“Income inequalities and wellbeing in Switzerland among different ethnics groups from 1980 to 2012” (preliminary title)

1. Research question:
This PhD research aims to analyses and reconstructs income inequalities trends in Switzerland among different groups of population, and if possible to compare immigrants groups with natives. Indeed, it is important to gather all information we can reassemble in order to have a better overview of the socioeconomic situation in Switzerland, and specifically an economic view. It is also important to understand how income inequalities among immigrant evolved during the past decades, in order to understand how these inequalities impact other socioeconomic aspects of life, like health for example. Also, these groups are interesting to analyse as they may encounter specific difficulties such as discrimination, change in the legal status and so on.

2. Research goals:
The main goal is to provide an overview of income inequalities among different immigrants groups in Switzerland for the last two decades and what are the main determinants of the income inequalities among these particular groups. There will be two main parts, the first one will be more theoretical, reassembling all information about income inequalities from 1980 for both Swiss and immigrants, and the second part will analyse what are the main determinants of the income inequalities, and what public policies can do to improve their socioeconomic status.

3. Methodological approach:
I will adopt a quantitative approach in order to do the analyses. The use of different surveys will help me out to have good sample (SILC, ESPA, SHP ...). Then, I will probably use the logistic regression model in order to identify what are the main determinants of income inequalities among immigrants.

4. Time schedule:
I started my thesis in April 2013. By the end of the year 2013, I would like to precise the subject, to finish the literature review and also to have all surveys data I will need for the analysis. By the first semester of 2014, I would like to submit a first article, about the evolution of income inequalities in Switzerland. Then, by the end of year 2014, submit a second article where the income inequalities since 1980 are put on a comparative perspective between native and immigrants groups in Switzerland. A third article, presenting the different determinants explaining income inequalities for each group, would be submitted by the first semester of 2015. Finally, I would have approximately one year and half to write or complete the main paper of the thesis.

5. Collaboration:
I will collaborate with Dr. Eric Crettaz and Pascale Gazareth, on income inequalities in Switzerland. Other collaboration is possible.