

Some Thoughts and Questions about
Participation Income (Hiilamo 2022)

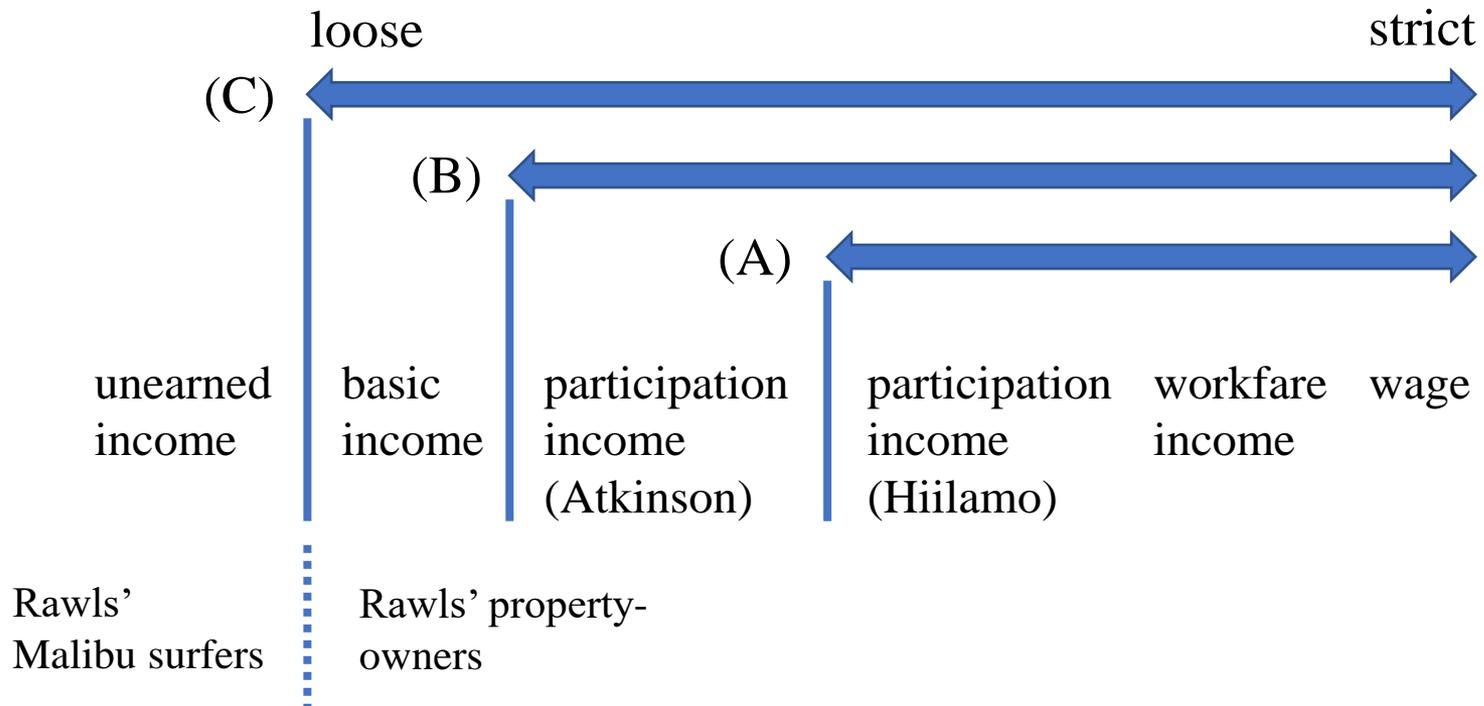
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Contents

1. The principle of reciprocity
2. Freedom to choose
3. Unmet social needs
4. Voluntary work
5. PI or not?
6. A hybrid of PI and BI

1. The Principle of Reciprocity

- A spectrum of reciprocity



1. The Principle of Reciprocity

- A missing point: the level of BI
- If the amount of BI is not high enough to cover basic needs, the appearance of a so-called ‘Malibu surfer’ is a needless worry.
- If the amount of BI is not high enough, it cannot even reduce working hours.

2. Freedom to choose

- Whether participation is coerced or not?
- PI advocates tend to support freedom not to participate and freedom to choose a type of participation.
- Further, Hiilamo and others allow people to co-create a list of activities.
- However, freedom in the process of participation cannot be guaranteed for all

3. Unmet Social Needs

- An argument that PI is superior to BI because it can address unmet social needs
- Is PI a necessary condition for satisfying unmet social needs? It varies from society to society.
- In South Korea, jobs in the government as % of the total jobs in 2020: 8.8% (OECD average 17.9%)

4. Voluntary work

- The essence of voluntary work: spontaneity and being unpaid
- Can voluntary work be voluntary one under PI?
- From the perspective of encouraging altruism, BI may be superior to PI.

5. PI or not?

- “giving up the idea of participation income as a universal social policy”(Hiilamo 2022, p.106) because of administrative difficulties and costs
- Targeting for individuals who earn below-average (or median) incomes and top-up to SA benefit (or guaranteed minimum income)
- Can it be called a variant of PI?

5. PI or not?

unconditional/universal

conditional/selective



(A)

basic
income

participation
income
(Atkinson)

participation
income
(Hiilamo)

workfare
income

(B)

basic
income

participation
income
(Atkinson)

participation
income
(Hiilamo)

workfare
income

6. A hybrid of PI and BI

- Introducing GI, which can be considered a variant of BI, complicates the discussion over PI.
- However, it opens up new horizons to imagine a combination of PI and BI.
- In this combination, PI can focus on socially valuable activities that participants, who can be selected without income-testing, want to choose.

“Basic income has been proposed as a one-size-fits-all solution to the future challenges.”

Heikki Hiilamo, *Participation Income* (2022, p.140)

“... a basic income would be a necessary condition, but not a sufficient one. It is emancipatory, but it is not a panacea.”

Guy Standing, *Basic Income: And How We Can Make It Happen* (2017, p.68)