

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

Adopted by the  
Regents  
May 21, 2015

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir

**Jeffery M. Paige, Ph.D.**, professor of sociology in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2015.

Professor Paige received his A.B. degree from Harvard University in 1964 and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Michigan in 1968. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1976, and was promoted to professor in 1982.

Professor Paige is a leading authority on political sociology, revolution, Latin American studies, and Marxian social theory. His earlier work, best reflected in the award-winning book *Agrarian Revolution: Social Movements and Export Agriculture in the Underdeveloped World* (1975), provided a theoretical framework which creatively explores the linkage between forms of economic and social organization and collective political movements. His more recent work *Coffee and Power: Revolution and the Rise of Democracy in Central America* (1997) challenged not only Barrington Moore's influential theory of dictatorship and democracy but also contemporary approaches to "transitions to democracy" by showing that a focus on either political economy or culture alone cannot account for the transformation of elite ideology, and that revolution in Central America is deeply rooted in the personal, familial, and class histories of the coffee elites. The heart of the book is his conversations with sixty-two leaders of fifty-eight elite dynasties, who for the first time tell their own stories of the experience of the Central American revolution. Throughout his career he has interwoven and compared the history, economics, and class structures of various countries in order to clarify the course of recent struggles. In doing so, his work has helped to shape contemporary political sociology by infusing it with historical and economic analytical schemes.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and scholar by naming **Jeffery M. Paige, professor emeritus of sociology**.

**Requested by:**



**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**

**Vice President and Secretary of the University**

**May 2015**