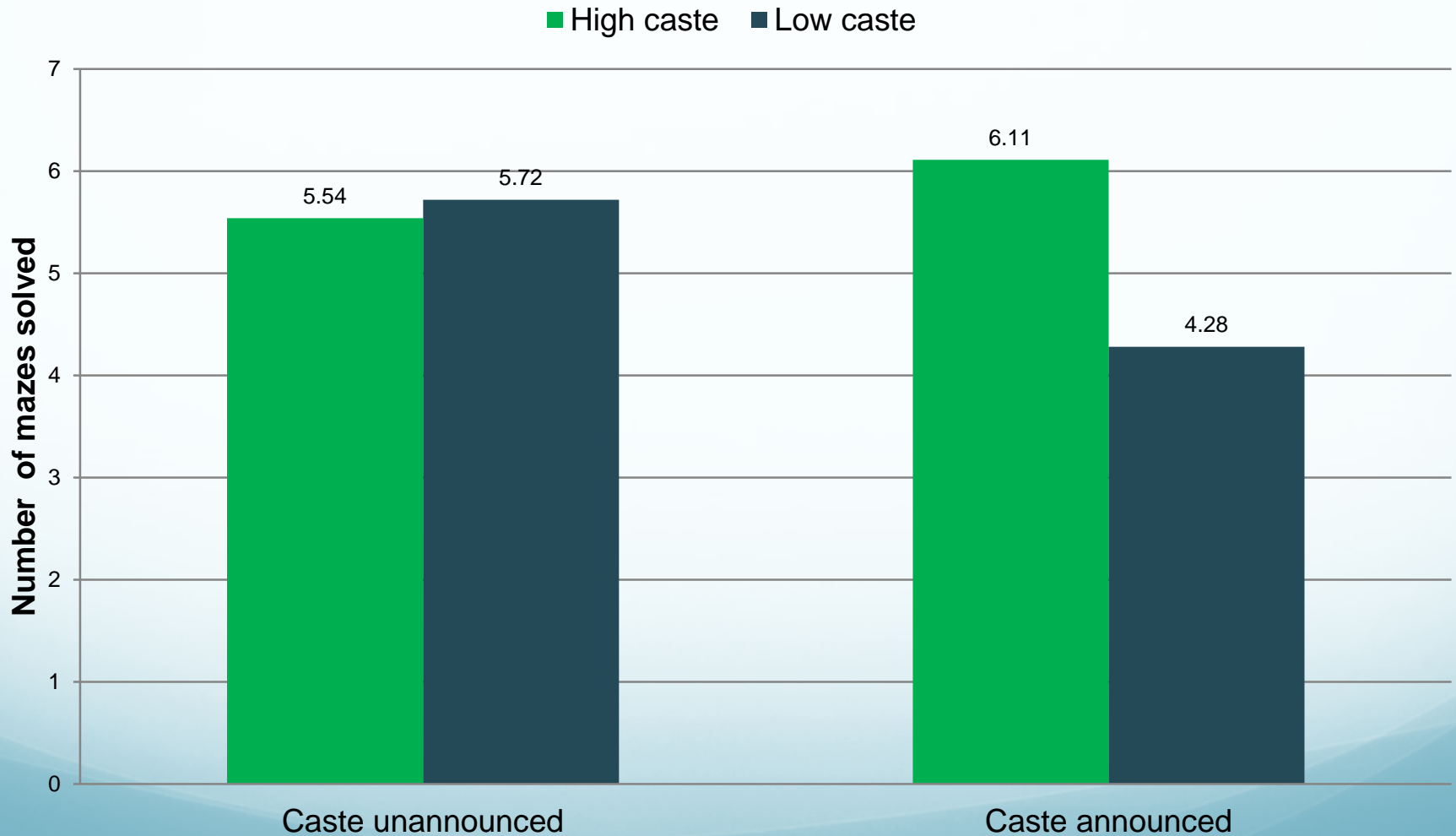
To ensure a fair  
selection, you  
all get the  
same test.  
You must all  
climb that tree



