

INEQUALITY

A NEW ZEALAND CRISIS

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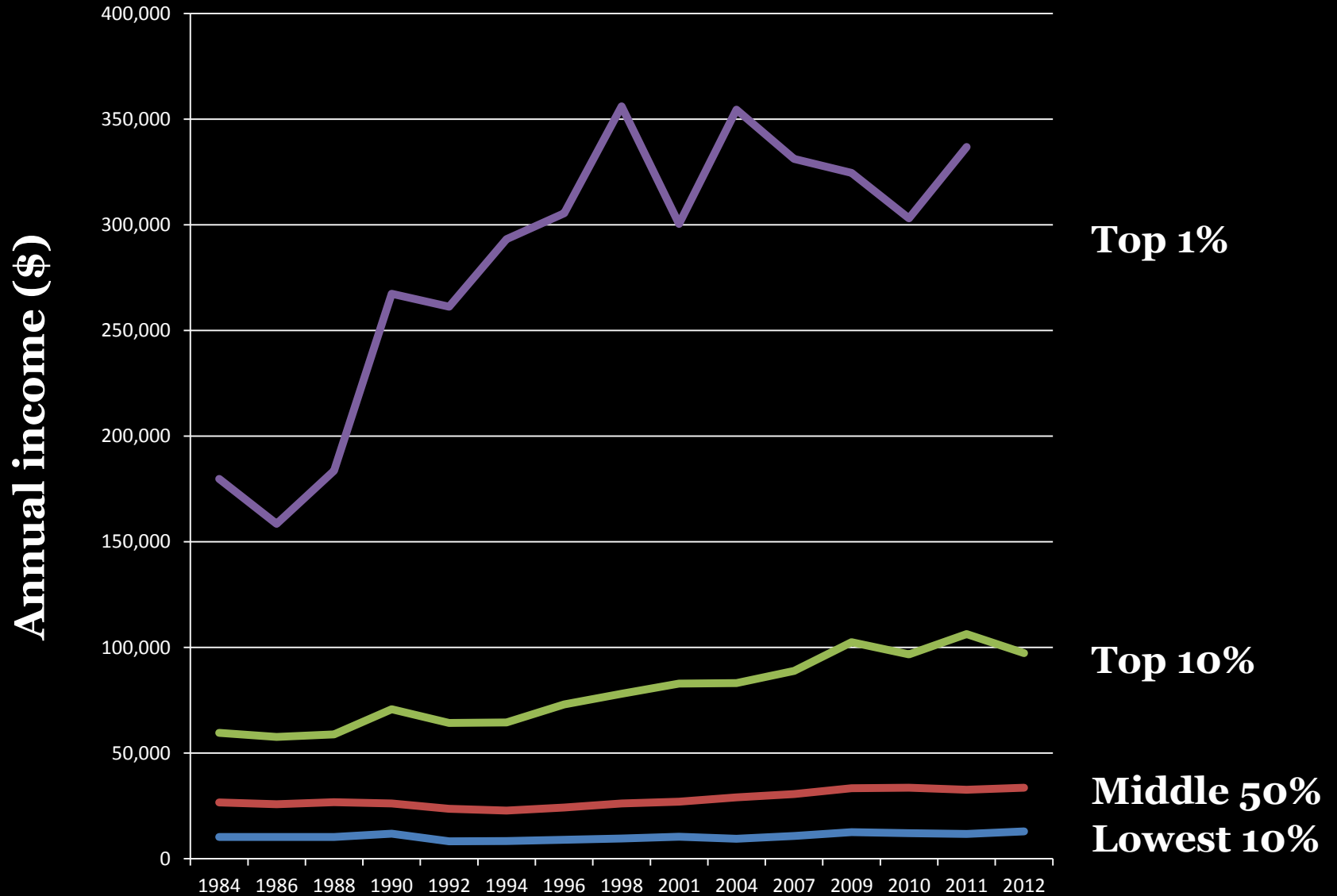
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Inequality of income



Inequality and politics

"We must make our choice. We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."

– Louis Brandeis

Corroding politics

“Actual policy outcomes strongly reflect the preferences of the most affluent but bear virtually no relationship to the preferences of poor or middle-class Americans. The vast discrepancy ... stands in sharp contrast to the ideal of political equality that Americans hold dear... representational biases of this magnitude call into question the very democratic character of our society”

– Martin Gilens

In New Zealand

- The Hollow Men
- Secret trusts
- Owen Glenn donations affair
- Donghua Liu

The current law

- Donations of more than \$15,000 declared
- Parties limited to spending \$2.8 million
- Third parties limited to \$300,000

Ideas for change

- Limits on total donations
- Reduce the anonymous limit
- Beneficial ownership
- Reduce the third party limit
- Revisit regulated period
- Public funding

The debate: inequality.org.nz



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A NEW ZEALAND CONVERSATION

Sparking debate about income gaps, the damage they do, and how to narrow them

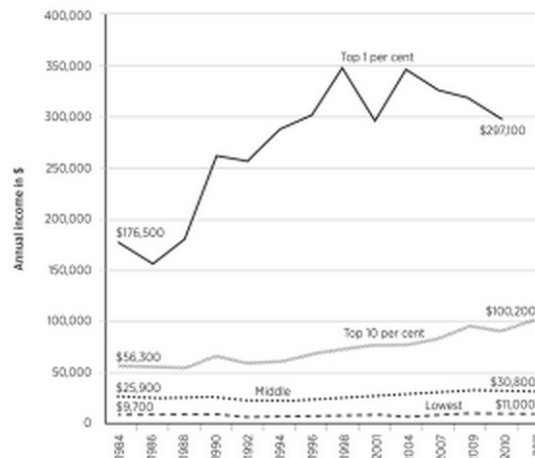
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- REDUCE INEQUALITY
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UNDERSTAND INEQUALITY

Inequality matters because people's income plays a huge part in determining what kind of life they can lead. Different incomes allow very different life chances. And an uneven distribution of incomes creates problems for us all. So just how wide are income gaps in New Zealand?

