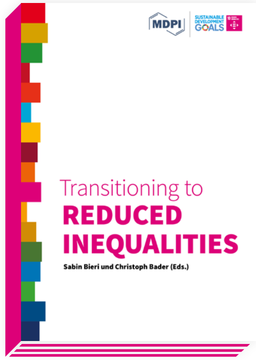
Transitioning to **REDUCED INEQUALITIES**



Edited by
Sabin Bieri and Christoph Bader
www.mdpi.com/books/edition/6778
ISBN 978-3-03921-160-9 (Hbk)
ISBN 978-3-03921-161-6 (PDF)

The world has never been richer than today but the distribution of our global wealth is hugely biased. Since 1980, the top 1% obtained twice as much of the income growth compared to the bottom 50%. Nevertheless, debates about inequality have remained rather marginal despite long-term research by renowned scholars such as Tony Atkinson. Within the public arena, concerns about inequality emerged as a result of: First, the global financial crisis in 2008 exposed the risks of the financing of the economy; second, in 2013, Thomas Picketty's book "Capital in the 21st century" demonstrated that, against the trend of the overall 20th century, capital returns outstrip the gains through economic growth in recent decades, thus threatening social coherence and democratic institutions; and third, the Millennium Campaign presented impressive achievements regarding poverty but stirred doubts as to whether the most deprived were left even further behind.

The stated aim of SDG 10 is to "reduce inequality within and among countries". There is growing consensus that economic growth is not sufficient to reduce poverty, and that our efforts to make it more inclusive have so far been insufficient. The first step is to adopt a systemic perspective for an integrative analysis covering both ends of the ladder. Policies should be universal in principle and pay attention to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized populations. Inequality reminds us that it's not enough to study lower earners and the poor but instead demands that we scrutinize how economic value is generated, accumulated, at whose cost, and how the overall system could be made fairer.