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978-0-521-86752-8 - Skill Formation: Interdisciplinary and Cross-National Perspectives

Edited by Karl Ulrich Mayer and Heike Solga

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## SKILL FORMATION

This book is the first of its kind to provide an up-to-date review of theories and research on skill formation in psychology, economics, political science, and sociology. It addresses issues of skill learning and measurement, institutional and policy differences among countries, and the issue of skill formation across the life course and disparities among socioeconomic groups. Today, marked changes in skill requirements in modern societies seem to be common sense, yet major questions about the processes of skill formation remain puzzlingly unresolved. Among them are, first, basic questions about what we mean when we talk about skills, qualifications, and competencies. Second, the book deals with questions concerning the institutions in which skills are being trained and learned, such as “Are market economies and firms systematically underinvesting in skills?” Finally, the book advances our knowledge on issues of provision, access, and returns to training.

Karl Ulrich Mayer has been professor of sociology at Yale University since 2003 and currently serves as chair of the department. He is also co-director of the Center for Research on Inequalities and the Life Course. Before that, he was director at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin, Germany, and, from 1979 to 1983 at the German National Survey Research Center. He is the principal investigator of the German Life History Study. From 1993 to 1999, he was member and vice-chair of the German National Science Council (Wissenschaftsrat).

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# Skill Formation

## *Interdisciplinary and Cross-National Perspectives*

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