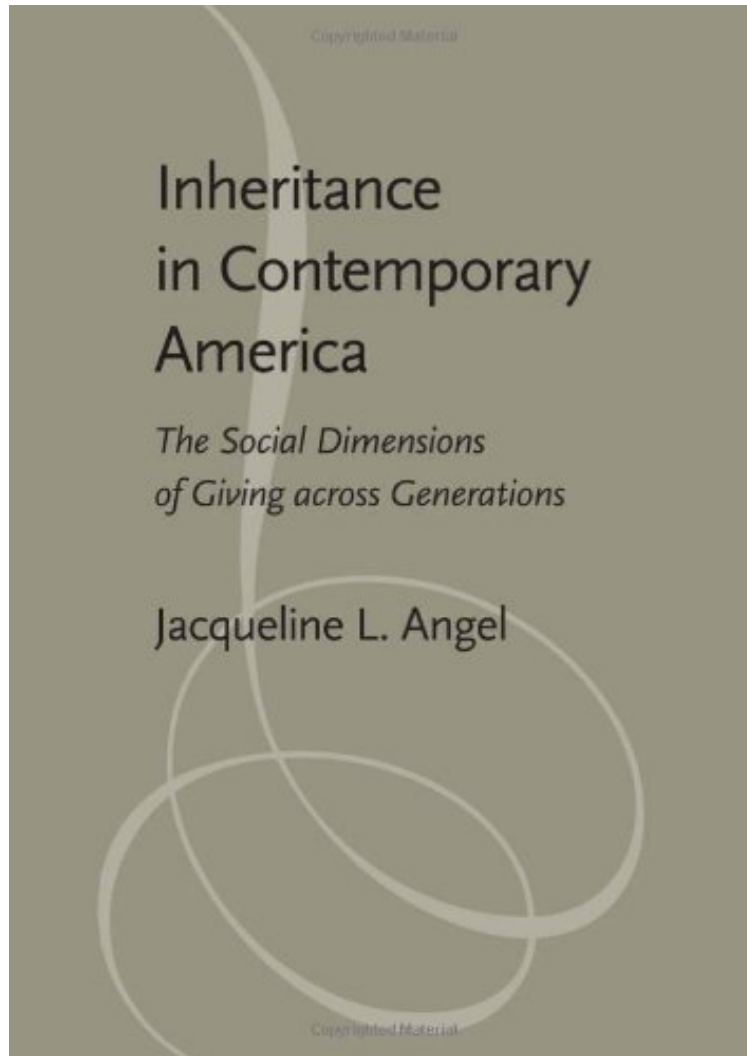


# Inheritance in Contemporary America: The Social Dimensions of Giving across Generations

Jacqueline L. Angel

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**Jacqueline L. Angel : Inheritance in Contemporary America: The Social Dimensions of Giving across Generations** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inheritance in Contemporary America: The Social Dimensions of Giving across Generations:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dated and Ill FocusedBy Thomas A. GlaenzerDated and too broad in its focus. Current tax policy and more emphasis on the affluent and income inequality would have made it more interesting.

With the baby boom generation on the cusp of retirement, life expectancies on the rise, and the nations cultural makeup in flux, the United States is faced with social and policy quandaries that demand attention. How are elders to balance the competing claims of helping family members during their lifetime, saving for old age, and planning estates? What roles should the state, family, and individuals play in supporting people during later life? Are new familial gift-giving trends sustainable, and, if so, what effects might they have on future generations? *Inheritance in Contemporary America* tackles the complex legal, policy, and emotional issues that surround bequests and inheritances in an era of increasing longevity, broadening ethnicity, and unraveling social safety nets. Through empirical analyses, case studies, interviews, and anecdotes, Jacqueline L. Angel explains the historical nature of familial giving and how it is changing as the nations demographics shift. She explores the legal, personal, and policy complexities involved in passing wealth down through generations and provides a cross-disciplinary context for exploring the indelible effects that newly unfolding inheritance practices will have on various societal cohorts and the nation in general. From nuclear and extended families to the state and nongovernmental bodies, Angels engaging study explores how attitudes toward giving are evolving and confronts in stark terms the legacy that these shifts in attitude will leave. This book will be a vital tool for scholars and practitioners in gerontology, sociology, psychology, anthropology, economics, political science, and public policy.

" *Inheritance in Contemporary America* is socially relevant, the writing is clear, and to my knowledge there is no other book like it." (Vern L. Bengtson, Ph.D., AARP/University Professor of Gerontology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles)"This timely and important book breaks new ground. Given the complex factors that influence inheritance decisions and behavior, it is not surprising that few books have been published on this topic. Comprehensive and thorough, Jacqueline L. Angel helps open new windows to understanding the ways we think about our gift-giving behaviors in late life and their effect on personal legacy." (The Gerontologist)"Provides a good overview of some central questions regarding the role of gifts and bequests in the social fabric." (Jens Beskert American Journal of Sociology)About the AuthorJacqueline L. Angel is a professor of sociology at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and the coauthor of *Who Will Care for Us? Aging and Long-term Care in Multicultural America*.