

Fortnightly links: smart thinking about aid, global inequality, inequality and unhappiness, and more

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First up for the year, an excellent [post](#) on Quartz on how to think sensibly about aid and NGOs.

Owen Barder [offers](#) two staggering, and depressing, facts about global inequality.

New research ([short summary](#); [full paper](#)) shows that inequality within countries doesn't make people less happy, but it does increase unhappiness and negative life evaluations. (Such distinctions matter a lot if you're a philosopher; if you're not, the takeaway point is simple enough: avoid unnecessary inequality.)

The New Yorker has a [fascinating piece](#) on the lives and (limited) legal rights of Saudi women.

Aid nerds, rejoice: the most recent OECD aid data (detail for 2014) is [now available](#).

The Economist [reports](#) on some depressing research:

David Guenther of the University of Oregon's Lundquist College of Business and his co-authors compared the effective tax rates paid by a sample of American firms between 2002 and 2011 with a measure of those companies' [Corporate Social Responsibility] CSR programmes ... It found that the companies which do the most CSR also make the most strenuous efforts to avoid paying tax—and that those with a high CSR score also spend more lobbying on tax.

An interesting new paper [[gated](#), [ungated](#)] based on an experiment designed to test if aid undermines state legitimacy. The main finding (at least within the conditions of the experiment): it doesn't.

And finally, some belated holiday season satire. [Would Jesus have received asylum in today's over-bordered world?](#)