

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-86196-0 - Inequality: A Contemporary Approach to Race, Class, and Gender

Lisa A. Keister and Darby E. Southgate

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Inequality

A CONTEMPORARY APPROACH TO RACE, CLASS, AND GENDER

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 a person's position 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.

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

Darby E. Southgate is 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 consults for agencies that aim to reduce homelessness and poverty through education.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-86196-0 - Inequality: A Contemporary Approach to Race, Class, and Gender

Lisa A. Keister and Darby E. Southgate

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-86196-0 - Inequality: A Contemporary Approach to Race, Class, and Gender

Lisa A. Keister and Darby E. Southgate

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Inequality

A CONTEMPORARY APPROACH
TO RACE, CLASS, AND GENDER

Lisa A. Keister

Duke University

Darby E. Southgate

Los Angeles Valley College



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-86196-0 - Inequality: A Contemporary Approach to Race, Class, and Gender

Lisa A. Keister and Darby E. Southgate

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521680028

© Lisa A. Keister and Darby E. Southgate 2012

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2012

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Keister, Lisa A., 1968–

Inequality : a contemporary approach to race, class, and gender / Lisa A. Keister,
Darby E. Southgate.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-86196-0 (hardback) – ISBN 978-0-521-68002-8 (paperback)

1. Social stratification – United States. 2. Equality – United States.

3. Social classes – United States. 4. Wealth – United States.

5. Poverty – United States. I. Southgate, Darby E., 1964– II. Title.

HN90.S6K45 2011

305.5'120973–dc23 2011018856

ISBN 978-0-521-86196-0 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-68002-8 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party Internet Web sites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such Web sites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-86196-0 - Inequality: A Contemporary Approach to Race, Class, and Gender

Lisa A. Keister and Darby E. Southgate

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

From LAK to JWM

From AES to all of my students: past, present, future

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-86196-0 - Inequality: A Contemporary Approach to Race, Class, and Gender

Lisa A. Keister and Darby E. Southgate

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-86196-0 - Inequality: A Contemporary Approach to Race, Class, and Gender

Lisa A. Keister and Darby E. Southgate

Frontmatter

[More information](#)


Contents

Acknowledgments	ix
I Basic Concepts	1
1 Social Stratification and Opportunities	3
2 Explaining Stratification: Theories and Ideas	41
3 Understanding Social Stratification: Methods of Evaluation	89
4 Class and the Structure of Inequality	131
II Applications	169
5 The Upper Class and the Elite	171
6 The Middle Class and Workers	215
7 The Working Poor and the Underclass	252
8 Social Mobility	294
9 Education and Inequality	334
10 Women and Their Changing Positions	381
11 Race and Ethnicity	417
12 Culture	459
13 Inequality across the Globe	504
14 Public Policy and Social Stratification	546
Index	583

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-86196-0 - Inequality: A Contemporary Approach to Race, Class, and Gender

Lisa A. Keister and Darby E. Southgate

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-86196-0 - Inequality: A Contemporary Approach to Race, Class, and Gender

Lisa A. Keister and Darby E. Southgate

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



Acknowledgments

We are grateful to several people and organizations that helped us as we conceived of and produced this book. Robert Dreesen and the editorial staff at Cambridge worked with us to complete the book. In the later stages of the project, Rebecca Tippett and Nathan Martin assisted in creating and updating tables.

Three reviewers provided thoughtful, instructive comments on the project at various stages of development. We are thankful for their helpful comments and feel certain that their critiques improved the quality of this book.

Duke, Stanford, and The Ohio State universities provided the space in which we accomplished our work. We are grateful to them and for the assistance of the many people who work there.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-86196-0 - Inequality: A Contemporary Approach to Race, Class, and Gender

Lisa A. Keister and Darby E. Southgate

Frontmatter

[More information](#)
