



Ministerie van Infrastructuur
en Waterstaat

Equitable transport policy

Research note

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KiM Netherlands Institute for
Transport Policy Analysis



Motivation, method, questions, goal

- › Motivation: increasing attention for equity (justice) in policy and science, also in field of transport (for tourism).
- › (Method: literature search + workshop)
- › Goal research note: help policy makers better understand equity in mobility
- › Questions:
 1. What is equity?
 2. What equity theories are there?
 - ~~3. How is equity incorporated into policy (other domains, abroad)?~~
 - ~~4. What are indicators of justice?~~



Interpretation equity

- › What is equitable requires judgment and is therefore subjective. Opinions differ on this.
- › Equal treatment: all individuals are treated the same, regardless of differences between them. No differences in opinion.

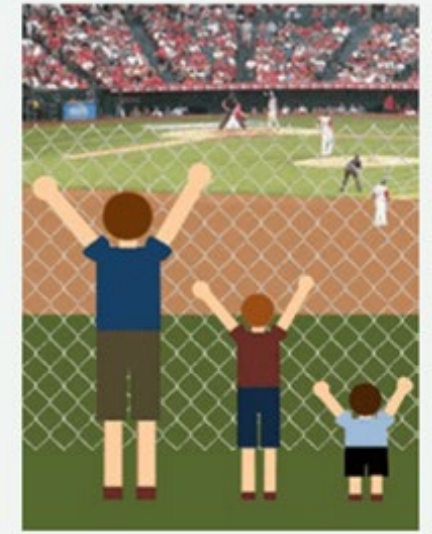
EQUALITY VERSUS EQUITY



In the first image, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports. They are being treated equally.



In the second image, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game. They are being treated equitably.



In the third image, all three can see the game without any supports or accommodations because the cause of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.



Equity notions

3 main notions:

- › Utilitarianism aims to provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people. An equitable distribution of policy effects is that which maximizes aggregated welfare.
- › Egalitarianism strives to reduce inequalities of opportunities. According to egalitarianism, a transport policy is fair if it distributes positive and negative effects in a manner that reduces differences (in accessibility, exposure to emissions, etc.) between groups.
- › Sufficientarianism strives for minimum standards for everyone.



Equity-thinking: 1 measure, more than 1 equity notion, different conclusions

A distance dependent 'flight tax':

- › Utilitarianism: 'the polluter pays'. So is fair.
- › Egalitarianism: people with low/modest income can no longer visit family far away. High income people can. So unfair.
- › Egalitarianism: higher ticket prices result in less (long distance) air travel and emissions. Is fair towards future generations.

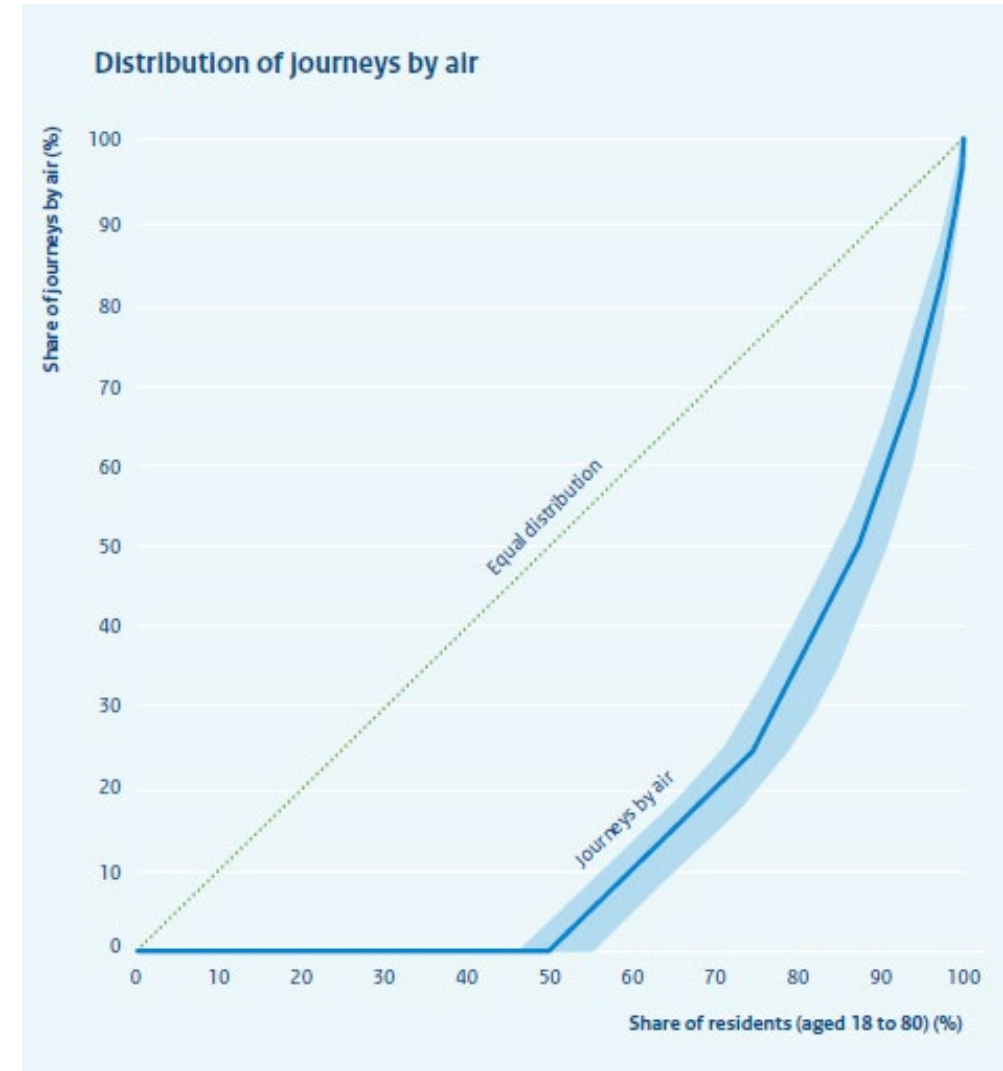


Distance dependent flight tax

Distribution of flights over inhabitants Netherlands 2024 very skewed.

13% inhabitants (18-80 yrs) responsible for 50% flights.

Distance: 9% inhabitants.



Source: Zijlstra & Jonkeren (2024)