The Big Questions Books, a new subseries of Studies in Social Inequality, provides an outlet for cutting-edge commentaries on the causes and consequences of contemporary inequality. As the study of inequality becomes ever more specialized, interdisciplinary, and sprawling, there is a growing need for essay-length books that allow scholars to weigh in on relevant debates while freed from the technical requirements of scholarly journal articles and the elaborate documentation of full-length research monographs. This new subseries will feature books that are short and incisive, often controversial, and always widely read.

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- **Incisive:** Essay-length format avoids the distractions of unnecessary formalization or technical detail  
- **Controversial:** Provocatively argued even while exposing readers to alternative positions and inevitable ambiguities in evidence  
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