

Transcript

How to compare income across countries (5)

PROFESSOR HANS ROSLING:

Here is the same data on a linear scale. And it looks very different. You can now see the differences between the rich countries much better.

But it misses something else. The middle-income countries and the poorest countries are crammed together so you can't see the important differences in this group. Even this big, red bubble, China, looks quite poor.

It's not that logarithmic or linear scale is right or wrong. They show different things. So you have to choose carefully which one to use. But I think log scale really is the best to show the differences in the world.