

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Received by the Regents

July 16, 2009


Item for Information

Subject: Henry Russel Lecturer for 2010

I am pleased to inform you that the Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Janet A. Weiss, selected Richard E. Nisbett, Theodore M. Newcomb Distinguished University Professor of Psychology, as the Henry Russel Lecturer for 2010. The Russel Lecture will be delivered by Professor Nisbett on March 9, 2010.

The Henry Russel Lectureship is the highest honor that the University bestows upon a senior member of its faculty. A description of the contributions of this extraordinary faculty member is attached.

Respectfully submitted:


Mary Sue Coleman
President

July 2009

Attachment

Richard E. Nisbett

After receiving his Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Columbia University in 1966, Professor Nisbett served as Assistant Professor of Psychology at Yale University until 1971 when he joined the faculty of the University of Michigan, where he has served since.

Professor Nisbett is recognized as one of the most creative and productive social psychologists in the history of that discipline. His work has ranged widely in the field. He has made landmark contributions to the study of obesity, to the study of how humans understand themselves and the social world, to the study of people's use of induction and logic, and to the study of culture (in particular the examination of culture's influence on violence, on reasoning, perception and intelligence). Professor Nisbett has played a critical role for decades in the Department of Psychology and in the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, where he was the director of the Research Center for Group Dynamics for seven years.

Professor Nisbett's service extends far beyond the University of Michigan. His classic empirical studies have advanced the field of social psychology markedly. The influence of his work is reflected in the committee service he has performed for the American Psychological Society, review work for NSF, the U.S. Congress and branches of the U.S. military. He has chaired and served on committees for the National Academy of Science, and served on the editorial boards of seventeen different journals.

Professor Nisbett was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2002 and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1992. He received the American Psychological Association's Donald T. Campbell Award for Distinguished Research in Social Psychology (1982) as well as its Distinguished Scientific Contributions Award (1991), the Distinguished Senior Scientist Award of the Society for Experimental Social Psychology (1995), the William James Fellow Award for Distinguished Scientific Achievements of the Association for Psychological Science (1996), and the University of Wurzburg's Oswald Kulpe Award for contributions to the understanding of higher mental processes (2007). He has held Guggenheim (2002) and Russell Sage (2001, 2003, 2008) fellowships and received the American Psychological Association's William James Book Award for "The Geography of Thought" (2004).