

2019-2020 VISITING SCHOLARS LECTURER SERIES

Thursday, October 10, Friday, October 11, 2019



**DR. NEIL LEWIS JR., Assistant Professor
of Communication and Social Behavior
at Cornell University**

**Thursday, October 10, 1:00 pm - 1:50 pm • Kingston Hall, Lecture Theatre 201
TALK: Diversity Issues in Research**

Neil has been involved in numerous outreach projects (more details available on his website <https://neillewisjr.com/>) including setting up a mobile lab to access a broader range of participants, most of whom are underrepresented minorities living in hard-to-reach areas. He also served as the co-leader for the diversity hackathon at the annual meeting for the Society for Improving Psychological Science in 2017, and recently, he became an assistant director of the Psychological Science Accelerator, a globally distributed network of psychological science laboratories (currently over 500), representing over 60 countries on all six populated continents, that coordinates data collection for democratically selected studies.

**Friday, October 11, 2:30 pm - 4 pm in Dunning Hall Room 14 (with reception to follow)
TALK: Stratified Cognition: How Social Stratification Shapes Meaning Making,
Motivation, and Behavior**

When societies separate people into different groups and provide those groups with differential access to resources and opportunities, members those groups inevitably have different experiences in life. Due to situated cognition processes, differences in contexts that arise from such social stratification influence how people make meaning of the world around them. Moreover, those differences in meaning-making have cascading effects on the decisions people make. In this talk, I will share recent findings from my program of research that has been examining these processes in the context of the United States. We have been examining how US segregation (i.e., by race and socioeconomic status) influences how Americans make meaning of their experiences, and the implications of that meaning for their motivation to pursue different goals and success in goal pursuit efforts, particularly in the domains of education and health. I will discuss the implications of this research for both theory and intervention practice.

BIOGRAPHY

Neil Lewis, Jr. is Assistant Professor of Communication and Social Behavior at Cornell University with graduate faculty appointments in Communication and Psychology. He also holds a joint appointment in the Weill Cornell Medical College Division of General Internal Medicine as Assistant Professor of Communication Research in Medicine. Lewis is a first-generation college graduate. He earned his B.A. in Economics and Psychology at Cornell University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Social Psychology at the University of Michigan. Lewis's research examines how people's social contexts and identities influence their motivation to pursue their goals, and their success in goal pursuit efforts. He studies these processes most often in the domains of education, health, and environmental sustainability, in hopes that the knowledge generated from this research can provide useful insights for developing interventions to help people achieve their education, health, and sustainability-related goals. In addition to his faculty roles, Lewis is one of the authors of Science Magazine's "Letters To Young Scientists" professional development column which provides career advice to new scientists, and he is an Assistant Director of the Psychological Science Accelerator – a globally distributed network of psychology laboratories that conducts studies in over 60 countries on all six populated continents. He is also on the Editorial Boards of Perspectives on Psychological Science and Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy, and he previously co-edited the Michigan Journal of Sustainability and a special issue of the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology.