CONTENTS

	List of Figures List of Tables	xiv xiv
	List of Abbreviations	xvi
0	1. Introduction: a Social Science Theory for the 21st Century A new perspective The four main tenets of preference theory Modern society Reinstating preferences as a causal factor Britain and the USA as case-studies Plan of the book Future changes	1
	2. The Failure to Predict Prediction versus post hoc explanation The male bias of labour market theory Feminist contributions Methodological considerations Conclusions	22
	3. Causes of the New Scenario The contraceptive revolution Voluntary childlessness The equal opportunities revolution The expansion of white-collar and service work The creation of jobs for secondary earners Lifestyle choices in rich modern societies Conclusions	43
	4. The Polarization of Preferences and Behaviour The polarization of sex-role preferences Does higher education make a difference? Polarization of attitudes within the workforce The polarization of women's employment Continuity and change in income-earning roles The polarization of household income Contradictory evidence: rising workrates Conclusions	84

xii Contents

	5. Things are Different in the Younger Generations: Evidence	128
	from Longitudinal Studies	
	The 1958 cohort study—NCDS	
	Educational attainment	
	Earnings and the pay gap	
	Aspirations and sex-role ideology	
	The financial dependence of wives	
	Life satisfaction and psychological distress	
	Younger generations in the USA	
	Conclusions	
>4	6. Heterogeneous Preferences	157
	Home-centred women and the marriage career	
	* Work-centred women and the voluntary childfree	
	- Adaptive women: drifters and unplanned careers	
	Social constraints and contextual influences	
	Cross-national comparisons	
	Conflicting interests	
	Contradictory evidence: female depression	
	Sources of the three preferences	
	Conclusions	
	7. Marriage Markets and Educational Equality	193
	Marriage markets	
	The qualifications gap and educational equality	
	Educational homogamy of spouses	
	Role segregation and family relationships	
	Conclusions	
	8. Policy Applications	223
	The rhetoric and reality of pronatalist policies	
	Policies for home-centred women	
	Policies for adaptive women	
	Policies for work-centred women	
	Employer and trade union policies	
	Conclusions	
	9. Preferences among Men	254
	The work-lifestyle preferences of men	169
7	Enduring sex differences	
~	The globalization of marriage markets	
	Male responses to the new scenario	
	Conclusions	

	Contents	xiii
10.	Conclusions	273
	Work-lifestyle preferences in the 21st century	
	Beyond sex and gender	
	Explanations for patriarchy and its success	
	Methodological implications	
	Cross-national comparisons	
	Theorizing social change	
	References	290
	Index	324