



## Inequality

By Lisa A. Keister, Darby E. Southgate

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Social stratification is the grouping of people based on income, wealth, political influence and other characteristics. Widely recognized categories such as upper, middle and lower class reflect the presence of social stratification in all societies. Inequality refers to the inevitable disparities in people's positions in this structure. The research presented in this book ranges from studies of income and wealth disparities to analyses of the nature of the class system. This textbook reflects a hybrid approach to studying stratification. It addresses the knowledge accumulated by stratification scholars and challenges students to apply this information to their social world. The authors include a wide range of topics and provide current research to round out their discussions. Each chapter includes a list of key concepts, questions for thought, suggested exercises and multimedia resources.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

"At long last, here's a text that straightforwardly lays out the structure of inequality in our New Gilded Age, without a hint of obfuscation and without the usual distracting polemics. After the facts are laid bare, Keister and Southgate turn just as deftly to describing the mechanisms behind them, the policies that affect them, and the reasons for and against caring about them. A gem of a book." - David B. Grusky, author of The Inequality Reader: Contemporary and Foundational Readings in Race, Class, and Gender (2011)

#### **About the Author**

Lisa A. Keister is a professor of sociology and the Director of the Markets and Management Program at Duke University. She conducts research on wealth inequality, asset accumulation and the causes of each. She is the author of Getting Rich: America's New Rich and How They Got There (Cambridge University Press, 2005) and Wealth in America (Cambridge University Press, 2000). Her research on Chinese corporations and the country's economic transition appeared in her book Chinese Business Groups (2000) as well as various articles.

Darby E. Southgate is an assistant professor of sociology at Los Angeles Valley College and a research consultant. Her primary research interests are poverty, education and culture. Her research investigates the intersection of socioeconomic status, education and culture. She has authored numerous entries on culture, specifically on music and society. She also consults for agencies aiming to reduce homelessness and poverty through education.

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