Inequality in the 21st Century

Edited by David B. Grusky and Jasmine Hill

Why are so many types of inequality suddenly increasing? Should we be worried that we’re moving into a second gilded age? with unprecedented levels of income inequality? In this new collection, David B. Grusky and Jasmine Hill present readings that lay bare the main changes in the social and economic landscape, what’s driving these changes, and what might be done to reverse them. This reader delivers the latest and most influential contributions on economic inequality, social mobility, educational inequality, racial and ethnic relations, and gender inequality.

The contributions span many fields and are authored by such top scholars as Emmanuel Saez (economist, UC Berkeley), Kathryn Edin (sociologist, Johns Hopkins), Raj Chetty (economist, Stanford), Florencia Torche (sociologist, NYU), Thomas Piety (economist, EHESS), and Lucien Bebchuk (law, Harvard).

The readings are thematically organized, and each section begins with an introduction from Grusky and Hill that place the selections within a broader context. The pieces are expertly excerpted, allowing readers to quickly understand the main forces at work, the debates still in play, and what’s still unknown. The resulting collection is a pitch-perfect introduction for undergraduates or anyone interested in learning why we’re entering a new era of inequality and what can be done to change the tide.
Preface and Acknowledgments

1. David B. Grusky and Jasmine Hill  
*Poverty and Inequality in the 21st Century*

**Part I: The Classic Theory**  
**Overview**

2. Karl Marx  
*Classes in Capitalism and Pre-Capitalism*

3. Max Weber  
*Class, Status, Party*

4. W.E.B. Du Bois  
*Black Reconstruction and the Racial Wage*

5. Charlotte Perkins Gilman  
*Women and Economics*

**Part II: The Great Takeoff in Income and Wealth Inequality**  
**Overview**

6. Emmanuel Saez  
*Striking it Richer*

7. Thomas Piketty  
*Capital in the 21st Century*

8. Claudia Goldin and Lawrence F. Katz  
*The Race Between Education and Technology*

9. Robert Frank  
*Why is Income Inequality Growing?*
10. Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson  
*Winner-Take-All-Politics*

11. Bruce Western and Jake Rosenfeld  
*Unions, Norms, and the Rise in U.S. Wage Inequality*

12. Richard Freeman  
*(Some) Inequality is Good For You*

**Part III: The One Percent**  
*Overview*

13. C. Wright Mills  
*The Power Elite*

14. Alvin W. Gouldner  
*The Future of Intellectuals and the Rise of the New Class*

15. David Brooks  
*Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There*

16. Shamus Khan  
*Privilege: The Making of an Adolescent Elite*

**Part IV: Poverty and the Underclass**  
*Overview*

*The Everyday Life of the Poor*

17. Barbara Ehrenreich  
*Nickel and Dimed*

18. Kathryn Edin, Timothy Nelson, and Joanna Miranda Reed  
*Low-Income Urban Fathers and the ?Package Deal? of Family Life*

*The Extent of Poverty in the U.S.*

19. Sheldon Danziger and Christopher Wimer  
*The War on Poverty*

*Living on $2/Day*

*Why is There So Much Poverty?*

21. Jack Shonkoff  
*Poverty and Child Development*

22. William Julius Wilson  
*Being Poor, Black, and American*

23. Douglas S. Massey & Nancy A. Denton  
*American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass*
*Legacies of Inequality*