# Non-financial factors

- Academic preparation
- Motivation

# Effects of caste identity on academic performance



# Non-financial factors

- Academic Preparation
- Motivation
- Information

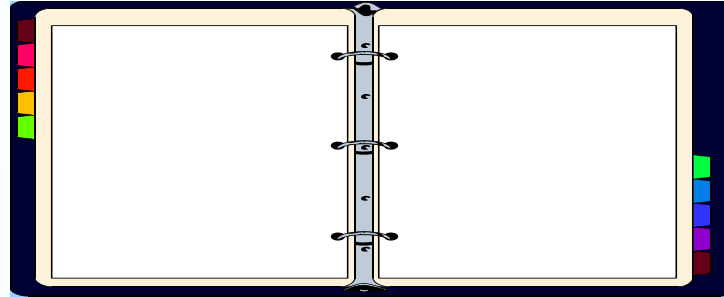


McDonald's





# Outline



- Why equity matters
- Determinants of inequality
- **Equity promotion policies**

# National level

- Financial aid
- Non-financial interventions

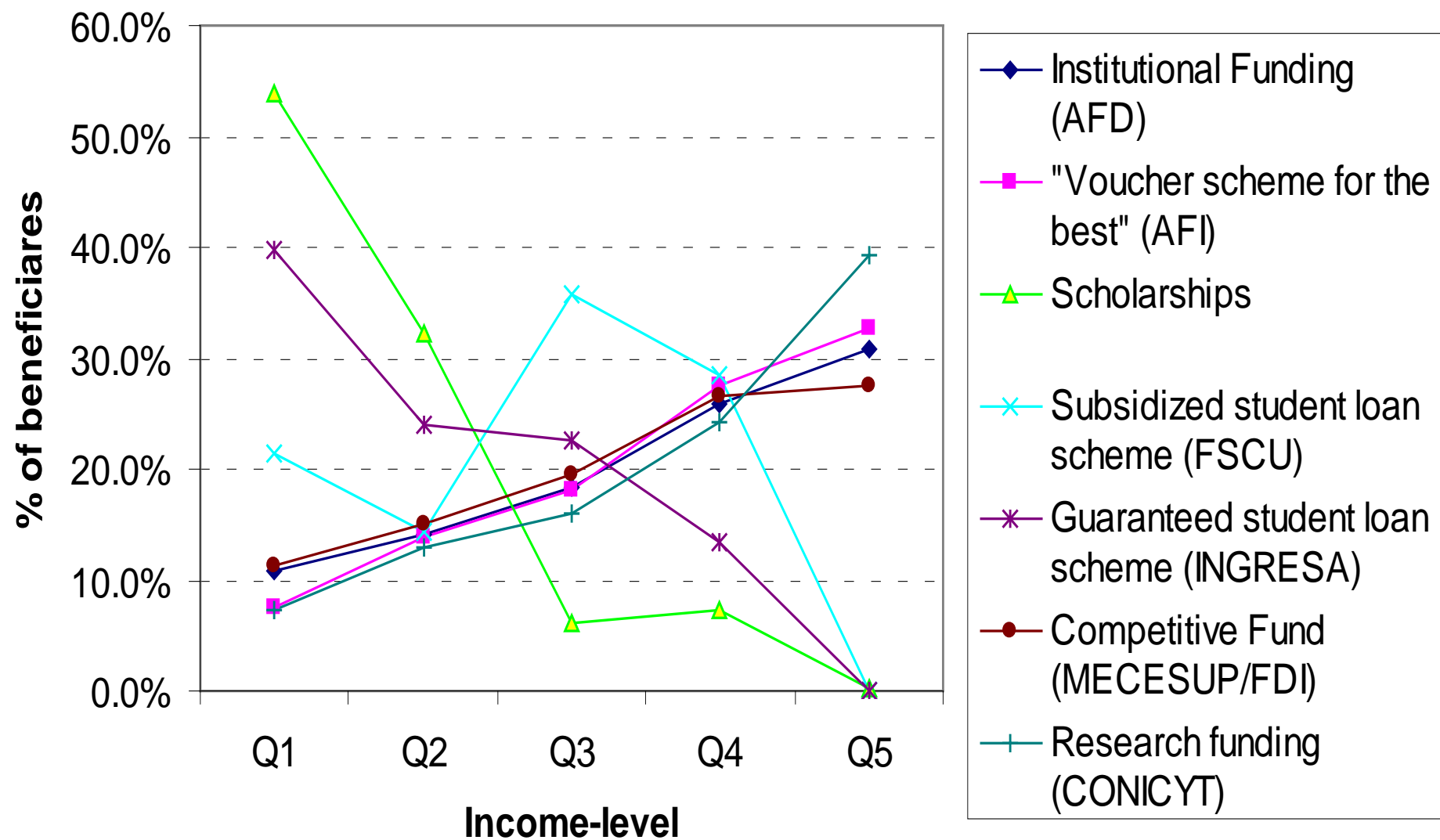
# Financial measures

- Well-targeted and well-managed financial aid (scholarships and student loans) can be instrumental in reducing financial barriers to tertiary education

# Financial aid

- need-based grants
