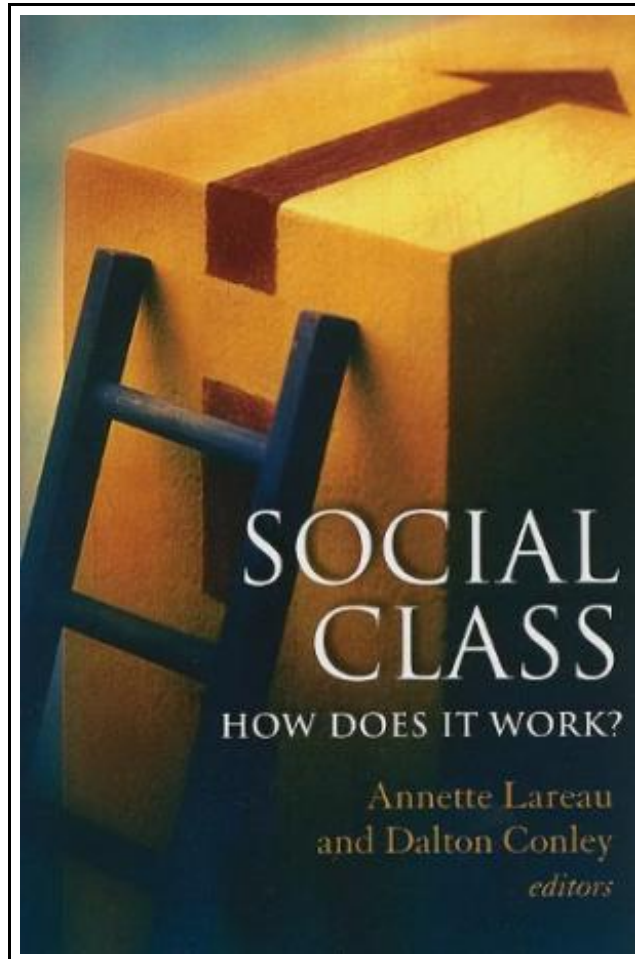


Social Class: How Does It Work?



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Russell Sage Foundation Publications. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 388 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 1.2in. Class differences permeate the neighborhoods, classrooms, and workplaces where we lead our daily lives. But little is known about how class really works, and its importance is often downplayed or denied. In this important new volume, leading sociologists systematically examine how social class operates in the United States today. *Social Class* argues against the view that we are becoming a classless society. The authors show instead the decisive ways social class matters--from how long people live, to how they raise their children, to how they vote. The distinguished contributors to *Social Class* examine how class works in a variety of domains including politics, health, education, gender, and the family. Michael Hout shows that class membership remains an integral part of identity in the U. S. --in two large national surveys, over 97 percent of Americans, when prompted, identify themselves with a particular class. Dalton Conley identifies an intangible but crucial source of class difference that he calls the opportunity horizon--children form aspirations based on what they have seen is possible. The best predictor of earning a college degree isn't race, income, or even parental occupation--it is, rather, the level of education that one's parents achieved. Annette Lareau and Elliot Weininger find that parental involvement in the college application process, which significantly contributes to student success, is overwhelmingly a middle-class phenomenon. David Grusky and Kim Weeden introduce a new model for measuring inequality that allows researchers to assess not just the extent of inequality, but also whether it is taking on a more polarized, class-based form. John Goldthorpe and Michelle Jackson examine the academic careers of students in three social classes and find that poorly performing students from high-status families do much better in many...

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