25. Patrick Sharkey and Felix Elwert
*Multigenerational Disadvantage*

26. Matthew Desmond
*Eviction and the Reproduction of Urban Poverty*

27. Bruce Western and Becky Pettit
*Incarceration and Social Inequality*

**Part V: Mobility and the American Dream**

*Overview*

**The Race for Education**

28. Sean F. Reardon
*The Widening Academic Achievement Gap Between the Rich and the Poor*

29. Richard Breen, Ruud Luijkx, Walter Müller, & Reinhard Pollak
*Nonpersistent Inequality in Educational Attainment*

30. Michael Hout
*Rationing College Opportunity*

31. Stephen L. Morgan
*A New Social Psychological Model of Educational Attainment*

32. Josipa Roska and Richard Arum
*Academically Adrift*

**Economic and Occupation Mobility**

33. Raj Chetty, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, and Emmanuel Saez
*Economic Mobility*

34. Florencia Torche
*Does College Still Have Equalizing Effects?*

35. Elizabeth Armstrong
*Paying for the Party*

36. Jay MacLeod
*Ain?t No Makin? It: Leveled Aspirations in a Low-income Neighborhood*

37. Jan O. Jonsson, David B. Grusky, Matthew Di Carlo, and Reinhard Pollak
*It?s a Decent Bet that our Children Will be Professors Too*

**Who Do You Know?**

38. Mark S. Granovetter
*The Strength of Weak Ties*

39. Roberto M. Fernandez and Isabel Fernandez-Mateo
*Networks, Race, and Hiring*
Work and Mobility

40. Jacob Hacker
The Great Risk Shift

41. Jake Rosenfeld
Little Labor: How Union Decline is Changing the American Landscape

42. Ann Stevens
Jobs and Poverty

Part VI: Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality
Overview

Race as a Social Construct

43. Michael Omi and Howard Winant
Racial Formation in the United States

44. Aliya Saperstein and Andrew M. Penner
The Dynamics of Racial Fluidity and Inequality

Immigration

45. Alejandro Portes & Min Zhou
The New Second Generation: Segmented Assimilation and Its Variants

46. Tomás R. Jiménez
Why Replenishment Strengthens Racial and Ethnic Boundaries

Discrimination, Prejudice, and Stereotyping

47. Marianne Bertrand and Sendhil Mullainathan
Are Emily and Greg More Employable Than Lakisha and Jamal? A Field Experiment on Labor Market Discrimination

48. Devah Pager
Marked: Race, Crime, and Finding Work in an Era of Mass Incarceration

49. Claude Steele
Stereotype Threat and African-American Student Achievement

Race and Ethnicity in the 21st Century and Beyond

50. William Julius Wilson
The Declining Significance of Race: Blacks and Changing American Institutions

51. Reanne Frank, Ilana Redstone Akresh, and Bo Lu
How Do Latino Immigrants Fit into the Racial Order?

52. Mary Patillo
Black Picket Fences
Part VII: Gender, Sexuality, and Inequality

Overview

Gender and Sexuality as a Social Construct

54. Judith Lorber
The Social Construction of Gender

55. C.J. Pascoe and Tristan Bridges
Fag Discourse in a Post-Homophobic Era

The Division of Labor

56. Arlie Russell Hochschild
The Time Bind

57. Christine Percheski
Opting Out?

58. Asaf Levanon and David B. Grusky
Egalitarianism and Gender Inequality

How Much Discrimination is There?

59. Claudia Goldin and Cecilia Rouse
Orchestrating Impartiality: The Impact of ?Blind? Auditions on Female Musicians

60. Shelley J. Correll, Stephen Benard, & In Paik
Getting a Job: Is There a Motherhood Penalty?

How Gender Intersects

61. Margaret L. Andersen and Patricia Hill Collins
Why Race, Class, and Gender Matter

62. Andras Tilcsik
Do Openly Gay Men Experience Employment Discrimination?

A Stalling Out?

63. Paula England
The Gender Revolution: Uneven and Stalled

64. Cecilia Ridgeway
The Persistence of Gender Inequality

Part VIII: How Inequality Spills Over

Overview

65. Sean F. Reardon and Kendra Bischoff
Income Inequality and Income Segregation
Part IX: Moving Toward Equality?

Overview

69. James J. Heckman
Skill Formation and the Economics of Investing in Disadvantaged Children

70. Carol Dweck
Why Late Investments Can Work

71. Joshua Cohen and Charles Sabel
Flexicurity

72. Harry Holzer
Reducing Poverty the Pragmatic Way

73. Lucien Bebchuk and Jesse M. Fried
Tackling the Managerial Power Problem

74. Michelle Jackson
We Need to Have a Second Conversation

About the Editors

Index