



INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOR AND POPULATION HEALTH DISPARITIES: THE AFFORDANCES FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING POPULATION DISPARITIES IN PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

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About the Talk

Physical health and mortality disparities consistently favor non-Hispanic whites over black Americans. On the other hand, over the last 25 years epidemiological studies reveal that Blacks suffer the same or lower rates of serious mental disorders as Whites. Coping, consciously or unconsciously, with chronically stressful environments often involves engaging in unhealthy behaviors, including smoking, alcohol and drug use, and over-eating. These actions have brain effects through the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenalcortical (HPA) axis to alleviate the harmful physiological reactions to stressful environmental exposures, and protect individuals from mental disorders. These same chronic stress exposures and poor health behaviors, however, are silently affecting biological pathways that eventuate in physical health morbidity and mortality disparities among groups.

About the Speaker

James S. Jackson is the Daniel Katz Distinguished University Professor of Psychology, Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies, and Director of the Institute for Social Research, all at the University of Michigan. His research focuses on issues of racial and ethnic influences on life course development, attitude change, reciprocity, social support, and coping and health among blacks in the Diaspora. He is past Director of the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies and past national president of the Association of Black Psychologists. He is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, the Society of Experimental Social Psychology, the American Psychological Association, the Association of Psychological Sciences, AAAS, and the W.E.B. Du Bois Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. He has received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Career Contributions to Research Award of the Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues, the James McKeen Cattell Fellow Award for Distinguished Career Contributions in Applied Psychology of the American Psychological Association, and the Medal for Distinguished Contributions in Biomedical Sciences of the New York Academy of Medicine. He is the President of the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA). He is a member of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is currently directing the most extensive social, political behavior, and mental and physical health surveys on the African American and Black Caribbean populations ever conducted. He serves on several Boards for the National Research Council and the National Academies of Science and is a founding member of the "Aging Society Research Network" of the MacArthur Foundation.

Date:
Mon. Sept. 30, 2013

Time:
12:00 PM

Location:
Margaret Brent Room
Stamp Student Union

*This event is free and
open to the public.*

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