
Classism in Chile: The Inequality and Discrimination Driven by “Cuicos”

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Classism in Santiago de Chile- Outline

- Why I chose this topic
- Dictatorship/Pinochet
- *Machuca*
- Socioeconomic Inequality
- “Cuicos”
- Classification of Peers



Why I chose this topic

- Study abroad in Santiago de Chile
- New concept
- Found differences between racism and classism



Dictatorship/Pinochet 1973-1990

- September 11, 1973
- “Junta” overthrew government
- Forced “disappearances”, torture and imprisonment
- Pinochet created economic inequality



Machuca

- Gonzalo Infante: High class, privileged, lives in Vitacura
- Pedro Machuca: Low class, lives in ghetto of San Miguel
- St. Patrick's: English language boys' only school



Machuca

- Went to two types of protests against Allende and against Pinochet
- Army official's view of Gonzalo
- Machuca's drunk father made a classist point of the social differences between Gonzalo and Machuca



[Video](#) 5:43-6:30

Socioeconomic Inequality

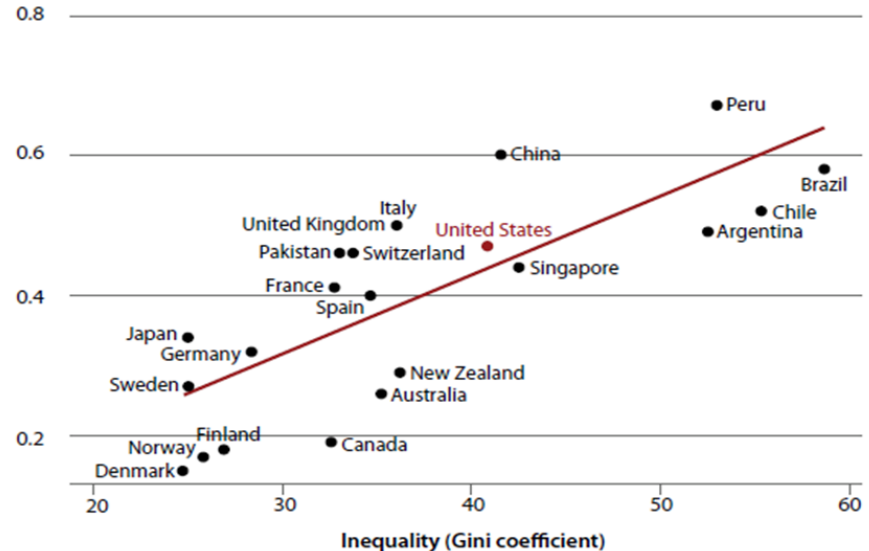
- Gini Index- 52.1
- 7th highest unequal country in the world based on income

FIGURE 4

The Great Gatsby curve

An "equal opportunity" society is not compatible or consistent with a highly unequal society

Intergeneration earnings elasticity



Source: Miles Corak (2012), "Inequality from Generation to Generation: The United States in Comparison," in Robert Rycroft (editor), *The Economics of Inequality, Poverty, and Discrimination in the 21st Century*, ABC-CLIO, forthcoming.

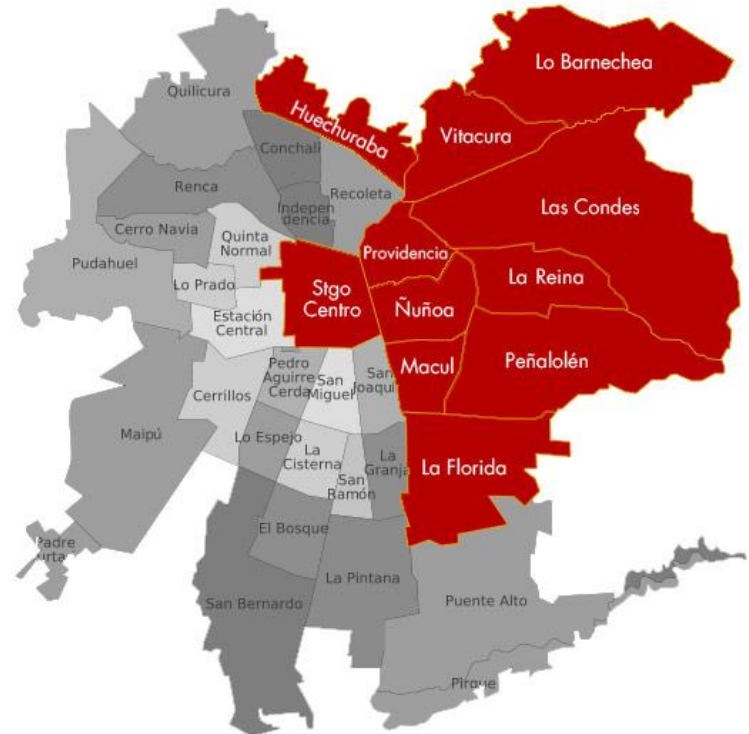
“Cuicos”

- High class
- Comfortable lifestyle
- Right-winged conservatives
- Proper surnames



How Chileans classify peers

- What area are you from?
- What is your last name?
- What high school did you go to?



Hope for change?

“Elena told me she wished she could put all of Santiago in one giant snow globe and shake it up, so that the comunas, businesses, schools, hospitals, and everything, landed all mixed up, and people could learn to relate to each other.”

Jane Leer UC Berkeley

Questions?
