Health disparities between members of socially advantaged (or high-status) and disadvantaged (or low-status) groups are pervasive and persistent. Across disciplines, there is growing recognition of the role that stigma, both experienced and perceived, plays in contributing to these disparities. In addition to increasing exposure to stress and restricting access to resources important for health and well-being, stigma is a threat to the self. Perceived stigma and discrimination communicate a lack of regard for an individual’s social identity and threaten fundamental social needs for self-esteem, belonging, and fairness. Major will discuss empirical research regarding the consequences of perceived stigma and discrimination for health, the psychological, physiological, and behavioral pathways by which perceived stigma and discrimination can negatively affect health, and factors that moderate these effects.

Major is a past fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. Her research focuses on the psychology of stigma, psychological responses to abortion, the psychological justification of inequality, and the antecedents and consequences of perceived discrimination and unfair treatment. She has written more than 150 articles and chapters and one book, *The Psychology of Legitimacy*. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the American Philosophical Foundation, and the Cattell Foundation. Major has received the Kurt Lewin Prize from the Society of Psychological Study of Social Issues, the Gordon Allport Intergroup Relations Prize, the Distinguished Publication Award from the Association of Women in Psychology, and she was named a California Distinguished Wellness Lecturer. She also served as president of the Society of Experimental Social Psychology and of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

Presented by the Department of Psychological Sciences in conjunction with the College of Arts and Science

The Psychological and Physical Costs of Perceived Discrimination

Brenda N. Major, Distinguished Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara

September 19, 3:30–5:00
Jesse Wrench Auditorium, S107
Memorial Union, University Ave. & Hitt St.
Free and open to the public

For more information, please visit events.psych.missouri.edu/lecture-series/