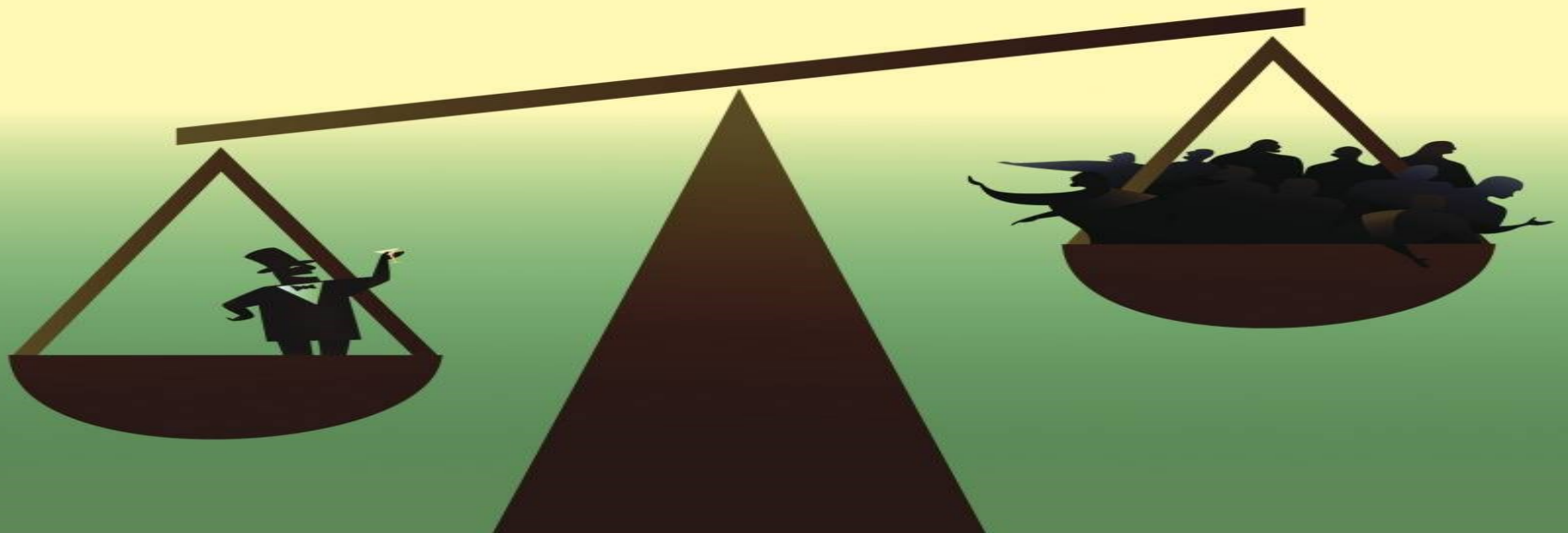


Daniel B Krupp PhD.

Lakehead University Orillia

Inequality, Competition, and Conflict



Across the social sciences, inequality is widely believed to incite conflict—including homicide and civil war. However, the psychology of inequality is unclear, and the empirical evidence of its effect on conflict remains mixed. I present a model of the evolution of conflict under inequality and test it with a large sample of participants playing an economic game in a preregistered experiment. I show that while inequality does cause conflict, direct competition between social partners acts to powerfully amplify its effect. As competition becomes increasingly “local”—that is, concentrated between partners—the effect of inequality becomes increasingly potent. This result may help us to better characterize the mechanisms of inequality, resolve inconsistencies in the literature, and provide new ways to increase cooperation and minimize conflict.



Dr. Daniel Krupp

Friday October 11, 11:30 a.m., R-309

Refreshments will be served—Everyone welcome!