- From the mid-1980s to the mid-2000s, the gap between the rich and the rest widened faster in New Zealand than in any other wealthy country

Figure 2.5 The rich and the rest: how the gap widened



UNDERSTAND INEQUALITY

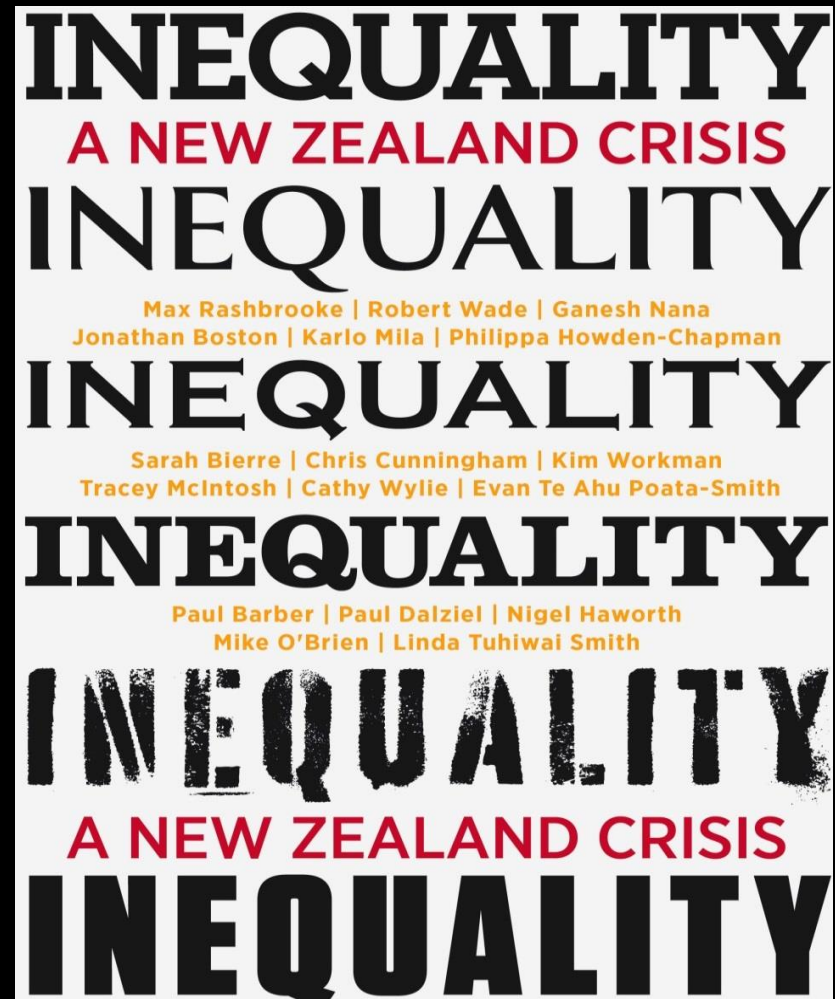
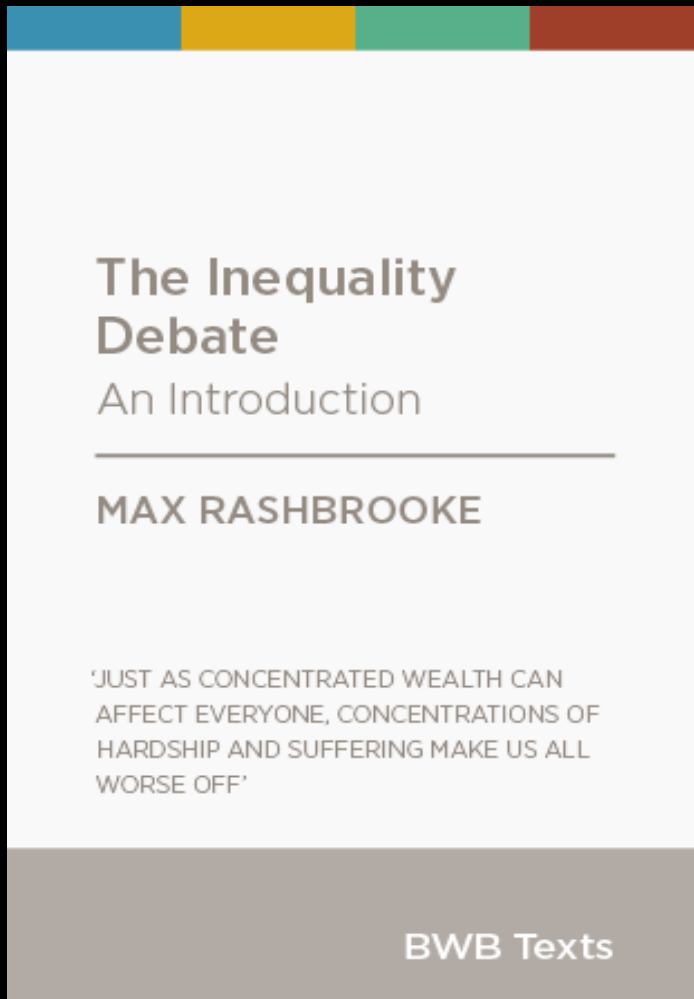
Where do you sit on the income ladder?

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The books



In bookstores or at www.bwb.co.nz/books/inequality