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Guillermina Jasso* (gj1@nyu.edu), Department of Sociology, New York University, 295 Lafayette Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10012-9605. *Exploring Polarization: the Effects of General Inequality and Subgroup Relative Size on Distance between Subgroups and Dispersion within Subgroups.*

Polarization involves two activities: distance between subgroups increases, and dispersion within subgroups decreases. Two questions that arise concern the effects of the magnitude of inequality and the relative sizes of the subgroups on the two activities of polarization. This paper addresses these questions, analyzing classical probability distributions as well as mixtures of distributions. (Received September 12, 2008)