Humans have a fundamental need to feel a sense of connection and belonging with others. But how can people satisfy this need? One approach involves aiming to satisfy one’s own needs through impression management—constructing images of the self as having desirable qualities to obtain regard from others. A very different approach involves focusing on the needs of others through compassionate goals—reflected in the intention to be supportive and constructive toward others. In this talk, Crocker describes research indicating that these two approaches reflect different motivational orientations—egosystem and ecosystem orientations. This research suggests that people create—or undermine—their sense of belonging through the goals they bring to their social relationships.

Jennifer Crocker is Ohio Eminent Scholar in Social Psychology and professor of psychology at The Ohio State University. Crocker’s research interests include self-esteem, social relationships, social stigma, and social motivation. Her research has been funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Science Foundation, including an NIMH Independent Scientist Award (K-02). She received the Gordon Allport Intergroup Relations Prize from the American Psychological Association, and a Lifetime Career Award from the International Society for Self and Identity. Crocker has also served as president of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, the International Society for Self and Identity, the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, and the Society for Experimental Social Psychology.

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

Sponsored by generous contributions from The Grinshaw Distinguished Lecture Series in the Humanities and Social Sciences; College of Education; College of Human Environmental Sciences; Dept. of Anthropology; Dept. of Communication; Dept. of Communication Science & Disorders; Dept. of Computer Science; Dept. of Educational, School, & Counseling Psychology; Dept. of Health Psychology; Dept. of Human Development & Family Studies; Dept. of Management; Dept. of Philosophy; Dept. of Religious Studies; Dept. of Sociology; Dept. of Women’s & Gender Studies; Office of Undergraduate Studies; School of Journalism; School of Medicine; Sinclair School of Nursing; Bond Life Sciences Center; Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative; David Bowersdorf on behalf of the Center for Translational Neuroscience; Honors College; Life Sciences & Society Program; Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders; the Melvin H. and Kathleen Marx Experimental Psychology Fund; and the Fred McKinney Psychology Lectureship.