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*
53. Jennifer Lee
_Tiger Kids and the Success Frame_

**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**