  - unconditional grants, work grants, tuition discounts
- student loans
  - mortgage types, income-contingent loans
- Must be well-targeted and well-administered

## Benefits Incidence Analysis of Public Investment in Higher Education



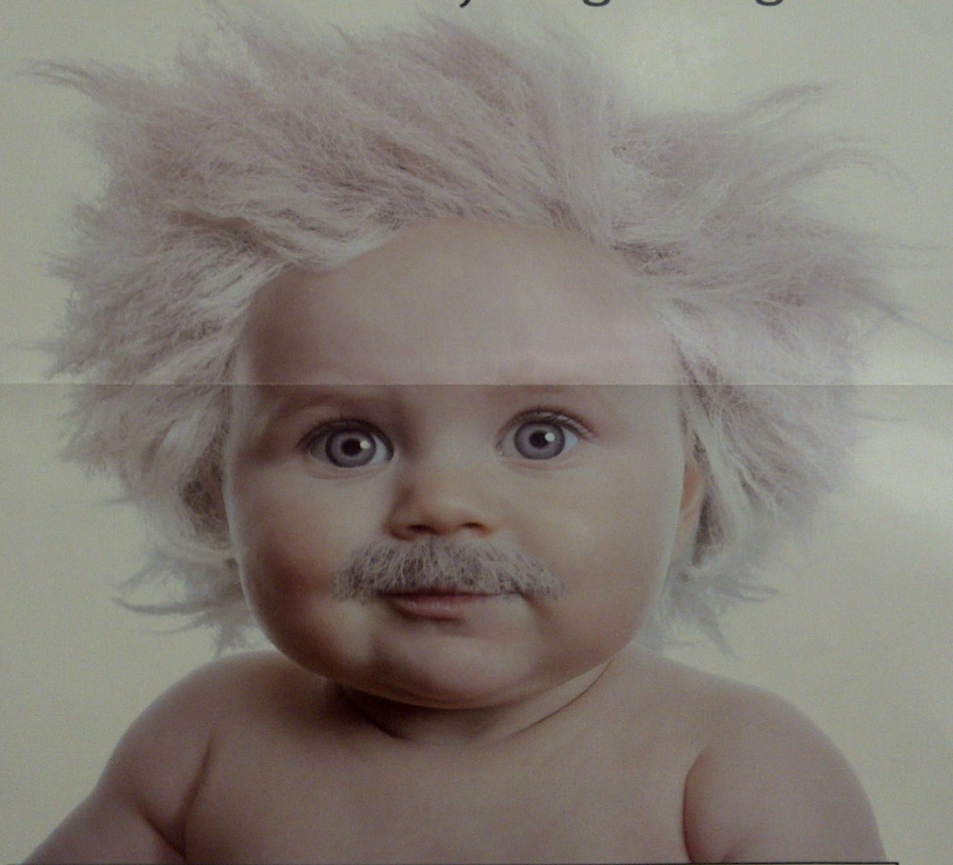


# Outreach / bridge programs to secondary schools

- U of Almeria: “join us in your university” = outreach to children of immigrants in local high schools
- Victoria U’s Access and Success program

# Science

You can't start young enough



*Science* is NOW AVAILABLE! Read  
full-text news, research and more at  
[www.sciencemag.org](http://www.sciencemag.org)



