



FIGURE I.1: Frequency of the terms “inequality,” “racism,” “sexism,” “climate change,” and “economic growth” in English, 1940–2019

Source: Google Ngram.

we will actually get those who are already economically privileged to do even better.

We get a sense of the stakes involved in this new framing by recognizing how inequality competes in popularity with other organizing social science terms. Here, the appeal of the inequality mantra is inversely related to beliefs in modernity, progress, and growth. Google Ngram Viewer reveals the frequency of the terms “inequality,” “racism,” “sexism,” “climate change,” and “economic growth” in English in recent decades, and the trends are revealing (see Figure I.1).