

Decision Processes Colloquia

Monday, October 14, 2019

Where: 370 JMHH

When: 12:00 – 1:20 pm

Neil A. Lewis, Jr.

Assistant Professor, Communication and Social Behavior
Cornell University

Decision-Making Under Inequality: Implications for Education and Health Disparities

ABSTRACT:

The United States of America is an unequal society, one in which the life outcomes of its citizens can largely be predicted by dimensions of social stratification such as race and wealth. How does this inequality affect the way Americans think, feel, and make decisions? In this talk, I will share findings from my program of research that has been examining how Americans' social contexts, and identities that shape how they make meaning of those contexts, influence motivation and goal pursuit processes. I will use the domains of education and health as cases to examine how unequal social forces influence the gap between Americans' high aspirations, and often lower attainment, and why those gaps tends to be wider for some groups than for others. I will end by discussing the implications of this research for interventions to reduce aspiration-attainment gaps, and social disparities more broadly.