# Affirmative action

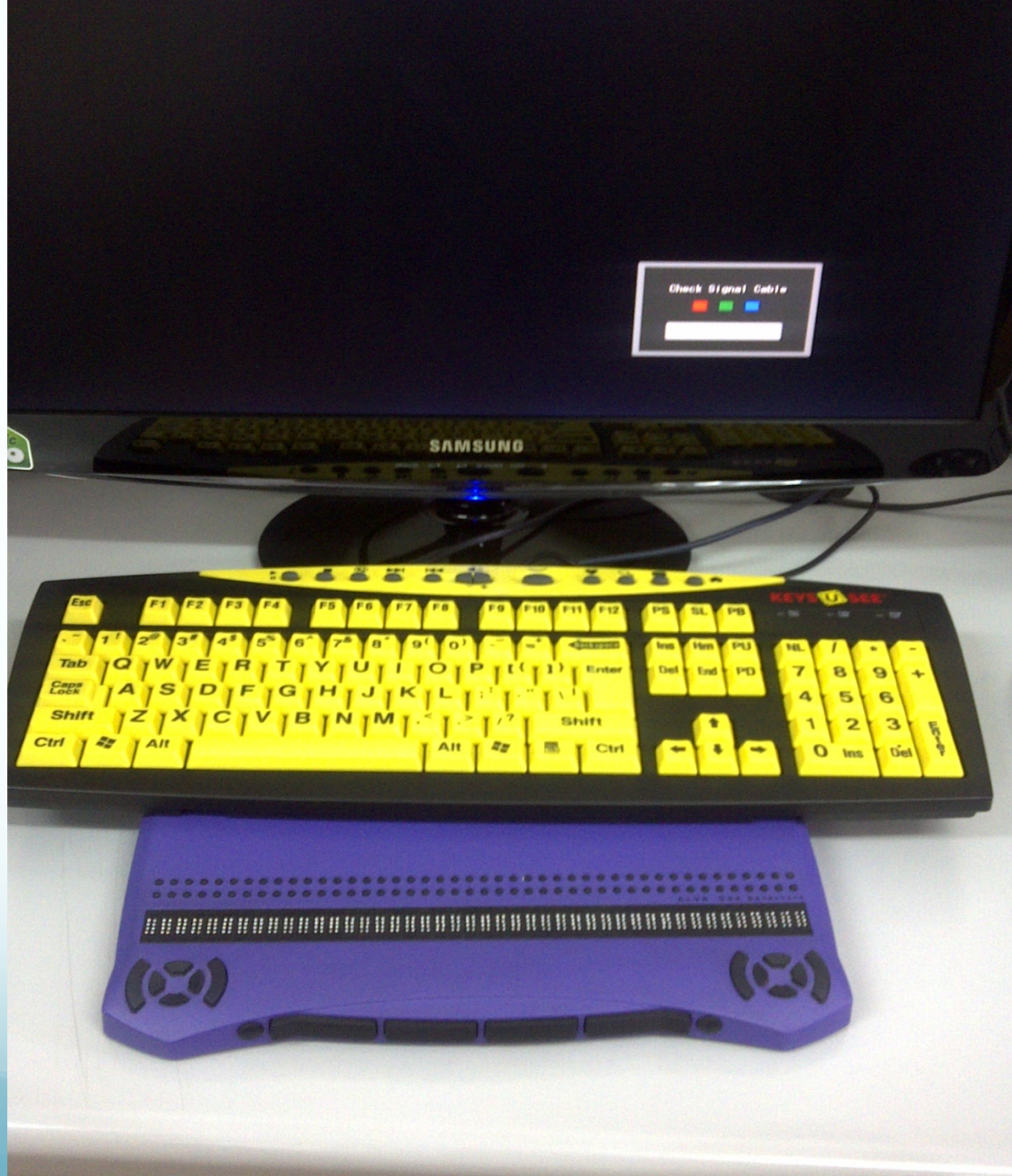
- less stringent admission criteria for minority students
  - USA, India, Brazil, France
  - Malaysia (large scale)
- works best with academic monitoring and support

