

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

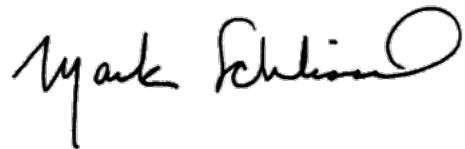
ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Henry Russel Lecturer for 2022

I am pleased to inform you that the Henry Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Michael J. Solomon, met recently and selected Donald R. Kinder, the Philip E. Converse Distinguished University Professor of Political Science, Professor of Political Science, and Professor of Psychology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, as the Henry Russel Lecturer for 2022. Professor Kinder will deliver the Russel Lecture in the Winter Term of 2022.

The Henry Russel Lectureship is the highest honor that the University bestows upon a senior member of its faculty. A description of the contributions of this extraordinary faculty member is attached.

Respectfully submitted:



Mark S. Schlissel
President

June 2021

Attachment

Donald R. Kinder

Donald R. Kinder, the Philip E. Converse Distinguished University Professor of Political Science, Professor of Political Science, Professor of Psychology (by courtesy), and Research Professor, Center for Political Studies at the Institute for Social Research, is widely recognized as a giant of behavioral political science and the most distinguished public opinion scholar of his generation. In six major books and dozens of chapters and articles in leading social science journals, he has introduced theoretical concepts and empirical measures that have transformed his discipline. Professor Kinder has played a leading role in almost every major development in the field of public opinion research over the past four decades. In all his work, he places his arguments on firm psychological foundations and tethers his studies to the rich contours of political discourse as encountered by citizens in the “real world.” In his seminal book, *News that Matters* (1987), he demonstrated the power of television news to shift public priorities and to shape the criteria by which voters evaluate politicians. His research has established that the way that politicians and journalists frame an issue can shape how people organize an understanding of an event in memory. This study changed how social scientists understand the role of media in politics. No less significantly, *News that Matters* demonstrated how political scientists and political economists can design experimental studies to advance key areas of research. In this work and a following collection of studies, he galvanized the rapid growth of the use of experimental methods in political science, which have become a standard research method and a regular component of doctoral training. Professor Kinder’s 1996 book, *Divided by Color*, made an equally significant contribution to the study of racial attitudes and politics. He advanced a powerful new theory of contemporary prejudice that explained how a fusion of anti-black sentiment and conservative values forge what has come to be known as “racial resentment” and is understood to be one of the strongest and most consistent forces shaping American public opinion. The measures he developed for this study are now routinely used by social scientists around the world who examine political beliefs, and now form part of the core content of the long-running American National Election Studies, national surveys conducted before and after every presidential election. Professor Kinder extended this work in another pioneering study, *Us Against Them* (2009), in which he demonstrated how popular predispositions to broader forms of group-based thinking operate, which transcend prejudices toward specific groups and see society in terms of favored in-groups and shunned out-groups. His research has shown the potency of ethnocentrism as a force that operates in all social groups and affects opinions about a broad range of political issues. Professor Kinder also has reshaped understandings of how voters evaluate political candidates. He was the first scholar to demonstrate the importance of emotions in understanding political attitudes and voter decision-making, and the study of emotion and politics now is a flourishing area of interdisciplinary social science research.

A long list of honors have recognized Professor Kinder’s extraordinary research contributions. He has been elected to fellowship in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1993) and the National Academy of Sciences (2017), and the American Political Science Association has honored him with the Warren E. Miller Award for lifetime achievement in the study of public opinion and elections (2012). In addition to many grants from the National Science Foundation, the Russell Sage Foundation, and other leading national research organizations, he also has received a Guggenheim Fellowship and a fellowship at the Stanford Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. No less, Professor Kinder is an

exemplary teacher and mentor of graduate students. He has trained what has been described as an amazing cadre of doctoral students who represent the best in their fields. His students hold appointments at CalTech, Duke, University of Chicago, MIT, Princeton, Stanford, University of Michigan, University of North Carolina, University of Virginia, University of Wisconsin, Vanderbilt, and elsewhere. Notably, Professor Kinder has co-authored many of his articles and books with his graduate students, providing them with exceptional training. For his outstanding commitment to his students, the Women's Caucus of the American Political Science Association has presented him with its Distinguished Mentor award.

Professor Kinder earned his B.A. (1969) in psychology at Stanford University, and his Ph.D. (1975) in social psychology at the University of California, Los Angeles. He joined the University of Michigan in 1981 as associate professor of political science and associate professor of psychology, and was promoted to professor of political science and professor of psychology in 1993. In 1997 he was appointed as the Philip E. Converse Collegiate Professor of Political Science, and in 2014 he was named the Philip E. Converse Distinguished University Professor of Political Science.

As a world-renowned political scientist who has reshaped his field and trained a new generation of leading scholars, Professor Kinder's many contributions have brought distinction to the University of Michigan and the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and he is an exceptionally worthy selection as the 2022 Henry Russel Lecturer.