Recognition Gaps: The Mission of Sociology in the Age of Trump

Date: Tuesday, May 9
Time: 7:30-9pm
Location: Lesley University; Sherrill 350
(room at the top of the Lesley University library)

In her talk, Michèle Lamont will take us into the subjective worlds of those stigmatized and othered by class and by race. First, drawing on her 2000 book *The Dignity of Working Men: Morality and the Boundaries of Race, Class and Immigration*, which is based on 150 in-depth interviews conducted with white and Black workers in New York and white and North African workers in France, she will describe the criteria working-class individuals use to define worthy and less worth people, and relatedly, how they draw classed and raced boundaries between "us" and "them." Lamont's research contributes to a more complex understanding of how structural conditions of existence and specific cultural resources available to working-class individuals across cultures shape distinctive understandings of the world that are often quite different from those of the middle and upper classes. Lamont will bring this data into conversation with the findings from her recent book, *Getting Respect*, a work that examines how specific groups experience ethnoracial exclusion and respond to it. While psychoanalysis has long recognized the necessity of recognition within the mother/infant dyad in the development of the child's subjectivity, Lamont's work expands this framework to explore the importance of recognition as both a cultural process and a demand of those who are misrecognized.

Michèle Lamont is Professor of Sociology and of African and African American Studies and the Robert I. Goldman Professor of European Studies at Harvard University. She serves as the 108th President of the American Sociological Association in 2016-2017. A cultural and comparative sociologist, Lamont is the author of a dozen books and edited volumes and close to one hundred articles and chapters on a range of topics including culture and inequality, racism and stigma, academia and knowledge, social change and successful societies, and qualitative methods. She is currently working on a monograph titled *Being Worthy*. Her most recent publications include the coauthored book *Getting Respect: Responding to Stigma and Discrimination in the United States, Brazil, and Israel* (Princeton University Press, 2016) and a special issue of *Social Science & Medicine* on “Mutuality, Health Promotion, and Collective Cultural Change.” Lamont is Director of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University; and Co-director of the Successful Societies Program, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research.

Suggested Readings: *The Dignity of Working Men*, Introduction & Chapter 1; and *Getting Respect*, Introduction & Chapter 2