

Social Inequality in Australia

Discourses, Realities and Futures

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This book provides detailed coverage of the key dimensions of the nature and extent of inequality and difference in Australian society. As well as incorporating arguments about the effects of globalisation on inequality and difference in Australia, it also features arguments about the role of culture in the social reproduction of hierarchy and difference. Arguments about the nature of inequality are 'tested' against empirical evidence, and case studies in each chapter provide examples to aid student understanding.

Key Features

- New approach reflects the most current thinking. 'The cultural turn' is the underlying argument throughout the book & is the focus of Part 3
- Includes consideration of 'the political' as a key sphere that shapes the field.
- Strong on theoretical and empirical content, but written in an engaging style and includes a glossary of key terms to aid understanding.
- Explores the 5 key questions that are prevalent in this area of study:
 1. What are the main dimensions of social inequality in contemporary Australian society?
 2. How are these dimensions changing in the context of globalisation and a post-industrial society?
 3. How is the distribution of Australia's social, political, economic and symbolic resources reproduced across different social groups? How is risk distributed?
 4. How are subjectivities implicated in the creation of social inequality? What contribution do ideological and moral discourses make to its sustainment?
 5. How does this analysis inform current debates about the kind of society Australia is, and what kind it can or should become?

Contents

Part 1: Theorising Social Inequality

1. Social inequality: A short history of an idea
2. Classical theories of inequality and their modern developments
3. Transformations of class theory: From class to identity

Part 2: Spheres of Inequality

4. The material sphere
5. The political sphere
6. The cultural sphere

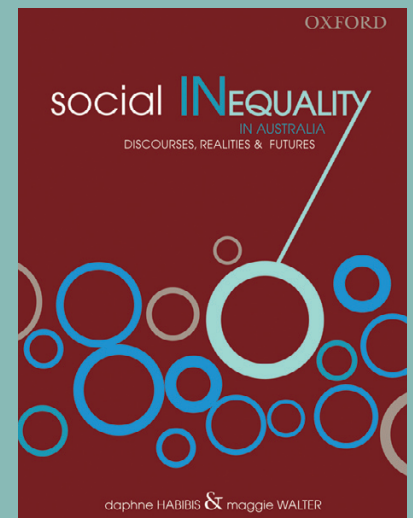
Part 3: Sites of Inequality

7. Knowledge, education and technology
8. The labour market
9. The family
10. Place and space: Locational inequality
11. The body

Part 4: Conclusion

12. Transforming Inequalities

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