



Poor Women in Rich Countries: The Feminization of Poverty Over the Life Course

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The first book to study women's poverty over the life course, this wide-ranging collection focuses on the economic condition of single mothers and single elderly women-while also considering partnered women and immigrants-in eight wealthy but diverse countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In a rich analysis of labor market and social welfare sectors, Gertrude Schaffner Goldberg and a team of outstanding international contributors conclude that both living-wage employment and government provision of adequate benefits and services are necessary if lone women are to achieve a socially acceptable living standard. Taken together, the chapters extend a feminist critique of welfare state theories and chart nations' disparate progress against poverty - probing, for instance, how Sweden emerged a leader in the prevention of women's poverty while the United States continues to lag. By identifying the social and economic policies that enable women to live independently, *Poor Women in Rich Countries* provides nothing less than a blueprint for abolishing women's poverty.

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