

JACQUELYNNE ECCLES

**McKeachie Collegiate Professor of Psychology, Women's Studies, and Education and
Research Scientist, Institute for Social Research**

Lecture and reception open to the public

Wednesday, April 2, 2008 ~ 4:10 p.m.

Rackham Amphitheater, 4th Floor

Lecture Abstract:

Over the course of a life time, people make many decisions that influence “where they are” and “where they get to go” - decisions that influence their educational experiences, their occupational options, and their recreational choices, to name just a few. These decisions and life options are also influenced by social structures that create opportunities and barriers along people's life paths. Finally, even in the same situation, people vary in the extent to which they feel like they belong. Dr. Eccles will describe her research on both the agentic psychological and the social structural processes that influence the likelihood that people will reach a point in their lives when they feel that they are exactly where they should be. Drawing on psychological theories associated with behavioral choices and reasoned action; she will discuss the psychological processes underlying young people's educational, occupational and recreational choices. Drawing on theories related to socialization, social control, social opportunity structures, social disparities, and social constraints, she will discuss the social processes that lead groups of people to have systematically different life options, constraints, opportunities, and barriers, which can lead to systematic group differences in life choices and life pathways. Drawing on theories related to person-environment fit, she will discuss what happens at the individual level when people find themselves in contexts that provide either very good fit or very poor fit. Finally, she will discuss the developmental psychology of feeling like one is exactly where one should be.

For more information please call 734-615-6449