# Institutional level

- Financial aid
- Non-financial interventions

# Retention programs

- University of Texas (El Paso): Collaborative Program for Academic Excellence, to increase retention of progression of minority students
- Uniminuto (first-year vice-rector)



conclusion

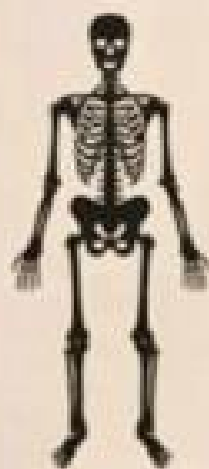
*It is not wrong to be different.*



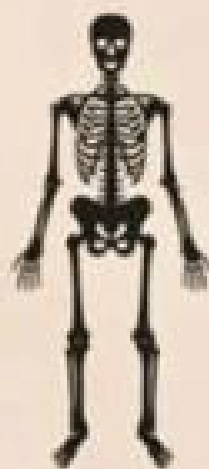
*It is wrong to be treated differently  
if you are.*



**Black**



**White**



**Gay**



**Straight**



**Religious**



**Atheist**



**You**

**Did you  
stay too  
long and  
get burned?**

**The normal  
time, 9  
months,  
and you  
did they  
take you  
out  
uncooked?**





EUROPEISKA UNIONEN  
SVERIGE  
PASS



C1088788



2828286884USA7966237M03052001920USABCON60044



**ECONOMY CLASS**

NAME		
FROM		
TO		
FLIGHT	DATE	TIME

GATE	BOARDING TIME	SEAT
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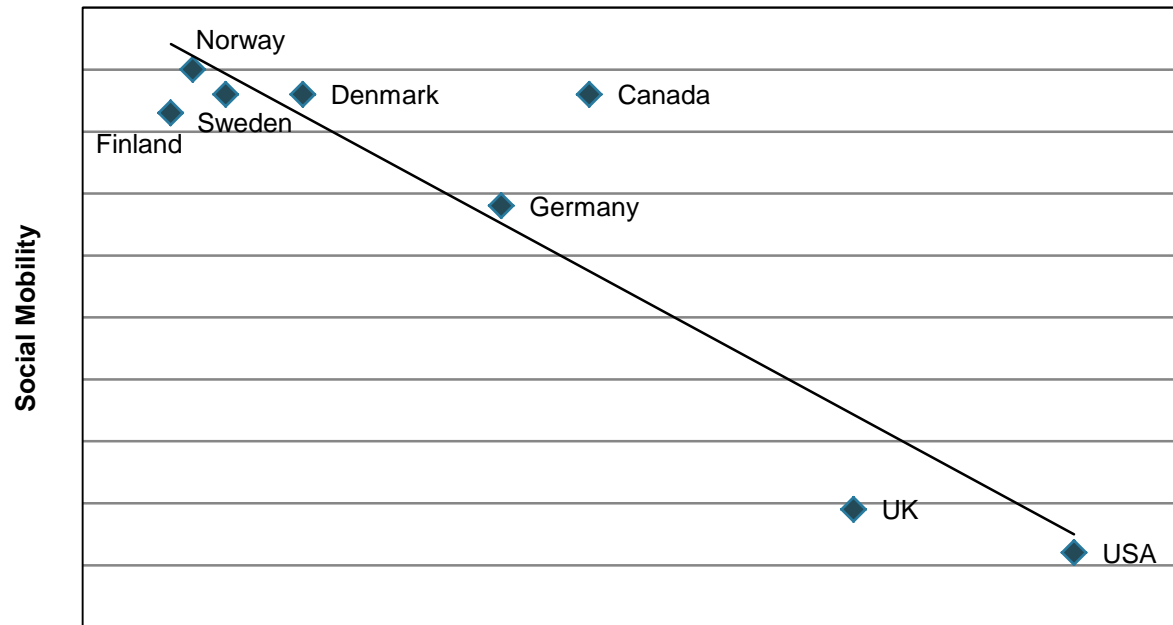
# excellence vs. equity

- US: selectivity vs. efficacy (Penn State vs. Yale)
- US: merit scholarships
- UK: graduates from expensive private schools 55 times more likely to get into Oxford or Cambridge



# social mobility and inequality

High



Low

Low

High

# equality of opportunity

The impertinent courtesy of an invitation  
offered to unwelcome guests,  
in the certainty that circumstances will  
prevent them from accepting.

Richard Tawney

