



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO
Department of Psychology

2012 Donald W. Fiske Lecture

We are honored to welcome distinguished guest speaker

HAZEL ROSE MARKUS, Stanford University

Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 4:30 pm

Social Sciences Research Building, Room 122

Inequality, Social Class and Self

The U.S. is increasingly marked by inequality and divided along social class lines. This divide is evident in the music we listen to, what eat for dinner, how we parent, how we vote, and in how long we live. In this talk, I synthesize many of the powerful and previously unexamined psychological consequences of societal rank or social class, suggesting that rank has its influence on behavior through one's experience of self. In North American settings, those with higher rank (whether measured or manipulated) tend to experience themselves as independent selves—as separate from others, as expressing and promoting their own interests, choices and goals, and as influencing and controlling social interactions. Those with lower rank tend to experience themselves as interdependent selves—as connected with others, as responsive to the social situation and to others' goals, emotions and needs, and as adjusting and deferring to others in interaction. The more unequal we become, the more different we become in our senses of self, and the more societal dysfunction we will experience. Addressing inequality in health, education, and political engagement will require policies and practices that bridge these socioculturally shaped differences in self.

Hazel Rose Markus is the Davis-Brack Professor in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. She is co-author of *Culture and Emotion: Their Mutual Influence*; *Engaging Cultural Differences: The Multicultural Challenge in Liberal Democracies*; *Just Schools: Pursuing Equality in Societies of Difference*; *Doing Race: 21 Essays for the 21st Century*; and the forthcoming, *Facing Social Class: The Social Psychology of Societal Rank*; and *Clash: Why Cultures Collide and How You Can Harness the Energy*.

