Inequality in the 21st Century

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.
Table of Contents

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
66. Michael Hout and Daniel Laurison
*The Realignment of U.S. Presidential Voting*

67. Annette Lareau
*Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life*

68. Karen Lutfey and Jeremy Freese
*The Fundamentals of Fundamental Causality*

**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*