DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCIology IN ACTION LECTURE SERIES*

The Trust Gap: A Hidden Barrier to Successful Poverty Policy

Dr. Judith A. Levine will talk about findings from her book *Ain’t No Trust: How Bosses, Boyfriends, and Bureaucrats Fail Low-Income Mothers and Why It Matters* (University of California Press, 2013) and the current state of poverty policy. The book is based on in-depth interviews with low-income mothers and documents their high levels of distrust in a variety of areas of their lives. Dr. Levine will focus on how distrust undermines policy incentives, particularly around benefits, childcare, and employment. Because trust is valuable, distrust among those in poverty represents an important form of inequality.

Dr. Levine is Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies program at Temple University. She graduated magna cum laude in Sociology from Harvard University and earned an MA and PhD in Sociology from Northwestern University. Dr. Levine conducted post-doctoral studies as a Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy at the University of Michigan.

*Funding provided in part by the UH Center for Public History Lecture Series. The goal of the Sociology in Action Lecture Series is to inspire students with examples of how sociologists impact society. The series hosts sociologists who have spent their careers using research to facilitate positive change in the world. For more information about the Department of Sociology visit: www.uh.edu/class/sociology.